

RISKY BUSINESS:
Walking with God on the Ragged Edge
(Ruth 1-4)

**I. The _____ in taking risks for God:
It's _____!**

“Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me.” Ruth 1:16-17 (NIV)

“Anyone who comes to me but refuses to let go of father, mother, spouse, children, brothers, sisters—yes, even one’s own self!—can’t be my disciple.” Luke 14:26 (MES)

“Any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.” Luke 14:33 (NIV)

**II. The _____ in taking risks for God:
It's _____!**

So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, “Can this be Naomi?” “Don’t call me Naomi,” she told them, “Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The Lord has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me.” Ruth 1:19-21(NIV)

When things are going well for you, be glad, and when trouble comes, just remember: God sends both happiness and trouble.
Ecclesiastes 7:14 (TEV)

Can anything happen without the Lord’s permission?
Lamentations 3:37 (NLT)

I trust in you, O Lord. I say, “You are my God.” My times are in your hands. Psalm 31:14-15 (NIV)

**III. The _____ in taking risks for God:
It's _____!**

[read 2:1-10]

“May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge. Ruth 2:12 (NIV)

“The Lord bless him!” Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. “He has not stopped showing kindness to the living and the dead.” She added, “That man is our close relative; he is one of our kinsman-redeemers.” Ruth 2:20 (NIV)

What was the role of the kinsman-redeemer?

Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, “Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion and Mahlon. I have also acquired Ruth the Moabitess, Mahlon’s widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from the town records. Ruth 4:9-10 (NIV)

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. Then he went to her, and the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son . . . and they named him Obed. Ruth 4:13, 17 (NIV)