

NOT ALONE

"That will depend upon the
manner of your return."

Denethor
The Return of the King



Everyone is acting so weird! The most obvious recent weirdness was when Will Smith smacked Chris Rock at the Oscars. But if you look closely, people have been behaving badly on smaller stages for months now. Last week, a man was arrested after he punched a gate agent at the Atlanta airport. (The gate agent looked like he was about to punch back, until his female colleague, bless her soul, stood on some chairs and said “no” to the entire situation.) ...

The Atlantic
“Why People Are Acting So Weird”



That wasn't even the only viral [jerk]-on-a-plane video that week. In February, people found ways to throw tantrums while skiing—skiing. In one viral video, a man slid around the chairlift-boarding area of a Canadian resort, one foot strapped into his snowboard as he flailed at security guards and refused to comply with a mask mandate. Separate footage shows a maskless man on a ski shuttle screaming, “There’s nobody wearing masks on any bus in this g*****n town!” before calling his fellow passenger a “liberal piece of [stuff]” and storming off. ...

The Atlantic

“Why People Are Acting So Weird”



During the pandemic, disorderly, rude, and unhinged conduct seems to have caught on as much as bread baking and Bridgerton. Bad behavior of all kinds — everything from rudeness and carelessness to physical violence—has increased, as the journalist Matt Yglesias pointed out in a Substack essay earlier this year. Americans are driving more recklessly, crashing their cars and killing pedestrians at higher rates. Early 2021 saw the highest number of “unruly passenger” incidents ever, according to the FAA. In February, a plane bound for Washington, D.C., had to make an emergency landing in Kansas City, Missouri, after a man tried to break into the cockpit. ...

The Atlantic
“Why People Are Acting So Weird”



Health-care workers say their patients are behaving more violently; at one point, Missouri hospitals planned to outfit nurses with panic buttons. Schools, too, are reporting an uptick in “disruptive behavior,” Chalkbeat reported last fall. In 2020, the U.S. murder rate rose by nearly a third, the biggest increase on record, then rose again in 2021. Car thefts spiked 14 percent last year, and carjackings have surged in various cities. And if there were a national tracker of school-board-meeting hissy fits, it would be heaving with data points right now.

The Atlantic
“Why People Are Acting So Weird”



**How can we
return well?**



When Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there.

RUTH 1:6

sub

the Hebrew
verb for return




Naomi prepared to *sub*, to return.

RUTH 1:6



Naomi urges her daughters-in-law to
“sub” to their mothers’ homes in Moab.

RUTH 1:8



Ruth and Orpah refuse, saying they will, in fact, remain with Naomi and *“sub”* with her to Israel.

RUTH 1:10



Naomi again urges them to return
to Moab two more times.

RUTH 1:11-12




Orpah does "*sub*" to Moab



Orpah does “*sub*” to Moab

“Look...your sister-in-law is going back
 (“*sub*”) to her people and her gods.”

RUTH 1:15



“Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn
back (“*sub*”) from you.”

RUTH 1:16



“the LORD has brought me back
 (“*sub*”, “returned me”) empty”

RUTH 1:21



**“God has brought me back with
nothing but the clothes on my back.”**

**RUTH 1:21
MESSAGE VERSION**

“So Naomi returned (“*sub*”) from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning.”



RUTH 1:22

How Can We Return Well?

1. Refuse something



How Can We Return Well?

1. Refuse something
2. Reach for something



How Can We Return Well?

1. Refuse something
2. Reach for something
3. Re-imagine something



How Can We Return Well?

1. Refuse something



**Refuse to believe
Naomi's lie**




How Can We Return Well?

1. Refuse something

2. Reach for something



***Naomi wasn't just returning
with someone; she was
returning to something.***



“...as the barley harvest was beginning.”



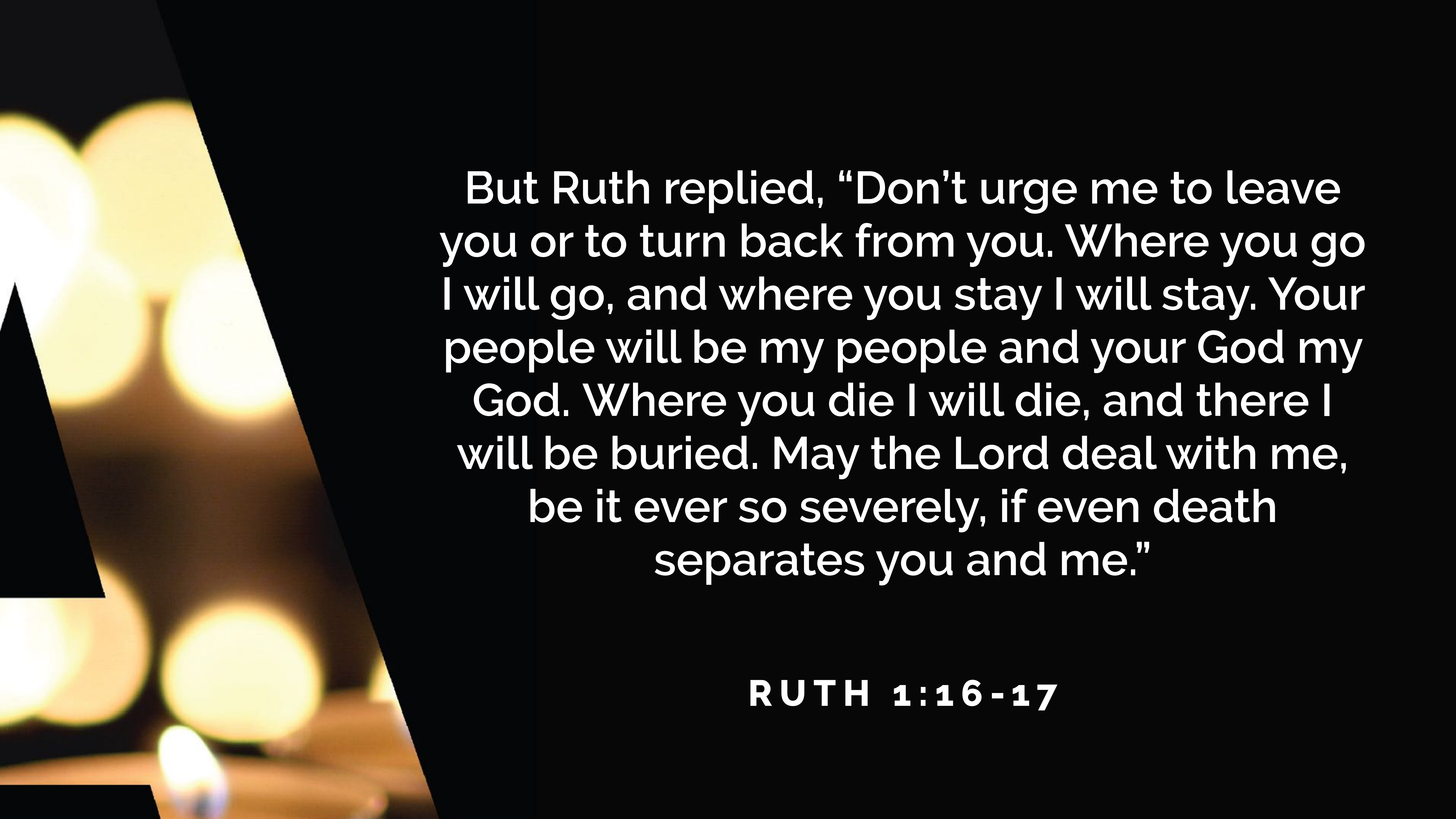
RUTH 1:22

How Can We Return Well?

1. Refuse something
2. Reach for something
3. Re-imagine something



**How can Ruth
return to a place
she's never been?**



But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.”

RUTH 1:16-17