

Meditations from the Book of Ruth Part 3

“19 So they two went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi? 20 And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me. 21 I went out full and the LORD hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me? 22 So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest.” (Ruth 1:19-22 KJV)

We will continue in this message what we had started meditating from the book of Ruth about the family of Elimelech. We had discussed how Naomi gave her message to her two daughters in law and how Ruth stayed with her but Orpah left her.

There is a Scripture from the mouth of Jesus, it says the following: ***“For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.” (Matthew 10:35 KJV)*** Jesus mentioned here that He had come to cause the daughter in law against her mother in law. Truly that was fulfilled when Orpah left Naomi, because what was in the mind of Orpah was not of the mind of God. Therefore with the wisdom that Naomi used, she separated herself from Orpah, but she let Ruth to stay with her. Ruth stayed with Naomi because she was in full agreement with her, ***“So they two went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi?” (Ruth 1:19 KJV)*** It is a great blessing when two persons agree with God and with the Word of God and with the plans of God. *The journey will become easy when God is with you and when God had placed people who agreed with Him and you His servant.* It reminded me of what it says in the book of Amos, ***“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:3 KJV)***

** It is not important of how many people with you, but their agreement with you is the most important. * It is your agreement on God’s Word that people would agree with you. I am not saying that people would agree with you on wrong things, but on the Word of God. * The vision will be successful by the people who agree and not with those who disagree.* How about the people who does not agree with you? They will have no effect as long as you are in agreement with God’s Word and as long as they had moved far away from you, as had happened here with Orpah that had moved away from Naomi. Just imagine if she will be with them. She will do non sense things in the middle and will cause troubles to Naomi. She may go out looking for boyfriend, borrow money, etc. I had passed through that and suffered because people like Orpah were with me. Post Orpah stage is vision casting era. *So what you need to do in fulfilling the vision that God had given to you is that to keep yourself beside God and to keep with you the people that agreed with God’s Word, and to be sure also to send away those who are against the vision that God had given to you and those who are against His Word.*

In the process of vision casting, there you will have a mixed people with you. Some they agree and some they disagree. Many people around you and linked with you are like Orpah and it will be a great blessings to you when they will move away from you. ** What a blessing if God will take away your girlfriend, or take away your boyfriend or your best friend. O, come on, these all are worldly things, and they are like Orpah, they have nice names but empty before God and if not useless they are harmful to you, and they are wasters to your time and resources. * When those who disagree move away, you are blessed. * We are blessed every time God is taking away people like Orpah from us. * The post Orpah departure stage is a blessed stage that we and those who remain with us, who remain with the church, will move smoothly under the anointing of the Holy Spirit moving toward the destination that God is directing us to move.* That is how we can see the motivation. We are not pitiful but we are becoming beautiful for we can see that God is really moving with us. As well as part of our honesty as Church of God we should not keep people as Orpah just to keep the number or to keep the crowd.

Naomi and Ruth, two people, in full agreement, they achieved a great ministry for God. Later on Boaz will join them and God will make great exploit through their lives. A wonderful team made of three genuine people, what a blessing! After Boaz, Obed will come, then Jesse will follow, then David, then Jesus Christ and the grace of God.

In the same way,

- Noah and his wife and his three sons, and their wives, did a great work.
- Abraham and Isaac two in agreement did a great ministry for God in ***Genesis 22***
- Jonathan and his armor bearer did great ministry for God.
- The three friends of Daniel, God done great exploit through their lives.
- And so on

“And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi?” (Ruth 1:19 KJV) The whole city moved about them because God was moving and accompanying them. *When we do the right thing, God would be moving with us and will stir up the places and the people that we are moving to.*

They said, ***“Is this Naomi?”*** A big question mark, and an astonishment as she came back; as if they were asking each other, is she really finally back? What had happened? Why she is alone? God really had brought her back to where she should? Where is her husband? Where are her two sons? Who is this girl with her? All these questions needed to be answered, and Naomi was ready to answer them adequately well. The repented Naomi was not ashamed to face the people and to answer their questions and to explain to them. *Repented people, can give satisfactory answers.*

“20 And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me.” (Ruth 1:20 KJV) Here she answered them honestly, she did not hide from them that God had dealt properly with her and had disciplined her. *Many who are not repented, when they go away and you meet with them and you ask them how are they, they will hide from you their suffering due to their sins, and they cover up their suffering because they are not repented and they don’t want to declare that God disciplined*

them because they are ashamed to declare their failure due to their disobedience toward God.

In what they are doing they are encouraging others to continue to rebel against God. Instead of confessing their suffering, and encourage others to come back, they will boast with other things as blessing from God to cover up their shame, and that will mislead others, and deceive them to go and continue to be in disobedient to God. They will even deny what the Holy Spirit is convicting them to do. How they will do that? They will use makeup, parties, they will use Facebook, Instagram and other social medias to post photos to cover up the discipline of God on them and their shame.

Naomi confessed to them everything clearly. ***“I went out full and the LORD hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?” (Ruth 1:21 KJV)*** She told them the truth that God had afflicted her and that God has testified against her. She told them, when she left Bethlehem she was full, and when she came back she was empty. They will testify those who left the church, that when they left the church they have saving, but now they are in debt. Those who are not repented they will not declare such. With such kind of attitude the Lord more will afflict them. But Naomi was honest, she indirectly told them, that all what she and her husband did was failure, and she repented of what she did, when she told them ***I went out full***, it means her decision was absolutely wrong. She was full, then why they left Bethlehem? Because they did not want to suffer, take the responsibility and do their part toward Bethlehem and God’s church during the time of famine and the time of affliction.

All those who left me and left the church, they did so after they became fatty and with wings and can fly so they left because they got what they needed and now they will go to enjoy life without commitment. Big number of those who left they will say thank you for your teaching because it help them to achieve good things, but they left because they don’t want to do their part and responsibilities toward God and go through the narrow gate. *Most of them left after having good amount of saving, and will take all the good things and move away from God and His church to live independent, free life, without commitment and without carrying the burden with God.* Like the lost son, he went full, and he took his share from the father to enjoy his worldly life, but came back empty. I never see till now a person left the Church of God and become prosper. *Those who are opportunistic with God and crooked, He knows how to handle them. God knows how to discipline and deal with those who are crooked with Him.* ***“With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself froward.” (Psalm 18:26 KJV)***

Why we as church passed through famine because we are persecuted. Many people who left us because we did not compromise with them and we did not approve to them their wrong plans and ways, and with their departure and rebelliousness they will withhold themselves from contributing anything to the church. As well as, they will pull others as revenge and trying to tightened their boycotting to let the church surrender to their will. We never give in to any of such crooked way and the Lord had met us with His provision and He abundantly sustained us, and He still sustaining us, and providing all the good things for us. **** We are like Bethlehem and in harvest all the time. * All those***

who depart, the best of what they did they went to Moab, but they will be in trouble sooner or later.

My advice to you who hear the message is to come back and stay where God had placed you. God shall sustain you if you abide in Him and be willing to pass the narrow gate that God wants you to pass through with us.

Naomi told them ***“Call me not Naomi”,*** and again ***“why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me.”*** She was honest with them and in a repentance attitude like the lost son, when he decide to go back to God and His house, he decided to say the following to His father, ***“18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, 19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.” (Luke 15:18-19 KJV)***

Naomi told them, ***“Call me Mara.” (Ruth 1:20 KJV)*** Mara it means bitter, or very bitter, she described the misery that was in because she left God and left Bethlehem and His church. Such attitude will invite the blessings of God. *Here what Naomi is telling to the people of Bethlehem, not only her bad situation because she left God, but congratulate them, because they stayed where God is wanting them to stay and kept the blessing that God had given to them.*

“So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest.” (Ruth 1:22 KJV) The two went back and that is a very good and great start. The two were glad to come back; they were blessed with one another. The distance they traveled from Moab to Bethlehem was around 60 miles (96 km) were they needed to cross rivers, and in some of it the way had mountains. The journey of coming back to God it might be hard, but it worth to spend and labor in it. They came back at a good time. God welcomed them with harvest. There was a harvest in Bethlehem, and a barley harvest from God is far better from the richest thing of Moab.

My dear and beloved: You who left away from God, from his will, and from His house, God and we are waiting for you: ***“20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.” (Luke 15:20)*** God is waiting for you to come back to bless you, ***“22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: 23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:” (Luke 15:22-23)***

We have a harvest from God at all time and we are abound with God’s blessings and bounty. As you come to God you will meet the harvest of various things that God is giving to us. The Lord shall continue to shower on us His blessing and His provision as long as we are walking under the canopy of God and guided with His Holy Spirit, and those who would come back will share with us the blessing of God, and it is a joy to work with people like Naomi and Ruth.

My Prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I thank you for your Word that teaches me your ways and what your will is in my life.

Let us repent and renounce all our sins. Lord I repent from the following sins _____ . Repent from your pride, lies, boasting, and lack of humility.

Lord I commit myself to the principles that I received from your Word. Lord I am going back to you, to your word, to your church, to your teaching, to your will and to the plan that you had ordained for me. Lord I am willing to go through this journey to spend and labor, until I am in your perfect plan and will. Lord gives me more of the fruit of the Holy Spirit to have patience and persevere and to have the character and the attitude of Jesus in my life. Lord fill me with the Holy Spirit to go and preach your Word and to evangelize and to reach new people and to disciple them.

Lord I pray that you will take away from me and from your church those who disagree with you and with your Word, and that you will bring to me and to your church those who agree with you and your Word.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who committed themselves to the principle of this message of yours, and those repented and came back to their senses and humble themselves before you to obey and apply your Word in their lives, Lord bless them, give them more grace, Lord comfort them, lift them up, care for them and provide all their needs and bless them with a harvest.

Lord I pray that you will help us as a church; Lord refills us once again with the Holy Spirit so that we can go and evangelize and make new disciples and complete the work that you ordained for us to do. Lord fill us with love toward those who return to you that we will receive them and care for them as you wants us to do. Lord fulfill your vision to the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God'. Lord helps us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us and enlarge our territory, let your hands be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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