

NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

LESSON SIXTY-ONE AND SIXTY-TWO COMMENTS

Dear Loved Ones,

A few years ago my family suddenly had to give up the home we had the privilege of enjoying for many years. We had it filled with many treasures that we worked hard to gain as well as many things that were just the basics of life. For me, giving up my garden was also hard to lose. I cherished my flowers and homegrown vegetables as well as the joy of watching the birds tweet with joy when I got to sit and enjoy my garden. We were moving into a beautiful place that was generously provided by family, but it did not include access to viewing nature without going outside. Because of my husband's limitations at the time, we needed an elevator and other conveniences.

Have you ever lost anything very important to you? Some of us have lost loved ones recently. Some of us have lost homes, pets, or many other treasures. It is very difficult to lose someone that has been very dear to us, but it is also difficult to give up your life's treasures. Many of us have to downsize to smaller places as we age and need to find places with less maintenance etc.

Naomi lost both her husband and her 2 sons. How devastating that would have been! But she also was on the verge of losing the land that originally belonged to her husband. I can imagine that she could have felt destitute and rather hopeless.

Ruth, her daughter-in-law, was her only treasure as she moved back to her homeland. Yet Ruth was a Moabite by birth so Naomi didn't even know if she would be accepted in this new land. Ruth, however, became a true friend who unconditionally loved Naomi and cared for her. In spite of any poor choices that Naomi may have made in the past, Ruth became a source of new hope. Naomi couldn't seem to see how she would have much of a future until God began to open doors beyond her vision.

I remember well the day my husband died. I tried to show him a lot of pictures of our lovely new place, but he did not even get to see the new place that our children provided for us. The moving process was extremely difficult since I was also spending every day working full time and visiting my husband in the hospital daily. I could not have done it without our children. Now because of his death, my almost instantly became so different. I could hardly see beyond my pain. We didn't have enough insurance or other assets to cover expenses either, so the loss was multilevel. In spite of my grief, however, I knew that God had me covered. He loved me and would provide for my needs. The family that my husband gave me became an amazing support system just like Ruth became the support that Naomi needed. Together they turned to God for the hope that Naomi and Ruth couldn't seem to see on their own.

As Sandy Harber mentioned, even as God's children, we still face trials and tribulations but when we turn to God for our hope, He can turn all our sorrows into a new joy even when our circumstances don't seem to change immediately or won't change at all.

James 1:1-4, 1-"James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad,greeting. 2-My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptation;3-Knowing

this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4-But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

I miss my husband very much, but I have been blessed beyond my imagination with family, friends, and a very comfortable place that includes nature, birds, flowers, and maybe even some gardening eventually. I even got to see deer from my window recently. God has met me in the midst of my circumstances. He has provided an abundance of joy as well as providing for my every need (wanting nothing).

My hope for each of you is also that you are experiencing God's fulness of joy. May your needs be met by Him, no matter what you are facing right now. As always, Sandy Harber and I are always available if you have a need for prayer. Please feel free to reach out to us by email. We will call you if you would like to give us your phone number also.

Love and Prayers,

Sandy Yates