

*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.

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 |
| Wed 18 th | Bible Study on 10 Commandments - Study 4 | |
| 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