

NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

LESSON THIRTY-FIVE COMMENTS

Dear Loved Ones,

I recently retired from a job which involved investigations and customer service. Somedays it was very hard to be kind to those who were obviously taking advantage of a forgiving system. We had access to their records which often clearly showed their lack of effort to pay very important bills. Some would wait until a certain time of year in which they could get government assistance and end up never having to make any effort to make any payments on their own. I understood how difficult paying bills could be sometimes, but when their attitudes and expectations showed that they just thought they deserved unlimited free services it was much harder to hear them holler or curse at us because they weren't getting what they wanted. I often heard children in the background and wished they would be more concerned about what they were teaching their children.

Some of our investigators seemed to be extra skilled at being kind to customers even though they had to deliver a stern message that the customer did not like. I admired their wisdom and the kindness that they managed show each customer. One of those investigators was a Christian, so I knew that it was the Lord that gave it to her and used her words to spread kindness. When she retired, however, I was very surprised that she passed on a wooden board to display in my office that said something to the effect that "Kindness matters" along with a very touching statement. I felt very honored because she seemed to recognize the same thing in me. I knew that any kindness that others noticed was mostly a daily gift from the Lord. God used that plaque to encourage me daily when I so desperately needed to depend on His kindness.

Who is watching? Our calls were always monitored so I knew that there was always a chance that someone was paying attention, but more than that, I knew that God was watching. My care for others, whether they deserved it or not, and the kindness that I needed to show to others often made a huge difference in how the customer responded. Anger was often turned into calmness, even when I had to give them an answer they didn't want. Through our own life experiences, I also knew that bill paying can become very challenging even when we want to do the right thing, so God used it to help me show compassion toward others.

As Ruth showed kindness, compassion, humility, and gratefulness, she gained the respect of others as she went about doing simple tasks. It is often not the big things that we try to do but rather the small things that show our true character. How we talk to our family, how we interact when someone who does something we don't like, and how we treat someone who may or may not deserve kindness for their actions matter. We all make mistakes. We often don't deserve kindness.

God freely shows us compassion and kindness when we don't deserve it. Yes, He corrects us and sometimes lets us pay for our poor decisions. He loves us enough to teach us how to turn to Him as our Father and seek redemption through His Son Jesus.

Ruth knew she didn't deserve the kindness that Boaz was showing her, but she was wise enough to humbly accept His offer.

In spite of the fact that we don't deserve it, our Father has made us an offer that we need to accept. He provided redemption through His son Jesus. Once we accept that offer, our sins are washed away. However, He still sees our actions and knows our hearts. Through the Holy Spirit, we can receive the gifts of kindness, love, etc. Even more, He provides the power to overcome our natural desire to treat others as they treat us. As we walk in those gifts and that power, we can become more like Jesus. The enemy will continue to tempt us but the more we practice overcoming His temptations, the stronger we become.

God wants to bless us abundantly. It is up to us to seek Him and strive to walk in those blessings. Sometimes our own attitudes and desires get in the way and hinder those blessings. Like Boaz, God is watching. He has unlimited resources available. Reading God's Word, Praying without ceasing, and seeking Him with our whole hearts can open miraculous doors that we never knew were available.

Titus 3:4-8, "But, When God our Savior revealed His great kindness and love, he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. Because of his grace He made us right in His sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life. This is trustworthy saying, and I want you to insist on these teachings so that all who trust in doing good and beneficial for everyone."

By God's mercy we are given the gift of salvation. By our attitudes, actions and walk with God, we are abundantly blessed with Heavenly gifts.

Ask God to help you show the same kindness to others that He has shown to us. Please continue to pray for each other also. Prayer really matters.

Have a very blessed week.

Love and Prayers,

Sandy Yates

