

jul 29

entreat me not to leave You

"but ruth said: 'entreat me not 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. 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.' when she saw that she was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her." ruth 1:16-18

what a beautiful picture in the old testament of our new life in Christ Jesus. ruth had only known heathen ways and foreign gods all her life, but she saw something in ruth that made her want to know more. when you have always done everything a certain way and seem to be getting no where in a hurry, what do you have to lose by trying something else?

have you ever bothered to ask that immortal question - what if? what if there really is a God? and further, what if Jesus is who He claimed to be. would that change everything for you or, being oblivious of the consequences, would you continue on unabated?

i have often heard it said, Jesus was either a lunatic, a liar or the Lord. He cannot be just a great prophet or teacher. He blatantly claimed: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. no one comes to the Father except through Me." john 14:6 He claimed "exclusivity" - an unpopular teaching both then and now.

when once we start that walk with Jesus, we are not to leave to turn back. "'a dog returns to his own vomit,' and, 'a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.'" 2 pet 2:22 it would mean that even after the true light had been revealed to us, we chose to live in the dark anyway. ah, but choosing Him is the better way, regardless of the cost.

just like ruth, wherever He goes, we too shall go. it may mean through sorrow, suffering, ridicule and even persecution. we willingly give up that which we can never have for that which we can never lose.

wherever You lodge, i will lodge. "foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." matt 8:20 the place of His rest and dwelling place was the presence of God. He had no need to go to a place of rest. He carried His rest with Him.

Your people shall be my people. His people are those who have also chosen to walk along beside Him. we are told to "bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." gal 6:2 we all know that siblings do not always get along. we must look beyond their faults and see their need.

Your God shall be my God. Jesus, being God Himself, always pointed us to the Father. in much the same manner, ruth ended up marrying boaz, the lord of the harvest. "therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." matt 9:38 "now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son

Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all." 1 cor 15:28

where you die, i will die, and there will i be buried. we certainly know where our Lord died. He died in God's chosen place, in God's chosen will. our death must be just as sure. "for all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world." 1 john 2:16 if we die with Him. we shall surely be buried with Him also. this world may then possess this shell. but just like jeremy's egg, it will be empty.

as Jesus left this world, peter doggedly wanted to follow Him still. His answer was: "where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow Me afterward." john 13:36 we are now in that "after" time and soon we shall behold Him as He is. this is what prophets and saints throughout the ages have longed to see. God has set each of us in this time and season for a reason. let us not fail to cross that finish line for all those cheering us on.

I have decided to follow Jesus;  
No turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me;  
No turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, still I will follow;  
No turning back, no turning back.

My cross I'll carry, till I see Jesus;

No turning back, no turning back.

Will you decide now to follow Jesus?

No turning back, no turning back.