

NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

LESSON FIFTY-TWO COMMENTS

Dear Loved Ones,

This world is always looking for the best. Recently they advertised pictures of what someone chose as the perfect look for a man or woman. David was not the one that was expected to be chosen as a King. They assumed that one of the other 7 brothers would be chosen, but in I Samuel 16:7, God said, "Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature, because I have refused him; for the Lord seeth not as a man seeth; for the man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart."

The Lord always has a plan. Boaz may have or may not have been the most attractive to Ruth. After all, he was much older than she was. But Boaz was honorable in that he also knew that he wasn't first in line to redeem Ruth so he had to first approach the one who would be first in line to offer the opportunity to him. Boaz, however, was God's choice because he would also be the person that would provide the lineage to our Redeemer. It was and still is all about the blood. The bloodline had to be part of the generations through which Jesus was born.

We don't talk enough about the blood of Jesus in our churches anymore. When my husband first started to drive, he told me that his grandma used to "plead the blood" if she thought he was going to fast. She also told him that the angels might even get out of the car if he went over 50 miles per hour (the speed limit at the time). That may seem a bit funny to us, but it really is true that we need to "plead the blood" more often. It is also true that God honors obedience which didn't include speeding. He later realized the importance of her ways (although he still sometimes didn't honor the speed limit as much as he should have, like most of us).

Because of the blood of Jesus, we not only have a pathway to salvation, but we can have access to our Heavenly Father who wants a relationship with us and offers us everything that is good for us and for His glory. Do we need healing? Do we need the power to overcome something? Do we need peace? We still sometimes sing the following song, but do we appreciate the words enough?

1. What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
 - o *Refrain:*
Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
2. For my pardon, this I see,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;

For my cleansing this my plea,
Nothing but the *blood of Jesus.*

3. Nothing can for sin atone,
Nothing but the *blood of Jesus;*
Naught of good that I have done,
Nothing but the *blood of Jesus.*
4. This is all my hope and peace,
Nothing but the *blood of Jesus;*
This is all my righteousness,
Nothing but the *blood of Jesus.*
5. Now by this I'll overcome—
Nothing but the *blood of Jesus;*
Now by this I'll reach my home—
Nothing but the *blood of Jesus.*
6. Glory! Glory! This I sing—
Nothing but the *blood of Jesus,*
All my praise for this I bring—
Nothing but the *blood of Jesus.*

God's plan is far greater than our imaginations or natural thoughts. Ruth trusted Naomi and Boaz rather than seeking her own way. When we put our total trust in Jesus, who sacrificed His blood to forgive our sin, He will provide a much better path. He doesn't promise it to be easy, but He promises to walk with us all the way and provide everything we need along the way.

Let's praise the Lord for His sacrifice and daily come to God through the blood of Jesus with all our praise and requests. That's why He sent His own Son. He loves us and wants to enjoy a family type fellowship with us as His children. What a privilege!

May you and your family enjoy the many blessings that God has provided to each of us through His Son. May we praise Him daily. He has redeemed us and provides everything we need to become overcomers.

Love and prayers,

Sandy Yates