

## NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

### LESSON FIFTY COMMENTS

Dear\_Loved Ones,

If you were to choose the kindest person you know, who would it be? Would it be a Christian? Would it be someone who has continually showed loving kindness to you whether you deserved it or not? If you considered your future mate to be very kind before you were married, did you still think so after you were married a few years? When a co-worker retired and passed on a plaque about 'Kindness' I was surprised that she gave it to me. I was very honored. However, it was suddenly even more of a challenge to live up to the expectations that the plaque stated. We constantly dealt with callers who were often very disgruntled. Then again, in spite of my efforts, I am sure I didn't always show the constant kindness that I should have to my husband or others. It is not always natural. Without the power of the Holy Spirit it would have been even more challenging.

Ruth appeared to be a very kind person. In fact, it may have been an attribute that became even more appealing than even any beauty that was obvious. It appeared that it was not just a trait that suddenly appeared because she wanted attention. She was first kind to her former husband because her mother-in-law must have thought of her as a kind person when she thought she might appreciate her as a travel partner. Ruth also seemed to be a kind person in the way that she determined to not only stay with Naomi as she traveled to her homeland but then she made every effort to provide for both of their needs.

Boaz may have found her to be very attractive because she seemed to get his attention rather quickly, but he also seemed to notice her kindness. He seemed to keep an eye on her for several reasons. He asked his workers about her. It also seemed that the more he watched her, the more he noticed her increasing kindness. She probably also got attention of younger men and Boaz was concerned about that too so he tried to protect her. Her interest in Him, however, may have told him that she desired more than what would be natural. She wanted to follow the Levirate Law which would give her former husband and her mother-in-law the heir of her husband's heritage. Boaz may have appreciated her integrity and her desire to do what she knew was considered to be the right thing to do. She showed kindness again in her sacrificial willingness to become the wife of the right person to become her redeemer.

Her kindness and willingness to give herself to her Redeemer also became our heritage. We may not affect anyone in such a strong way as she did, but our kindness can influence anyone to accept Christ as their redeemer. We may also become a part of many generations to come. It may not always be easy to be considered the kindest person someone knows, but we now have the Holy Spirit that can provide the kindness as one of the fruits that He offers. It is still not always easy, but everyone is watching. What do they see? Has God brought another person to the Lord because our example and the kindness we show toward them? How will we affect our heritage and the heritage of others? Kindness is important to God. How important is it to us?

*Galatians 5:22, " But the fruit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness."*

*Because of His love, we can love others even more than Ruth did. Is His love and kindness obvious in us? Let's make an extra effort this week to show someone extra love and kindness. Our own family is a great place to start.*

*Love and Prayers,  
Sandy Yates*