"The Decisions We Make Matter Today, Tomorrow, and For All Eternity" Ruth 4:13-22; Psalm 119:17-18

"Whoever despises the word brings destruction on himself, but he who reveres the commandment will be rewarded. The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, that one may turn away from the snares of death. Poverty and disgrace come to him who ignores instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is honored. Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm" (Proverbs 13:13-14,18,20). "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh, will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit, will from the Spirit reap eternal life" (Galatians 6:7-8). "So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil" (2 Corinthians 5:9-10).

- *Elimilech's choice* to move to Moab, in light of the famine, led to *his two sons deciding* to marry two Moabite women, Ruth and Orpah (Ruth 1:1-5).
- *Naomi's choice* to go back to Israel, because of the famine ending, led to *Orpah deciding* to go back to her family and gods in Moab, and *Ruth deciding* to go back to Israel with Naomi to serve Yahweh and live among the people of Israel (Ruth 1:6-18).
- Ruth deciding to take advantage of the law of Leviticus 19:9-10 led her to the fields of Boaz to glean (Ruth 2:1-3).
- Ruth's decision to love Naomi in the way that she did led to Boaz deciding to let Ruth glean in his fields, eat from his table, and glean in both the barley and wheat harvest (Ruth 2:8-23).
- Ruth's decision to work in the fields of Boaz led to Naomi deciding to encourage Ruth to seek Boaz to be her kinsman redeemer (Ruth 2:20-3:5).
- Boaz's decision to show Ruth extra kindness and generosity led to Naomi deciding to encourage Ruth to seek Boaz to be her kinsman redeemer (Ruth 2:20-3:5).
- Ruth's decision to obey the words of her mother-in-law led to Boaz deciding to pursue to redeem Ruth (Ruth 3:6-13).
- Ruth's decision to love Naomi, obey God, and listen to her mother-in-law, led to Boaz deciding to marry this woman of integrity (Ruth 3:9-13).
- Boaz's decision to handle the redeeming of Ruth in the manner that he did led to the other kinsman redeemer deciding to give Boaz the right to redeem Ruth (Ruth 4:1-6).
- Boaz's decision to marry Ruth led to Elimilech's name being carried on through Boaz and Ruth's son Obed (Ruth 4:7-17).
- Ruth's decision to return to Israel with Naomi led her to being a part of the lineage of King David and eventually Christ (Matthew 1:1-16).
- *Naomi's decision* to return to Israel led to the birth of Obed which led to the birth of King David (Ruth 4:22).
- *Naomi's decision* to return to Israel led her from bitterness to joy (Ruth 1:20-21; Ruth 4:13-16).
- *Naomi's decision* to return to Israel led to Joseph and Mary having to go to Bethlehem so that Christ would be born there (Ruth 1:2 & 4:11; Micah 5:2; Luke 2:1-5).

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"Our God is in the heavens; He does all that He pleases" (Psalm 115:3). "....according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will" (Ephesians 1:11). "Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand" (Proverbs 19:21). "The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He will" (Proverbs 21:1). "All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and He does according to His will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay His hand or say to Him, 'What have You done?'" (Daniel 4:35).

"....work out your own salvation with fear and trembling for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:12-13). "....On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me" (1 Corinthians 15:10). "Now may the God of peace....equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen" (Hebrews 13:20-21). "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).