

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

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

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

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

ט וּבְכַלְתָּה הִתְאַמֵּר
It is good
said And Naomi unto Ruth her daughter in law It is good
H559 H5281 H413 H7327 H3618 H2896

וְלֹא יִפְגַּעוּ בְתֵן אֶל בְּתֵי עַמּוֹת יְלִינָה
that they meet with his maidens that thou go out my daughter
H6293 H3808 H5291 H5973 H3318 H1323

בְּשָׂדֵה בְּבָבָה אֶחָרָה
thee not in any other field
H312 H7704 H0

Additional Cross-References

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.

