

# Coach House Church

# BEACONS

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## THE PERFECT JOURNEY

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15TH JUNE 2021

Even though Travelling is off the menu for another year, where would you like to go and visit once the restrictions are lifted? What type of tourist are you? The "planning to the last detail" type or the "easy going one" -that takes things as they come and is adapting to whatever they find. Do people even do these kind of holidays anymore? When you go on holiday do you like visiting and exploring new places or just lying by the sea reading a book and not moving very much? In a time when we can do most things from home if we have access to the Internet, how long do you spend planning your time away from home travelling or on holiday? What would your perfect journey look like? Would you allow room for the unpredictable, spontaneous experiences? ..would that make you nervous not knowing what's around the corner. Would you allow room for error? ...that's a scary thought isn't it.

In life young people have a certain idea of how their life is going to be. They are trying to follow a certain trajectory; however, it does not happen as they plan all the time. Life turns out to be completely different from what they've planned.

We read about such a young person in the Bible who planned her life close to home. Her name was Ruth. She married a Jewish man in her homeland of Moab. She was expecting to be looked after by her husband and his family. She did not expect to be looking after herself and her mother-in-law at a young age. It must've been a big shock for her when her husband died. In those days women were stay at home mums, they did not have careers or opportunities to earn money so when the man was gone, their livelihood also went. Widows were looked after by relatives if they were older; young widows were expected to get married again as they were a burden to the family.

I don't think Ruth planned for "when tragedy hits" but she entrusted her life to God when she decided to follow Naomi back to Israel.

This is what she says to her mother in law when she sends her back home:

.. "Please don't tell me to leave you and return home! I will go where you go, I will live where you live; your people will be my people, your God will be my God. I will die where you die and be buried beside you. May the Lord punish me if we are ever separated, even by death!"

Ruth 1:16-17

The way her husband's family lived, witnessed to her about the Truth -about the living God and she did not want to go back to her birth family where they worshipped idols. She took shelter under the wings of the Almighty and God accepted her and later he used her to bring about salvation for mankind.

A practical application of the story would be: what do we do when sickness or tragedy hits us or our family? Do we, like Ruth, look for and trust ourselves and our lives into God's hand? Do we try to fix it leaving God out of it? Do we look for someone to blame? Do we trust in our friends? What do we do?

From my personal experience I can tell you that when you trust God with a situation, He is faithful and he will provide for you just like the Bible says: like a father. When I was poorly and out of work for almost a year waiting for an operation that for some reason was not happening here in the UK, God provided my sister's advice and assistance in going back home to Romania for the treatment I needed. And He didn't finish with that, he prepared the way before us to the very last detail: My sister was off work for two weeks so she could come with me. We found plane tickets and hire cars just when and where we need it. When we phoned the clinic to book an appointment we didn't know what doctor we had to see but God did. We just booked the next available appointment and the doctor who was going to see me was the best doctor in town. Three days after seeing the doctor I was able to be operated on and on my way to recovery without complications.

For me the way all this unfolded proved God's provision and care. It wasn't good luck; it wasn't the system -it was God!

Jesus tells us in John 16:33 in the second part of the verse:

"..In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world"

So what about that perfect journey? For me it would be the journey through this life where I know God has my back. The journey on which he helps me along the way to grow and to become that person that he always intended me to be.

Because we live in a broken world we may get sick; tragedy may hit us but Jesus tells us that he will never leave us that he will always be with us. So today I encourage you to stand firm and close to Jesus for he is able to provide protect and guide you on your journey even though sometimes you may experience hardships. Remember -You are never alone; You are loved and cherished by your father and creator. Seek him, talk to him and he will allow you to find him ; he will be your sustainer and " your help in time of need" . When you find Him, hang onto Him as he hangs onto you.



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## ALINA ADSHEAD



*Coach House Church*

leadership@coachhousechurch.org // 0161 432 5604

the coach house church, 222 wellington road north, stockport sk4 2qn