



Hope for the Hopeless: Hidden Seeds of Hope

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Ruth 1:1-22

I. The death of Naomi's husband and sons (vs.1-5)



- **Lesson** — Neither the OT or NT promises that believers will have an easy life, free from affliction (Ps.34:19, “*Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivers him out of them all.*”).

II. Naomi and her daughter-in-laws (vs.6-18)



- **Lesson** — Ruth is
 - 1) a woman who had the faith in God that saw beyond her present setbacks;
 - 2) a woman who did not trust in the securities and comforts of this world;
 - 3) a woman who had the courage to venture into the unknown;
 - 4) a woman who was radically committed in the relationships appointed by God.



III. Ruth and Naomi return to Bethlehem (vs.19-21)

- **Lesson** — When we face hard trials in life, it is so easy to exaggerate our hopelessness (vs.13). We can become so bitter that we don't see His mercy and goodness.

Conclusion



- **Big Idea** — When we're feeling the most destitute and down and bitter and hopeless, God plants hidden seeds of hope all around us. At the time, we just don't know that they are there but they are. (Heb.13:5, "*I will never leave you nor forsake you.*")