

## Old Testament Sermon Outline No: 1

### Subject: Commitment

**Textual context: Book of Ruth 1:1-18**

#### Introduction

The Book of Ruth gives an example of a Jewish family trying to do its best for themselves. Caught in a drought which caused poverty on a Jewish family, they look to another country to find food and a home. The father named Elimelech, with his wife Naomi, and his two sons Mahlon (meaning pining) and Chilion (meaning sick), left his own country in the time of a famine, and went to live in the land of Moab. There he died; and Naomi married her two sons to two Moabitish women: Mahlon married Ruth, who is the chief subject of this book; and Chilion married one named Orpah.

Death intervened to break up the family. First the father died, then the two sons. News came back to Naomi that Israel was over the famine and she decided to go back home. The two daughters in law decide to go back with her but following the protests from Naomi one of the daughters in law, Orpah decides to stay with her own people but Ruth is determined to stay with Naomi. This is a story of incredible commitment.

Sermon outline

#### 1. Commitment

16 But Ruth said: "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. The Lord do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me." Text: Ruth 1:16-17

Notice what Ruth's commitment meant.

She would not leave Naomi whatever she did.

Question. What is our commitment to the Lord?

Most of the texts in the Bible use the word 'commit' in negative terms. The most common usage is you shall not commit adultery.

There is one however that sets everything into its proper place as a Christian

'Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass' Ps 37:5.

There is always a payback when we totally commit a problem, a new venture, a vision anything to Him and He shall bring it to pass.

Ruth had no understanding of what this commitment meant going into a foreign country but her love for Naomi was sufficient to quell all unbelief.

So should our commitment be to the Lord.

## **2. Belief in the same God**

‘Your God shall be my God.’

We should always be aware that the life style we live either attracts people to us and out God or detracts from Him. Naomi had obviously attracted Ruth to the God she believed in.

Does our life reflect the glory of God and make them want to follow the same God?

Although not a Jew notice how she uses the word Lord in this verse.

## **3. It was to be a life-time commitment.**

‘Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried.’ It is not starting on the Christian life or continuing but finishing that matters.

I know one person who will not read any Christian book until she knows the author is dead because she says that the words are real if the author stayed loyal to the Lord until the end.’

What do we learn from this story?

1. Our commitment must be real
2. It must produce fruit
3. It must be life style lasting for the rest of our lives.