

I Have Decided 1

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Matthew 4:18-20 – ¹⁸ As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ "**Come, follow me,**" Jesus said, "**and I will make you** fishers of men." ²⁰ **At once** they left their nets and **followed him**.

On the other side of following Jesus is a:

- **A new life – His life lived in and through you!**
- **A new purpose**
- **A restoration of all things broken**

Do you know that living within your decision to “Not” “Follow Jesus” are sorrows untold?

Mark 8:34-37 – ³⁴ And Jesus called to Him the throng with His disciples and said to them, If anyone intends to come after Me, let him **deny himself** [forget, ignore, disown, and lose sight of himself and his own interests] and take up his cross, and [joining Me as a disciple and siding with My party] follow with Me [continually, cleaving steadfastly to Me]. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save his [higher, spiritual, eternal] life, will lose it [the lower, natural, temporal life which is lived only on earth]; and whoever gives up his life [which is lived only on earth] for My sake and the Gospel's will save it [his higher, spiritual life in the eternal kingdom of God]. ³⁶ For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his life and soul? ³⁷ For what can a man give as an exchange (a compensation, a ransom, in return) for his [blessed] life [in the eternal kingdom of God]?

You cannot follow Jesus without denying yourself.

Do you know that living within your decision to follow Jesus are blessings that will live beyond you?

The Story of Ruth following Naomi

Elimeleck and Naomi and their 2 sons, Mahlon and Kilion move to Moab to escape a famine in Bethlehem. They moved to better their lives.

Elimeleck dies and the sons get married

10 years later both sons die and Naomi decides to go back home to Bethlehem.

Naomi urges her daughter-in-law to leave her.

Ruth 1:11-18 – ¹¹ 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?" ¹² 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—¹³ 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!" ¹⁴ At this they wept again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵ "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her." ¹⁶ 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.** ¹⁷ **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." ¹⁸ When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

Naomi incorrectly determines that God is the source of her problems.

Ruth 1:19-21 – ¹⁹ So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?" ²⁰ "Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. ²¹ I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The LORD has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me."

- **Ruth not only goes with her mother-in-law, but a BITTER mother-in-law.**
- **Naomi sends Ruth to pick up the leftovers in the fields.**
- **She ends up in the field of Boaz, who is related to Naomi's husband.**
- **Ruth has favor with Boaz, because he heard of her commitment to Naomi.**

Ruth 2:11-12 – ¹¹ Boaz replied to Naomi, "I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. ¹² May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."

- **Boaz instructs his workers to protect her (rape)**
- **Naomi tells Ruth to go to Boaz and sleep at his feet.**
 - **Ruth is indicating that she desires to be his servant**
 - **Ruth calls Boaz her "kinsmen redeemer."**
- **Boaz redeems the land that belonged to Naomi's husband Elimelech.**
- **Boaz marries Ruth instead of hiring her as a servant.**

Ruth 4:13-17 – ¹³ So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. Then he went to her, and the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. ¹⁴ The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel!" ¹⁵ He will renew your life and

sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth." ¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child, laid him in her lap and cared for him. ¹⁷ The women living there said, "Naomi has a son." And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, *the father of David*.

- **Wrapped within Ruth's decision to follow Naomi was a total restoration of both of their lives.**
- **Naomi becomes the great-grandmother of David.**
- **Ruth becomes the grandmother of David.**
- **Both become a part of the lineage of Jesus.**
- **What is on the other side for you when you decide to follow Jesus?**