

## NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

### LESSON FIFTEEN: RUTH 1:13b

**" Nay, my daughters: for it grieveth me much for your sakes that the hand of the Lord is gone out against me."**

The scene is highly emotional. Three weeping women standing in the road imploring one another to action. Each woman is motivated by love. Each woman truly wishes the best for the others. Ruth and Orpah want to continue the journey to Naomi's homeland. Naomi urges Ruth and Orpah to stay in Moab and remarry.

Further, Naomi expresses her grief that "the hand of the Lord is gone out against me." She acknowledges that God is in control. Concluding, therefore, that He is responsible for the deaths of her husband and sons. Naomi views her loss as proof that God is against her. She regrets that God's punishment of her has adversely affected Ruth and Orpah. The young ladies were widowed because they married Naomi's sons and God was against Naomi.

It is human nature to seek someone to blame when tragedy strikes. All too often, God is that chosen Someone. The thinking goes something like this: God could have prevented it; He didn't; therefore, it is His fault.

This type of thinking can lead to anger and hostility toward God, the Bible, and the Church (and, sometimes, Christians). More than one person has walked away from the church because of the death of a loved one.

Naomi allowed those feelings to fester. It changed her personality from pleasant to bitter. The writer of Hebrews warned against allowing a root of bitterness to spring up (Heb. 12:15).

The "root" of bitterness was hidden. It was below the surface, unseen. But the affects have not only troubled the bitter person, but, spread to others and "defiled" them.

Are there unresolved feelings of anger, bitterness, or disappointment against God in your heart? Perhaps deep down. Hidden. Do you secretly blame God for your situation? If so, these feelings need to be addressed.

One purpose of a group like the Naomi-Ruth Connection is to provide support. You are not alone. You will not be judged. Chances are someone else is experiencing or has experienced similar thoughts and feelings like you have. You have sisters who are willing to listen, pray, and offer advice/suggestions if warranted (and wanted). Please reach out.

*"I Therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, and long-suffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Ephesians 4:1-6*