



UNEXPECTED

A JOURNEY THROUGH RUTH

THE PITY PARTY.

"Misery loves company."

Some cliches become cliches because of stereotypes or lack of imagination. But other cliches become cliches because they are 100% accurate. Misery *does* love company.

When things go wrong, we tend to vocalize - whether through words or on social media, through the mask of humor or "spreading the word so this terrible atrocity doesn't happen to someone else." How much good does this really do?

Our words matter. They can bring joy, hope, inspiration. They can also bring gloom, bad attitudes, or angry dispositions. Either way, they will affect the people who hear us.

How much thought do you put into your words?

IN THE BIBLE.

Ruth 1:8-14

8 But on the way, Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back to your mothers' homes. And may the Lord reward you for your kindness to your husbands and to me. 9 May the Lord bless you with the security of another marriage." Then she kissed them good-bye, and they all broke down and wept.

10 "No," they said. "We want to go with you to your people."

11 But Naomi replied, "Why should you go on with me? Can I still give birth to other sons who could grow up to be your husbands? 12 No,

my daughters, return to your parents' homes, for I am too old to marry again. And even if it were possible, and I were to get married tonight and bear sons, then what? 13 Would you wait for them to grow up and refuse to marry someone else? No, of course not, my daughters! Things are far more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord himself has raised his fist against me.”

14 And again they wept together, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye.

Ruth 1:20-21

20 “Don’t call me Naomi,” she responded. “Instead, call me Mara, for the Almighty has made life very bitter for me. 21 I went away full, but the Lord has brought me home empty. Why call me Naomi when the Lord has caused me to suffer and the Almighty has sent such tragedy upon me?”

James 1:2-4

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 3:9-11

9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. 11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?

Psalms 19:14

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

QUESTIONS.

- 1.) How did Naomi's words impact Orpah?
- 2.) What is an example from your life when someone's words have impacted you greatly? (*Both positively or negatively.*)
- 3.) When bad things happen, are you apt to complain? How does James say we should respond to bad events?
- 4.) How can you intentionally use your words to build up and bring life this week?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?