

NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

LESSON FIFTY-SEVEN COMMENTS

Dear Loved Ones,

Psalms 37:7 tells us to "Rest in the Lord, wait patiently for Him".

Every generation seems to be less patiently and more anxious. We want fast food, immediate gratification of all our needs, and everything in our lives to be done immediately. Waiting is one of the hardest things for us to do. Wait patiently and also rest while we wait? Our society teaches us to seek happiness for ourselves more than we seek to make someone else happy or we think we should seek happiness elsewhere. Waiting for God to change our circumstances, or meet our needs, is not easy for anyone, but the more we realize His ways are better than ours, the more we can grow in patience and maybe even learn to rest in His presence while He opens or closes the doors of His perfect plan.

Naomi was wise in telling Ruth to sit still (rest) while her redeemer brings the plan to completion. Of course, the real completion, will be when we join our Redeemer, but while we wait and wait patiently for Him to return, we also need to learn to wait patiently for His perfect daily plan for our lives. We often don't see what our Lord is up to because our vision is so limited, and our circumstances are so dependent on our immediate wants and needs.

My husband always said that every sin can be traced back to pride, the original sin that caused man to fall away from God and break the fellowship that God desires with man. We think we know what will make us happy and what is best for our lives. We like to be in control. We want fast results, even if it seems like a good, and maybe even not a selfish thing. We even try to please God by doing things that we think will please God but we didn't bother to ask God or wait for His timing.

Today's society wants us to not only accept but 'celebrate pride'. It has become a symbol of accepting immoral behavior and the LGBG groups. They have even adopted the rainbow, God's promise to man. But there is a difference in their rainbow. It has 6 colors rather than 7 which is God's rainbow. Six represents man without God Seven represents God's perfect number and completion. Satan always tries to imitate everything God offers, but He can't. He always falls short, just like man falls short of God's perfect plan for salvation and the plan for our lives.

God always has a perfect plan. It may not always take the route that we think is best for us, but if we continue to rest in Him and trust Him, we will see that He cares for our every need and will fulfill His perfect plan in His way and His time. Ruth was blessed when she waited upon her redeemer. We will be blessed as we learn to wait upon our Redeemer. If we are not resting, we may not be truly trusting our Redeemer.

Isaiah 40:31, "They that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they will run and not be weary, and they shall walk, and not faint."

May we find this week to be a week of strength as we wait upon Him.

Love and prayers,

Sandy Yates

Dear Loved Ones,

What do you think of when you hear the word 'Helper'? Someone less important than the person in charge? Someone who does menial tasks? Someone who makes a chore a little easier? When I first saw my name's meaning listed as 'helper' I had mixed feelings initially, but I grew to love the meaning. I loved being my husband's helper. I also enjoyed many times of not feeling like I had to be the leader but rather the one who could do everything I could to help the one who was more responsible. I typically don't like to be 'in charge'. But a helper can also have many responsibilities. So what do you think about being God's helper?

Sandy Harber did an excellent job of explaining Jesus as a helper. I would like to repeat what she stated:

Each one of us who makes up the Bride of Christ, the Church, has two built-in Paracletes. The Greek word, "parakletos" is translated "advocate" in I John 2:1 and "comforter" in John 14:26. The Greek word means, "one who is called alongside."

Jesus fulfills the role of our legal helper. When we mess up, He reminds the Father that we are forgiven. We are no longer under condemnation for our sins (Rom. 8:1).

The Holy Spirit is our intellectual and emotional helper. He opens the Word to our understanding, bringing wisdom and comfort when we need it (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13-15).

Our amazing God has provided us with all the support we need to navigate this life. We have an indwelling Helper who sat down to stay in our hearts. And another Helper who sat down next to God the Father. And, all the lines of communication are open 24/7 between us and our Helpers and God.

We are told to "Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name, Psalms 100:4". God frequently talks about entering His presence through gates and courts. There is a key to God's presence. Jesus opens that door and becomes the advocate as to why God should recognize us and our requests. He is our precious legal Helper through whom we have permission and an advocate to plead our case. Through the Word of God, our praises, and the direction of the Holy Spirit we are guided into His courts where we can meet our Heavenly Father.

If you ever needed a lawyer to be an advocate for something legal, you probably have some appreciation for the role they played. We can't always rely on the integrity of earthly lawyers, but we can definitely rely on Jesus to advocate for us. Jesus even prays for us, *"My pray is not for the world, but for those you have given me because they belong to you," John 17:9.*

When Ruth came before Boaz and presented herself to him, Boaz became her legal redeemer, so he met in the courtyard gate to begin legal proceedings. Jesus wants to meet us in the gates of God's courthouse to become our Redeemer and constant advocate before our Holy Father. Now that is the ultimate Helper!

We need our Helper every day. As Sandy Harber says, he is available 24/7. He doesn't have lawyer's fees or rates. He already paid the price for us and wants to talk to us and advocate for us anytime we reach out to Him.

Have a blessed week experiencing the presence of God because of our Redeemer and Helper, Jesus . May you also rely on the guidance and comfort of the Holy Spirit each day to meet your emotional needs for anything you face.

Sandy Yates