

# Lost Words: Faithfulness

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## Important Items in Worship

1. Living-Giving Principle #1

Before I give anything materially to God, I must first give myself.

And this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and t us by the will of God. 2 Cor. 8:5

2. House of Prayer occurs on Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm.

3. Flags are up in the worship center represent countries where Westwood members are on mission. This week let's pray for teams in the Dominican Republic, Swaziland, and Guatemala.

## Scripture: Ruth 1

<sup>1</sup> In the days when the judges ruled, <sup>[a]</sup> there was a famine in the land, and a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. <sup>2</sup> The man's name was Elimelech, his wife's name Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.

<sup>3</sup> Now Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup> They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, <sup>5</sup> both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

<sup>6</sup> When she heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, Naomi and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. <sup>7</sup> With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.

<sup>8</sup> Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the LORD show kindness to you, as you have shown to your dead and to me. <sup>9</sup> May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband."

Then she kissed them and they wept aloud <sup>10</sup> and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people."

<sup>11</sup> But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? <sup>12</sup> Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons- <sup>13</sup> would you wait

until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD's hand has gone out against me!"

<sup>14</sup> At this they wept again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye, but Ruth clung to her.

<sup>15</sup> "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her."

<sup>16</sup> But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. <sup>17</sup> Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me."

### Opening Question

What does the word faithfulness mean to you?

Why do you think it made a list of lost words in today's society?

### Digging for Truth

1. Faithfulness is listed as one of the fruits of the spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. This means that if we believe in Christ, faithfulness is a virtue that should be in our life.

Let's try to list areas of our lives that should reflect faithfulness.

Based on these areas, how would you evaluate the level of faithfulness in your life?

2. Life changing Lesson #1 is this: "**Our faithfulness is based on the faithfulness of God.**" How does God's faithfulness help us to be faithful?
3. Les said that we represent God and that what we do says something about God. His reputation is actually at stake by the way we live our lives. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
4. Lesson #2 says, "**Our faithfulness is made possible by the kindness of God.**" What do you understand this statement to mean?
5. Lesson #3 says, "**God desires our loyalty toward Him and toward other people.**" Are some people stronger in one area compared to the other? In which are you stronger? How does one affect the other?
6. Lesson #4 says, "**True faithfulness is seen when our actions match our words.**" What can we do to make sure our words and actions match?
7. Billy Graham is quoted as saying, "God rewards faithfulness, not just fruitfulness." Is that an encouragement to you? Discuss what this means to you?

## **Closing Thoughts**

Read James 5:16 and discuss the benefits of sharing your life with others.

What area of your life has come to light during this lesson that God would have you to work on in the next week?