



LWML CNH CHRISTIAN LIFE LINE

JUNE 2019

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LWML CNH RETREAT – August 23-25, 2019

Episcopal Conference Center Oakhurst (ECCO)

God's Surprises: Gleanings From Ruth

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

R U T H - Her name means "Friendship"

HER CHARACTER – Generous, loyal, loving, strong, serene, took unusual risks, dealt actively with the consequences

There are only two books in the Bible named after women – Ruth and Esther – both are extraordinary women. Take time and read these beautiful books. We find many principals that can impact our lives today.

If you remember, Naomi was devastated after losing her husband and two sons; therefore, she decided to pack up and return to Bethlehem in Judah. Her daughter-in-law, Ruth, went with her. Keep in mind that Ruth was a Moabite woman and would become a foreigner moving to Judah; however, she was committed to Naomi and wanted to follow Naomi's God. While in Judah, God worked out an amazing plan for a man named Boaz, qualified to be the kinsman-redeemer to Naomi, to take Ruth as his wife and take care of Naomi as well.

What in the world is a "kinsman-redeemer" you may ask? In those days, there was a custom, based on Deuteronomy 25:5-6, that directed that a relative of a man who dies should marry that man's widow in order to continue the man's lineage through that woman. And Boaz was a relative to Ruth's husband. So, even in the midst of Ruth and Naomi's situation, God had a tremendous plan to take care of them.

So how does this story apply to our lives?

- 1) God is concerned about all of us, regardless of race, nationality, or status. Ruth was a Moabite, not a Jew, and many discriminated against her. God loved her just the same.
- 2) No one is unimportant in God's eyes. No one thought Ruth was important in any way, especially since she was from Moabite, a nation with a not-so-honorable reputation. She was also a widow living in a foreign land. God saw her as important as His plan culminated in her becoming a part of the lineage of Jesus (as grandmother to King David). God's plan uses

people who are considered underdogs or unimportant from man's perspective. *But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.*

2 Corinthians 12:9

- 3) Men and women are both equally important to God. We are all one in His eyes. In other countries and false religions, men are elevated and women are dishonored. Christianity is the one religion that consistently honors men and women the same; there is no difference in God's eyes.
- 4) God uses "little" things to accomplish His plans. So many "little" things added up to important pieces in God's big plan. He pulled together numerous events such as famine, relocation a couple of times, Boaz's bloodline, and many other events to ensure that Ruth would be a part of His plan. And God does that same thing in our lives today!
- 5) We too are rescued from the devastation of our own sin by a Redeemer named Jesus. We are all desolate as a result of our sinful natures. We are empty, just as Naomi was empty and devastated after she lost everything and returned to Judah. Our sin has rendered us empty and desolate spiritually. Jesus is willing to redeem us and rescue us from the penalty of our sin. All we have to do is call on Him in faith and ask Him to save us. *"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* (Romans 10:13) My hope is that you are one of the redeemed. If you are not, my hope is that you will call on Him right now and ask Him to save you once and for all from the consequences of your sins!

Sometimes, we make the mistake of assuming that what happens in our lives is merely a matter of coincidence or "fate." Remember that God is always at work, divinely orchestrating events to being about His purposes in our lives.

This was just a little overview of Ruth from my perspective. Jane Hoffmann, the Bible Study Leader at the Retreat, will share with us so much more about Ruth's character and journey.

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THE LWML CNH RETREAT!

Early Registration is July 8th - cost will go up after this date!

The Retreat Package was sent to Zones and Societies end of March.