

# Ruth 2:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Naomi said unto Ruth her daughter in law, It is good, my daughter, that thou go out with his maidens, that they meet thee not in any other field.

## Analysis

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Naomi counsels wisdom: **'It is good, my daughter, that thou go out with his maidens, that they meet thee not in any other field'**. Naomi recognizes the protection Boaz offers and advises Ruth to accept it fully. The concern that Ruth might 'meet' others in different fields implies danger from men who might assault or harass a vulnerable foreign gleaner. Naomi's protective counsel demonstrates maternal care and practical wisdom—Ruth should stay where safety and provision are assured rather than risking herself elsewhere seeking potentially better but dangerous opportunities.

## Historical Context

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Ancient agricultural settings posed real dangers for unprotected women, particularly foreigners. Sexual assault and exploitation of vulnerable gleaners occurred regularly in societies lacking strong legal protections. Naomi's advice to stay in Boaz's protected fields acknowledged these threats. Her wisdom balanced Ruth's industriousness with realistic recognition of danger—working hard is good, but not if it means unnecessary risk. The principle applies broadly: accepting God's provision and protection rather than restlessly seeking supposedly better circumstances that expose us to spiritual danger.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does Naomi's counsel about staying in safety illustrate wisdom in accepting God's provision?
2. What does this teach about balancing diligent initiative with prudent protection?

## Interlinear Text

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| וַתֹּאמֶר   | וְנָעֲמִי | אֶל                   | רֹת       | כַּלְתָּהּ          | טוֹב       |                |
| said        | And Naomi | H413                  | unto Ruth | her daughter in law | It is good |                |
| H559        | H5281     |                       | H7327     | H3618               | H2896      |                |
| בִּתִּי     | כִּי      | תֵצְאִי               | עִם       | בְּעֲרוֹתַי         | וְלֹא      | יִפְגְּעוּ     |
| my daughter | H3588     | that thou go out      | H5973     | with his maidens    | H3808      | that they meet |
| H1323       |           | H3318                 |           | H5291               |            | H6293          |
| בְּרֶגֶל    | הַשָּׂדֶה | אַחֲרֵי               |           |                     |            |                |
| H0          | field     | thee not in any other |           |                     |            |                |
|             | H7704     | H312                  |           |                     |            |                |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Song of Solomon 1:8:** If thou know not, O thou fairest among women, go thy way forth by the footsteps of the flock, and feed thy kids beside the shepherds' tents.

**Proverbs 27:10** (Parallel theme): Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not; neither go into thy brother's house in the day of thy calamity: for better is a neighbour that is near than a brother far off.

