

# Ruth 3:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And she said, These six measures of barley gave he me; for he said to me, Go not empty unto thy mother in law.

## Analysis

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Evidence shown: **'And she said, These six measures of barley gave he me; for he said unto me, Go not empty unto thy mother in law'**. Ruth reports Boaz's words showing his care extended to Naomi—he didn't want Ruth returning empty-handed. The large gift tangibly demonstrated Boaz's commitment and ability to provide abundantly. His concern for Naomi showed he understood that redeeming Ruth meant caring for her whole family, not just gaining a wife. This demonstrated covenant thinking—marriage joined families, creating comprehensive mutual responsibilities.

## Historical Context

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The phrase 'go not empty' echoed Naomi's earlier complaint that she returned from Moab 'empty' (1:21). Boaz's provision began reversing that emptiness with tangible abundance. The six measures of barley provided proof of Boaz's serious intentions—words alone might be doubted, but generous gift demonstrated genuine commitment and financial capacity to fulfill promises. Ancient Near Eastern betrothal involved gift exchanges signaling family alliance and groom's ability to provide.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

### Study Questions

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1. What does Boaz's concern that Ruth not return empty teach about Christian generosity including those connected to primary recipients?
2. How does tangible evidence of commitment (the barley) illustrate that genuine love demonstrates itself through concrete action?

### Interlinear Text

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אָמַר	שֵׁשׁ	הַשְּׁעָרִים	הָאֵלֶּה	נָתַן	לִי	כִּי
And she said	These six	measures of barley	H428	gave	H0	H3588
H559	H8337	H8184		H5414		
אָמַר	אֵל	תָּב וְאִי	רִיקָם	אֵל	חֲמוּתְךָ:	
And she said	H413	to me Go	not empty	H408	unto thy mother in law	
H559		H935	H7387		H2545	

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