



THE MESSENGER

AUGUST 25, 2024

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting

November 10

Our Next Gospel Meeting

October 6-11

Weekly Bible Studies

TBD on Zoom

Times of Service

Sunday

Bible study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

Wednesday

Bible study: 7:30 PM

(Immediately followed by a short worship service)

First Friday of Month

Singing

September 6

Address and Contact

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Christ

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“DO NOT URGE ME TO LEAVE YOU”

In a span of ten years (Ruth 1:5b), Naomi lost her husband and both sons in a foreign land. If not for her two daughters-in-law, Orpha and Ruth, Naomi would have been completely alone.

After having made the decision to return to Judah, Naomi urged them both to return to their mother’s house with a blessing and a prayer that the Lord would deal kindly with them just as they had with her and her sons. (1:8-9a)

This had to have been an incredibly difficult thing for Naomi to do. It was also a deeply selfless act. Remember, Naomi has lost all the men in her family and believed herself too old to find another husband. (12) As far as she could see, the remainder of her life was going to be difficult and destitute. She did not want her daughters-in-law, who had come to mean so much to her, to have to experience such a hard life. So, as painful as it must have been, Naomi wished them God’s blessings and new husbands in familiar surroundings.

Orpah and Ruth wept when Naomi said these things. (9b) They both refused to leave her. (10) Naomi, desperate for good things in their life, went on to paint a bleak picture indeed. Was she going to marry and bear two more sons? Of course not. Yet even if such *were* to occur, were Orpah and Ruth supposed to wait around until they were old enough to marry? (11-13a)

The last part of verse 13 is filled with pain. “*No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that*

Members Needing Our Prayers

Julie Patton, Deremia Osbourne, Ralph Fox, Jill Harrison, Joyce Bolton, Rick Small, Benny and Arlena Poynter, Gary Brown, Janett Brundige, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

Others Needing Prayer

Micah Genton, Doris Baker, Stuart Goodpasture, Jodi Harrison, Bob Brundige, Charlie Ford, Rose Curtis, Josh McKibben, Phyllis Harmon, Maurice Baker, Jeff Padgett, John Thompson, Georgia Patton, Glenda Miller, Patty Hill, Janice Parsons, Mark Nickles, Paul and Marrian Lyda

To Our Guests

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the hand of the Lord has gone out against me.” Naomi was not only grappling with the grief of her own loss; she was also deeply distressed over the pain of the two young women who had become as “daughters” (13b) to her. Such raw emotion reminds us of the humanity of these women as they faced grief and uncertain futures.

Orpah was convinced. She kissed Naomi and went home. (14-15) I don’t believe you can blame her for that. Naomi was not testing them to see who really loved her and who didn’t. Orpah did exactly what Naomi urged them both to do. Even then, the decision was not made without lots of hugs, kisses, and tears. I would imagine that Naomi breathed a sigh of relief even as the tears fell when Orpah walked away.

Ruth, however, would not leave. She clung to Naomi and would not let go. (14b) Naomi begged her to follow the example of Orpah but Ruth would not hear it. She said, “*Do not urge me to leave you or return from following you.*” (16a) From there she offered some of the strongest words of love and loyalty in scripture. Lord willing, we will consider them in the next article.

Adam Litmer

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
Adam Litmer	Marcus Lake	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	James Weatherholt	

