

Outline

"When your horse dies, dismount and saddle another. You can't ride a dead hope any more than you can ride a dead horse." ~Lewis Smede

Hope Adjustments

Naomi

Naomi decides to return to Israel. No heir. Means...family name would die out.

Cheers Theme Song

Making your way in the world today
Takes everything you've got;
Taking a break from all your worries
Sure would help a lot.
Wouldn't you like to get away?

Sometimes you want to go
Where everybody knows your name,
And they're always glad you came;
You want to be where you can see,
Our troubles are all the same;
You want to be where everybody knows your name.

"Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons—would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord's hand has turned against me!" Ruth 1:12-23

"Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." Ruth 1:16-17

Ruth

Book of Ruth

Orpah and Ruth

"I wonder if maybe my life right now which is characterized by normal hopes and reasonable desires that are not bad, but maybe I should ask God if perhaps he has another, deeper, costlier, riskier hope for me? Maybe God wants me to take the road less traveled?"

"Don't call me Naomi," which means pleasant. She told them, "Call me Marah," which means bitter, "Because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The Lord has afflicted me. The Almighty has brought misfortune upon me." Ruth 1:20-21

Grief, Naomi and Ruth

Hope Builder #1 Be truthful about where you are right now.

Hope Builder #2 Look past your temporary loss or problems and remember what you do have.

Hope Builder #3 Believe that God is going to redeem your situation.

“Praise God, who has now provided a redeemer for your family! Ruth 4:14

Hope Builder #4 Trust in the Lord your redeemer!

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your path!” Proverbs 3:5-6

Ruth Acts in Hope

"And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, 'Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor.'" Ruth 2:2

“The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. Psalm 16:6 God does that for us. That’s his promise to us. Wait for it.

Hope Builder #5 Adjust your faulty beliefs.

Hope Builder #6 Act in hope.

Hope Builder #2 Be a Ruth to someone.

Churchill's Ruth