

“Call Me Mara,” Ruth 1

(Parentheses () are verses in Ruth Chapter 1)

Moab's origin: Gen. 19:30-38

1. Don't go against the LORD's wishes (1-4).

Famine as judgment: 1 Kings 16:30-17:1, 18:21, 18:37, 19:10

Moabites excluded from congregation of the LORD: Deut. 23:3-6

Ephrath: Gen. 35:19, 48:7; Mic. 5:2

2. If you are the LORD's, you can always come back (5-7).

"return" used ____ times in Ruth 1.

3. Pray for those outside the faith (8-9).

4. Do the difficult things for the good of others (10-13).

5. Our dedication to God results in dedication to others (14-17).

James 1:27

6. Call me Mara (18-21).

*(see bitterness notes on the other side)

7. God's timing is always perfect (22).

Reasons for Naomi's bitterness:

1. Judges are governing.
2. Famine.
3. Children are "sickly" and "pining one."
4. Husband died.
5. Sons married Moabite women.
6. Sons died.
7. City stirred and shocked at Naomi's appearance.

Naomi's faith:

1. Husband's name was "God is king" (2).
2. Desires to return to the LORD's people (6).
3. Knows it is the LORD who is good (6).
4. Prays for her daughters-in-law (8-9).
5. Wants the best for her DIL at her own sacrifice (8-13).
6. Knows that the LORD allows good and bad in her life (13, 21).
7. Ruth has learned about the LORD from Naomi (16).

Notes from *Bitterness* by Dr. Kingsbury.

Heb. 12:14-17: "root of bitterness"

How to reconcile a God of love with unfair situations in our lives.

Esau: Gen. 27:34a

Heb. 12:1-13 talks about our loving God chastening His children. Do not get bitter like Esau did.

Esau's bitterness leads to extreme hatred: Genesis 27:42

"Bitterness is not easy to detect. Heb. 12:15 calls it a root. Roots lie beneath the surface of the ground, unseen, and unnoticed. It often draws very little concern, for its fruit is yet to be seen."

"Bitter" in the Bible:

- The Bitter Waters of Marah: Exodus 15:22-23.
- Sodom and Gomorrah's bitter grapes: Deuteronomy 32:32.
- Bitter jealousy: James 3:14-15.
- Simon responds positively to counsel: Acts 8:9-24.

Five Fruits of a Bitter Root

1. Wrath ("The commitment to punish someone who has hurt us").

Luke 4:28-29, Eph. 6:4

2. Anger. Eph. 4:26.

3. Clamor. Acts 23:6-10

4. Evil Speaking. 1 Pet. 4:3-4, James 4:11, Prov. 6:16, 2 Pet. 2:10.

5. Malice ("depraved behavior"). Gen. 28:8-9

The fruit is not the problem. We must find the root perceptions and beliefs in our lives and deal with the root rather than the characteristics of our fruit.

Why was Esau so bitter? Our answer will reveal whether or not we understand the true meaning of Hebrews 12:15. Frequently people cite unfair and unfortunate circumstances. Misfortune seems to be Esau's middle name. God's commentary on this man's root of bitterness is: **Esau failed to appropriate the grace of God.**

2 Cor. 9:8, 12:7-9. There is never a reason for bitterness. There are only excuses. God's grace is always available but not always appropriated. Our Savior was mistreated like no other human being in all of history and how did He endure such suffering? Heb. 2:9, 4:16.

Bitter seeds cannot germinate in a grace-filled heart.