

SCCC –SWEETNESS OVERCOMES BITTERNESS

S - Scriptures

“And now, my daughter, don’t be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble character.” Ruth 3: 11

C – Consideration

Ruth and Job are two non-Israelis figures whose names and biographies amaze me every time I read their stories in the Scriptures. About Ruth - the young Moabitess married Mahlon, son of Naomi, whose husband and her two sons died in a foreign land. The old Hebrew woman decided to return to Israel, telling her two daughters-in-law to stay in Moab as she had nothing to offer to them, “But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.” When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.” In the new country, Ruth would get up early in the morning and work till evening to bring food for them both, and eventually, she ended up marrying Boaz, a close relative of the family. Ruth gave birth to a boy who turned to be the grandfather of the greatest king of Israel, “Then Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him, “The women living there said, “Naomi has a son!” And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.”

C – Commitment

The story showed an old woman upset and angry in her soul after losing the most precious treasures she had. She was traveling back in bitterness, with many questions in her mind, and unable to listen or to understand God’s plan. Walking beside her, another woman who, in spite of her unaccepted nationality, childless and penniless conditions, had a heart full of faith, of hope, of love, and perseverance. Ruth was recognized by Boaz as a “woman of noble character.” In the book of Proverbs such women are highly exalted, “A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.” Naomi’s fellow citizens, acknowledge her value and the great love as well, “For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth.” It is undeniable the tragedies Naomi had faced. Many of us have at some point in our lives dealt with sorrows, and the anger and bitterness caused by tragedies too. Ruth gives us a great lesson on how to move on even in such times. She never gave it up on her mother-in-law, even when Naomi was not able to give her anything. Solomon wrote in the Song of Songs, “Place me like a seal over your heart, or like a seal on your arm. For love is as strong as death.” Death took Ruth’s husband, but could not take her love from a bitter woman. Her sweetness overcame Naomi’s bitterness. In the end, God blessed the two women, who never thought that in the future, Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world would be their descendent.

C – Call

Lord, how many times I kept bitterness in my soul, running from everyone and looking for a cave to escape from my pains. However, You placed in my life loving people like Ruth to take me out of anger, and spiritual blindness; therefore, I could praise you again. Forgive me for such times my God. Give me the same boldness as Ruth to change sides, from bitterness to sweetness. In Jesus's name, I pray. Amen.