

## Message Outline

### *Reaping Ruth: Sowing in Tears*



#### Ruth 1

**Intro:** Last fall...the Book of Judges...an example of what NOT to do! (Jds.21:25)

- Ruth a contemporary of the Judges era but of a different character than her time period!
- Life legacy of Ruth...

**Read:** Judges 21:25, Ruth 1

**21:15**—Elsa’s epitaph: “*no right, not wrong, no rules for me, I’m free...*”

- Pursuing that practice doesn’t end well...

**v.1a**—The Judges time period...

**v.1-2**—The famine and the family...

**v.3-5**—Famine and fatality...tough intro!

**v.6**—Adversity and the LORD...

**v.6-9a**—Naomi’s faith rekindled at rock bottom? Keeps naming the LORD...

**v.9-14**—A matter of provision...

**v.15**—A decision with religious implications...

**v.16-18**—First solo words from Ruth...

- Loyalty, commitment, and faith...
- Mentioning personal name of God (v.17)!

**v.19-21**—Naomi processing pain...

- This is not where her story ends (4:14ff.), but it is where her story is now!

**v.22**—A harvest of hope...

#### Revelations from Ruth

1) \_\_\_\_\_ v.3-6

- Rocky IV...living to fight one more round!
- Taking courage when life feels crushing (Jn.16:33)...

2) \_\_\_\_\_ v.16-18

- Lacking loyalty and modern day sports...
- What to do in competing loyalties...

3) \_\_\_\_\_ v.20-21

- Giving God the real us...
- In God’s defense...

4) \_\_\_\_\_ v.22

- Song: “Brighter Days”... (cf. Ps.126:5-6)



## Small Group

### Reflection Questions



(Please take time to ponder and pencil in to prep for this week’s small group session.)

*\*God is at work in this world. Where did you “see/sense” Him this week?*

**Read: Matthew 5:1-16**

*\*What sticks out to you about the start of the greatest sermon ever preached—the Sermon on the Mount?*

**Movie Review:** Ep.8 “Beyond Mountains” (~45min.)

*\*What was your initial impression of Judas?*

*Any thoughts on his quote: “I want a life I can be proud of—that will be remembered throughout history.”*

*\*Each disciple is gifted and given a role in pulling off Jesus’ message. What role do you think you play in life to further the message of Jesus too? In other words, what’s your life mission?*

*\*So far the Pharisees accuse Jesus of: 1) using the divine title, 2) claiming authority to forgive sin, 3) violating Sabbath teachings, 4) eating with tax collectors and sinners. How are they right and how are they wrong?*