

## **THE MARA WIDOW** **Honor Widows (#2)**

The following mini-series entitled “Honor Widows” is based on Paul’s teachings on the church and widows.

(1 Tim.5:3) “Honor (timaō/ p.a. impv.2ps) widows (chera) who are widows indeed.”

There are five lessons in this mini-series.

- (1 Tim.5:3-4) Widows in Indeed
- **(1 Tim.5:5-8) Families of Widows**
- (1 Tim.5:9-10) Church and Widows
- (1 Tim.5:11-15) Younger Widows
- (1 Tim.5:16) Widows Assisting Widows

In [our last lesson](#), we learned that families should provide for their own **Widows Indeed** (1 Tim.5:3-8). Paul called it “practicing piety and providing recompense to their parents and grandparents.” (1 Tim.5:4) He taught this was “acceptable in the sight of the Lord.” (1 Tim.5:4) Paul also warned Christians that those who do not provide for their **widows in need** “have denied the faith and are worse than an unbeliever.” (1 Tim.5:8)

<b>In this lesson, we will study three aspects of <u>The Mara Widow</u>.</b>
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How important will it be to this widow’s life to change her mind towards acceptance of the Directive Will of God?

Our lesson story begins with three widows in the same family but only one of them is a Mara Widow Naomi, Orpah and Ruth (Ruth 1:3-4).

This story takes place during the Gideon reign as Judge and the 4<sup>th</sup> oppressions by the Midians, famine, and sickness associated with God’s Divine Discipline upon the Priest-Nation of Israel (Judges 6-8; Book of Ruth).

### **1. This story opens with Naomi being left destitute as an elderly widow in a foreign land. Her husband and two married sons have died without heirs.**

Naomi heard that The Lord had withdrawn His Divine Discipline from the land of Judah and she had decided to return. (Ruth 1:5-7). She encouraged her two daughter-in-laws to stay in Moab with their people.

(Ruth 1:16-17) “Ruth said, ‘Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge. **Your** people shall be **my** people, and **your** God, **my** God. When you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus may the Lord do to me, and worse, if anything but death parts you and me.’”

We have learned that Ruth’s response was divine viewpoint for dealing with the widow in a family (1 Tim.5:3-8). This new baby believer is learning what this old mature believer has chosen to forget.

**Doctrinal principle:** “Categorical Bible Doctrine (CBD) residing and functioning by faith cycle gives the capacity to stay pre-occupied with the divine Source no matter what the circumstances of our details Life.” (Rom.10:17; 2 Cor.5:7)

In spite of Ruth’s spiritual optimism, Naomi returns home a Mara (a bitter) Widow – “Don’t call me Naomi (pleasant), just call me Mara (bitter).” (Ruth 1:20a)

Then she said the saddest words that can come from the mouth of a spiritual believer –

(Ruth 1:20b) **“For the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.”**

**Doctrinal principle:** False assumptions lead to false interpretations leading to false expectations which lead to false applications.

**2. Listen to the extremes of Naomi’s Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) thinking as she explains why she is bitter with life and God.**

(Ruth 1:20) “I went out **full**, but the Lord brought me back **empty**. Why do you call me Naomi, since the Lord has witnessed against me and the Almighty has afflicted me?”

- How is it possible to leave full and leave behind everyone else empty?
- How is it possible to return empty and find everyone who was left behind full?

She fled what Gideon and everyone else stayed and fought with their lives for God.

She certainly wasn’t the one only who suffered great loss during these years. Yet she speaks to them as if she was the only one who had suffered.

**3. She is disoriented to doctrine of suffering in the Christian Way of Life (CWL); and must adjust to the plan of God.**

**LIE:** She believes the Lord has put more on her than she can bear.

(1 Cor.10:13) “God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”

**TRUTH:** The Lord has put more on her than she is willing to let Him bear.

(1 Pet.5:6-7) “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, **that He may exalt you at the proper times**, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.”

She thinks she had lost everything (a false assumption). What she has lost were the details of life which were more important to her than the **SOURCE of life**.

She saw it as a negative to lose those details of life and be left only with God. This has made her unhappy with life and God.

- **JOB** **“Happy** is the man whom God reproveth, so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.” (Job 5:17)

Both Job and Naomi returned to fellowship with the Lord’s Directive Will for their lives in Plan of God.

Job said these words which should be written in a book and engraved on a rock forever,

(Job 19:23-25) “As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth”.

- **JOB:** “The Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning.” (Job 42:12a)
- **NAOMI:** “Then the women said to Naomi, ‘Blessed is the Lord who has **not left you** without a redeemer today, and may his name become famous in Israel.’” (Ruth 4:14)
- **The LORD to US:** “I will **never** desert you, nor will I **ever** forsake you.” (**Heb.13:5**; Deut.31:6; Josh.1:5)