

**“A partnership to emulate”  
(Ruth 3)**

**Verse to Remember:** “Now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you whatever you ask, for all my people in the city know that you are a woman of excellence” (Ruth 3:11).

**A partnership to emulate**

**1. A partnership of the excellent**

- The focus here is not on feelings of love or on physical attraction, but rather on the fact that Ruth is a woman of excellence (Ruth 3:11 cf. Prov 31:10, 30). Like the Proverbs 31 woman, Ruth was a hardworking woman who cared for others. And most importantly, she was a woman of faith, as Boaz recognized (cf. Ruth 2:12). This doesn't mean that physical attraction is not important in a marriage relationship, but it is not the most important thing and is certainly not the only thing. Our greatest goal in marriage should be running the race with an “equally yoked” partner (2 Cor 6:14).

**2. A partnership of sacrificial love and care**

- Boaz embraced the role of kinsman redeemer (*go-el*). This is a role of sacrificial love and care. The root of *gō'ēl* means to redeem or buy back. The role of a kinsman redeemer would be to do things like avenging/bringing justice to the death of a murdered relative (Num 35:19), buying back a family member who had been sold into slavery (Lev 25:47-49), looking after needy members of the family (Lev 25:35), buying back family land (Lev 25:25), and marrying a late brother's wife if there were no children when he passed away (Deut 25:5-10).

- Ruth sought out Boaz as a kinsman redeemer not just for her own good, but for the sake of Naomi and the family of Elimelech. Boaz recognized the sacrifice and faithful love (*hessed*) that was displayed by Ruth (Ruth 3:10).

**3. A partnership from the Lord**

- Boaz put Ruth in the hands of the Lord. With integrity and honesty, Boaz followed the law of the kinsman redeemer by bringing up the fact that there was a closer relative. In doing so, he introduced the possibility of another man swooping in and getting to marry Ruth, instead of him. He put his future in the hands of the Lord (Ruth 3:12-13).

- Saying it is from the Lord, doesn't mean it doesn't take any work or effort from the people involved. Ruth prepared herself for the meeting and Naomi devised the plan, but ultimately it was in the hands of the Lord. At the end, Naomi tells Ruth to wait – to wait on Boaz to take care of it – but really it is to wait on the Lord for his will to be done. They both put their future in the hands of the Lord.