

What to Do When Suddenly You're Single

What to Do When Life Isn't Perfect

Message #4: Ruth 1-4

Emmanuel Baptist Church

May 14, 2017

Ruth 1:1–5 (HCSB) - *During the time of the judges, there was a famine in the land. A man left Bethlehem in Judah with his wife and two sons to live in the land of Moab for a while. ²The man's name was Elimelech,*

and his wife's name was Naomi. The names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They entered the land of Moab and settled there. ³Naomi's

*husband Elimelech died, and she was left with her two sons.
4Her sons took Moabite women as their wives: one was named Orpah and the second was named Ruth. After they lived in Moab about 10 years, 5both*

***Mahlon and Chilion also died,
and Naomi was left without her
two children and without her
husband.***

**1. Be open to new
directions in your life.**

Ruth 1:6–7 (HCSB) - *She and her daughters-in-law prepared to leave the land of Moab, because she had heard in Moab that the LORD had paid attention to His people's need by providing them food.* ⁷She

left the place where she had been living, accompanied by her two daughters-in-law, and traveled along the road leading back to the land of Judah. ...

¹⁹The two of them traveled until they came to Bethlehem.

**2. Discover the
presence of God.**

Ruth 1:14–18 (HCSB) - *Again they wept loudly, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵Naomi said, “Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her god. Follow your*

sister-in-law.”

¹⁶But Ruth replied: Do not persuade me to leave you or go back and not follow you. For wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you live, I will live; your people will be my people,

*and your God will be my God.
17Where you die, I will die, and
there I will be buried. May
Yahweh punish me, and do so
severely, if anything but death
separates you and me.*

18When Naomi saw that Ruth

*was determined to go with her,
she stopped trying to persuade
her.*

**3. Rediscover caring
friends.**

Ruth 1:19b–21 (HCSB) - *When they entered Bethlehem, the whole town was excited about their arrival and the local women exclaimed, “Can this be Naomi?”*

20 “Don’t call me Naomi. Call me Mara,” she answered, “for the Almighty has made me very bitter. 21 I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why do you call me

Naomi, since the LORD has pronounced judgment on me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?"

**4. Find a job, and get
with it.**

Ruth 2:2–3 (HCSB) - *Ruth the Moabitess asked Naomi, “Will you let me go into the fields and gather fallen grain behind someone who allows me to?”*

Naomi answered her, “Go ahead, my daughter.” ³***So Ruth***

left and entered the field to gather grain behind the harvesters. She happened to be in the portion of land belonging to Boaz, who was from Elimelech's family.

5. Consider the possibility of new love.

Ruth 2:5 (HCSB) - *Boaz asked his servant who was in charge of the harvesters, “Whose young woman is this?”*

Ruth 2:6–16 (HCSB) - *The servant answered, “She is the young Moabite woman who returned with Naomi from the land of Moab. ⁷She asked, ‘Will you let me gather fallen grain among the bundles behind the*

harvesters?’ She came and has remained from early morning until now, except that she rested a little in the shelter.”

*⁸Then Boaz said to Ruth,
“Listen, my daughter. Don’t go and gather grain in another*

***field, and don't leave this one,
but stay here close to my
female servants. ⁹See which
field they are harvesting, and
follow them. Haven't I ordered
the young men not to touch
you? When you are thirsty, go***

and drink from the jars the young men have filled.”

¹⁰She bowed with her face to the ground and said to him, “Why are you so kind to notice me, although I am a foreigner?”

***11 Boaz answered her,
“Everything you have done for
your mother-in-law since your
husband’s death has been fully
reported to me: how you left
your father and mother and the
land of your birth, and how you***

*came to a people you didn't
previously know. ¹²May the
LORD reward you for what you
have done, and may you
receive a full reward from the
LORD God of Israel, under
whose wings you have come*

for refuge.”

¹³“My lord,” she said, “you have been so kind to me, for you have comforted and encouraged your slave, although I am not like one of your female servants.”

***14 At mealtime Boaz told her,
“Come over here and have
some bread and dip it in the
vinegar sauce.” So she sat
beside the harvesters, and he
offered her roasted grain. She
ate and was satisfied and had***

some left over.

¹⁵When she got up to gather grain, Boaz ordered his young men, “Let her even gather grain among the bundles, and don’t humiliate her. ¹⁶Pull out some stalks from the bundles for her

***and leave them for her to
gather. Don't rebuke her."***

**6. Maintain moral
purity.**

Ruth 3:1–3, 7-9 (HCSB) - *Ruth's mother-in-law Naomi said to her, "My daughter, shouldn't I find security for you, so that you will be taken care of? ²Now isn't Boaz our relative? Haven't you been working with his*

female servants? This evening he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. ³Wash, put on perfumed oil, and wear your best clothes. Go down to the threshing floor, but don't let the man know you are there until

he has finished eating and drinking. ...

⁷After Boaz ate, drank, and was in good spirits, he went to lie down at the end of the pile of barley. Then she went in secretly, uncovered his feet,

and lay down.

⁸At midnight, Boaz was startled, turned over, and there lying at his feet was a woman!

⁹So he asked, “Who are you?”

“I am Ruth, your slave,” she

***replied. “Spread your cloak
over me, for you are a family
redeemer.”***

7. Rediscover joy.

Ruth 4:13–15 (HCSB) - *Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he was intimate with her, the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. ¹⁴Then the women said to Naomi, “Praise the*

***LORD, who has not left you
without a family redeemer
today. May his name become
well known in Israel. ¹⁵He will
renew your life and sustain you
in your old age. Indeed, your
daughter-in-law, who loves you***

***and is better to you than seven
sons, has given birth to him.”***