

*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.* (Robert Frost)

- Set at the same time as the Book of Judges. Dark, terrible times.
- The word 'return' is found 12 times. v6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15(2), 16, 21, 22(2). Also translated 'repent'.
- Six times in the direction of Moab, six in the direction of Bethlehem.
- Which way will they go? Which way will you go?

1. Orpah – All the right noises, but no real change

- Starts off well - v6, 9-10. But turns for home - v14-15:
- Turning to God to please others is not enough
- Turning to God without being prepared to pay the cost is not enough
- She went back home - "What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?" - Mark 8:36
- Beginning the Christian life is not enough - you have to go on in the Christian life.

2. Naomi – Not perfect, but going in the right direction

- A Christian can be a follower of God and yet be very imperfect.
- Therefore the Christian's life is one of continual returning to God.
- A woman of faith, but small thoughts of God v8-9; bitterness v13 20, 21; faithlessness v21; pride
- The right place to start - v 21, "I went out". Accept the blame.
- Living with the scars can only be done when we return to God.

3. Ruth – Committed, whatever the cost

- Ruth counted the cost of turning to God.
- But she chose a new path, a new people, a new relationship
- She saw that this one thing was more important than anything else in this life - Mark 10:29-31

4. God – Welcoming the repentant sinner

- Spoken of 11 times in 17 verses.
- "LORD" – that special name that speaks of a personal relationship.
- "Almighty" – a name that speaks of his power and faithfulness.
- He welcomes those who come to him in repentance and faith.
- And a God who is mighty enough to take our lives and transform them, scars and all.
- A call for all of us to stop in our lives and to turn again to God. To cast ourselves on him in desperate confident despair.



Sunday 15th March 09

new life fellowship

SERVING JESUS CHRIST THE KING

www.newlifefellowship.ie - part of the reformed presbyterian church of ireland

Notices

- | | | |
|------------------------|---|--------|
| Sun 8 th | Evening service at Mark & Judith's | 8pm |
| Mon 16 th | Letterkenny prayer evening
Come and go at whatever time suits
The house beside the Open Door Bookshop | 7-11pm |
| Thurs 19 th | Manage your money workshop
Letterkenny Baptist Church | 8pm |
| Sat 21 st | Go-relief team meeting - Cloughmills RP Church @ 3.00pm | |
| Sun 22 nd | Zoe's baptism at evening service at Day Centre
NOTE - service at 7pm | |
| April
3rd-5th | Western & Southern Presbytery Weekend
Age 11 up. Derrygonnelly Centre, Co Fermanagh
Speaker: John George. Subject: Ecclesiastes
CLOSING DATE: 24th March. ABSOLUTE CLOSING DATE 30th! (£5 extra) | |

Christianity Explored



A 6-week course designed to let you find out the facts about Jesus, or to refresh your memory, and to find answers to your questions about Jesus, the Bible or Christianity.

- You don't need to know anything about the Bible
- You won't be asked to read, pray or answer questions
- You will be given every opportunity to ask your own questions

If you're interested in finding out more, or having one in your home for friends to come to - speak to Mark