



re:FORMING #1: God's Unfolding Grace

October 14 & 15, 2023

Ruth 1:1-17; Ephesians 2:1-10; Psalm 126

Opener:

The Book of Ruth takes place at a very dark time in Israel's history. (Read Judges 2:10-13 for context), What reason did the author give for the Israelites doing evil in the sight of the Lord? How might knowing what was going on in the culture Naomi and Ruth lived in influence the way we approach our reading of the Book of Ruth?

Go Deeper:

1. Read Ruth 1:1-17. What is the first thing you notice about the three women at the heart of this story?
 2. In verses 8-13, as Naomi, Orpah and Ruth start out on the journey, what reasons does Naomi give Orpah and Ruth for going back to their families and gods?
 3. In verse 14 Orpah leaves. As Ruth watches her sister-in-law, why doesn't she go with her?
 4. Read Ruth 1:16-17 again. What reasons does Ruth give for wanting to stay with Ruth? Whose God does she want to surrender her life to: the gods of Moab or the God of Israel? What is the significance in Ruth's surrendering her life to the One True God of Israel?
 5. In this story we have three women, three losses, and 3 different responses. Where is God's grace in each of these women's lives? Is God's grace limited by our impossible circumstances like those Naomi, Orpah and Ruth find themselves in?
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Live It:

1. Ruth didn't allow her suffering to define her. Instead she allowed God's grace, given to her in these impossible circumstances, to refine and re:FORM her. What about us?
2. Where are you experiencing God's grace in this season of your life?
3. Naomi, "...heard in Moab that the Lord had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them." (verse 6) If God can send word to Naomi in a far off land, is there anywhere we can go that is too far for God's grace to reach us?
4. God's grace is still reaching out to the world, calling people home to His heart. Is there someone in your life God is calling you to share His grace with? If so, how will you respond?



GOD TIME:

Daily Bible Readings:

Sunday:	Ruth 1:1-17
Monday:	1 Samuel 16:1-13
Tuesday:	1 Samuel 18:1-5
Wednesday:	1 Samuel 18:6-16
Thursday:	1 Samuel 24:1-7
Friday:	1 Samuel 24:8-15
Saturday:	1 Samuel 24:16-22

*The readings selected come from the Narrative Lectionary calendar our sermon series is based on.

