

# RUTH

An Ode to Responsibility

Pastor Toby Locke • Week 1 • 1/9/2022



## Facing Your Mistakes

Ruth 1:1-7, 19-22

**Introduction:** How you handle your mistakes will make all the difference between success and failure in your life.

### Naomi's Story:

- ❑ \_\_\_\_\_ were made. (Ruth 1:1-2)
  
- ❑ \_\_\_\_\_ struck. (Ruth 1:3-5)
  
- ❑ A \_\_\_\_\_ had to be made. (Ruth 1:6-7, 19-22)
  - Stay “\_\_\_\_\_” = “\_\_\_\_\_” on your mistakes.
    - In arrogant \_\_\_\_\_.
    - In defeated \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Head “\_\_\_\_\_” = take \_\_\_\_\_ for your choices.
    - \_\_\_\_\_ your mistake.
    - Try it \_\_\_\_\_ way.
    - \_\_\_\_\_ for a better \_\_\_\_\_.

**Conclusion:** Have you gotten trapped in a mistake?  
Will you choose to “stay here” or “head back”?

## FIRST BAPTIST HORSEHEADS LIFE GROUPS



Debrief Plan: 1/9/2022

### **Icebreakers:**

1. Can you think of a funny mistake you've made? Tell your group the story!
2. On a scale of 1-10, how easy is it for you to laugh at your own mistakes? Why is that, do you think?

**Sermon Summary:** It was a mistake for Naomi and her family to leave the Promised Land, a mistake that turned tragic with the untimely deaths of her husband and sons. Naomi was forced into a choice that we all face when grappling with our mistakes: will she “double down” on her mistakes or take responsibility for her past choices and go home?

### **Discussion Questions:**

#### **\* Mistakes were made.**

1. There are all kinds of mistakes that a person can make – make a list (not of individual mistakes, but of the categories of mistakes) with your group. Which are the easiest to face, and which are the hardest? Why is that?
2. How does a lack of faith affect your ability to make good choices? Or does it?

#### **\* Tragedy struck.**

3. How often do you think people actually pay a price for mistakes they've made and how often do they dodge a bullet?
4. What are some common “prices” people pay for the mistakes they make?
5. Read 1:19-22. Naomi attributes the tragedy in her life to God's judgment on her and her family. Is she right, do you think? Is this how God dispenses justice in our world?
6. From a spiritual development perspective, is tragedy a good thing or a bad thing? Explain (and defend, if necessary) your answer!

#### **\* A Choice had to be made.**

7. Why is it such a common human tendency to “double down” on our mistakes?
8. When you “double down” on your mistakes, do you tend to be more of the “arrogantly defiant” type or the “defeated and ashamed” type? Why is that?
9. If Naomi is convinced that God is out to get her, why does she return home? Why not just throw up her hands in despair and stay in Moab?
10. Is there value to a prodigal returning home even if they still have mixed-up ideas about God in their heads as they return home? If so, what is it?