

"The Song of Solomon

Avon Heights, 4th Quarter, 2009

Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2009

LESSON #9

Assignment:

1. Read **Song of Solomon 8:5-14** in preparation for Wednesday's lesson.
2. Consider this brief introduction to the Song of Songs from the "Dramatized Old Testament" by Zondervan:

"These inspired words disclose the exquisite charm and beauty of marital love as one of God's choicest gifts. Song of Songs is a series of poems or songs that tells the romantic story of Solomon and his bride: their courtship and their marriage. This kind of love is worth waiting for. Song of Solomon also serves to remind us of God's love and passion for His people and of Jesus Christ's self-sacrificing love for His church."

3. What NT passage(s) do you think of as you consider the message of the Song of Solomon? There would be several.

Reflection #14 - "A Visit to the Country" (8:5-14) - The final "snapshot"

1. Summarize **Reflection #14 (8:5-14)** in your own words on your chart and be prepared to share your summaries in class. Note setting in **vs 5**:

Solomon grants Shulamith's request and the book closes with the two of them going to her childhood home in the country. As they approach the home, they make note of various spots that remind them of the beginnings of their love for one another...

2. What kind of a "seal" is Shulamith referring to in **vs 6a** and what is she asking of her husband? (**see 1 Kings 21:8; Gen. 38:18; Haggai 2:23 in context**)

3. Explain the poetic language she uses to describe love in **vs 6b-7...**

- a. "love is as strong as death" -
- b. "jealous as severe as Sheol" -
- c. "The very flame of the LORD" -
- d. "Water can't quench or overflow (love)" -
- e. "If a man were to give all the riches of his house for love, It would be utterly despised."

4. Though it is not certain, it appears that the brothers are speaking in **vs 8**. If this is so, what do the brothers see as their duty to an unmarried sister? (consider Laban, the brother of Rebekah in **Gen. 24:29, 50, 55** as an example.)

5. Explain the “wall / door” illustration as it would apply to their responsibility for their little sister. **vs 9**

6. in **vs 10-12** Shulamith recalls her own upbringing & commends her brothers for their part in keeping her character pure & spotless. Who is she referring to as “those who (took) care of (her vineyard’s) fruit.” _____
Why would her husband (Solomon) be indebted to them?

7. **vs 13-14** - “O you who sit in the gardens, My companions are listening for your voice-- Let me hear it! -- Hurry, my beloved, & be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices.”

It is interesting to note that the book ends with this invitation. Compare this with earlier snapshots. How are they similar? Who is speaking in each?

-- **2:17** - “Turn, my beloved, and be like a gazelle Or a young stag on the mountains of Bether.”

-- **4:6** - “Until the cool of the day When the shadows flee away, I will go my way to the mountain of myrrh And to the hill of frankincense.”

-- **7:12** - “Let us rise early *and go* to the vineyards; Let us see whether the vine has budded *And its* blossoms have opened, *And whether* the pomegranates have bloomed. There I will give you my love.”

Refreshing, Powerful Messages From *Song of Songs*

[suggested by L.A. Mott in his study guide on *S of S* (edited by bjs)]

1. God approves of romantic, mating love. Although it has been perverted by a godless world, the act of love is not dirty -- it is a blessed, joyful experience to be enjoyed in the marriage relationship. **(5:1; 7:10-11)**
2. There is joy and blessedness in the exclusive relationship described in **The S of S** (i.e. One man and one woman in love with each other) that cannot be experienced by those engaging in polygamous or promiscuous relationships. It was not just “some woman,” but ONE special woman that Solomon praises and gives himself to.
3. There is a need for married couples to express appreciation of and admiration for each other throughout their married life. **(5:10-16; 6:4-10)**
4. **The S of S** teaches love for the PERSON and not just what he/she has to offer. Shulamith is not enamored with “being a Queen in a palace” but with Solomon as a person. She constantly thinks of him as a “shepherd” rather than a king. **(6:2-3)**
5. Married love is a great treasure to be nurtured, protected and enjoyed. **(Prov. 5:15-19; Eccl. 9:9; S of S 7:10-13)**
6. There is enduring power in God-given love. **(8:6-7)**
7. Strong character is essential for those who would find such a love. **(8:8-10; cf. 4:12)**