

Sermon Outline and Reflection Questions
Ruth 1:7-22 “The Hidden Smile of God”

Main Point: In the midst of bitter circumstances God brings upon His people, He is still smiling upon us and working everything together for our good.

- I. **Struggling Faith (Ruth 1:7-13)**

- II. **Extraordinary Grace of God (1:14-18)**

- III. **Honest Bitterness (1:19-21)**

- IV. **The Hidden Smile of God (1:22)**

Reflection Questions

- 1) How has your faith struggled at times in difficulty? Has growth in repentance and faith been an upward battle at times?

- 2) Have you though before of the call to discipleship as a call of self-denial? How do you see this in Ruth? How might you grow in taking up your cross and following Christ?

- 3) Think of ways God has provided for you when you are struggling. Who has God has put around you to build you up and strengthen you when weak?

- 4) Have you ever felt that God was against you? Or have you ever felt as though there was no good that could possibly come out of a situation?

- 5) How does it encourage you that God is weaving together our sorrows, sins, and difficulties that look impossibly bad into His good and gracious purposes?