

## Ruth 2:1-7-Firstfruits of Faithfulness

**22 So Naomi returned, and with her Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law, who returned from the land of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.**

God uses the \_\_\_\_\_ of Ruth to \_\_\_\_\_ hope in Naomi's heart and life. Naomi returned with Ruth, arriving in Bethlehem at the beginning of \_\_\_\_\_ harvest.

### The spring harvest

Barley matured faster and would be \_\_\_\_\_ sooner. The firstfruits of grain offered during the Festival of Unleavened Bread would have been \_\_\_\_\_ because it was ripe by the time of the Feast of First Fruits.

Newly harvested grain could not be \_\_\_\_\_ until the firstfruits of grain had been offered on the "day after the Sabbath" of the Festival of Unleavened Bread (Lev 23:9-1, 14). Foreigners, such as Ruth, were specifically \_\_\_\_\_ in the rejoicing and celebration taking place after the offering of firstfruits.

The purpose of firstfruits is to demonstrate that God is \_\_\_\_\_ of all our wealth. He gives us the \_\_\_\_\_ to attain success by returning to the Lord the " \_\_\_\_\_ " of our produce. We are acknowledging the \_\_\_\_\_.

The firstborn son was also to be redeemed according to the law, which is why in Luke 2:22-23 we see Joseph and Mary bringing baby Jesus to the \_\_\_\_\_ in Jerusalem.

### So, why is this important to us as Christians?

Well, it was on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of the week, Sunday after Passover, that some disciples visit Jesus' tomb and find it \_\_\_\_\_. Resurrection Sunday, of course followed the sacrifice of our Passover lamb, and so was on the day of the feast of First Fruits. (see 1 Cor 15:20-21).

As Christians, as the Body of Christ, we are also part of the firstfruits. James 1:18 says **He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.** We, the Church are the ones who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, as Romans 8:23 tells us, we should live our lives as those who wait \_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus' return.

### So why is this important to the story of Ruth?

Ruth, this gentile bride is symbolic of the \_\_\_\_\_ as firstfruits. These two women, who have endured such hardship and difficulties, arrive at the \_\_\_\_\_ of a grain known for enduring difficult growing conditions. When God leads us His timing is \_\_\_\_\_.

### Ruth Gleans in Boaz' Field

**2 Now Naomi had a kinsman of her husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz.**

Literally, the verse says, "To Naomi, there was a close \_\_\_\_\_ who she knew through her husband". He is a \_\_\_\_\_, as well.

Boaz' name is often taken to mean "in him is strength". Solomon, when he built the temple several generations later, named the two supporting pillars "Jachin and \_\_\_\_\_"

**2 And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after one in whose sight I may find favor."**

The abruptness of Ruth's request implies that Ruth \_\_\_\_\_ no time in asking the question. Despite a long journey, instead of \_\_\_\_\_ and recuperating, Ruth went immediately out to begin making a living for her and her mother-in-law. The word Glean, which is the Hebrew Laqat means "to \_\_\_\_\_ together" or "to pick up". It means to pick up the left-overs after someone has harvested a field. And the only reason why there were left-overs is because God had \_\_\_\_\_ it back in Leviticus 19:9-10. So Gleaning was God's way to take care of the \_\_\_\_\_ people of the land and make sure that they survived.

**3 So she departed and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers; and she happened to come to the portion of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.**

Now it's interesting here, because the Bible says that she \_\_\_\_\_ to come to the portion of the field belonging to Boaz. God has \_\_\_\_\_ directed Ruth to Boaz' field. God was in \_\_\_\_\_ of sending Ruth to this field and God is in control of the circumstances in our lives.

Proverbs 3:5-6 says **Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. 6**

**In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.** Well, she has been trusting in the Lord for her future, and not doing the practical, sensible thing, but following God even when it's \_\_\_\_\_.

She's \_\_\_\_\_ God in the way that she's living her life—living in humility, displaying lovingkindness to those around her. And we find that God has made her path straight—

\_\_\_\_\_ into the field of Boaz, who is the \_\_\_\_\_ person who can set everything right that has gone wrong in her and Naomi's life so far. And there's a lesson here for us in \_\_\_\_\_ the

Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ Him, doing things \_\_\_\_\_ way-He will direct \_\_\_\_\_ path

**4 Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem and said to the reapers, "May the Lord be with you." And they said to him, "May the Lord bless you."**

Just while Ruth "happens" to be out in Boaz' field, it's just at that \_\_\_\_\_ that Boaz comes out to check on his workers. Boaz' first words are a \_\_\_\_\_ to those working for him. In this greeting Boaz shows both that he \_\_\_\_\_ about his workers and that he is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord.

**5 Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?"**

Boaz \_\_\_\_\_ notices Ruth. Boaz is going to be the instrument through which grace is shown to Ruth. Notice that from this point on, Boaz doesn't really seem \_\_\_\_\_ about the harvest, he's concerned about how Ruth is \_\_\_\_\_.

**6 The servant in charge of the reapers replied, "She is the young Moabite woman who returned with Naomi from the land of Moab.**

When the servant mentions that Ruth is the Moabite who's returned home with Naomi, his close friend's \_\_\_\_\_ and that she is caring so \_\_\_\_\_ for one of his family members, it says worlds about Ruth's character.

**7 And she said, 'Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.' Thus she came and has remained from the morning until now; she has been sitting in the house for a little while."**

She's asking \_\_\_\_\_, even though she technically doesn't have to.

Emphasized: Ruth's lack of \_\_\_\_\_ all morning until now. The implication is that she has been \_\_\_\_\_ in her determination to provide for herself and Naomi, and despite her desperation, has been exceptionally courteous. Ruth is exhibiting a lot of "grace under pressure". We experience hard circumstances and difficulties in our walk with God, and as Christians, we should also demonstrate "grace under pressure".