



That is SO Me

Ruth 1:1-5 (NIV)

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. ² The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there. ³ Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, ⁵ both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

I. Elimelek: the unwise rainmaker.

- Elimelek put his trust in his ability to provide for his family over God's promises. (Jeremiah 17:5)
- Elimelek's short trip turned into a dead end.

Dead ends and famines can be:

- * A mess we made
- * A mess someone else made
- * Setting the stage for a miracle
- * Just life

- How are you like Elimelek?
- Have you been hurt by an Elimelek in the past?

Ruth 1:6-22 (NIV)

2. Naomi: The bitter matchmaker.

- Bitterness is bred in isolation.
- Bitterness lives in chapter two of life.

God is most powerfully present even when He seems to be most apparently absent.

- Bitterness can make us insensitive to the needs of others.
- Bitterness keeps us from seeing what we have.

Ruth 1:21 (NIV)

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.

3. Ruth: The hopeful kingmaker.

- Honored her commitment!
- Refused to bow to bitterness!
- Leaped by faith the barriers in front of her!
- Celebrated her adoption.