

A Heart for God

Lesson Fourteen

1. Consider what Ferguson refers to as the four “lessons” on God’s providence arising from Naomi’s experiences. How were these manifested in her life?

2. Supply the meaning for each of the following names:

Naomi –

Mahlon –

Kilion –

Elimelech –

3. How are these names significant as one considers the unfolding of events in Naomi’s life?

4. In what way does Ferguson illustrate the triple-impact of the things that Naomi endured in Moab?

5. With what two choices was Naomi faced following this period of unusually dark providence? What did she ultimately choose to do?

6. What were the names of Naomi's daughters-in-law? What did Naomi instruct them do when they arrived at "the crossroads between Moab and Bethlehem – a point of no return"? What did they ultimately decide?

7. In addition to being a perfect expression of loyalty to her mother-in-law, what is even more significant about Ruth's words to Naomi?

8. When Naomi and Ruth returned to Bethlehem, it wasn't long before the women began to talk about how Naomi had changed. In what way had she changed?

9. Naomi asked that her name be changed from *pleasant* (Naomi) to *bitter* (Mara). Does this imply that she herself had remained bitter over the dark providences she endured? Explain.

10. What is significant about the family tree found in Ruth 4:18-21? Where else must we go in Scripture to see the complete picture of God's providence in this regard?

11. In what way does the genealogy of Christ help us to put Naomi's tremendous suffering in perspective? How might this serve as an encouragement to us as we endure periods of dark providence?

Next Week: *Let Us Worship God!*