

NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

LESSON FORTY-FIVE COMMENTS

Dear Loved Ones,

Have you ever felt like playing matchmaker? We often want to see those we love or care about to find happiness by seeing them find a mate that will be good for them. There have been many popular matchmaker type shows because people like to see romance and happiness take place. It becomes even stronger if we have had a good experience with happiness in a marriage relationship. We know the blessing that it can be in a person's life. Naomi loved and cared for Ruth. She felt badly that Ruth no longer had a mate following the death of her son. She also felt a certain obligation to help her find a mate that could give her children and security. Parents were very involved in choosing mates and planning marriages at that time.

Naomi probably had no idea that her decision was much more than meeting the needs of her daughter in law. We often can't think beyond our current circumstances. Yet God had a much bigger plan for generations to come, as well as for foretelling the end of time. If you have noticed the many signs of Christ's sudden return, you may have also noticed that God is winnowing the church. He is separating those who have chosen to accept Him as Savior and who truly love Him, from those who do not live for Him or even totally reject Him. Only the grain has value. The chaff is removed and burned up. Only those who truly belong to Christ and love Him will be removed when Christ comes. The rest will be sent to Hell (burned and tortured constantly forever). He is coming back. Are we ready? Are we doing our best to show our loved ones the Love of Christ and sharing the importance of being ready? Are we loving them enough to help them see how important it is to know and walk with the Lord? I would like to think that everyone who made a confession to know Christ will be ready but sometimes people aren't sincere or turn their back on the Lord. I would like to think that they are definitely going with Jesus, but only God knows how genuine that confession is. We are told that by their fruits we will know them. Sometimes the fruit is not clearly shown to us. I also believe that we who are living for Christ will be taken up before the rapture, but we may get a glimpse of the tribulation. I definitely don't want to think that any one that I love would be left behind to go through the tribulation or to permanently be sent to hell. It is really hard to think about, but the signs of the times are becoming abundantly clear. God is warning us that He is getting ready to start harvesting. He wants us to win souls of our loved ones and anyone that will open their heart to Him while there is still light. Darkness is showing up in many ways right now and it is upon us.

How much do we care? We can often remember that Jesus wept when He approached the death of His friend Lazarus but did you notice that Jesus also wept as He approached Jerusalem? *"As He approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it and said, 'if you, even you, had only known on this day what could bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.'*" Luke 19:41-42. Jesus knew he was facing a brutal death, but his concern was for Jerusalem. Jerusalem was and is God's treasured place. He loved it like we love our own family, but even more, yet they were blind to God's plan. Naomi was not thinking beyond the immediate needs of Ruth at the time, but she loved her enough to want her to have a future. God loves us and our loved ones. He does not want anyone to face an uncertain future or to perish into eternal separation from Him or be sent to hell. May we continue to pray for our loved ones and ask God to open doors to talk to them about their future with or without God. God wants to give them a great plan for their future. We can't try to plan their future like Naomi did for Ruth, but we can

certainly help to gather the harvest while it is still light. It is the best way to show that we truly care and love our family and others. Let's strive to love them to death with a future rather than death to eternal damnation. Let's work while it is still light for God's glory and those who need us to show how much we care. I have spent many evenings crying and praying for loved ones who aren't walking with God. Weeping and praying for others is a great start, but we also need to seek God's guidance for any way that He wants us to help them to open their eyes and seek Him while He can be found.

May you enjoy the true meaning of Resurrection Sunday this week by celebrating what He did for us. Enjoy your time loving your family and friends. May they see the love of Jesus through us.

Love and Prayers,
Sandy Yates