Faith in the Famine
Ruth 1:1-22

Psalm 46:10

**How shall we live in the midst of the famines of life?**

1. **A famine leading to a fateful decision (v. 1-5)**

Judges 21:25
Leviticus 26:18-20
Hebrews 12:5-7, 11

Elimelech’s Moab Mistake:
- Elimelech failed to heed the covenantal warnings of God’s word
- He abandoned God’s people & their promised land
- The Moabites were ancestral enemies of Israel (Deuteronomy 23:3)
- The Moabites worshipped a demonic god named Chemosh
- The family’s “sojourn” turned into a “stay” (10 years)
- The sons married pagan wives in violation of God’s Law (Deuteronomy 7:3-4)
- The sojourn meant to bring life, ultimately claimed the lives of ¾ of the family

Proverbs 14:12

“Better to starve in the will of God than to eat the enemy’s bread!” – Warren Wiersbe

Ecclesiastes 12:13

2. **A failure resulting in forfeit, fidelity, and frustration (v. 6-21)**

Orpah (a story of forfeit):

“There are very many in the world that are almost, and yet but almost Christians; many that are near heaven, and yet are never the nearer; many that are within a little of salvation, and yet shall never enjoy the least salvation; they are within the sight of heaven, and yet shall never have the sight of God.” – Puritan Pastor, Matthew Mead

Matthew 13:5-6

Ruth (a story of fidelity):

Exodus 6:6-7
John 6:60, 66-69

Naomi (a story of frustration):

3. **A faithful God orchestrating a future hope (v. 22)**

Jeremiah 29:11
Romans 8:28