

## THE BEGINNING OF BARLEY HARVEST

--Ruth 1:14-22--

### INTRODUCTION:

This morning we will finish chapter one of Ruth, it has only taken me three Sundays. Last week we looked at Ruth's willingness to abandon her country, her people, her family, and her religion to go with Naomi to the land of Judah. We also saw her resolve to allow Naomi to show her where to go; to make Naomi's dwelling place, her dwelling place; Naomi's people, her people; and Naomi's God, her God. Finally, we saw that her resolve was a lifelong commitment in that she would die where Naomi died and would be buried near her.

This morning we will witness Ruth's determination and Naomi's bitterness and the joy associated with the beginning of the barley harvest.

#### I. RUTH'S DETERMINATION (Ruth 1:14-18)

- a. Last week we looked in detail at Ruth's choice to abandon all that was familiar to her and her \_\_\_\_\_ to go with Naomi to a place she did not know.
- b. Ruth resolved to go with Naomi without knowing what the \_\_\_\_\_ held for her.
- c. Last week I spoke briefly of the \_\_\_\_\_ that Ruth showed in determining to go with Naomi. (1 Corinthians 15:58)

#### II. NAOMI'S BITTERNESS (Ruth 1:19-21)

- a. Continuing on their journey we simply read that they both went on until they \_\_\_\_\_ at Bethlehem.
- b. When Naomi and Ruth arrived in Bethlehem, we are told that it caused quite a \_\_\_\_\_ and tongues started wagging as they do so readily in small communities.
- c. Naomi and Ruth are like storm-battered \_\_\_\_\_ limping into harbor. (Ruth 1:1)
- d. Naomi lived in a patriarchal society, and when her husband went away, she \_\_\_\_\_ with him, as she was bound to do.

- e. This we can understand from the grief that she is experiencing. Less understandable and certainly less justifiable is the word "\_\_\_\_\_ " in verse 21.

#### III. BEGINNING OF HARVEST (Ruth 1:22)

- a. Verse 22 sums up the chapter by telling us that Naomi has returned to her \_\_\_\_\_ and with her Ruth.
- b. Then we have an interesting side note giving us the time when they returned. They came to Bethlehem at the \_\_\_\_\_ of barley harvest.
- c. For us to understand the special significance of the beginning of barley harvest, we must look at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord which the Israelites were commanded to keep year after year. (1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17)
- d. The third feast is the feast of \_\_\_\_\_ Fruits which is the feast in which we are especially interested in this morning. (Leviticus 23:10-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20)
- e. What is unique about this feast is that the sheaf of first fruits was to be waved before the LORD on the day \_\_\_\_\_ the Sabbath, in other words on the first day of the week, Sunday. (Leviticus 23:11; Romans 4:25)
- f. Besides this, there is even more, the very words "First Fruits" means that there is more to \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Corinthians 15:23; 1 Corinthians 15:13)

### CONCLUSION:

The application of this should be apparent. The glad message of redeeming love with the invitation of God's grace is intended for everyone, Jew or Gentile, slave or free, despised or loved. The words of the Gospel can penetrate everywhere and even to those cursed by the Law, as were the people of Moab, even they may, through the Gospel of grace, become partakers of the unsearchable riches of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 2:13-16) and now, by means of the Gospel, all that Christ is in resurrection is shared equally by believing sinners, whether from among the Jews or the Gentiles.

