

Book of Ruth

Bible Study DAY TWO: Welcome to Desolation!

1. Read 1 Peter 1:17-19. Just as Naomi was a foreigner among the Moabites, unable to count on those people for help in her time of need, so, too, are we foreigners here on this earth. Our help comes from God; our allegiance is to Him first and foremost. We were bought with the precious blood of Christ, pulled out from the "empty way of life" handed down to us from our ancestors. In this passage, Peter was specifically talking about the Judaic law and the requirements set forth by the Pharisees to earn your righteousness. Consider what *your* ancestors have handed down to *you*. What might you be tempted to put your faith in that is actually empty? Your lineage? Your financial security? Your education?

2. Considering 1 Peter 1:18-19, where should you put your faith? Why?

3. We all live for something, for some purpose. Read Galatians 5:16. If we walk by the Spirit, what will (will not) happen?

4. According to Jeremiah 17:9, can we trust our hearts? Consider a time when you trusted your heart instead of trusting God's Word and following His commands. What happened?

5. What is one thing that God is placing on your heart today to give up to Him? Are you ready to give that to Him? Ask God to change your heart to reflect more of **His** glory and less of your desire for *your* glory. Whatever God is placing on your heart, ask Him for His strength to help you let go. Ask Him to replace your desire for that thing with a desire for more of Him.

6. Read Romans 7:15-19 and 6:12-18. Remember, it is NOT through your own work that you can be freed from whatever holds you captive. It is not by your own power. It is by His power that we can be freed from our slavery to sin.

7. Pulling down idols in our lives is never easy, so don't expect it to be. However, as you allow Him to refine your heart, my prayer is that you will find freedom in Him as He shows you that you don't have to carry this burden any longer.