



aglimpse of JOY

In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Judges 21:25



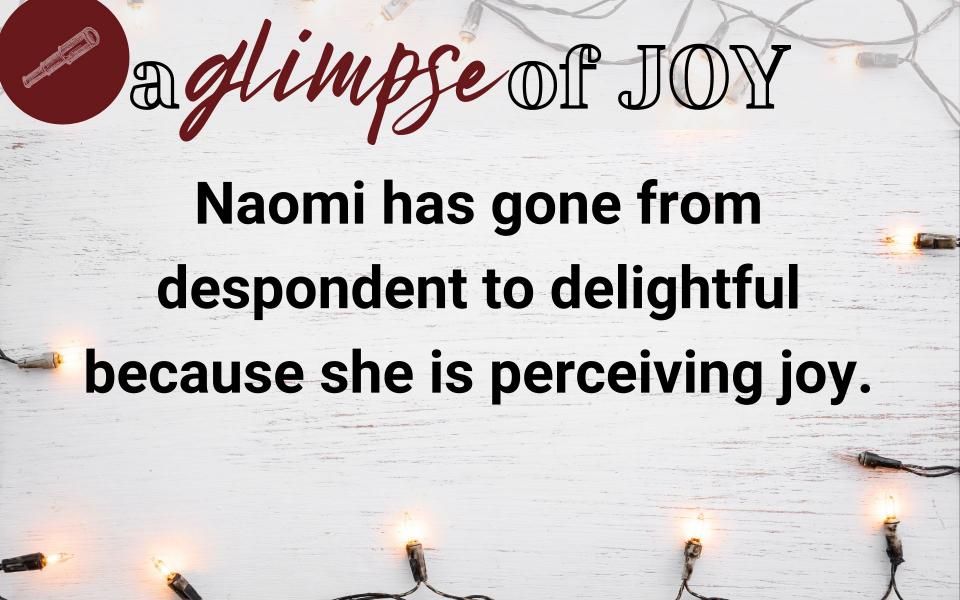
"I went out full, but the LORD has brought me back empty..."

Ruth 1:21



1. Perceiving Joy (verses 1-5)

To perceive means "to become aware of or notice it"





"My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you?"



Naomi, as a result of Ruth's faithfulness to glean, became "aware of or noticed" redemption.





Naomi was perceiving joy by seeing the providence of God.

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2. Potential Joy (verses 6-14)

Potential is defined as "the capacity to become or develop into something in the future."



"I am Ruth your maid. So spread your covering over your maid, for you are a close relative."



Ruth is a story ultimately about us and God; about our own vulnerabilities and needs; about our own desperate plight for redemption.

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"May the LORD reward your work, and your wages be full from the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to seek refuge."

Ruth 2:12



From Naomi's plan to Ruth's faithfulness, these women got a glimpse of joy and seek the potential for that joy to develop into something in the future.



"I will redeem you, as the LORD lives."



The kinsman-redeemer would rescue or deliver a relative and their property, ensuring that life would go on.



3. Promised Joy (verses 15-18)



"Do not go to your mother-inlaw empty-handed."



Boaz's promise to redeem Ruth effectively banishes the emptiness of both of them.



Like Boaz "who will not rest" God exchanged a throne of glory for a cross of humiliation.

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In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins

1 John 4:10

