

NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

LESSON THIRTY-SEVEN COMMENTS

Dear Loved Ones,

Some people like to watch award shows. The winner's accomplishments are revered. Maybe we even wish we could have the talent, looks, money or some attributes that get a lot of attention. Or maybe we even just wish we were more like them. We often see ourselves as inferior when we compare ourselves to others. It is good to want to set goals for improving something that could make us a better person, but God looks at us individually according to what He created us to be.

Ruth was conscious of not deserving favor when she compared herself to those around her. Here her comparison was a good thing in that she recognized that, according to the situation in which she found herself, she had no reason to expect favor.

James 4: 6, "But He gives grace, Therefore it says "God is opposed to the proud, but Gives Grace to the humble."

James 4:10, "Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you."

Since the story of Ruth represents our relationship with God, it is very fitting that her humility before Boaz also reminds us that our relationship with God should remind us to humble ourselves before God if we are to look for favor with God.

In the Old Testament, God's favor was sought and given according to the people's request and their obedience to God. It is still very important to seek God and request favor when we come before God, but because of our redeemer, Jesus, we now have the privilege of coming to God to seek God's grace and favor. We don't deserve it on our own, but through His Son we can not only be adopted into His family, but we can come before our Heavenly Father with a greater hope and expectation.

"Romans 5:2, Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of underserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory."

Ruth was given hope, sustaining food, and a future for herself as well as generations to come. Today we are given hope, daily sustaining food, all our needs according to His riches in glory, and a future for ourselves as well as generations to come if we walk with God and raise up our children to serve the Lord. Through Jesus, our redeemer, we are given favor, and direct access to power through our Supernatural Father. We don't deserve it. In fact, all we have to do is humbly ask. God loves to give good things to His children, both here on earth and throughout eternity.

As Sandy mentioned in this lesson, we are considered a peculiar people in that we are different from the world. We are each made with unique gifts that God wants to use for our good and His glory. When we give our lives to God, we can become what He designed us to be--forgiven, hope-filled, favored to live a life of purpose. We can look to Him for comfort in our despair, acceptance into His family, abundant tools to carry out His purpose in our lives, and a spirit-filled life in which we have access to our Heavenly Father for favor upon our requests. God gives us the desire of our hearts, but he changes our

desires to match what His purpose is for us, knowing that His will is always best even if it isn't comfortable for us to go through. He will comfort us, even in the midst of our own uncomfortableness. That may not seem to make sense, but it does to those of us who have lost loved ones. We didn't choose to lose a loved one, but the comfort that God has been providing through it all gives us peace that isn't easily understood.

May we each feel chosen for His purpose, according to God's perception rather than man's. We are very blessed both here on earth and eternally.

Have a comforting, peace-filled, week of walking with God, our Father.

Love and Prayer,

Sandy Yates