Berean Christian Church Dr. Kerwin B. Lee, Senior Pastor

Bible Study

February 20, 2024

"Keeping Your In-laws from Becoming Your Outlaws"

Ruth 1:12-21

Luke 12:52-53 reads, "From now on families will be split apart, three in favor of me, and two against or two in favor and three against. Father will be divided against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; and mother-in-law against daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." (NLT) These verses record words spoken by Jesus to his disciples and crowds of people. Thousands of years later, the words of the Savior are still true regarding division among relatives. In-law relationships is one area where there is much stress and strife between family members. This lesson is designed to share tips to keep in-laws from becoming out laws.

Breakdown of Ruth Chapter 1

1. The Deaths	around Naomi	Verses 1-6
2. The Departure	by Naomi	Verses 7-13
3. The Devotion	to Naomi	Verses 14-22

1. <u>Communication</u> can keep in-laws from becoming your outlaws. Verses 8-13

"But on the way, Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back to your mothers' homes. And may the Lord reward you for your kindness to your husbands and to me. 9) May the Lord bless you with the security of another marriage." Then she kissed them good-bye, and they all broke down and wept. 10) "No," they said. "We want to go with you to your people." 11) But Naomi replied, "Why should you go on with me? Can I still give birth to other sons who could grow up to be your husbands? 12) No, my daughters, return to your parents' homes, for I am too old to marry again. And even if it were possible, and I were to get married tonight and bear sons, then what? 13) Would you wait for them to grow up and refuse to marry someone else? No, of course not, my daughters! Things are far more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord himself has raised his fist against me."

(NLT)

2. <u>Commitment</u> can keep in-laws from becoming your outlaws. Verse 14

"And again, they wept together, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye. But Ruth clung tightly to Naomi."

(NLT)

3. <u>Commonalities</u> can keep in-laws from beoming your outlaws. Verses 16-17

"But Ruth replied, "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. 17) Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!"

(NLT)

4. <u>Compromise</u> can keep in-laws from becoming your outlaws. Verse 18

"When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said nothing more."

(NLT)

5. <u>Community</u> can keep in-laws from becoming your outlaws. Verse 19

"So the two of them continued on their journey. When they came to Bethlehem, the entire town was excited by their arrival. "Is it really Naomi?" the women asked."

(NLT)

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