

# Back to Bethlehem

Pastor Tracy Stephens

January 8, 2023

TEXT: Ruth 1:6-22

Steps From Moab to Bethlehem:

**STEP # 1:** \_\_\_\_\_ where you \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Ruth 1:6-7**

**6** *Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had visited His people by giving them bread.*

**7** *Therefore she went out from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.*

## **Ruth 1:11-13**

**11** *... Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Are there still sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?*

**12** *Turn back, my daughters, go—for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, if I should have a husband tonight and should also bear sons,*

**13** *would you wait for them till they were grown? Would you restrain yourselves from having husbands? No, my daughters; for it grieves me very much for your sakes that the hand of the Lord has gone out against me!*

**STEP # 2:** \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Luke 14:26-27**

**26** *If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.*

**27** *And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.*

**Ruth 1:16-17**

**16** ... *Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.*

**17** *Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried ...*

**STEP # 3: Go \_\_\_\_\_ to the Place of \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Ruth 1:20-21**

**20** *But she said to them, “Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.*

**21** *I went out full, and the Lord has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the Lord has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?”*

Three Truths to Remember:

**TRUTH #1: When you're disoriented by change, confess: “God’s \_\_\_\_\_ for me will \_\_\_\_\_ change!”**

God says, “*I have loved you with an everlasting love*” (Jeremiah 31:3).

**TRUTH #2: When you're disoriented by change, confess: “God’s \_\_\_\_\_ never \_\_\_\_\_!”**

*“The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the Word of our God stands forever” (Isaiah 40:8).*

**TRUTH #3: When you’re disoriented by change, confess: “God’s \_\_\_\_\_ for me \_\_\_\_\_ changed!”**

*“The plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations” (Psalm 33:11).*

**Ruth 4:13-16**

**13** *So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son.*

**14** *Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a close relative [a kinsman-redeemer]; and may his name be famous in Israel!*

**15** *And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him.”*

**16** *Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him.*