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**Ruth: Overcoming Faith**  
"Things Are Looking Up!"  
Ruth 2

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09-25-22

Introduction: We have begun a new series where we are working through the book of Ruth.

1. In chapter 1, our focus was on the myth of the greener grass.
    - At this point in the narrative, things couldn't be much worse.
    - Ruth is not a story of defeat, it is a story of victory, a story that demonstrates overcoming faith.
  2. As we come to chapter 2, we'll see how the story begins to turn around, how faith is rewarded.
  3. This lesson is rooted in Ruth's decision to leave Moab, her family & return to Israel with Naomi.
    - They get to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.
    - Although there was no formal public assistance available, the law did have provisions for the poor.
  4. This is where the story begins and it's not long before we realize ... things are looking up!
- I. Cultural Norms
- A. The Kinsman Redeemer
  - B. Workfare
- II. Faith Is Rewarded
- A. Providence
  - B. Provision
  - C. Promise
  - D. Reality

Conclusion: At the end of chapter 1, things couldn't have been much worse.

1. Now things are looking up!
2. Why? The answer is faith!
  - Faith to leave Moab
  - Faith to come to Israel with Naomi
  - Faith to work in the fields
3. That faith was rewarded.
4. This should not surprise us.
5. When we trust God enough to obey, His promise is all things work together for good!
6. So, if things are difficult right now, be encouraged!
7. We are more than conquerors in Christ, walk with Him in faith, and your faith will be rewarded.