

NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

LESSON THIRTY-ONE COMMENTS

Dear Loved Ones,

“But God”! That phrase has become so special to me. No matter what are going through or have been going through, God is with us and is able to provide our every need. He has been in process of healing our broken hearts, *“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds, Psalms147:3”*. God specializes in healing. He sent Jesus to heal our wounds, but He does so much more. *2 Corinthians 9:8 says “And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”*

Ruth was just faithfully doing what needed to be done to show care for her mother-in-law and herself by helping to provide food for each of them. She was dedicating herself to that task when she was noticed by Boaz. She was diligently doing what she could do. Boaz was part of God’s plan. As our story progresses, we will see how God used Boaz to become her redeemer. It is an exciting story. We can easily picture so many challenges and struggles throughout Ruth’s story. Yet all along, God had a plan to not only bless Ruth and Naomi, but to fulfill a long-term goal for us through her blood line. We become the ultimate beneficiary of this story because of Jesus, our redeemer. We never know what God is up to when we go through something that seems so devastating. We may never even see the ultimate benefit for in our own lives, but as we faithfully turn toward God, He will meet our immediate needs as well as give us hope. That hope is a daily benefit of peace, joy, love, and strength for each day. As in our story of Ruth, God may also have a bigger goal, even if we don’t get to see it. God is so good. He always has a bigger, better plan.

If you are having any struggles in which you need someone to talk to please feel free to reach out to Sandy Harber or me, Please email or text us and let us know if you would like us to call you. Be sure to leave your phone number in case we don’t have it. I hope that you can still see how God wants to give you hope through His Son.

We are praying for a great revival in which our loved ones and many others will return to the Lord with their whole hearts. In the Christmas story, there was no room for Jesus in the Inn, but God made room in a humble stable. The manger for Jesus, was just a stone trough in which perfect lambs were born and kept for sacrifices. Humble shepherds were the first to be told. Then the wise men took a long journey from afar and brought Him gifts of Gold (for a King), Frankincense (for an incense aroma to God) and Myrrh (used in Preparations for burial). God always has a plan. Did Mary wonder what that gift was all about? She knew He was given a special assignment. What would that involve? It was great to see Him heal the sick and perform miracles but how would God’s plan be carried out? Can you imagine all that Mary went through? The excitement, the rejection of those who didn’t believe, and birth in a stable. She was given the greatest honor that any woman could be given. The birth of a child is such an amazing experience that turns the pain of birth to awesome love a new life. Then can you imagine that she had the joy of not only watching Him grow but then the sorrow of seeing Him crucified in shame. But the story didn’t stop there. She also saw God’s ultimate plan unfolded when she experienced the joy of seeing Jesus being raised from the dead to become the ultimate sacrifice for each of us. Her pain once again turned to a greater joy. When we experience the joy of seeing our newborn, we hope and pray that they will have a wonderful life. We have high hopes for them. The most amazing

thing I remember was holding that baby, cherishing that child, praying over them, and giving them to God for His glory. It was the best form of ministry I could ever have experienced. I praise God that they are still being used by God in many ways. They each still experience many of this world's challenges, but God is still at work in their lives.

Most of us will not experience anything that will change the world in any notable way, but we can all experience a small part of becoming a part of God's perfect plan for our lives by being a faithful follower of Christ who seeks to make a difference in someone's life and trying to be an example to others to see Christ in our lives. When we surrender our lives to Him, He will unfold His plan for each day. He wants to use us to show others His love and compassion. He wants us to speak His truth in love. God still has a great plan for us, but more than that, He has a plan for us to become more like Him and to lead others to know Him or draw closer to Him. Our world has been glorifying sin more and more. We need to be the light that shines through their darkness and gives them the light of Jesus. God cannot bless a nation that keeps omitting God and dishonors Him in so many ways. It is up to us to become strong beacons of God's light. We can look to God for protection, strength, and unlimited resources for each day.

May we "prepare Him room" in our hearts for such a time as this. May we look forward to walking closer to Jesus and becoming a vessel of Hope to others. Through our own struggles, I hope we have found a greater dependance on the One who heals, loves us, and gives us hope. Then I pray that we will also see how God wants to use those growing experiences to share His love with others. The amazing part is that we don't need to do anything on our own. In fact, we need to make God the pilot of our lives rather than just the co-pilot. It is a wonderful experience to watch what God does when He is in charge. No matter how bleak it looks, God has a greater plan. It may not be what we think we want, but it will be for good and for His glory.—*Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."*

Remember, God is always 'up to something'. He loves us. He wants to give us hope and an abundant life. He has great things in store for us as we seek Him with our whole heart. Don't let the enemy steal your blessings. Life will bring struggles—**but God** is still on the throne. He is always greater than any our challenges. He is available 24/7 and always ready to meet our needs. May we see God become all that He wants to be in our lives each day as we sincerely seek Him.

Thank you for your interest in following Ruth's story. The word of God is filled with examples of struggles that seemed hopeless but somehow God changed lives through those struggles. He gave us His only Son to give us Hope. Ruth was given hope through Boaz her redeemer. We are now given hope through our redeemer. Ruth struggled, but through her line Jesus was born. Like Ruth, Mary had struggles, in spite of the honor she was given by being the mother of Jesus, but through her, the world was given hope.

We may never know what God is doing in our lives, but we can trust Him. He just asks us to be obedient to His daily guidance.

Enjoy His love and care in the middle of any challenges or struggles you may face this week.

Love and Prayers,

Sandy Yates