

**“Courage To Go On!”
Ruth 1:16-17**

Ruth 1:16-17 *But Ruth said: “Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me.”*

In the book of Ruth there are four main characters.

1. There is God.
2. There is Naomi.
3. There is Ruth.
4. There is Boaz.

Dr. R.G. Lee said that Ruth, Naomi and Boaz were like gardenias growing on a garbage dump.

The book of Ruth is truly a love story.

1. It is the story of a mother’s love for her children.
2. It is the story of a daughter-in-law and a mother-in-law’s love for each other.

Ruth 1:16 *... Entreat me not to leave you, or turn back from following after you; for wherever you go I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God*

3. It is the story of God’s love for all.

The word courage, in Hebrew language, means to have the mindset to go on and not give up even in the face of great adversity.

In order to have the courage to go on, there are three truths that I should remember.

- I. I can expect conflict.

Ruth 1:16 *...Entreat me not to leave you, or turn back from following after you; for wherever you go I will go; And wherever you lodge I will lodge; Your people will be my people and your God, my God.”*

Ruth 1:20 *...call me Mara for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me*

The word ‘mara’ means bitter.

The name ‘Naomi’ means pleasant.

The word ‘bitter’ carries the idea of being hurt, and hurt badly by something to the point of grieving one’s heart out.

Job 7:20 *Why have you set me as Your target?*

In Christ's School of Christian living, the Lord often gives the test before He gives the lesson.

Faith is continuing to believe in, depend upon and stay committed to the living God even when people, situations or circumstances say otherwise.

II. I can experience compassion.

In the book of Ruth, the compassionate hands of love are extended again and again.

I Cor 13:4 *Love suffers long and is kind...*

- A. The hands of support.
- B. The hands of strength.
- C. The hands of self control.

Gal 5:22 *...the fruit of the Spirit is ... self-control ...*

- D. The hands of supremacy.

Ruth 2:3 *Then she left and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz*

III. I can express confidence.

According to Jewish law, the kinsman-redeemer must:

- A. Have the right to redeem.
- B. Have the power to redeem.
- C. Have the will to redeem.

Rev 5:12 *Worthy is the lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, strength, honor, glory and blessing*

With God's help, I can have the courage to go on.