

THE POWER OF PRESENCE

May 10, 2026

Mike Newman, Senior Pastor

Ruth 1:16–17 (NLT) (16) But Ruth replied, “Don’t ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. (17) Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!”

Four Lessons:

1) Our _____ is more powerful than we know.

“Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.”

NAOMI HAD NO IDEA OF THE KIND OF INFLUENCE SHE WAS HAVING ON RUTH’S LIFE.

YOUR PRESENCE IS COMMUNICATING SOMETHING WHETHER YOU INTEND IT TO OR NOT.

2) Our presence can and often does influence others even when we are in _____

_____.

Ruth 1:20–21 (NLT) (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?”

THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU DON’T NEED YOU TO HAVE IT ALL TOGETHER. THEY NEED TO SEE WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE TO BE HUMAN AND STILL HOLD ON TO GOD.

3) Our presence is most powerful when we intentionally _____

_____.

Ruth 2:19–20 (NLT) (19) “Where did you gather all this grain today?” Naomi asked. “Where did you work? May the LORD bless the one who helped you!” So Ruth told her mother-in-law about the man in whose field she had worked. She said, “The man I worked with today is named Boaz.” (20) “May the LORD bless him!” Naomi told her daughter-in-law. “He is showing his kindness to us as well as to your dead husband. That man is one of our closest relatives, one of our family redeemers.”

Ruth 3:1–4 (NLT) (1) One day Naomi said to Ruth, “My daughter, it’s time that I found a permanent home for you, so that you will be provided for. (2) Boaz is a close relative of ours, and he’s been very kind by letting you gather grain with his young women. Tonight he will be winnowing barley at the threshing floor. (3) Now do as I tell you—take a bath and put on perfume and dress in your nicest clothes. Then go to the threshing floor, but don’t let Boaz see you until he has finished eating and drinking. (4) Be sure to notice where he lies down; then go and uncover his feet and lie down there. He will tell you what to do.”

WHO NEEDS YOU TO BE A NAOMI FOR THEM RIGHT NOW?

4) We will not see most of what _____.

Ruth 4:14–16 (NLT) (14) Then the women of the town said to Naomi, “Praise the LORD, who has now provided a redeemer for your family! May this child be famous in Israel. (15) May he restore your youth and care for you in your old age. For he is the son of your daughter-in-law who loves you and has been better to you than seven sons!” (16) **Naomi took the baby and cuddled him to her breast. And she cared for him as if he were her own.**

GOD WILL DO THINGS IN YOU AND THROUGH YOU THAT YOU COULDN'T BEGIN TO IMAGINE IF YOU ARE FAITHFUL TO GOD AND CHOOSE TO BE PRESENT IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

This Week:

- 1) _____ have been in your life.
- 2) _____ what they have done for you and how they have influenced your life.
- 3) _____.

THE SAME GOD WHO USED NAOMI IN WAYS SHE COULD NOT HAVE IMAGINED IS THE SAME GOD YOU AND I SERVE TODAY!

*For more information about what it means to begin a relationship with Jesus or what to do after making a decision to follow Him, stop at Guest Central in the lobby following the service, email us at info@otterbeinchurch.org, or call the church office at 717.762.7147 to set up an appointment. You may also learn more about what it means to follow Jesus and/or request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey by clicking “**Next Steps > Jesus**” on our website at www.otterbeinchurch.org.*