

Where's Your Chair?

Ruth 1 15-22



The Lord watched over the stranger in the land; he upholds the orphan and widow.
Psalm 146:9

Praising:

O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee:
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

Reading:

Ruth 1:15-22

Ruth pledges herself to Naomi

A second time Ruth is encouraged by her mother-in-law Naomi to stay behind in Moab her homeland. Ruth's touching refusal elicits a response which has inspired struggling people everywhere, in every generation. More than just a human undertaking to follow Naomi, Ruth gives a spiritual undertaking to make both Naomi's people and Naomi's God her own. Although Orpah is not condemned for choosing the life and faith she

knew in Moab, Ruth's loyalty and self-sacrifice are a striking contrast. Not that Ruth's pledge warms the embittered heart of Naomi very noticeably. On returning to Bethlehem, Naomi bewails her loss publicly and melodramatically, blaming God for the miserable situation in which she now finds herself. But could there be a note of hope in the fact that they arrive in time for the start of the barley harvest?

Listening:

Praying:

Lord we pray for the struggling and displaced peoples of the world

- those escaping fear and violence, injustice and corruption – or trying to
- those robbed of education and opportunity, resources and hope, aching for a new start
- those without the political, religious, intellectual and personal freedoms we fail to value

Father: it's so easy to close our ears to the cries of those who feel alone or put upon, abused or taken advantage of. And yet they were the ones Christ always made for first. Amen

Doing:

Monday, 07 March 2016