

## **The Impact of a Decision**

### **Ruth 1:1-5**

#### **Introduction:**

- A. We all have made bad decisions, from the time of our childhood even into our adulthood.
- B. The real problem comes when those unwise decisions have an effect on us spiritually.

#### **A Famine In The Land (v. 1)**

- A. The backdrop for the book of Ruth is the time of the Judges.
- B. Elimelech and his family had to determine whether they would stay in Bethlehem where there was famine or leave and go where they could find food to eat.

#### **A Family On The Move (v. 2)**

- A. Elimelech apparently didn't trust God enough to provide for his family, so he moved them to Moab.
- B. Elimelech did what was right in his own eyes. He chose to walk by sight instead of by faith.

#### **A Fate Not Wanted (vs. 3-5)**

- A. Elimelech and his sons experienced the very thing they were trying to escape, death.
- B. Naomi finds herself in a dire situation all because of their bad decision to leave Bethlehem.

#### **What Elimelech and Naomi Teach Us About Our Decisions**

- A. At times we must decide to do what we know is right or take the easy way out (v. 1).
- B. Our decisions can lead to places we never intended to be (v. 2).
- C. Our decisions have an impact on those around us (vs. 3-5).
- D. Even when we make bad decisions, God can still work providentially and bring about good.
- E. When our decisions lead us away from God, our only hope is to take steps back towards Him (vs. 6, 7, 22).

#### **Conclusion:**

- A. Maybe some of you this morning find yourselves in a dire situation. You have walked by sight instead of by faith and have made some bad decisions which have led you away from God.
- B. The journey back home begins with that first step in the right direction.