



CHRIST'S CHURCH  
OF THE CANYON

Mid-week Devotion  
August 30, 2020

I don't know about you but for me and my brothers when growing up there were times when Mom got a bit frustrated with us for a whole host of reasons. Maybe somebody wasn't where they were supposed to be when Mom needed them. Or, maybe, just maybe one of her boys was being less than cooperative with his brothers. Or, perhaps someone was told to take out the trash several hours ago and that someone got sidetracked with playing outside. Obviously, I'm describing some neighbor family, right?

Nope, that was our family. Everything was kosher until we heard our middle name included in the phrase, really more like a command from Mom, "Wayne Thomas Robbins I told you to take out the trash 2 hours ago. Why is it still here in the kitchen? For-crying-out-loud!" There was absolutely no excuse that would work or that my Mom wanted to hear. It was my middle name being shouted at the top of her lungs and being offered as a sacrifice that got my attention. Names mean something. And, they really mean something when it comes to God's name or names. In Ruth 1:21 Ruth says, ***"I went out full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has witnessed against me and the Almighty has afflicted me?"*** There's a lot going on in this passage and I would encourage you to read through it, but the point is Ruth refers to the LORD as the "Almighty." The translators have translated God's name from His Hebrew name, El Shaddai to the English, "God Almighty." The question is what does His Hebrew name El Shaddai mean? According to Bible.org, some think El Shaddai stresses God's loving supply and comfort. Others, His power as the "Almighty One" standing on a mountain and who corrects and chastens. Ruth may be feeling like she's being "chastened" or scolded by God Himself. Or, maybe she's understanding that God will comfort her and supply all of her needs in a time of great trial. Or, maybe Ruth sees God as One who is standing on a mountain in complete control. Take your pick, they all work. For Ruth it's El Shaddai. For God it's getting Ruth's attention and I'm sure if she had a middle name, He'd be using that as well!!!

Don't forget this Sunday is communion Sunday!

See you Sunday,

Pr. Wayne