

NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

LESSON FORTY-EIGHT: RUTH 3:5-6

"And she said unto her, All that thou sayest unto me I will do. And she went down unto the floor, and did according to all that her mother-in-law bade her."

Ruth's response to Naomi was simply, "I'll do everything you told me to." She had complete trust in her mother-in-law. She didn't hesitate. She didn't ask questions. She didn't offer a counter proposal and bargain with Naomi. She just said, "Yes, Ma'am," and did it.

Oh, if people only said, "Yes," to Jesus and, then, obeyed Him without hesitation. We would all be so much happier if we trusted Jesus the way Ruth trusted Naomi.

Ruth obeyed completely. She didn't leave out the parts she didn't want to do. She didn't substitute her own ideas. There was a reason behind each one of Naomi's instructions. Ruth didn't have to understand why. She just had to obey. Her obedience was based on complete trust that her mother-in-law had her (Ruth's) best interest at heart.

This is true in the life of the believer. We don't have to understand why. We just have to trust that God has a reason for everything that He allows into our lives. We just have to trust that He loves us and has our best interest at heart.

Ruth obeyed immediately. She didn't delay. She didn't take a detour around Bethlehem. She went straight to the threshing floor. The Bible tells us that Abraham "rose up early" on the day God told him to sacrifice his son Isaac (Gen. 22:3). Abraham trusted God so much he did not hesitate. He did not question. He obeyed immediately. And his obedience earned him a spot in the Heroes of Faith Chapter in Hebrews (Heb. 11:17-19).

Ruth followed Naomi's instructions. She laid down at Boaz's feet, uncovered his feet, and covered her own feet with the corner of his cloak. The Hebrew word for his garment is actually translated "skirt" in verse 9. This same Hebrew word is translated "wing" in Psalm 91:4, where we are told "He shall cover thee with his (God's) feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust." This symbolic act would let Boaz know that she wanted him to be her Redeemer.

When Charlie died, I found comfort in the imagery of Psalm 91:4. I just wanted to crawl up under God's wing and hide out for a while. This was a place where I could find safety and rest.

Jesus warned His disciples that in this world they would have tribulation (John 16:33). Every one of us has experienced something that was difficult to bear. Jesus does not promise to keep us from having difficult problems or trying times in our lives. But, He has promised to be with us in the midst of the trial (Mt. 28:20). He has promised to give us His peace (John 16:33). Our part is to trust in Him and obey His Word. Like Ruth, we must trust and obey.

"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." 1 John 5:3-4