



**"DO NOT CALL ME NAOMI, CALL ME MARA"**

RUTH 1:19-22

*The Feast of Harvest;*

**ACTS 2:1**

<sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.

**—Naomi's commendable theology—**

*The bitterness of life;*

**EXODUS 1:14**

<sup>14</sup> [The Egyptians] and made their lives *bitter* with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves.

**EXODUS 15:23**

<sup>23</sup> When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was *bitter*; therefore it was named Marah.

**JEREMIAH 31:15**

<sup>15</sup> Thus says the LORD: "A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and *bitter weeping*. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more."

**LAMENTATIONS 3:15**

<sup>15</sup> He has filled me with *bitterness*; he has sated me with wormwood.

**JOB 7:11**

<sup>11</sup> "Therefore I will not restrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the *bitterness of my soul*."

**JOB 27:2**

<sup>2</sup> "As God lives, who has taken away my right, and the Almighty, who has made my soul *bitter*."

*The dark side of God's providence, or the God who "provides" calamity;*

**ISAIAH 45:7**

<sup>7</sup> I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the LORD, who does all these things.

**JEREMIAH 18:17**

<sup>17</sup> Like the east wind I will scatter them before the enemy. I will show them my back, not my face, in the day of their calamity."

God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform;  
He plants his footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines of never failing skill;  
He treasures up his bright designs, and works His sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints fresh courage take, the clouds ye so much dread  
Are big with mercy, and shall break in blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, but trust him for his grace;  
Behind a frowning providence, He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast, unfolding ev'ry hour;

The bud may have a bitter taste, but sweet will be the flow'r.

Blind unbelief is sure to err, and scan his work in vain;  
God is his own interpreter, and he will make it plain.

—William Cowper, 1773

**The Providence of God is equally *active* and *good* as He ‘provides’ both blessing and discipline**

—Naomi’s lamentable theology—

*Naomi’s allowed her bitterness to define her;*

**HEBREWS 12:11**

<sup>11</sup> For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

**ROMANS 8:35**

<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

**Periods of suffering/loss/disappointment are the most crucial times to guard your doctrine of God**

**JOB 2:9**

<sup>9</sup> Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die.”

**MATTHEW 4:1–3**

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”

*The battle of belief in the midst of suffering is the battle to believe in the goodness and kindness of God toward His people;*

**LAMENTATIONS 3:33**

<sup>33</sup> ...for he does not afflict from his heart or grieve the children of men.

**JEREMIAH 32:41**

<sup>41</sup> I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul.

**ROMANS 8:38–39**

<sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**2 CORINTHIANS 1:3**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Father of mercies and God of all comfort...*

**Deadly to our faith is a belief in the *sovereignty* of God which lacks a complete trust in the *goodness* of God**

**JOB 1:21**

<sup>21</sup> And he said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; *blessed be the name of the LORD.*”

*The significance of the covenant community;*

**PSALM 103:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! <sup>2</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, <sup>3</sup> who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, <sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, <sup>5</sup> who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**GALATIANS 6:2**

<sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

**It is in the context of the covenant community that Naomi realizes the blessed workings of God**

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