

Text: Song of Solomon tape: 96-31
Topic: Marriage. Romance. Sex.
Series: OT School of Marriage

Focal Point Radio Ministries
September 1, 1996
Pastor Mike

Solomon & the Shulammite

A Lesson in Romance

4:1 (Solomon to his wife) How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful! Your eyes behind your veil are doves. Your hair is like a flock of goats descending from Mount Gilead. 2 Your teeth are like a flock of sheep just shorn, coming up from the washing. Each has its twin; not one of them is alone. 3 Your lips are like a scarlet ribbon; your mouth is lovely. Your temples behind your veil are like the halves of a pomegranate. 4 Your neck is like the tower of David, built with elegance; on it hang a thousand shields, all of them shields of warriors. 5 Your two breasts are like two fawns, like twin fawns of a gazelle that browse among the lilies. 6 Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, I will go to the mountain of myrrh and to the hill of incense. 7 All beautiful you are, my darling; there is no flaw in you. 8 Come with me from Lebanon, my bride, come with me from Lebanon. Descend from the crest of Amana, from the top of Senir, the summit of Hermon, from the lions' dens and the mountain haunts of the leopards. 9 You have stolen my heart, my sister, my bride; you have stolen my heart with one glance of your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace. 10 How delightful is your love, my sister, my bride! How much more pleasing is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your perfume than any spice! 11 Your lips drop sweetness as the honeycomb, my bride; milk and honey are under your tongue. The fragrance of your garments is like that of Lebanon. 12 You are a garden locked up, my sister, my bride; you are a spring enclosed, a sealed fountain. 13 Your plants are an orchard of pomegranates with choice fruits, with henna and nard, 14 nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, with every kind of incense tree, with myrrh and aloes and all the finest spices.

15 (Shulammite to her husband) You are a garden fountain, a well of flowing water streaming down from Lebanon. 16 Awake, north wind, and come, south wind! Blow on my garden, that its fragrance may spread abroad. Let my lover come into his garden and taste its choice fruits.

5:1 (Solomon to his wife) I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride; I have gathered my myrrh with my spice. I have eaten my honeycomb

1. The Honeymoon (4:1-5:1)

A. The Elements

B. The Inspired Commentary

2. After the Honeymoon (5:1-3)

A. The Problem of _____

B. The Old Problem of _____

3. Back to the Honeymoon (5:4-16)

A. Loving _____

and my honey; I have drunk my wine and my milk.

(The Poet) Eat, O friends, and drink; drink your fill, O lovers.

2 (Shulammite to her husband) I slept but my heart was awake. Listen! My lover is knocking: "Open to me, my sister, my darling, my dove, my flawless one. My head is drenched with dew, my hair with the dampness of the night." 3 I have taken off my robe--must I put it on again? I have washed my feet--must I soil them again?

4 My lover thrust his hand through the latch-opening; my heart began to pound for him. 5 I arose to open for my lover, and my hands dripped with myrrh, my fingers with flowing myrrh, on the handles of the lock. 6 I opened for my lover, but my lover had left; he was gone. My heart sank at his departure. I looked for him but did not find him. I called him but he did not answer. 7 The watchmen found me as they made their rounds in the city. They beat me, they bruised me; they took away my cloak, those watchmen of the walls! 8 O daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you--if you find my lover, what will you tell him? Tell him I am faint with love.

9 (Friends of the Shulammite) How is your beloved better than others, most beautiful of women? How is your beloved better than others, that you charge us so?

10 (Shulammite to her husband) My lover is radiant and ruddy, outstanding among ten thousand. 11 His head is purest gold; his hair is wavy and black as a raven. 12 His eyes are like doves by the water streams, washed in milk, mounted like jewels. 13 His cheeks are like beds of spice yielding perfume. His lips are like lilies dripping with myrrh. 14 His arms are rods of gold set with chrysolite. His body is like polished ivory decorated with sapphires. 15 His legs are pillars of marble set on bases of pure gold. His appearance is like Lebanon, choice as its cedars. 16 His mouth is sweetness itself; he is altogether lovely. This is my lover, this my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.

(NIV)

B. Rekindled

Discussion Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message

1. Husbands and wives, how would you describe your sexual and romantic life?

Comparing your situation with what you read in the Song of Songs about Solomon and his wife what aspects of your sexual relationship with your spouse need improvement? Especially note areas that you find that *you* need to improve as a husband or wife. In other words, how do you contribute to a less than perfect sex life?

2. It is fair to note that past sins, problems or experiences can have a bearing on how we view sex in our marriage. Though this is definitely true, it is critical to understand that our past may help us explain our current failures but they certainly don't excuse them. If good sex and romance in marriage is a godly thing, what hope do we find in 2 Peter 1:3 that can overcome the baggage from our past so that we can be what God wants us to be in this area?

Ask God right now for help to do right, regardless of your past.

3. Do you think your spouse would say you are romantic enough?

How does your spouse define romance? What is considered romantic to your spouse?

4. How responsive to your mate's advances would your spouse say you are?

What kind of physical intimacy does your spouse desire?

How important is it to be concerned about this according to First Corinthians 7:3-5? Would it then be sin to be unconcerned or indifferent about your spouse's sexual desires?

What motivation is given in that passage to consider it important?

5. What aspect of this topic do you probably need to discuss with your spouse?

When will you do it?