



CHRIST'S CHURCH
OF THE CANYON

Mid-week Devotion
September 6, 2020

"Viewing life as a sojourner"

In Ruth chapter 1 verse 1, the writer states, **"...and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the land of Moab with his wife and his two sons."** I had to look up the definition even though I was pretty sure what the word meant and I was close! The word "sojourn" means, "a temporary stay." The certain man that is mentioned in Ruth chapter 1 is Elimelech husband of Naomi. He believed that his families move to Moab from Bethlehem was only temporary due to the famine in Bethlehem. They were sojourners. After the famine subsided, he and the wife along with their two boys would head back to the City of David (future tense). They were in Moab for 10 years. Long famine! Over and over again God shows us in His Word that we "followers of Christ" are sojourners here on earth. We're not permanent residents. We're in route. We have a loose grip on our lives and the things we surround ourselves with. Or, at least we should have. Interestingly, sojourners have a different take on tragedy. After the loss of her husband and children Naomi could have slumped to the ground and heaped dust on her head symbolizing an outpouring of grief on her part. She could have raised her clinched fist and shoved it into the face of God cursing Him for her pain and sorrow. But she doesn't do that either. In verse 13 she says, **"...the hand of the LORD has gone forth against me."** She understands that she's in a really tough situation and that God is treating her differently than He normally has in the past. But no gritting of teeth. No, "Ok God, I'm finished with You!!!" None of that. She's a sojourner. This place is not her place. It's just temporary. In fact, she clings to the sovereignty of God. She doesn't know why she's in the situation she's in and our only hint is found in verse 21 where Naomi refers to God's name, El Shaddai, the Almighty One. God sees what's happening. He's the "Almighty", the one who oversees. As much as we may forget, in fact God does see our trials, our tribulations, and our challenges. He does connect with us through our pain. But the pain is only temporary. We're in route, remember?

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