

Ruth 1 : 16-22 - Memory Verses, 16, 17.

Golden Text—Be kindly affectioned one to another.—Rom. 12 : 10.

Mo'abiteess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Mo'ab : and they came to Beth'lehem in the beginning of barley harvest.

16 And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee : for whither thou goest, I will go ; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge : thy people *shall* be my people, and thy God my God :

17 Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried : the LORD do so to me, and more also, *if ought* but death part thee and me.

18 When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.

19 So they two went until they came to Beth'lehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Beth'lehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, *Is this Nao'mi?*

20 And she said unto them, Call me not Nao'mi, call me Ma'ra : for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me.

21 I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty : why *then* call ye me Nao'mi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?

22 So Nao'mi returned, and Ruth the

THE LESSON RETOLD

About the time that Gideon was judge in Israel, there lived a family at Bethlehem of four people, Elimelech, his wife Naomi, and their two sons. Now because there was a famine in Canaan, Elimelech and his family went to live in the heathen country of Moab, where food was more plentiful.

Here the father died and the two sons married two women of Moab called Orpah and Ruth. After a time both young men died also, and there was no one left to support the household.

Then Naomi, who had grown homesick for her old friends and the worship of the true God, said she would go back to Bethlehem.

When she was ready to start, her two daughters-in-law went with her a little way to bring her on her journey. But when the time at last came for them to part, Ruth and Orpah felt so sorry for the lonely old woman that they offered to go back with her to her own people.

But Naomi answered while they all stood

weeping together, "Go home, my daughters. I can do nothing for you where I am going. Go home, and may God deal as kindly with you as you have done with me and my sons."

Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law and turned back, but Ruth, who had learned from Naomi to trust in the God of Israel, said, "Entreat me not to leave you, or to return from following you ; for where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay ; your people shall be my people and your God my God ; where you die I will die, and there shall I be buried ; may God punish me if anything but death shall ever part you and me."

So Ruth left her father and her sister and the country where she had been brought up and went with Naomi and comforted her for the loss of her husband and her two sons.

When they reached Bethlehem, and Naomi's old neighbors saw her, they cried, "Can this be the same Naomi who left usso happy ten years ago?" And she answered