

**Devotional Thought**  
Week of April 6, 2008

**THEME: Three Widows**

**At this they wept again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-by, but Ruth clung to her. (v 14).**  
*Ruth 1:6-14*

The book of Ruth contains many practical applications as well as historical and prophetic information. The bond of love and loyalty between Ruth and her mother-in-law Naomi is demonstrated from the beginning of the book. Ruth's devotion to Naomi is clearly evidenced by her willingness to leave her own family and return to Naomi's homeland. While Ruth's sister-in-law, Orpah, chose to remain in Moab with her family, Ruth chose instead to travel to a land where the people and the customs would be new. Even the religion and worship practices were different than those of her native country. However, Ruth's familiarity with the God of her husband's family played an important part in determining the future of God's chosen nation.

Although the death of Naomi's husband and sons, and her subsequent return to Bethlehem with Ruth, began as a seemingly hopeless situation, God used these things to accomplish His perfect will. God allowed these events to take place so that the family through which the Savior would be born might be founded within the nation of Israel. Ruth's devotion to Naomi – and, more importantly to God, allowed that His perfect will would be accomplished.

Had you and I been in Moab and witnessed these three widows weeping, we would have thought that nothing of importance was taking place. But it is significant to note that the decision made that day would determine whether Jesus Christ would be born in Bethlehem or not. And if the right decision was not made, you might as well have sent a word to the Wise men not to come because the Savior wouldn't be born there. It may not look important to us, but a tremendous decision was being made that day.

**Prayer:** Thank you, Holy Father, for families and for the bond of love and loyalty that we share with each. For you gift of love and loyalty shared with earthly families as witnessed between Ruth and Naomi, we give You thanks. For the gift of our heavenly and spiritual family that became flesh in the birth of Your Son in a stable in Bethlehem, we give You thanks. We are eternally grateful for our earthly and heavenly family. May we forever remain faithful and true in devotion and service to family. In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

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