

# Ruth 3:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And now it is true that I am thy near kinsman: howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I.

## Analysis

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Complication: '**And now it is true that I am thy near kinsman: howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I**'. Boaz confirms his go'el status but reveals an obstacle—a closer relative with prior legal right to redeem. This complication demonstrates Boaz's integrity—he could have concealed this information and claimed Ruth immediately, but he insists on proper legal process. His honesty despite personal interest shows character and teaches that biblical ethics require transparency and following proper procedures even when inconvenient.

## Historical Context

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Israelite kinship structures created hierarchy of redemption responsibility. Closer relatives had first rights and obligations to redeem property and marry widows. Boaz's acknowledgment of the nearer kinsman demonstrates both legal knowledge and moral integrity. Ancient Near Eastern culture emphasized honor and reputation—Boaz wouldn't compromise proper procedures for personal desire. The narrative creates suspense: will the nearer kinsman claim his right? God's sovereignty works through human legal processes, not bypassing but working within them.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

### Study Questions

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1. What does Boaz's honesty despite personal interest teach about Christian integrity in relationships?
2. How does this demonstrate the principle of doing right even when it might cost us desired outcomes?

### Interlinear Text

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וְעַתָּה כִּי אֲמַנְךָ אִם כִּי אִם גַּאֲלִי אֲנִי כִי וְגַם  
H6258 H3588 **And now it is true** H3588 H518 **a kinsman** H595 H1571  
H551 H1350

וְשֵׁי מִמֶּנִּי קָרֹב לִי וְשֵׁי מִמֶּנִּי קָרֹב לִי  
**howbeit there is** H3426 **a kinsman** H1350 **nearer** H7138 H4480

### Additional Cross-References

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**Ruth 4:1** (Parallel theme): Then went Boaz up to the gate, and sat him down there: and, behold, the kinsman of whom Boaz spake came by; unto whom he said, Ho, such a one! turn aside, sit down here. And he turned aside, and sat down.

**1 Thessalonians 4:6** (Parallel theme): That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

**Matthew 7:12** (Parallel theme): Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.