

Keeping Your Head Up

Scripture

"Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem. And it happened, when they had come to Bethlehem, that all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, "[Is] this Naomi?" But she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. "I went out full, and the LORD has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?" So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. Now they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest." (Ruth 1:19-22 NKJV)

Commentary

As Naomi and Ruth entered Bethlehem the people were excited to see them. However, Naomi was not moved by their excitement. She was unable to enjoy the welcome because she was deeply sorrowed or maybe even angered by her circumstances.

Naomi literally means "My Delight," but now she wanted people to call her Mara which means "Bitterness." She had gone out full, but was returning empty.

Sometimes our circumstances get the better of us. It is possible during those times to feel like the Lord has mistreated us. When we allow ourselves to think this way, our countenance will fall and we expose ourselves bitterness. We cannot appreciate the good things that come our way when we are in this mindset.

Therefore, it is important for us to keep our heads up. We may do this by remembering the Lord is good, and loving. He does not allow us to be afflicted without a good reason. During those times we need to learn to say as Job, ". . . Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." (Job 1:21 NKJV)

God was not finished with Naomi and Ruth, and He is not finished with you. Know that the Lord is good, remember the prior blessings, and trust in His faithfulness. He will never leave you nor forsake you. Whatever has fallen on you, He is your comfort. Do not allow yourself to become bitter, but have faith in God.

Prayer

Father, we know you love us. Forgive us when we waver. We are but dust, and do not always understand your ways. Lead us Lord by your mighty hand wherever you desire. Comfort us Lord along the way, we pray, amen.