

**CALL ME MARA?**

*Ruth 1:1-22      Jeff Schreve*

**Have your trials and disappointments made you bitter?**

**1. Everyone will face bitter things in life.**

**A. They can come because of faithlessness and sin.**

*Now it came about in the days when the judges governed, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the land of Moab with his wife and his two sons. Ruth 1:1*

**B. They can come out of the blue.**

*And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil." Job 1:8*

**C. They can't come without God's permission.**

*Then the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him." Job 1:12*

**2. Everyone will have to face the temptation to get bitter.**

*So they both went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came about when they had come to Bethlehem, that all the city was stirred because of them, and the women said, "Is this Naomi?" And she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. "I went out full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has witnessed against me and the Almighty has afflicted me?" Ruth 1:19-21*

**A. Bitterness gets presented when we get hurt.**

*BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity. Ephesians 4:26-27*

**B. Bitterness gets established when we hold onto the hurt.**

*Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many. Hebrews 12:15 NLT*

C. Bitterness gets destructive in our relationship with God.

*No, my daughters; for it is harder for me than for you, for the hand of the LORD has gone forth against me." Ruth 1:13*

*"But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions." Matthew 6:15*

**3. Everyone can choose to trust God, no matter what.**

*Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him. Job 13:15*

A. The Lord will not leave you.

*Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU," so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT SHALL MAN DO TO ME?" Hebrews 13:5-6*

B. The Lord wants to help you.

*The LORD is for me; I will not fear; What can man do to me? The LORD is for me among those who help me.  
Psalm 118:6-7*

C. The Lord has a plan for you.

*So Naomi returned, and with her Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law, who returned from the land of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.  
Ruth 1:22*

**If you are bitter, confess it and bring it to Jesus.**