

Ruth

THE FAR-REACHING KINDNESS OF GOD

*Accompanies podcast "Things Fall Apart" - 4/28/24
at www.newdaynw.com/sermons*

Read Ruth 1

Compare Naomi's story with that of Job. How are they similar? What is unique to Naomi?

Naomi and Elimelech made choices in a crisis that set off a whole string of events they couldn't foresee. Have you ever made a tough decision and then second-guessed yourself? What happened?

What do you think Naomi meant when she said the hand of the Lord had gone out against her? Have you ever felt that way?

Moabites were forbidden from entering the Temple (see Deuteronomy 23:3). What do you think is the significance of Ruth, as a Moabite, becoming part of the lineage of Jesus?

The end of the famine in Bethlehem is attributed to the Lord visiting his people (as opposed to a drought ending or the threat of invasion lifting). Commentator David Atkinson observes, *"Here is a central theme of the Bible: all of life is traced directly to the hand of God. To concentrate primarily on second causes may encourage us to seek to be manipulators of the system. It is concentration on the Great Cause that teaches us to live by faith."*

What do you think he means about seeking to be manipulators? Other thoughts on his comment?