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**Ruth: Overcoming Faith**  
"The Myth Of The Greener Grass"  
Ruth 1

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09-18-22

Introduction: Today we are beginning a new study, the book of Ruth.

1. It's set in the times of the Judges and tells the story of a very ordinary family.
2. At first it is easy to think, why is this in the Bible? But the more you dig into the story, the answer becomes obvious.
3. There are many lessons to be learned in this study, the biggest being the power of faith.
4. God knows how to care for & protect His people, but that requires trust.
5. Here in chapter 1, we'll get a valuable lesson on trust.
6. Where there should have been trust, there was none. But God was at work, and where there was no reason for trust, we find it.
7. That should remind us how good God is!
8. This should protect us from the myth of the greener grass!

I. A Fatal Decision

- A. The Days Of The Judges
- B. A Famine
- C. Escape
- D. Calamity

II. Bitterness Sets In

- A. Relocation
- B. Resignation

C. Devotion

D. Reality

Conclusion: Naomi left a pleasant woman, she returned bitter.

1. She left searching for a better reality, she returned defeated.
2. She left full but returned empty.
3. She felt the whole world and God Himself was against her.
4. As bad as things were, two things are true.
  - God is at work.
  - Ruth has returned with Naomi.
5. There is a mustard seed of faith in Ruth, and that small faith is going to grow & rescue the day. But that's the rest of the story, right now we should recognize:
  - When calamity visits, there may be a reason.
  - Trusting self is rarely a good idea.
  - Trusting God allows us to weather the storm.
6. God is good, don't ever forget it!