

## **“THE SKY IS FALLING!”**

### **RUTH 1:6-14**

#### **(Part 1)**

*In this period of the dark days, everyone was doing what was right in their own eyes. Subjectivity reigns as objectivity wanes. Add in a famine and death, and the situation turns bleak. Navigating through the reactions, we discover:*

#### **WARNING SIGNS OF LOSING PERSPECTIVE**

##### ① Neglect \_\_\_\_\_ (1:6-7)

Naomi, in five quick \_\_\_\_\_ movements, points her compass back to Judah. It's the exact same logic her husband exercised when they left Judah.

The will of God is not first found in the uncertain circumstances of this world but in the certain directives of His Word.

##### ② Pursue \_\_\_\_\_ (1:8a)

While it may be a preferred spot, God never created us to live there but instead, to connect with community and to live as members of His body.

When we pursue it, we will:

- ☐ lean on our own one-sided \_\_\_\_\_ (Prov. 18:1)
- ☐ likely succumb under \_\_\_\_\_ (Eccles. 4:12)
- ☐ abandon the art of \_\_\_\_\_ (Prov. 27:17)
- ☐ hinder the \_\_\_\_\_ of our spiritual gifts (1 Pt. 4:10)

“Go” and “return” are commands; she isn't making a suggestion but issuing an \_\_\_\_\_.

##### ③ \_\_\_\_\_ Futility (1:8b)

Though dead, they aren't now suddenly discarded into a group that never \_\_\_\_\_ before.

The view before her is cloudy. The outlook isn't rosy because the in-look is gloomy.

Such futile thinking of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 1:21) was that which had encroached upon Naomi and kidnapped her thoughts.

##### ④ \_\_\_\_\_ Ministry (1:9)

She stood before Orpah and Ruth as an influential figure, yet aside from a few brief words, plans her exit – one that didn't include these two girls.

Naomi was content to send them \_\_\_\_\_ to the Moabite gods and the families who worshiped them.

If God has let you down, why encourage others to trust in such a disappointing deity?

#### **CONCLUSION**

Grief counseling is not always good counseling, especially as it points the struggler inward to his own hurt and pity while finding some measure of relief in coping techniques. In such a condition, we don't need more of ourselves, we need more of \_\_\_\_\_. In the midst of grief, we often need a fresh new look at \_\_\_\_\_ – one that will correct our likely distorted view of Him.