

Song of Solomon: Song of Songs



My wife and I love the Kentucky State Fair. This year, the music group, Alabama, opened for the Saturday night festivities for the fair. In their forty years of singing, they had forty-three number one hits. If they were to put a best fifteen hits together, I wonder which ones it would be. I wonder which one their number one would be. Solomon wrote one thousand and five songs, wow!

We will be studying the Song of Songs in this lesson. I don't believe this means just the Song of the Songs of Solomon, but of all the songs written up until that point in the wisdom literature of Israel, this is the all-time number one best song ever written. This song was inspired by the Holy Spirit, and I also believe there is not a song today that can top the Song of Solomon. It is truly the Song of Songs. Many songs today deal with romance, yet most of those songs do not deal with godly romance, with godly love. The Song of Songs does.

This is the last book Route 66 of the wisdom literature in the Old Testament. We started with Job and went into the battlefield. With David, we went into the sanctuary. With Solomon, we are going into the bedroom. Some of you will blush and get uncomfortable. I disagree with those who believe we shouldn't deal with this subject in the Church. It is one of the sixty-six books of the Bible. I can't believe God put it among the sixty-six if He didn't want us to teach it, just as we teach Job, Psalms, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes. I believe this book is in the Bible primarily because God established the husband-wife relationship as the primary, foundational

relationship of the home. I believe the home is the foundation of society. I believe that as it goes in the home, so it goes in society. When you look at what is going on in the Church and what is going on in the United States, that is just a reflection of what is going on in our homes. So it makes sense to me that if the foundational relationship of society is the husband-wife relationship, then wouldn't God show us what that looks like? Ultimately, according to the New Testament, the husband-wife relationship pictures the relationship that Christ has with the Church. So when we study the Song of Solomon, it is talking about the relationship between the husband and the wife and how glorious that oneness is, but ultimately, it leads us to mirror, in society, the relationship that we have with Jesus Christ. What we have with our spouses, physically and emotionally, mirrors what we have spiritually with Christ. I pray that you immerse yourself in this book. It is one of my favorite books of the Bible, and I do not apologize. I will be very cautious and gentle because of the nature of intimacy that it discusses.

Scripture

He

***"Behold, you are beautiful, my love; behold, you are beautiful;
your eyes are doves.***

She

***Behold, you are beautiful, my beloved, truly delightful. Our couch
is green; the beams of our house are cedar; our rafters are pine. I
am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.***

He

As a lily among brambles, so is my love among the young women.

She

***As an apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved
among the young men. With great delight I sat in his shadow, and***

his fruit was sweet to my taste."

This song has fourteen reflections, little songs that are all put together to contribute to the Song of Songs. But for the overview in this lesson, I have chosen to break this down into six sections. These sections deal with marital love and the importance of each.

1. A Kiss
2. Understanding Insecurity
3. The Need of Sensitivity
4. The Value of Intimacy
5. Rejection of Your Spouse
6. The Power of Character

A Kiss

Beside each of these, I have the scriptural verses from which I draw these. The first verse of the Song of Songs talks about the power of a kiss. Right off the bat, the first thing Mrs. Solomon says is, *"Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine."* Wow! I didn't say that wrong. He didn't say this; she said it. In verse 4, she says that kiss is going to lead us straight to the king's bedroom! How many times has a wife been kissed and said, "What do you want?" She kind of scolds him for believing a kiss could start intimacy which could lead to the bedroom. But this isn't Solomon, the husband, the male, speaking; this is the female. It is a picture of Mrs. Solomon not being able to wait for him to get home so that he will kiss her, and that kiss will steal her heart and lead her to want to run with him into his bedroom. It is possible today that we underestimate the power of a kiss. In wanting to get to the dessert, we forget the appetizer. We forget that the kiss is the match that sparks the fire of being intimate. In this song, there are three times that she will warn these ladies not to awaken love until it please. Now, these ladies in the song are not real, they are not watching them. They are imaginary; a

literary device so that we understand her heart and what she is thinking. She shares it with these ladies who she feels would understand. It is a great aid to us. She said, *"O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or the does of the field, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases."* This love is sexual love. This means do not stir up love until it can be acted upon in a godly way. Based on what I believe about the Word of God, I think we need to change what we teach our children about the power of a kiss. We kind of joke about it and say, "Did you kiss on the first date?" Are you kidding me? Do you let your children play with matches? You don't! Do you want to let your teenage children play with fire that will arouse something in them that will lead them either to fornication or to frustration? Absolutely not...yet, most parents don't have the courage to stand against the current of the world and tell our children not to engage in romantic kissing. It has been designed by God to arouse sexual passion! Once you arouse that, either you will be frustrated or you will have sex with someone who isn't your spouse. Neither of those will lead you to a good place. Just because some of us messed up in our life doesn't mean we keep letting our kids and grandkids mess up. Sometimes we have to say I have repented of what I used to believe was okay! In your marriage, please do not underestimate the value of a kiss.

Understanding Insecurity

The second section deals with the problem of insecurities. Men listen, Solomon kisses her, and he must have been a good kisser because it led her to want to go straight to the bedroom. He is thinking, wow this is good! But she has an insecurity. If you aren't careful, sometimes because of the way your wife responds to you, you will not sense that insecurity. If your passion, your sexual love, your desire for her is already ignited, you are only thinking of one thing. For her, intimacy leads to sex. For him, sex is the intimacy. Now she tells the ladies to look at her; I am dark, I'm a country girl. Her brothers made her work in the fields and she has a suntan. She says look at all of the fair maidens in the palace who have never seen the sun. They have been pampered, but not me. Look at what the sun has done to my skin.

How culture has changed! When I got married, my wife would lay out in the sun for hours to get a tan. Listen men, as we engage in sexual love with our spouse, you need to realize that her mirror doesn't tell her what your eyes say to you about her body. On behalf of all men, I want to tell you ladies that your mirror lies. I went to a fair where they had the trick mirrors and they made my body look really crazy. I had to keep telling myself that wasn't how I really looked. You ladies need to tell yourself that isn't how you really look in his eyes. But we men have to understand that is an insecurity. So because of her insecurities about her body, do not look at other ladies; do not flirt with other ladies. Do not ever have an affair; do not ever go down the road of pornography. All you will do is say to her that what she thinks about her body is true, and you will put a big exclamation mark on it! You have no idea what you are doing to her when you fulfill your selfish, lustful desires. You humiliate her, you belittle her, and she is already struggling. I have never met a lady yet, including mine, who has been comfortable with her body.

Secondly, she was insecure about his job. She didn't know if she would be able to find him when she needed him. She didn't know if work would take him far away and if he would be home for supper. Solomon says honey, you don't have to worry about me coming home, you are the prettiest horse I know...I mean, what he really said was you are a mare among Pharaoh's chariots!...Okay...what was he really saying? You need to remember the historical books talk about how Solomon was enamored with Pharaoh's horses, and he had thousands of horses himself. He bought and imported horses from other countries. So the horse was the place of his heart. This would be like me telling my wife, "You are just like an International tractor to me!" That would be romantic! When my wife calls my daughter-in-law a heifer, which is a compliment coming from a country girl! Remember that in ancient wartimes, those stallions went into battle pulling the war chariots. The enemy would release their mares who were in heat. That stallion didn't worry about the rein in that man's hand; he would follow that mare. Solomon was saying, honey you don't have to worry about me getting lost in my job when I'm in the man-world. You are like a mare, and I'm coming home because you excite me! Do you have any idea what you do when you take all of that overtime? Do you have any

idea what you do when you add another nine holes to your Saturday? Do you have any idea what happens when you come home late because you were catching fish and just couldn't quit? You are saying you had rather fish than be with her! That just adds to her insecurity. But Solomon learned that praise is the antibiotic to insecurity. He didn't let her believe the insecurity. He didn't continue to enable the insecurity in her by his selfishness. He praised her and said don't worry; this is how I really feel about you. Men, if you are going to be late, apologize. Let her know how it breaks your heart that you lost another hour with her because you just couldn't get away. Let her know that you had rather be with her than with any other.

Now they are lying in bed and Solomon says, honey you are just beautiful; your eyes are like doves. She says you are beautiful too; you are just delightful. Then she reveals another insecurity. She thinks she is not as pretty as she thinks he deserves. She says I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys. I don't know where we ever got in our head that this is a good thing to say because it wasn't. Yes, a rose in an English garden is a beautiful flower, and maybe the flower of flowers to an American mind. But in the Hebrew culture, this word for 'rose' isn't a rose like the one we picture. It was just a common, ordinary flower in a field. It just grew wild; there were thousands of them. A lily of the valley was common and they were everywhere. As she is lying intimately with her husband in the love nest, she is saying how she really feels about her looks. There is not enough makeup to cover up what she really thinks about her face. She says I am just a rose, just a lily, and you are the king. You are Mr. Solomon; you can have whomever you want! That is how your wife feels about you. You could have had anyone you wanted, so she wonders why you chose her. Solomon says, honey, you are a lily among the brambles. He is saying that she is a flower among weeds! In my eyes, every other woman is a weed and you are the only flower, even in your ordinariness. You put the other ladies to shame! Ladies, you have to respond when we say something good like that, amen? She says, honey, you are an apple tree among the trees of the forest. In the biblical culture, the apple tree was a symbol of sex. I'm glad the Bible doesn't use crude or medical language; it uses beautiful language. She is saying you are the most

awesome lover, and when it comes to love, you make the other men look like ordinary trees in the forest. You stand out as an apple tree; therefore, I am going to delight in you. This is beautiful! A hindrance to your marital love is her insecurities or your insecurities.

The Need of Sensitivity

In chapters 2:8-3:5, Solomon is going to take her on a date. Now listen to me, if you allow sexual love to be aroused before marriage and you give yourself to another, it changes the relationship, for both of you. Most girls want to marry the man they give themselves to. Once a guy starts down that road, every date will become about that. Therefore, she becomes oblivious to who he really is. Others don't understand what she sees in him, but she sees the man she is going to marry because she has given herself to him. Now, every date he plans is leading to sex. For the rest of his life, everything he does leads to sex. Do you see the problem?

In the Hebrew, there are three words for love. The word that is used for love here is the word for sexual love when it says not to "*awaken love*." Solomon is getting to take her out on a date and she is hiding in her house. There is a mountain between her house and his, and like a superhero, he just jumps over the mountain! Every girl wants to think her man is a superhero, that nothing can stop our love for her. He appears at the door and she won't come out so he has to beg.

I knew my wife wanted to date me because her cousin had told me she did. But when I asked her to go on a date, she made me ask her four times before she would say yes! She turned me down three times, but I am glad I didn't give up.

Solomon doesn't knock the door down, but he stands outside of the window and begs her to come out and just go for a walk. They go for a walk and he senses something is going on; he is sensitive to her. He says you are like a dove in the clefts of a rock. Now we know that doves don't hang out there! They only hang out there if they are hiding from something. He senses she is holding something back. In a really nice way, he asks her what is wrong. He worded it really cool (we could learn from this guy!). She says I am worried about your ability to hunt. That is a test

of his manhood! I mean, during deer season, we get the deer, put the tailgate down, and drive to every store we know so every man can see that we got the biggest buck in the county! When we go fishing, the first thing your buddy says is, "How many did you catch? How big was the biggest one?" It is ingrained in us to be a hunter or fisherman. And she is wondering if he can catch those little foxes! Now, this isn't the fox that runs on top of the ground. This is a fox that burrowed underneath the ground and gnaws at the roots of the grape vineyards. Everything would look good on top of the ground, but after a while, the vines start dying. If you don't get the foxes, it will ruin your vineyard. In this book, they compare the vineyard to their relationship in sexual love. She compares her body to a garden. She compares him to a male animal at times, and expects him to leap and jump. So what she is asking here is when problems come into our relationship, can you deal with them? Can you catch them? In other words, if you can kill a big buck, can you deal with the kids? Can you deal with that promotion? Can you deal with the fact that I like to shop? Can you deal with my mother, or your mother? She wants to know that her man can get the game! She understands there is a critter out there called problems that will ruin their relationship if he doesn't deal with them.

She tells her imaginary chorus of ladies they need to tell their daughters that if the man she is dating cannot solve the problems they face during dating; he will not be able to solve their problems that come up after they get married. If he isn't a good hunter before, he probably will be a terrible hunter after. We cannot let our kids believe that marriage will solve their problems! Marriage brings out a whole other set of problems. Mrs. Solomon is saying if you let this sexual love be aroused before it is time, you will marry a man who will never be able to solve your problems and you will be frustrated for the rest of your life. There is a lot of wisdom in this book.

The Value of Intimacy

Chapters 3:6-5:1 talks about the honeymoon and what took place in the bedroom. I am not going to discuss this, but I have given you enough insight that you should be able to see the poetic expressions and think

wow! You can compare your intimacy and their intimacy and know that is what God desires for you. You may not be there yet, but what leads to ultimate intimacy is not depreciating your spouse, but appreciating your spouse. If you continue to criticize and gripe and complain about your spouse, there is probably not going to be very good intimacy in your marriage. Intimacy is about learning to appreciate who your spouse is, and then help them deal with those insecurities they want to change in themselves. If you are married to a godly spouse, the Holy Spirit is probably already letting them know what is wrong in their life, and you probably don't have to. A lot of our marriages would probably be better off if we let the Holy Spirit do His job and we quit trying to do it. He is a whole lot better at it than we are. If the Holy Spirit can't get through to your spouse, you probably can't. That is just the truth.

Rejection of Your Spouse

Remember that this isn't written in chronological order. This style of poetry and song is just pictures. She is thinking through different things, and now she remembers this dream she keeps having. In this dream, she rejects Solomon, sexually. I expect every lady that wants her husband to be more sensitive about her insecurities to study chapters 5:2-8:7. It talks about the power and the influence of rejection.

Now, in her reoccurring dream, she is in bed and Solomon knocks on the door. He wants to engage her and she says honey, I am already in bed and I've taken off my P.J.'s. She can't get up and go to the door because she would have to put her P.J.'s back on. Then she says, by the way, I have already washed my feet. Do you ladies have any idea what that does to a man? Your wife is saying you are not worth putting her P.J.'s back on to go and answer the door! She says if I let you in, I will have to take another bath. But what does he hear? I am not worth that.

After she rejects him, she thinks about it and realizes it wasn't the right thing to do. Listen ladies, when you get married, your body becomes the possession of your husband, according to 1st Corinthians 7. The Bible says that except for prayer and fasting, there should be a lot of sexual intimacy.

Mrs. Solomon has rejected him but she changes her mind and goes to the door. As she runs to the door, she is kind of getting excited. She opens the door and he is gone. He is gone! She feels bad and she repents. She calls for her imaginary ladies and says, where did he go? Help me find him!

Do you have any idea what happens to him when you always have a headache, when you're always too tired, or when you just want to finish what you are watching on TV or chapter in your book? It tells him he is not worth even that in your mind; you had rather read! Then a wife wonders why her husband falls for the sexual advancement of another woman at work.

Solomon just left, and yes, he pouted. When your husband just rolls over or gets up and goes to another room, you just let him go. You have no idea what that rejection did to him. Mrs. Solomon called the ladies and said we have to find him! They were thinking the same thing she was first thinking. Why would we want to look for him? What is so great about him? So she starts describing him, and whoa, who wouldn't want to go after that man! Now she is in her right mind wanting to go after him, and when she finds him, she brings him to her garden and they enjoy each other. He tells her that she is the only one for him. Now these ladies say you ought to do the dance of two armies for him...what? Have you ever seen two armies dance on a battlefield? Absolutely not, but our translators don't know how to translate this word because it is a tough one to translate. Most Hebrew scholars now believe this word actually refers to a place they were, *Mahanaim*, and the word, *dance*, means 'to twirl about.' So the ladies are saying, now that you have found your man and realize you were wrong and how important he is to you, you should dance for him. She dances. We know she is wearing something that is very see-through or nothing at all, as he begins to describe her. She tells the ladies not to stir up love until it is the right time. If you do, it will lead to frustration. He was frustrated when he tried, and she was frustrated when he went to the door and he was gone. But when they came together, wow, it was incredible!

The Power of Character

We live in a society that is very sexual and I think we have lower our standards in the Church to some degree. I heard Dr. James Dobson say that if we can just get our children to age 18 without having sex, it would be amazing how much better of a life they will have with their spouse. I refuse to accept that. If our children are not going to marry until they are 27 years old, we must encourage them to be virgins at 27. Ultimately, that is a character issue.

Mrs. Solomon remembers when she was a young girl. She said her brothers looked at her and wondered if she was a wall or a door...what? A wall meant the ability to keep the enemy out, and the enemy was young men. Was she strong enough to keep them out and keep her virginity to herself? They said if she were a wall, they would put silver on her; decorate her and let everyone know she was a woman worth having because she is a woman of character. A door meant that she would swing open to every sexual advancement of a young man. Her brothers said if she was a door, they are going to take cedar and bar the door! We aren't going to let her date or men come around, not because we are against it, but we recognize she is not ready.

As a Christian society, how can we prepare our kids for college but not the one of the most important thing in their life; the choosing of a spouse and living with them for the rest of their life? Ultimately, this book says when you get it right with your wife and enjoy the fruit of that relationship; you picture the love Christ has for His Church. Men, you need to think often that your relationship with your wife mirrors your relationship with Him. When you get mad at her, you will realize that you may not be right with Him.