

## NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

### LESSON FORTY-THREE COMMENTS

Dear Loved Ones,

Did you ever feel like everything is going wrong? Of course you have. It doesn't have to be anything big, just lots of little complications, annoyances, and issues that you can't seem to control. I was all set to try to get a start on sending out our Naomi2Ruth lessons so that I wouldn't have to be concerned if tomorrow got busy. Well, my ambition definitely didn't go as planned. I will not try to go into details, but I can tell you obstacles kept happening. When I was finally able to find this lesson, it had to be re-typed (my fault if there are errors) because it couldn't be pulled up to insert into the email. I got discouraged and was ready to give up and take a nap, but I suddenly thought of some other options. When I got to read this week's lesson, it hit me big-time. Talk about God convicting me. Naomi and Ruth did not give up. They had so much to deal with, yet they concentrated on what they could do rather than what they could not do. After reading the lesson I realized that I had been ready to give up too easily. I was definitely missing my husband more than usual. He always knew what to do, especially when it came to anything technical. He taught my family many of his skills, but my kids weren't easily available now for what I needed. Besides, I should be able to conquer more of this on my own by now.

Anyway, I realized that I also could reach out to family if I couldn't make the progress I needed. I started to make progress, but I eventually reached out to family anyway for extra help. It seems that my computer responds to my daughter's voice. Ha. When I tried to tell her some of the issues that I was facing, some of those issues suddenly went away while she was on the phone. It was embarrassing/frustrating but, I am very grateful for her. My sons, daughters-in-law, and son-in-law as well as grandchildren are all also very advanced in technical issues so I always have hope of someone assisting me, but I would like to be able to accomplish as much as possible on my own when possible.

Ruth and Naomi remind me of how well they worked together for the sake of caring for each other. God truly blessed them with a wonderful bond that made a huge difference in how they responded to their situation. Ruth was not only a faithful, loving, daughter-in-law who was dedicated to caring for her husband, but she also very willingly listened and took the advice of her mother-in-law. She knew that Naomi cared about her and had her interest at heart also. Naomi acted like a mother and gave advice that was truly given for the sake of Ruth's safety and concerns. The woman who once went through enough discouragement that she thought she should be called 'bitter' rather than the pleasant person she had previously been now looked beyond herself and once again became a caring motherly person to the one who still needed her.

Do you ever feel more bitter rather than pleasant? How quickly do we tend to look at our tough circumstances rather than seek God's solutions and diligently go forward one little step at a time. I prayed and asked God to give me direction as well as improve my attitude. I can see now how the enemy has been working overtime to hinder this ministry. I see him trying extra hard to discourage many of us daily because God has a greater plan for us. We may have to bind the enemy, check our thought life, and prayerfully go forward individually and together.

Does someone you know need encouragement? We all have days that seem unsurmountable. The enemy is determined to steal our joy, discourage our thoughts, and destroy our efforts to live for God. We don't have to let him. God is much more powerful. It is up to us to plug into that power. He loves us and always cares. He also has all the resources we need to fight the enemy. Through prayer and God's Word we can follow His directions for a greater life. He has a perfect plan for our lives. When we wallow in our pity, we not only affect ourselves but others as well. They don't deserve our poor attitude. They deserve God's love working through us. He loves us always. We should let God love them in His way. Please re-read the verse that Sandy provided at the end of this lesson.

Pray for someone that is facing a tough time. Reach out to someone that may help in your time of need. Most of all, give it to God and seek His direction.

Take care. Have a blessed week.

Love and Prayers,

Sandy Yates