# A Mother's Faith Worth Following

*Ruth 1:16–17*

Pastor Alan Feere · Sunday Morning · May 10, 2026

**INTRODUCTION**

Before we can appreciate Naomi's faith, we must understand the spiritual darkness surrounding her.

**Ruth 1:16–17**

Introduction: The Dark History of Moab

- Moab's Sinful Beginning (Genesis 19:36–37)
- Moab's Seductive Influence (Numbers 25:1–2)
- Moab's Opposition to God's People (Numbers 22:5–6)
- Moab's False Religion (Numbers 21:29)

Yet in the middle of this darkness, Naomi maintained a testimony that would eventually draw Ruth to Jehovah.

## I. Naomi's _____ Through Difficulty (Ruth 1:3–5)

(Faith That Endured Calamity)

**A. A _____** (v. 1)

**B. A _____** (v. 1)

**C. A _____** (vv. 3–5)

Naomi lost her homeland, her husband, her heritage. Yet Naomi's faith survived!

Growth Point: A genuine faith is not proven by comfort but by continuation.

**Habakkuk 2:4** *...but the just shall live by his faith.*

## II. Naomi's _____ Through Darkness

(Faith That Endured Corruption)

**A. She Retained a Godly _____** (v. 20)

**Ruth 1:20**

Naomi = "delight"; Mara = "bitterness." Though broken, she was still believing.

**B. She Remembered God's _____** (v. 6)

Naomi still knew where blessing came from.

**C. She Revealed _____ Faith**

People can argue with theology, but they struggle to deny a transformed life.

Growth Point: Children and converts watch how believers respond in suffering more than in success.

## III. Naomi's _____ Through Demonstration

(Faith That was an Example to her Children)

### A. Ruth Saw a Different _____

Moab's gods demanded bondage. Jehovah offered redemption.

**Ruth 1:16** *...thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:*

### B. Ruth Saw a Different _____ (v. 16)

### C. Ruth Saw a Different _____

Growth Point: Real faith makes others hungry for God.

**Matthew 4:16**

## IV. Naomi's _____ Fulfilled in Redemption

(Faith That Eventually Rejoiced)

### A. Ruth Found a _____

**Ephesians 1:7**

### B. Naomi Found _____ (Ruth 4:14–15)

God turned bitterness into blessing.

### C. The World Received _____ (Ruth 4:22)

Conclusion: Faith can survive sorrow. Faith can endure compromise. Faith can influence outsiders. Faith can lead others to redemption.

**TAKE IT HOME**

*Who is watching your faith? Could someone say, "Thy God shall be my God"?*

**MY NOTES**