

We are being invited to seek to listen: to understand what God is asking us to hear

"I encourage leaders to escape the expert expectation by becoming an expert experimenter; an expert question asker instead of answer giver." Canoeing...p213

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

So [Naomi] said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you!

Where you go I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge;

your people shall be my people, and your God my God.

Where you die, I will die—there will I be buried.

May the LORD do thus and so to me, and more as

well, if even death parts me from you!"

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

(Ruth 1.6-18)

What questions do you have in reflecting on this text?

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## Continuing The Conversation: Canoeing The Mountains

"Perhaps that is the most important thing to remember: *God is taking us into uncharted territory to transform us.* The great discovery in following Christ into his mission is that we find ourselves. And the beautiful paradox is that the more committed we are to our own transformation, the better leader we will be. (Canoeing p217)

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What would Ruth have had to leave behind?

What risks could Ruth have/have not been aware of as she was leaving her home behind?

How are we like Orpah as individuals and faith communities?

How is this story a story of transformation, of persons being transformed?

How is God active in this story?