

Ruth 1:1-6
 “Emptiness in the Far Country”

I. Five God-centered Themes in Ruth

- A. God’s faithfulness to sinful people.
- B. God’s grace to the nations.
- C. God is the redeemer of His people.
- D. God’s providence works in and through the ordinary stuff of life.
- E. God uses the ordinary to bring about His eternal, redemptive purposes.

Main Point of Ruth 1:1-6: *When we sinfully depart from the LORD and suffer the devastating consequences of sin, we must return to the God whose steadfast love will not let us go.*

II. A Sinful Departure from the LORD (Ruth 1:1-2)

- A. **Background:** “In the days when the Judges ruled there was a famine in the land..”
 - i. Judges: “everyone did what was right in their own eyes...”
 - ii. Meaning of Famine
- B. **Sinful Departure:** “...and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.”
 - i. Leaving Land=Not good! Leaving any hope of God’s provision and blessing.
 - a. Doing what is right in his own eyes.
 - b. Irony—Elimelech means “My God is King”
 - ii. Going to Moab=Not Good! Going to a Land of immorality and idolatry.
- C. ****How we also sinfully depart from the Lord.**

III. Devastating Consequences (Ruth 1:3-5)

- A. Departing to Far Country=Elimelech Died
- B. Putting down roots in a pagan land=Sons Die
- C. Emptiness in the Far Country
- D. ****Emptiness we experience from departing from God**

IV. Return to the God Whose Steadfast Love Won’t Let Us Go (1:6)

- A. **Decision to Return to the Land**
 - i. Reason: “...for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the LORD had visited his people and given them food.”
 - ii. LORD brings emptiness to bring her back to Him.
 - iii. In Lord’s care, her emptiness will be filled by the grace of God..
- B. **The journey out of the far country begins by seeing the steadfast love of God.**
 - i. He reveals sin and its consequences to bring us to Him.
 - ii. And in His care, we find that His love won’t let us go.
- C. **All of this comes to us in Christ.**

Reflection Questions

- 1) What are ways that you have sinfully departed from the Lord in the past? What are ways that you still sense your tendency to stray?

- 2) What are some consequences you have experienced from sin? Do these still impact you today?

- 3) How does Ruth 1:1-6 give us hope and encouragement to run back to God, even when we are suffering from our own sinfulness?

- 4) Consider how God is at work in the sin and sorrow of Ruth 1:1-6 to bring about the birth of David, and even Jesus Christ. How does this encourage us when our sin has made a mess of our lives?