

Despair Everywhere

Acts 20:17-35

Three Reasons to Study the Book of Ruth

1. It's a story framed by a bigger _____.

How do I live my life as part of a bigger _____ God is _____?

2. It's a story about _____ people.

How does God use _____ people, like me, to accomplish His _____?

3. It's a story of _____ grace.

How do I know that God's grace is what carries my story?

Theme: God _____ ordinary people with extraordinary _____ in order to advance His story of _____.

2. _____ downturn – “there was a famine in the land”

Elimelech = “my God is _____”

Bethlehem = “house of _____”

Mahlon = “_____”

Chilion = “_____, _____ away”

3. _____ decline – “went to sojourn in the country of Moab”

– Moab = “who’s your _____?”

– Despised and oppressed God’s people

– Worshipped a pagan god: _____

4. _____ loss – “the woman was left without her two sons and her husband”

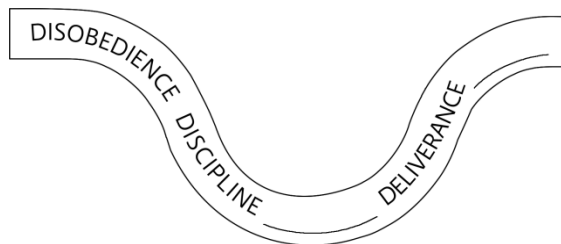
She is an old widow without children—the worst fate that an Israelite woman might experience.

K. Lawson Younger

Four Dimensions of Despair

1. _____ instability – “in the days when the judges ruled”

The cycle in the book of Judges



Two Truths to Remember in Despair

1. God’s stories of _____ often look very _____ than our own.
2. Our despair may be the _____ environment for God to show His grace _____.