

Message Three

A Land of Wheat and Barley

MC Hymns: 482, 639

Scripture Reading: Deut. 8:8a; John 11:25; 12:24-25; 1 Cor. 15:20; Eph. 1:20

- Deut 8:8a A land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates; ...
- John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;
- John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
- John 12:25 He who loves his soul-life loses it; and he who hates his soul-life in this world shall keep it unto eternal life.
- 1 Cor 15:20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
- Eph 1:20 Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies,

I. The wheat in Deuteronomy 8:8a typifies the incarnated, crucified, and buried Christ— John 12:24:

- Deut 8:8a A land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates; ...
- John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
- A. In His full ministry in the stage of His incarnation, Christ brought the infinite God into the finite man—1:1, 14:
- John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
1. As a finite man, Christ in the flesh was limited in time and space—7:6, 10:
- John 7:6 Jesus therefore said to them, My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready.
- John 7:10 But when His brothers had gone up to the feast, then He Himself also went up, not openly, but as it were in secret.
- a. The Lord is the eternal, infinite, unlimited God, but He lived here on earth as a man, being limited in the matter of time—v. 6.
- John 7:6 Jesus therefore said to them, My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready.
- b. Although the Lord is the almighty God, as a man under persecution, He was limited in relation to His activity—v. 10.
- John 7:10 But when His brothers had gone up to the feast, then He Himself also went up, not openly, but as it were in secret.
2. As a finite man, Christ in the flesh was limited in knowledge—Matt. 24:36; Luke 2:40, 52; cf. John 7:15; Mark 6:1-3.
- Matt 24:36 But concerning that day and hour, no one knows, not even the angels of the heavens nor the Son, but the Father only.
- Luke 2:40 And the little child grew and became strong, being filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon Him.
- Luke 2:52 And Jesus advanced in wisdom and stature and in the grace manifested in Him before God and men.
- John 7:15 The Jews therefore marveled and said, How does this man know letters, without ever having studied?
- Mark 6:1 And He went out from there and came into His own country, and His disciples followed Him.
- Mark 6:2 And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue; and many hearing were astounded, saying, Where did this man get these things? And what is this wisdom given to this man, and how is it that such works of power take place through His hands?

- Mark 6:3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us? And they were stumbled because of Him.
3. As a finite man, Christ in the flesh had a natural, human life and a dependent existence— John 10:11, 15, 17; 6:57a; Matt. 14:19.
- John 10:11 I am the good Shepherd; the good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.
- John 10:15 Even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.
- John 10:17 For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.
- John 6:57a As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father,
- Matt 14:19 And after commanding the crowds to recline on the grass, He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed them and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples to the crowds.
- B. Christ's humanity through His incarnation became a shell that concealed His divinity and thereby concealed His glory— John 1:14; 12:23-24; Luke 12:50:
- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
- John 12:23 And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.
- John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
- Luke 12:50 But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how I am pressed until it is accomplished!
1. Because the glory of His divinity was concealed by the shell of His humanity, the Lord Jesus was pressed and constrained, longing to be baptized with the baptism of His death for the release of the glory of His divinity—v. 50.
- Luke 12:50 But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how I am pressed until it is accomplished!
2. The Lord needed to undergo physical death that His unlimited and infinite divine being with His divine life might be released from His flesh.
3. The Lord Jesus fell into the ground and died, and that death released Him from His human shell— John 12:24:
- John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
- a. He fell into the ground and died so that His divine element, His divine life, might be released from within the shell of His humanity.
- b. The Lord Jesus, as a grain of wheat falling into the ground, lost His soulful life through death in order to release His divine life.
- C. In the midst of situations that limit us and press us, we may experience Christ as a grain of wheat—v. 24:
- John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
1. Whenever we are put into a situation by the Lord's sovereignty in which we are limited, in which we are pressed, we may experience the Lord as wheat— Rom. 8:28.
- Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
2. When we contact the Lord in our limiting and restricting circumstances, we will realize that He is the infinite God who became a finite man and that there is power in Him to bear any kind of limitation—Phil. 4:13.
- Phil 4:13 I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.
3. Christ our life is within us as a grain of wheat to live the life of the incarnated One, the limited One—Col. 1:27; 3:4.
- Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
- Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

4. If we contact the Lord, we will experience Him as a grain of wheat, and in Him we will be content with our situation—Phil. 4:11-12.
 Phil 4:11 Not that I speak according to lack, for I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content.
 Phil 4:12 I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack.
5. As wheat, Christ is our life to make us willing to be limited, willing to die, willing to be buried, willing to be nothing; this is the experience of Christ as wheat—John 12:24-25.
 John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
 John 12:25 He who loves his soul-life loses it; and he who hates his soul-life in this world shall keep it unto eternal life.

II. Whereas wheat signifies the incarnated, crucified, and buried Christ, barley signifies the resurrected Christ—Deut. 8:8a:

Deut 8:8a A land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates; ...

- A. In the good land, barley ripens earlier than any other grain; therefore, it is the first-fruits—1 Cor. 15:20:
 1 Cor 15:20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
 1. Because barley ripens early, it is the firstfruits of the harvest—a type of the resurrected and unlimited Christ—v. 20.
 1 Cor 15:20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
 2. We rejoice to learn that Christ is the barley, the resurrected Christ within us, and that He is able to meet every situation.
 3. Christ as the firstfruits of resurrection is the Firstborn from the dead that He might be the Head of the Body (Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:20-23); since He, the Head of the Body, has been resurrected, we, the Body, will also be resurrected.
 Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
 Eph 1:20 Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies,
 Eph 1:21 Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come;
 Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
 Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
 4. As the firstfruits, Christ has become the bread of life; hence, barley loaves signify Christ in resurrection as food to us— John 6:48:
 John 6:48 I am the bread of life.
 - a. The number five signifies responsibility; this indicates that the resurrected Christ is able to bear responsibility.
 - b. As we feed on Christ as the barley loaves, we become a loaf of barley to feed others with the Christ whom we have experienced.
 5. With five barley loaves, the Lord Jesus could feed five thousand people with twelve baskets of broken pieces left over; this is resurrection—Matt. 14:14-21; John 6:9, 13.
 Matt 14:14 And going forth, He saw a great crowd, and He was moved with compassion for them and healed their sick.
 Matt 14:15 Now when evening fell, the disciples came to Him, saying, This place is deserted and the hour is already late. Send the crowds away that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.

- Matt 14:16 But Jesus said to them, They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.
- Matt 14:17 And they said to Him, We do not have anything here except five loaves and two fish.
- Matt 14:18 And He said, Bring them here to Me.
- Matt 14:19 And after commanding the crowds to recline on the grass, He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed them and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples to the crowds.
- Matt 14:20 And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve handbaskets full.
- Matt 14:21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, apart from women and children.
- John 6:9 There is a little boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what are these for so many?
- John 6:13 So they gathered them and filled twelve handbaskets with broken pieces from the five barley loaves which were left over among those who had eaten.

B. As typified by barley, the resurrected Christ is unlimited—Phil. 4:13:

Phil 4:13 I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.

1. Wheat points to Christ's incarnation, death, and burial, and following this, the barley points to His resurrection, the resurrected Christ— John 11:25; Eph. 1:20.

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;

Eph 1:20 Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies,

2. On the one hand, we may experience the limited Jesus as signified by wheat; on the other hand, we may experience the unlimited Christ as signified by barley— John 12:24; 6:9, 13:

John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

John 6:9 There is a little boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what are these for so many?

John 6:13 So they gathered them and filled twelve handbaskets with broken pieces from the five barley loaves which were left over among those who had eaten.

- a. In His incarnation Jesus was exceedingly limited, but in His resurrection He is unlimited—Luke 12:49-50; 24:5-6, 26, 34, 46.

Luke 12:49 I have come to cast fire on the earth, and how I wish that it were already kindled!

Luke 12:50 But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how I am pressed until it is accomplished!

Luke 24:5 And they became frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, and the men said to them, Why are you seeking the living One among the dead?

Luke 24:6 He is not here but has been raised. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee,

Luke 24:26 Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and enter into His glory?

Luke 24:34 Saying, The Lord really has been raised and has appeared to Simon.

Luke 24:46 And He said to them, Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise up from the dead on the third day,

- b. Whereas wheat is the valley of death, barley is the mountain of resurrection.

3. In order to experience the wheat, the limited Jesus, we need to apply the barley, the unlimited Christ; we follow the limited Jesus in the power of the resurrected Christ— Heb. 13:12-13.

Heb 13:12 Therefore also Jesus, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate.

Heb 13:13 Let us therefore go forth unto Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach.

4. We can do all things in the One who empowers us because He is the resurrected and unlimited Christ—Phil. 4:13.
[Phil 4:13](#) I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.
5. Whenever we experience Christ as the wheat, we are assured that an experience of Christ as the barley will follow—Deut. 8:8a.
[Deut 8:8a](#) A land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates; ...
6. Actually, in order to experience Christ as the grain of wheat, the limited Jesus, we must apply Him as the barley, the resurrected Christ— John 12:24-25.
[John 12:24](#) Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
[John 12:25](#) He who loves his soul-life loses it; and he who hates his soul-life in this world shall keep it unto eternal life.
7. We cannot meet our needs in ourselves, but within us a barley loaf, a portion of the unlimited resurrected Christ, meets every need and may even produce a surplus— 11:25.
[John 11:25](#) Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;
8. The resurrected Christ is the loaf of barley; nothing can hinder or limit Him.
9. If we remember that Christ is barley in us, when we come to a meeting, we can apply Him as barley to feed others by our prayer or our testimony.