

NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

LESSON SEVENTY-SIX AND SEVENTY-SEVEN COMMENTS

Dear Loved Ones,

Are you my brother? Here is what Sandy ended this lesson:

When Jesus' mother and brothers came to visit Him, He said, "Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?" Then He pointed to His disciples and said, "Behold my mother and my brethren. For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." (Mt. 12:48-50). We share a relationship that transcends time and space and extends into eternity. We are a family.

Many people have decided to search their ancestry recently. Sometimes it is very enlightening. We often like to know our roots. It can be very exciting if we find that we have famous or important relatives in our heritage. I was amazed when I discovered that there was a very distant supreme court relative in my ancestry. There were also some relatives that I wouldn't necessarily be proud to talk about. It doesn't change anything.

The Bible shares both good and not-so-good ancestry of Jesus. Our lesson today shares much of that ancestry. God shared it all for a reason. God also often shared how he showed mercy and rewards for obedience or devastation for those who did not follow His directions. He often allowed them to go their own way and even sometimes have temporary success. God gives us a free will, but He always has the last word.

The best part of that free will is that we now have the choice to become sisters and brothers because of Jesus. It changes everything. There is no greater ancestry to be able to claim. We can chose to become grafted into God's family. We can have a heritage and future far beyond our earthly family.

Do we appreciate our heavenly brothers and sisters as much as we should? Yes, we still have earthly feelings that we need to get under God's control. We don't always see eye to eye just like we don't always agree with our earthly families, but we now know the one who gives us all the resources we need to love each other with supernatural love. He knows and loves the other person just as much as He knows and loves us. He can give us the wisdom to communicate with each other in love.

Our earthly families are very important and we should dearly appreciate them and love them with God's love. God has also blessed us with a heavenly family here on earth also. Our love for each other should be a great example of what the real love of God is. No matter what our earthly family experience is, we have been given the opportunity to turn to God's family to experience true love.

Thank you for being family. You are loved.

Love and prayers,