



**“CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY:
DOING WHO I AM WITH UNDERSTANDING”**

Of Issachar, those who had understanding of the times, to
know what Israel ought to do... 1 Chronicles 12:32

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TEXT: RUTH 1:1-18

TITLE: HANDLING HARD DECISIONS

SUB TITLE: IS IT MY DESIRE TO CONSIDER THE OTHER PERSON?

INTRODUCTION

- A. Have you ever been in a position where you have to either consider what is best for you or the other person? _____
- B. What and how you consider is generally based on who that other person is _____
- C. When needing to handle hard decisions, what do I do _____
- D. How do I make a decision that may not be in my best interest to make? _____

RUTH’S HARD DECISION

- A. Elimelech left Judah to go to Moab with his family _____
- B. Eventually, Elimelech and his sons, Mahlon and Chilion died _____
- C. Nahomi and her daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, leave for Judah _____
- D. On the way, _____
 - 1. Naomi recognized that this is not the best option for Orpah and Ruth
 - 2. Naomi, “Go back each of you to your mother’s house.”
 - 3. Naomi’s blessing: “May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.”
 - 4. Orpah and Ruth give the expected response
 - 5. Naomi pushed back, “Why?”
- E. We are taught to make the best decision we can with our image of a fulfilled life and future success in view _____
- F. What is a fulfilled life? _____

RUTH HAD A DESIRE TO CONSIDER THE OTHER PERSON

- A. Orpah kissed Naomi. Ruth clung to Naomi _____
- B. Note how difficult the decision was for Ruth _____
 - 1. Ruth was from the wrong ethnic/cultural group
 - 2. Ruth practiced the wrong religion
 - 3. Ruth was in the wrong marital status
 - 4. Ruth was the wrong gender
- C. Ruth’s expression of concern for and commitment to Naomi over herself: _____

¹⁶ Entreat me not [do not urge me] to leave you, *Or to* turn back from following after you;
For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge;
Your people *shall be* my people, And your God, my God.
¹⁷ Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried.
The Lord do so to me, and more also, If *anything but* death parts you and me.
- D. When we have a desire to consider the other person, God works it out to be a blessing to us _____
- E. When we have a desire to consider the other person, God works it out to bless many others _____