



## Part 2: The Odd Couple

The book of Ruth moves from sorrow to joy, from emptiness to fullness, largely through the initiative and resourcefulness of two women. Although God is always at work in the background, every blessing he brings is fulfilled ultimately through human agency.

~ *Grace I. Emmerson*  
*The Oxford Bible Commentary*

As we start chapter 2 Naomi can see no reason and sees no way out. She is physically alive, but from an emotional and psychological point of view, she views her life as already over.

~ *Katharine Doob Sakenfeld*  
*Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching*

Chapter 2 of Ruth leaves no doubt of the genuine affection that Ruth has for her mother-in-law, even though Naomi has been in a depressed mental state for some time.

~ *R. K. Harrison*  
*Evangelical Commentary on the Bible*

Ruth did not wait to be asked to go and look for food. She took the initiative. This is love.

~ *Isabel Apawo Phiri*  
*Africa Bible Commentary*

Ruth shows us that faith doesn't simply sit around waiting for provision to drop down from heaven; we are called to do what we can, and as we do, to trust that God will provide for our needs.

~ *Iain M. Duguid*  
*Reformed Expository Commentary*

On multiple points, Ruth breaks with propriety, and does so with God's approval. As Christ reinforces, we can't reduce life with God to a checklist of rules to be kept and deadly sins to be avoided. We must move beyond the letter of the law to the spirit.

~ *Carolyn Custis James*  
*The Gospel of Ruth*

Ruth's boldness jars the respectable Boaz out of his religious comfort zone and leads him to a more radical, self-sacrificing life of faith – a life that breaks the rules of conventional religion – just as Jesus, their descendant, will do generations later.

~ *Carolyn Custis James*  
*The Gospel of Ruth*

Boaz provides for Ruth beyond what is required by Levitical law. He models what it means to go beyond the rules to the way of love.

~ *Tremper Longman III*  
*The Importance of Obedience*

**As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.**

~ **God (Isaiah 66:13, TNIV)**