

Song of Solomon

Avon Heights, 4th Quarter, 2009

LESSON #3

Read:

Song of Sol. ch. 2

Reflection #3

Solomon – 1:15

Shulamith – 1:16-2:1

Solomon – 2:2

Shulamith – 2:3-7

Reflection #4

Shulamith – 2:8-11

Solomon – 2:12-14

Reflection #5

Shulamith – 2:15-17

For Wednesday, Dec. 9th

1. Read chapter 2 in preparation for Wednesday. Summarize Reflections 3-5 (1:14-2:17) in your own words and write this on your chart. Be prepared to share your summarization in class.

Reflection #3 – The Bridal Chamber (1:15-2:7)

2. Consider Dillow's introduction to this section. "The royal couple has left the wedding banquet and has retired to the bridal suite. In the ancient world, it was customary for a king to build a special bedroom for his new bride. As they enter the bridal chamber, Solomon begins his lovemaking to his wife with praise (1:15). She responds with greater praise (1:16-2:1). Solomon tops her praise of him (2:2) and then she outdoes his praise of her (2:3). Thus the lovers are mutually extolling one another's charms with increasingly powerful descriptions of one another's beauty."

3. What was Solomon praising about Shulamith in 1:15 when he said her eyes were "like doves"?
4. In 1:16-17, what did Shulamith praise? (Cf. 1 Kings 5:6-9 & 7:1-12).
5. Do some research; what did Shulamith compare herself to in 2:1?
6. How did Solomon use Shulamith's comparison and make it even greater in 2:2?
7. What did Shulamith praise about Solomon in 2:3-4?
8. What does it mean in v. 4 that Solomon's banner over her was love?
9. In 2:5-6, what did Shulamith request?
10. What did Shulamith mean in 2:7 when she says "do not awaken love until it pleases"?

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Reflection #4 – A Springtime Visit (2:8-14)

11. As Shulamith appears to reflect back on the events leading up to her marriage to Solomon, she shares some important lessons. According to these next few reflections, the engagement period has three basic purposes. “First, it is a time of getting to know one another in ways other than sexual (2:8-14). Secondly, it is a time of coming to grips with the potential problem areas of a couple’s relationship and establishing problem-solving procedures (2:15-17). Third, it is to be a time of seriously counting the cost of being married to this person (3:1-5).” – Dillow
12. How did Shulamith describe one of Solomon’s visits to her home in 2:8-10?
13. In 2:11-14, what time of year does Solomon say it is? What does he want to do and why? Remember, that this seems to be prior to their marriage, so what is being described here would be in keeping with Shulamith’s warning to the chorus in 2:7.

Reflection #5 – The Little Foxes (2:15-17)

14. According to 2:15, what might Shulamith have seen while on their walk? What does she use them to illustrate? Cf. Neh. 4:3; Ezek. 13:4.
15. Returning to an idea already mentioned in 1:7 (Solomon as the shepherd of Israel), what did she ask him to do, and how quickly did she ask him to do it?

Thought Questions:

1. As we see Solomon and Shulamith in the bridal chamber (1:15-2:7), what Biblical principles do you see them using as they praise and enjoy one another? What worldly principles are absent? Please include verses. (Consider 1 Cor. 13:4-7.)
2. As we read of Solomon and Shulamith taking a spring-time walk around her home during their courtship, what did we see them doing/not doing? Using the courtship and engagement to get to know the other person in a non-physical way is so important! What were some questions you asked your spouse prior to marriage, or should have asked? (Make sure to word these answers in a honorable way.=)
3. What do you find interesting about the two of them working on problems (“the little foxes”) prior to marriage? What can we learn from this?