



Better Together

RUTH 1:8-22

After a short while on the road, Naomi told her two daughters-in-law, "Go back. Go home and live with your mothers. And may God treat you as graciously as you treated your deceased husbands and me. May God give each of you a new home and a new husband!" She kissed them and they cried openly. ...

RUTH 1:8-22

... They said, "No, we're going on with you to your people." But Naomi was firm: "Go back, my dear daughters. Why would you come with me? Do you suppose I still have sons in my womb who can become your future husbands? Go back, dear daughters—on your way, please! ...

RUTH 1:8-22

... I'm too old to get a husband. Why, even if I said, 'There's still hope!' and this very night got a man and had sons, can you imagine being satisfied to wait until they were grown? Would you wait that long to get married again? No, dear daughters; this is a bitter pill for me to swallow—more bitter for me than for you. God has dealt me a hard blow." ...

RUTH 1:8-22

... Again they cried openly. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye; but Ruth embraced her and held on. Naomi said, "Look, your sister-in-law is going back home to live with her own people and gods; go with her." But Ruth said, "Don't force me to leave you; don't make me go home. ..."

RUTH 1:8-22

... Where you go, I go; and where you live, I'll live. Your people are my people, your God is my god; where you die, I'll die, and that's where I'll be buried, so help me God—not even death itself is going to come between us!" When Naomi saw that Ruth had her heart set on going with her, she gave in. And so the two of them traveled on together to Bethlehem. ...

RUTH 1:8-22

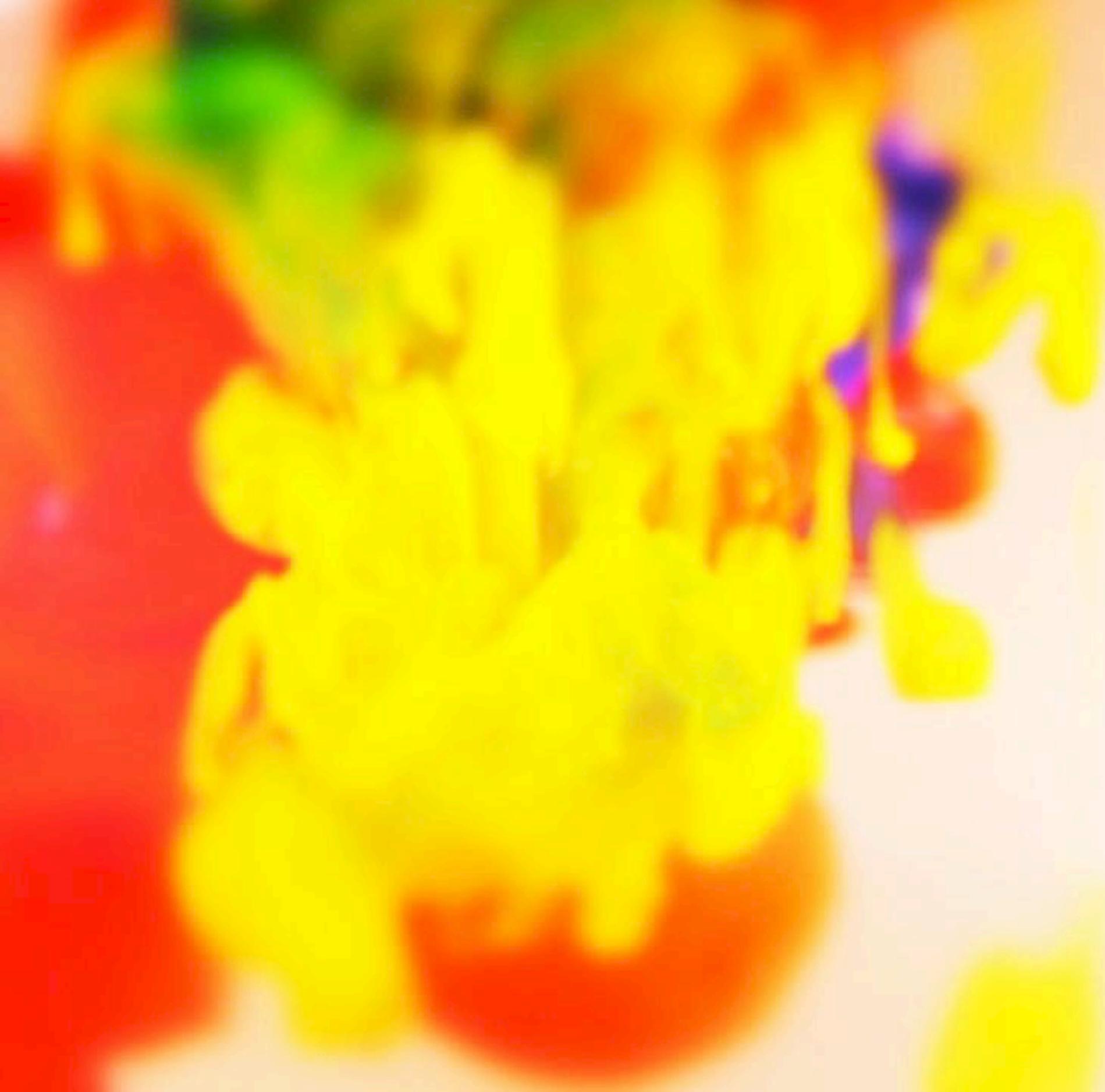
... When they arrived in Bethlehem the whole town was soon buzzing: "Is this really our Naomi? And after all this time!" But she said, "Don't call me Naomi; call me Bitter. The Strong One has dealt me a bitter blow. I left here full of life, and God has brought me back with nothing but the clothes on my back. ...

RUTH 1:8-22

... Why would you call me Naomi? God certainly doesn't.

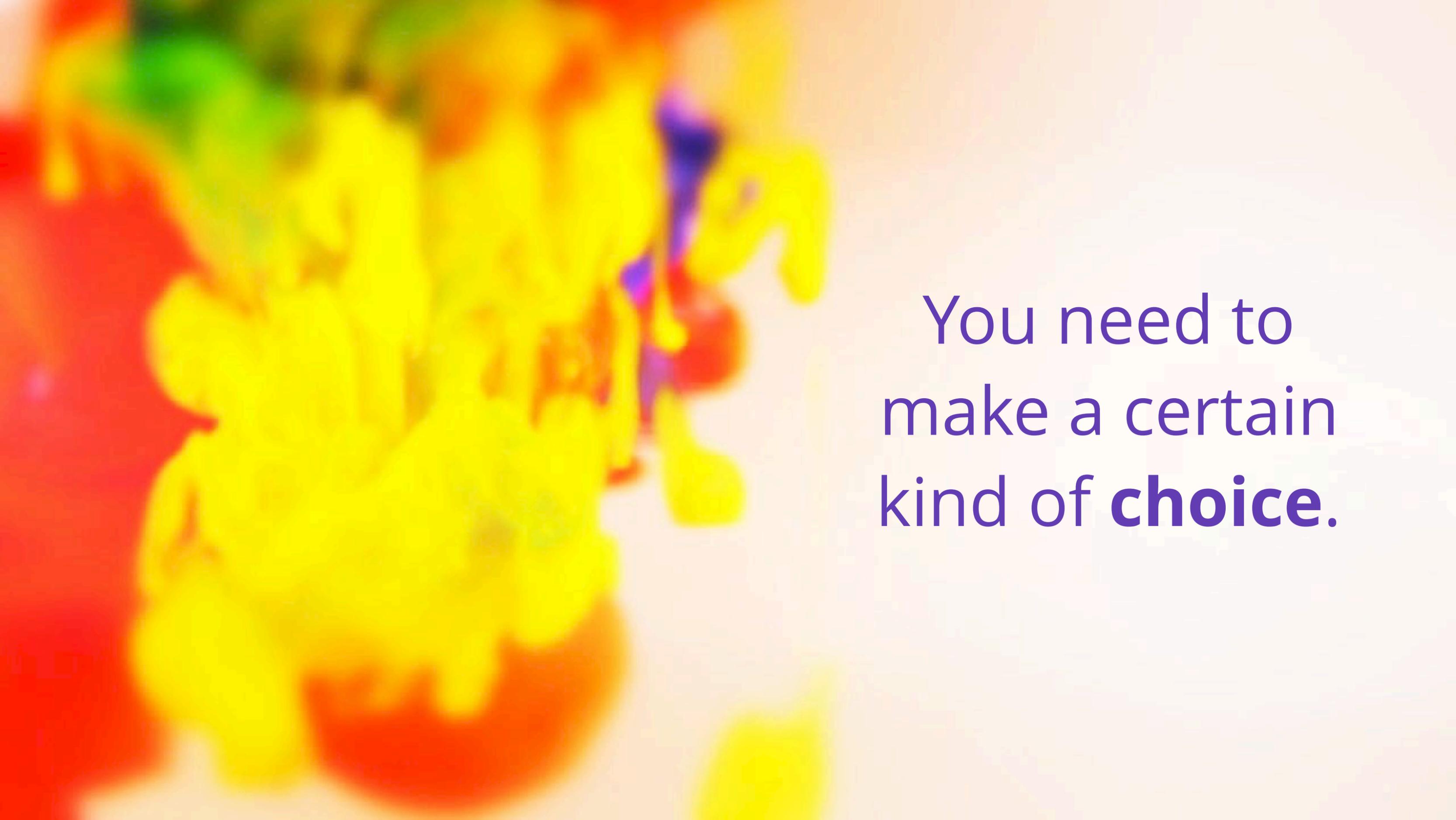
The Strong One ruined me."

And so Naomi was back, and Ruth the foreigner with her, back from the country of Moab. They arrived in Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.



What's it going to
take **to be the
church** we are
called to be?

What's it going to
take **to be the
person** you are
called to be?



You need to
make a certain
kind of **choice**.



A Powerful Choice

A Principled Choice

A Prophetic Choice



A Powerful Choice

A Principled Choice

A Prophetic Choice

RUTH 1:9-10

"Go back. Go home and live with your mothers. And may God treat you as graciously as you treated your deceased husbands and me. May God give each of you a new home and a new husband!" She kissed them and they cried openly. They said, "No, we're going on with you to your people."

RUTH 1:14

"Again they cried openly.
Orpah kissed her mother-in-
law good-bye..."

RUTH 1:15

Naomi said, "Look, your sister-in-law is going back home to live with her own people and gods; go with her."

RUTH 1:14

"... but Ruth embraced her
and held on."

RUTH 1:16-17

But Ruth said, "Don't force me to leave you; don't make me go home.

Where you go, I go; and where you live, I'll live. Your people are my people, your God is my god; where you die, I'll die, and that's where I'll be buried, so help me God—not even death itself is going to come between us!"

What is love?

Love is giving of yourself when it is most difficult and least deserved. **Love** is giving of yourself when you have nothing to gain from the relationship.

Love is extending yourself past the point of comfort into the territory of pain to make sure you don't lose what you know is most precious.



A Powerful Choice

A Principled Choice

A Prophetic Choice

RUTH'S CHOICE SHOWS YOU:

- At the point of relational strain, both God and Satan have an agenda.

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- **What it means to be reconciled to someone.**



Being a **reconciled people** isn't a matter of having a common interest; it's an issue of **making a spiritual decision.**

RUTH'S CHOICE SHOWS YOU:

- At the point of relational strain, both God and Satan have an agenda
- You get to choose your own relational future.
- Your pain is always redemptive.
- What it means to be reconciled to someone
- If there's a price tag on your relationships, the enemy will pay it.

RUTH 1:13

"I left here full of life, and God has brought me back with nothing but the clothes on my back."



A Powerful Choice

A Principled Choice

A Prophetic Choice

Mutual Exchange

The background of the image is a soft-focus photograph. On the left side, a hand is visible, holding a large, vibrant green leaf. The hand and leaf are set against a bright blue sky filled with wispy white clouds. The overall lighting is bright and natural, suggesting an outdoor setting. The text 'Mutual Exchange' is centered over the image in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

Mutual Exchange

Massive Empathy

Mutual Exchange

Massive Empathy

What's it like to be you?

What's it like to be in relationship with me?



Mutual Exchange

Massive Empathy

Missional Environment

Better Together