

## NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

### LESSON FIFTY-ONE COMMENTS

Dear Loved Ones,

One of the most common emotions that a widow or widower sudden faces is fear. How can I manage without the other person? What will the many changes in life mean? What needs to be done to not only handle funeral costs but also future costs? Who will be there for me when I need something? Who is depending on me? They were my other half. How will I feel whole again?

Did you know that the phrase 'fear not' is mentioned in the Bible 365 times? Isn't that interesting? Our redeemer, Jesus, wants us to know every day of the year that He understands our fears, but He wants to offer everything we need to 'fear not'.

Ruth's redeemer seemed to understand Ruth's fears also. His quick response was to talk to her like a daughter and reassure her to 'fear not'. He also wanted to fulfill her request as well as His rightful responsibilities, but he reassured her that he would protect her. He honored her as a virtuous woman.

Proverbs 31, in a book known for being filled with wisdom, concludes with some powerful verses concerning a virtuous woman. In fact, the last verse ends with 'and let her own works praise her in the gates.' Sandy's lesson beautifully gives us a picture of those gates and explains the process and purpose of the gates. This is where business was done. Her redeemer would meet her there. He was preparing for her to be accepted there. In our story, Ruth was considered to be a virtuous woman presenting herself to her Redeemer and was willing to trust him and follow God's laws.

When we present ourselves to our redeemer it is not based on merit. He accepts us as we are, but He also wants us to enter His gates through recognizing who He is. Even though Boaz was very rich and honorable, Jesus offers us much more than Ruth's redeemer. We cannot meet God the Father without going through the gate of the blood of Jesus. Jesus welcomes us when we ask Him to become our Saviour (Redeemer) and Lord. We also need to be willing to follow where He leads and obey His laws. We can then access all the gifts, resources, and everything we need through our Lord. Ruth was given a relationship as a wife that included heirs. She would be well taken care of as well as given a future that provided our Redeemer. Through her line of heritage we are given a relationship through Jesus here on earth as well as an amazing eternal future.

In Luke 8:50, Jesus told the father of a dead girl, "**Fear not**, believe only, and she shall be made whole." When we become dead to our old self, we are given a new life in which we shall be made whole. In Jesus, we can feel that wholeness anytime. Colossians 2:10 says " We are complete in Him, which is the head of all principalities and powers." When we lose a spouse, we can turn to him even more and rely on Him to complete us because He in charge of anything that the enemy wants to use to destroy us. He takes care of us even more than a spouse could. He wants us to **Fear Not**.

Have a blessed week. **Fear not**. Rest in His promises. He loves us and wants to care for us daily.

Love and Prayers,

Sandy Yates