

Returning Hesed – Ruth 1:1-14

We should build Bridges of Hesed to help others and ourselves in difficult situations move closer to God.

I. Prologue: Running From Trouble – Ruth 1:1-5

- Matthew 1:1, 5-6, Judges 17:6-8; 19:1; 21:25
- In the days when Judges ruled is a time of, religious corruption, moral breakdown, and political chaos. Sounds like now.
- There is no bread in the “House of Bread”

II. Returning Homeward – Ruth 1:6-14

- The Hebrew word “*return*” will also be translated “*turn back*”
- “*Returning from*” a place of loss and death, and “*Returning to*” a place of God’s presence and provision (vv. 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12)

III. Blessing Them With Hesed – Ruth 1:8-9

חֶסֶד (hesed) is a loyal compassionate devotion that moves past feelings to involve **magnanimous acts of kindness** to those in need.

- Our word “kindness” is more often translated as the “*steadfast love*” of God which comes to the rescue of those in need (ESV).
- We can bless others with kindness while lamenting against God.

IV. Clinging To One With Hesed – Ruth 1:14

- Deuteronomy 11:22, Psalm 63:3-8

Devotional:

1. Are you or someone you love finding yourselves in very difficult circumstances?
2. Naomi had a strong spiritual heritage that she was able to pass on to her daughters-in-law. How can you pass on your faith to the ones in your family or a friend?
3. How did Naomi in the midst of her suffering make a difficult choice for the good of her daughters-in-law? What was her magnanimous act of kindness and how did it jeopardize her own circumstances?
4. How could our own selfishness get in the way of our kindness to others?
5. What would it look like for you to become a bridge of hesed to someone who needs you?
6. How are you in a place where you feel God is against you or at least indifferent? Do you feel you can bring your complaint before him?
7. In prayer tell the Lord how you feel but then like Ruth choose to cling to him! Use David’s Psalm 63 as your prayer guide.