

NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

LESSON SIXTEEN COMMENTS

Dear Loved Ones,

Today's lesson reminds us of the many decisions that need to be made after the loss of loved ones.

In the midst of grief, those decisions can be overwhelming. I never imagined how many things need to be changed. Not only do we need to plan a time for family to get together/service that often includes food, but we need to make funeral/burial arrangements. Then the paperwork becomes overwhelming. All the government or/and income changes need to be made. Vehicle issues have to be decided. All accounts that were once in two names now had to be closed and new accounts opened. Property often needs to be decided. What family members should be given various items? Is there any life insurance and if there is any, where are the documents? And how soon can it to help with the immediate need? With a decreased income, if any, will it cover the expenses needed to live in the same home? If a move is necessary, how can a new place be obtained? How can it happen? If a place is obtained, what can be moved and what needs to be done with what can't be done? How can help? Were there any promises made to family?

Those of us who have experienced this, will tell you that this is a short list compared to the overwhelming decisions that really have to be made. Some, of course, have more to make than others. If you have not gone through this process, I encourage you to consider these questions and determine any arrangements that can make, if possible, before a tragedy might happen.

Before my husband went to see Jesus, I went through a long time of working full-time while trying to attend to my beloved sick husband. I eventually visited him daily in the hospital for six months, but I was not able to make many of these decisions until I was forced to do so. Part of the time he was incoherent so I couldn't get answers, but it was a very difficult thing to talk about even when he was conscious. He did not want to consider any life changes. He could only think of coming home to me and his live going back to being as normal as possible.

Suddenly many decisions had to be made without his assistance. I am very grateful for a family that became my strong support in all of this. They did an amazing job of assisting with everything that was needed and yet it still overwhelmed me at times. I was so amazed at all the ways our children met my needs. They got along beautifully, and each did everything that they could. And, of course, I deeply relied on the Lord for my strength. That is where my most important help came from. I knew he would meet my needs beyond what anyone else possibly could do.

In times like these, however, many do not have a strong family that is ready to be helpful. In fact, I really feel badly for those who have families that fight and cause increased grief issues during this very tough time.

Naomi and her daughters in law had to make major decisions also. Naomi had set up a home in a land that was new and uncomfortable because it was not a place that God was honored. Yet, in spite of her great loss, she had to make a very difficult decision. Should she return to her homeland? She knew that

it was a treacherous journey when she traveled with of her husband. Could she do it alone? What would be best for the daughters in law that she had now come to love and care for? Ruth and Orpah also had to make important decisions. What gives them the security they need according to traditions that rely heavily on a husband? Ruth chose to stay with Naomi to care for her and follow the values that she experienced with her mother in law.

Their tough decisions were not the same, but were probably more overwhelming. They didn't know what obstacles they might face. Even after a very treacherous journey that probably included wild animals, not knowing when they could get water or food, and even a lack of shelter, they didn't know if they would be accepted in the new land. No fast food, No protections, No one cares. How can they reestablish a new place to live? In spite of my own grief and overwhelming life changes, I can barely imagine the life decisions and process that they faced.

Yet God met their needs in a powerful way. In fact, their future held many amazing blessings which we will be seeing in future lessons.

I am very grateful that besides God and family, Sandy Harber and others have come along side of me in my journey. Naomi and Ruth found love and support in each other. As a group, we can also find extra support in each other as we go through our personal journeys. Thank you for your love and support. If you have any extra need, we hope you will reach out to us. Life is filled with challenges and decisions. Sometimes friendships can make a big difference in helping us walk through the many things we go through—especially praying friends.

Have a blessed week.

Love and Prayers,
Sandy Yates