

Life's Choices ...

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

April 19, 2026

"Have you ever stood at a moment in life where you knew... this decision was going to shape everything? Not a small choice ... but a defining one. Do I stay where it's safe... or step into the unknown? Do I do what makes sense... or do what I believe to be right? Do I hold on to what I know... or follow where God is leading? Some decisions don't just affect your future ...they reveal your heart."

3 Women ... Huge Grief ... What Next?

- I. God _____ before we Do ... (v.6)
Cp. Luke 1:68; James 1:17; John 6:44

- II. _____ are Still Made in Dark Seasons (vs.8-14)
Cp. Proverbs 14:12; Matthew 19:22; 2 Timothy 4:10

- III. _____ That Reorients Everything (vs.15-18)
Cp. Luke 9:23; Philippians 3:7-8; Joshua 24:15

- IV. A _____ That Misreads God (vs.19-21)
Cp. Exodus 15:23; Psalm 73:13-17; Hebrews 12:15

- V. God Plants Hope in _____ (v.22)
Cp. Galatians 6:9; Psalm 30:5; Romans 5:3-5

So What ...

Everyone loves a good _____ ... but not everyone knows how to make a good _____.

The Return or Coming Back to God is rarely easy: **Why?**

- _____ has to be swallowed
- _____ has to be processed
- And the future is still often _____

Ruth 1 is not just about _____ ...

... it's about what you do _____ loss.

Appointment with God – Prayer Focus

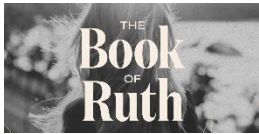
"Unanswered" Prayers? PERSERVE!

Let me tell you a story...a true story which reminds us of many truths.

NOTE: Names have been changed to protect privacy.

(Ruth) has an adult son (Nathan) who was involved with drugs. He left home and made no contact for years. Ruth searched but without a phone number or address, the search was fruitless. Ruth prayed fervently, asking the Lord to bring Nathan back, to break his strongholds, and to draw him to his Father God. The grieving mom posted Nathan's picture on FB asking, "Where are you?" Ruth knew God's truths, but lack of evidence of God's working and her emotions constantly drained her faith. "How long, O Lord?" Ruth recently got word that Nathan had been in detox since November. For 6 months Ruth had been struggling with despair not realizing the Lord was already answering her prayers in powerful ways. Nathan is now in an Opportunity House. We're praising the Lord for answered prayers! How many times are we like this precious mother...praying fervently yet despairing because we don't see evidence of answered prayers! Here are some lessons Ruth and Nathan's story can teach us.

- When we don't see evidence of the Lord working, we must CHOOSE to remember: The Lord is always at work even when we don't see the evidence! John 5:17; John 16:8-9
- Just as Ruth didn't stop praying, we must persevere. Luke 18:1
- Just as Ruth rejoiced at her son's return, there is joy in heaven when one sinner repents. Ruth's joy helps me visualize the rejoicing in heaven when someone turns to the Lord. Wow...Luke 15:7-10
- Just as Ruth battled despondency, grief, and doubts by taking her thoughts captive, we must do the same! 2 Corinthians 10:5
- Scripture tells us no one draws near to the Lord unless He draws them. We are called to PRAY for this to happen in the lives of many! John 6:44
- Ruth had no power to change her son's heart. It's the Lord and He alone who writes His principles on hearts making it so we have a genuine desire to follow His principles. This is the only way there will be lasting change. PRAY! Jeremiah 31:33; Hebrews 10:16



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3 Women ... Huge Grief ... What Next?

- I. God **Moves** before we Do ... (v.6)
Cp. Luke 1:68; James 1:17; John 6:44

- II. **Decisions** are Still Made in Dark Seasons (vs.8-14)
Cp. Proverbs 14:12; Matthew 19:22; 2 Timothy 4:10

- III. **Radical Faith** That Reorients Everything (vs.15-18)
Cp. Luke 9:23; Philippians 3:7-8; Joshua 24:15

- IV. A **Bitter Heart** That Misreads God (vs.19-21)
Cp. Exodus 15:23; Psalm 73:13-17; Hebrews 12:15

- V. God Plants Hope in **Hidden Places** (v.22)
Cp. Galatians 6:9; Psalm 30:5; Romans 5:3-5

So What ...

Everyone loves a good **beginning** ... but not everyone knows how to make a good **return**.

The Return or Coming Back to God is rarely easy: **Why?**

- **Pride** has to be swallowed
- **Pain** has to be processed
- And the future is still often **uncertain**

Ruth 1 is not just about **loss** ...

... it's about what you do **after** loss.

Appointment with God – Prayer Focus

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