

NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

LESSON SEVENTY-ONE: RUTH 4:13a

"So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife."

Who doesn't like a happy ending? The Book of Ruth began with a famine and three deaths. This was followed by poverty and hard work. But, in the end, our ladies recovered lost property, found a husband for Ruth, and celebrated the birth of the much-wanted heir to the family name and legacy.

Boaz got his happy ending, too. From the time that he first laid eyes on Ruth Boaz wanted her for his bride. He waited patiently for her to indicate that she wanted him to redeem her. Meanwhile, he did all that he could to ensure that she had an adequate food supply and a safe work environment. He protected her reputation. And he negotiated on her behalf the redemption of the family land, as well as her own redemption as the childless widow. In the end, "Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife."

Wouldn't it be great if life always worked out that way? If only we could all be guaranteed a happy ending it would take some of the stress out of our lives. Sometimes life does work out like this. Sometimes it doesn't. But a happy ending is not a goal to strive for. It may be hoped for. Even prayed for! But our goal in everything we do should be to glorify God (I Cor. 10:31). Then we leave the outcome to Him. Our happy ending is in the hands of God.

All we can do is pursue what is right: follow Jesus' example and obey His Word to the best of our ability. The rest we leave to our Heavenly Father, trusting in His mercy and grace.

When Ruth accompanied Naomi to Bethlehem it was with the understanding that she would be viewed as an outsider and her prospects for marriage were practically nil. Ruth wasn't looking after her own interests. She was determined to care for her mother-in-law who had lost her entire family and faced old age alone.

God blessed Ruth for the kindness she showed to Naomi. He worked in her life so that she was in the right place at the right time. And she found favor in the eyes of the one who would become her Kinsman-Redeemer. It is true that God is in the details. He makes everything work out according to His will.

God is working in your life, too. Difficult circumstances may be the catalyst to trigger many blessings. If we face all of life's challenges with a positive attitude, believing God will work out the details to our benefit, it will take away our fears and anxiety. God is in control and we are glad He is.

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." Colossians 3:17