

Coming Home Ruth 1:19-22

2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

The BIG Idea ... When we are blind to the _____ of God, we inevitably become _____ against God (Nahum 1:7; Romans 8:28).

The Arrival

- In returning to Bethlehem, Naomi is doing the _____ thing even though it's the _____ thing.

Application: If God's grace can enable a bitter woman to do the hard thing because it's the right thing, then His _____ can do the _____ for you. 2 Corinthians 12:9 ...

The Announcement

- "Do not call me Naomi (which means "_____"); call me Mara (which means "_____"), for the Almighty (Hebrew, "Shaddai") has dealt very bitterly with me. I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back _____."
- What about _____? Ruth is a reminder of everything Naomi has _____. Ruth represents how _____ Naomi's life now is.

The Acknowledgement

- "The Almighty God has dealt very bitterly with me. The LORD has _____ against me, and the Almighty has brought _____ upon me."
- What Naomi gets right: God is _____ over everything—including her suffering (Daniel 4:35).

There are three options regarding who is in control:

- Option 1: _____ and _____
- Option 2: Someone or something _____ than _____
- Option 3: The _____ of the _____ (Isaiah 45:7)

When Naomi sees God's hand directing her suffering, she's right. But what she doesn't see is that God's _____ is never disconnected from His _____.

- What Naomi gets wrong: "A God who ordains suffering for me must be _____ against me" (Romans 5:8-9).
- When you are a child of God, then your suffering is never _____; it's always and only _____ (Romans 8:34).
- What Naomi doesn't know is that God has _____ her hands in order to _____ her hands with something much better.

The Takeaways ... The antidote to bitterness against God in the dark days is training your eyes to see the _____ of God every day ...

1. Dive deep into _____. Romans 15:4, "Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."
2. Identify evidences of _____. Psalm 100:5, "The LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations."