

NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

LESSON FIFTY-SIX COMMENTS

Dear Loved Ones,

To everything there is a season. It is amazing that these Biblical words became a popular Rock and Roll song. Many of us are becoming very aware of the seasons of our lives as we get older. Each season brings certain its own benefits, joys, trials, and responsibilities. When we are younger, we look forward to each new event. As we age, we don't seem to have as many of this world's things to look forward to, especially if there are as many family ties in our lives.

In Phillipians 4:12, Paul says, "I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a **full** stomach or **empty**, with plenty or little." We aren't told much about things that he looked forward to other than spreading the gospel and meeting with those who shared that goal. Once He became a Christ follower, his life became all about Jesus. His life became full of more than having an empty or full stomach as we often think about or how much we do or don't have. He had gained the "secret of living" in every situation and, I assume, every season of his life since Christ became His Lord. He had a goal that was more important. Phillipians 3:14, "I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us."

Naomi thought her life was **empty** when she returned to her homeland. She didn't seem to think that she to had anything to look forward to. When Ruth met Boaz, her redeemer, their lives began to change. Naomi's season in life became more fulfilling because of her renewed hope. It appears that Naomi also began to change her attitude. She is no longer showing an attitude of bitterness like she said she should be called earlier in our story.

No matter what our age, but even more as we age, we can look forward to whatever each season brings us if we stay close to God here on earth. We are also given assurance of a future with Jesus. Our lives are truly empty until we find Jesus, but with Jesus, we can have hope for the future and abundant life here on earth. John 10:10b, *"I come that they might have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."*

God's plan brought new life and an abundant life to Naomi and Ruth. Sometimes we forget how much is available to us, even after we have received Christ as our redeemer. We don't need to live lives that seem empty. Paul had the secret. No matter what he faced, he lived contently with a purpose. A purpose of living with a goal of sharing the love of Jesus. The more we concentrate on our Lord today and the future with Him, the more we find our life to be full. Our joy can become full. *Colossians 2:9 "For in Christ lives all the **fullness** of God in a human body."*

May we each experience fullness of joy as we live in Christ each day. *God desires to give us a **full** life. We can find it in Him.*

*Romans 15:13, "I pray that God, the source of hope, will **fill** you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit."*

May God bless you with overflowing fullness of Him this week.

*Loved and Prayers,
Sandy Yates*