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)

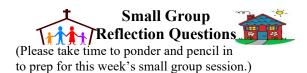
- Ruth a contemporary of the Judges era but of a different character than her time period!
- Life legacy of Ruth...

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)...
- 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)



*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?