**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. May 3, 2020**

**Unforeseen Tragedy And Remarkable Faith**

Ruth 1:1-5

**Key Truth:** We may not have control over our circumstances, but we do have power over our attitude.

**The Scenario:**

1. Religious idolatry, military weakness and economic

 unrest.

**Elimelech’s Decision and Tragic Outcome**:

1. God allowed Elimelech to determine his direction.

2. The choices we make can have dire consequences, when

 God is left out of the equation.

**Ruth’s Radical Commitment And Confession**:

1. Ruth had undying love for Naomi and refused to leave

 her.

2. Ruth had remarkable trust in Jehovah God.

**Naomi’s Bitter Outlook**:

1. Naomi allowed her circumstances to change her outlook

 on life, God, and eventually her character.

1. Bitterness blinds us to the possibilities in God.

**What We Learn**:

1. God calls us to faithfully love and serve the people He

 has placed in our lives.

2. God can redeem the wounds of our past so that we

 might grow in our relationship with Him and with

 others.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Thank God for His faithfulness to us in midst of this current crisis.

**Connection Group Homework**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Do any of your past afflictions or trials still affect you in the present? In what way?

Do you ever fear that your past experiences will keep you from serving God and ministering to others in the present? Why?

When someone goes through suffering, it’s easy to wonder if it’s a result of sin. How does John 9:1-5 help answer that question?

Read Ruth 1:15-18: How does Ruth’s statement in verses 16-17 mirror what happens when we receive and begin to follow Christ?

Read Ruth 1:13: Naomi said, “the Lord ’s hand has turned against me”. What does this reveal about her belief in God? Why was she incorrect to believe that God was against her?

When we are bitter why is it important to surround ourselves with people who will let us know how much God cares for us?

Read Genesis 45:3-8: Joseph had every right to be angry with his brothers and resentful. How did Joseph view God and his situation? What do you think helped him see purpose through the pain he suffered?

In what area of your life do you need to trust in God’s providence? What is one step you can take this week to help you trust Him?