

## NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

### LESSON TWENTY-EIGHT COMMENTS

Dear Loved Ones,

As I was praying for God's guidance in what God would have me share with you today, God gave me scriptures of the same story from totally separate devotionals. It was a story that I never paid much attention to before. In Luke 2:25 -38 we are given the story of the Mary and Joseph bringing Jesus to the temple. God often prophecies the news before the news to prophets, or to those who are walking very closely to the Lord. Simeon, a righteous and devout man was waiting for the consolation of Israel. The Holy Spirit comforted him by telling him that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts and was given the opportunity to take Jesus into his arms. He praised God, saying, "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." –Luke 2:29, Simeon must have had a very deep burden for the Jews and Gentiles and longed to see the promised Messiah that would redeem the world. In walking with God, he immediately recognized the Messiah.

Part of the story that didn't seem to have as much meaning to me before was that there was also a prophet who also quickly recognized Jesus. She was a widow who was very old, 84, and lived at the temple. She had only been married seven years prior to becoming a widow, so she spent the rest of her life worshiping night and day, fasting and praying. She immediately gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. Her age didn't hinder her from walking closely to God. As a widow, she spent her time getting closer to God. God often mentions widows. He seems to have a special concern and care for widows, so it was very meaningful that she was given such a wonderful opportunity. We also don't pay attention to the fact that God called her a prophet. She was obviously given the news through the leading of the Holy Spirit of this child being the redeemer of Jerusalem. As a woman and a widow, it was probably a special honor to have God give her this amazing gift. Since I am now a widow, this part of the story has taken on new meaning for me.

Both immediately praised God. They had grateful hearts. They walked with God in worship and thankfulness. They loved God and seemed to have been given a love and concern for people, so they looked to God for redemption of mankind.

Naomi and Ruth needed redemption. When Ruth said, "Let me now go to the field and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace," she showed great respect to Naomi. Ruth recognized that Naomi's age and wisdom was important to acknowledge. God often talks about the importance of one generation teaching future generations.

Keeping family ties, sharing what God has done in our lives, praying for our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren is part of God's plan to pass on His love and care from one generation to another.

Have you had an extra burden for family members as well as others who have not made a commitment to walk with God or has not even been redeemed by God? There is hope. No matter our age, our

position, or our ability to share with others, God calls us to walk closely with Him, be in prayer, and rejoice in Him. God sent His son, our redeemer, to save us and to love others with His love.

May this season of our lives become a very special time with family. Make it a time of sharing God's love to each generation.

Do you have any special prayer requests for you or your family? Is there anything that you would like to share with the leaders or this group? We want to be available to you in any way that we can be. We cherish you and value your input.

Love and prayers,

Sandy Yates