

NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

LESSON FIFTY-NINE COMMENTS

Dear Loved Ones,

When I was going through the process of grieving over the loss of my husband, it seemed surprising that God would take me to the book of Ruth. I certainly identified with Naomi's feelings of loss. I had a sudden feeling of despair, in spite of also being conscious my many blessings at the time. The book of Ruth, however, is considered a "Love Story". It would not have been my first thought. I certainly felt the need to feel the love that I dearly missed. I knew that God loved me, but now He seemed to be reminding me that His love is more than sufficient. He would be my Redeemer in a more powerful way than I had ever experienced before. It was hard to think beyond my day-to-day changes that I was experiencing at the time. Somehow, through His love, I still felt strong in the Lord in a time that I otherwise felt weaker than I ever felt before. My emotions were all over the place. I am so grateful for the joy that I could still experience from the Lord, because on my own, I felt like a mess.

Boaz was a man of who had much to offer Ruth. Yet he was also a man of honor. He knew that he needed to make every effort to follow the law. Before Jesus came to redeem us, it was very important to follow the current law to provide redemption. Boaz made every effort to follow the details of the law even though it meant reaching out to the closest relative, gathering a court of men at the gate, and showing patience for that redeemer to arrive to make a decision on whether they wanted to redeem Ruth.

Charles Spurgeon, a great preacher, explained the law as a mirror that shows our imperfections, yet when we look away from the mirror those imperfections are still there. The mirror can't do anything to change them. The law shows us what needs to be changed. Jesus came to be the one who, through a relationship, can change us. The law may have had the right to tell us that something has to change, but Jesus gives us the opportunity to make that change through being our redeemer and changing our lives. Boaz, had to take many steps to become Ruth's redeemer. Jesus already took that step when He died on the cross to forgive us for our sins. We are only required to offer ourselves to Him for redemption of our sins and ask Him to become our Lord and Savior. Boaz basically acquired Ruth. Jesus paid the price to acquire us. Slaves were often acquired for the purpose of work, but Jesus acquired us to set us free from sin. We are free to serve Him because we love Him, but more importantly, He loves us. By their relationship, Ruth became heir to all that Boaz had to offer, including becoming an important part of the genealogy of Jesus. Through our relationship with Jesus, we benefit greatly on earth through all the richness of a beautiful relationship, but we also become heirs to mansions in eternity. We can also have the privilege to become an important part in leading others to Him and giving them an opportunity to become children of God.

And so our story continues to unfold into the best part of this love story as we venture into the fourth chapter. As they say, the best is yet to come. I hope you are enjoying this reminder of how your relationship with Jesus changes our lives and can even change the world one life at a time. I definitely still dearly missed my Husband, but no one can love us more than Jesus. I had to learn to feel complete in Him.

May we each deepen our relationship with our redeemer as we remember how much He loved us and still does.

Love and prayers,

Sandy Yates