

NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

LESSON FIFTY-FIVE: RUTH 3:16

"And when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, Who art thou, my daughter? And she told her all that the man had done to her."

When Ruth entered the home she shared with her mother-in-law, Naomi asked her, "Who are you, my daughter?" Now that seems like an odd question to us. She could see that Ruth was, well, Ruth. If there's any question that she knew it was Ruth it would be dispelled by the way she addressed her as "my daughter." Who else but Ruth would Naomi call "daughter?"

So, what was Naomi really asking? Ruth had exited their house the night before as the widow of Mahlon. Her mission was to advise Boaz that she wanted him to act the part of the Kinsman-Redeemer. To redeem her, he would have had to marry her. What Naomi was really asking was, "Was your mission successful? Are you still the widow of Mahlon or are you now the betrothed of Boaz?"

Ruth's mission to Boaz that night would forever change who she was if successful. She would no longer be a widow but a wife. She would not be poor but wealthy. She would not be an outsider but part of a prominent family. And, quite possibly, she would no longer be childless but a mother.

Naomi's future hung in the balance, as well. If Ruth became Mrs. Boaz, surely Naomi's lot in life would improve (although this was not her motivation; Naomi truly had Ruth's best interest at heart). Ruth would not forget her mother-in-law when she became the wife of a wealthy landowner. She would certainly see to it that Naomi had whatever she needed.

"Who are you?" was an important question. The answer would make all the difference in the world to the futures of Naomi and Ruth. It's an important question for the believer as well.

II Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new." When you accept Jesus as your Savior you become a new person. You were dead in your sins, now you are alive in God (Rom. 6:11). You "put off" the "old things" of II Cor. 5:17, such as anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy speech, and lying (Col. 3:8-9). And, you "put on" the "new," such as mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forbearance, forgiveness, and love (Col. 3:12-14).

Who are you? A lost sinner destined for hell or a saved sinner destined for heaven? If the former, your only hope is in Jesus. Accept Him as your Kinsman-Redeemer. If the latter, you have everything you need to meet the challenges you face. You have God to fight your battles (Ex. 14:14). You have the Holy Spirit for comfort (Jn. 14:26). You have Jesus ever present in your life so you will never be alone (Mt. 28:20). You have access to the throne of grace 24/7 (Heb. 4:16). And, you have the truth in written form (Jn.17:17), which you can consult at any time.

Who am I? A sinner saved by grace. Who are you?

"What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." I Corinthians 6:19-20