

# Far Above Rubies

## A No-Name?



Have you heard the story about a woman who gave birth to a baby boy? A few days later she was visited by some of her friends from Ballymena who, naturally, asked her what she was going to call him. “I’m going to call him Nathan,” she declared. “Oh come on, ye hae to call him something!” Names are very important and were particularly so in Bible times, yet in the story of Naaman, the leper, in 2 Kings 5, the name of the little Jewish maid who played a major part in his healing, is not even mentioned. We may not know her name, but her testimony speaks volumes.

In the Biblical account we see that Naaman was well renowned in Syria. He was *“commander of the army of the King of Syria, was a great and honourable man in the eyes of his master”* and was also *“a mighty man of valour, but a leper.”* In spite of all his fame and fortune Naaman could do nothing about his incurable disease of leprosy. He desperately needed healing and thankfully was brought to the One who was able to cure him.

Unlike Naaman, we know very little about the maid who had been brought captive to Syria from Israel and was given the job of waiting on Naaman’s wife. What we can see, however, is that she must have been a girl of great **character**. Through her witness and testimony it was obvious that she was a girl of integrity, or they wouldn’t have taken heed of her. When this little maid told her mistress about a great prophet in Samaria who could heal Naaman, she went and told her husband without hesitation. It is a true saying that we are the only Jesus that some people will see, so we need to live lives which truly honour God. It is plain that before her captivity this little girl knew Jehovah, knew the scriptures, and knew about the great miracles and the prophets. It saddens me today how many children don’t go to Sunday School or Church, and are growing up without any knowledge of God. Proverbs 22:6 tells us to *“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.”* Wise counsel indeed!

We also see that this little maid was a good **communicator** (sounds like I’m writing a Performance Review!). She knew exactly the right time to speak to Naaman’s wife – just while they were chatting and doing the normal things

women do! We need to take all of the opportunities God gives us in work and in our daily routine to speak for Him. The maid stated plainly, *“If only my master was with the prophet who is in Samaria! for he would heal him of his leprosy.”* (2 Kings 5:3). There were no flowery words or complicated explanations, just the plain facts. Perhaps you feel you don’t really know enough to witness, but when you consider the woman Jesus met at the well in Samaria (John 4), you realise that sometimes a testimony is all you need! Right after her conversion this woman went about telling everyone about Jesus, and in John 4:39 we read that *“Many Samaritans believed in Him because of the woman’s testimony.”* Never be ashamed of your testimony!

Although she was a captive and a slave, this little maid remained **compassionate**. She could have been very bitter, having been taken away from her family and friends to a foreign land. She could have felt that Naaman deserved all he got, but instead she looked at him with compassion and even offered to help him. She also understood the freedom that there is in forgiveness. She wasn’t going to let the past ruin her future! Like the little maid we need to ensure that we keep our hearts right, even against those who have hurt us. In Matthew 5:44 we read *“Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.”* Seems like a very tall order, but it is possible with Jesus’ help. Remember Paul’s words in Philippians 4:13: *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*

In 2 Kings 5:3 we see that this maid was **confident**. She had no doubt whatsoever, that if Naaman went to Elisha, God would heal him, and she wasn’t afraid to say so. Her confidence was in Jehovah, who had created the world in six days and miraculously delivered His children from the hands of the Egyptians. She knew all about God’s great signs and wonders. As Christians, I believe we need to boldly testify to what God has done for us and for others. People need to hear of the great God we serve!

In our story we see that, as Naaman reluctantly dips in the Jordan River seven times at Elisha’s request, he is miraculously healed and converted. All of this happened because a little Hebrew maid, so insignificant in the eyes of the world and whose name we don’t even know, testified to the healing power of Jehovah. Although we may not feel very important and may even feel like a “no-name” at times, we need to remind ourselves that, like the maid, we are very significant. May we fully grasp how much God loves us, and step into the great plans He has for us (Jeremiah 29:11).