

NAOMI—GETTING BETTER, NOT BITTER

Titus 2:11-12 (NIV) ¹¹ “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. ¹² It teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.”

Ruth 1:1-2 (NIV) ¹ In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. ² The man's name was Elimelech, his wife's name Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.

Ruth 1:20-21 (NIV) ²⁰ “Don't call me Naomi. Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. ²¹ I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The LORD has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me.”

Jeremiah 17:9 (ASV) The heart is deceitful above all things, and it is exceedingly corrupt.

Proverbs 17:20 (NKJV) He who has a deceitful heart finds no good.

Ruth 1:3-5 (NIV) ³ Now Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, ⁵ both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

Romans 1:24 (NIV) Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts. . .

Romans 6:23 (ESV) For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Isaiah 38:17, 20 (TLB) ¹⁷ "Yes, now I see it all—it was good for me to undergo this bitterness, for you have lovingly delivered me from death; you have forgiven all my sins. . . ²⁰ Think of it! The Lord healed me!

Romans 8:26-28 (TLB) ²⁶ The Holy Spirit helps us with our daily problems and in our praying. . . ²⁷ And the Father who knows all hearts knows, of course, what the Spirit is saying as he pleads for us in harmony with God's own will. ²⁸ And we know that all that happens to us is working for our good if we love God and are fitting into his plans."

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