

Song of Songs

Intro: Today we come to the 23rd book of the bible, the Song of songs...

A. Solomon seems to be the author of this...whether this is biographical is kind of a mystery

B. This book was written about 900 years before Jesus

C. **A few things about the book** - Song of songs is a Hebrew idiom like King of kings or holy of holies. It essentially means of all the Solomon wrote this was the one that outshone them all

a) This book of the Bible was the favorite book of the Bible for Charles Spurgeon. You've heard me quote him countless times here. He preached in the 1800s in England. He was so prolific and so anointed and used by God. He was called 'The Prince of Preachers'.

b) It was also the favorite book of the Bible for D. L. Moody, the famous American evangelist in the 1800s.

c) It's the favorite book of the Bible for Hudson Taylor, the great missionary who pioneered mission work into the interior of China.

d) This book may be the most unique of the books of the Bible.

D. **Whats the theme of the book** - Love and intimacy - These are poems between a man and woman

E. **How should we read this book?** - Their are differing views

1. **Some say Avoid it all together** - A guy named Origen, one of the early church fathers was a significant figure in the early church as a teacher and theologian. And listen to what he said of The Song of Solomon – "I advise and counsel everyone who is not yet rid of

vexations of the flesh and blood, and has not ceased to feel the passions of this bodily nature, to refrain from reading the book, and the things will be said about it.”

- a) Apparently felt that he was in a good space to study *The Song of Solomon* because he had castrated himself as a young man. So he wasn't even in that position.
2. **Others embrace this book as an allegory describing the love relationship between God and His people.**
3. **It's best to take It literally as a powerful description of Sensual love between a Husband and a Wife But it's always important to remember that a believers relationship with Jesus is spoken of in scripture as a marriage as well**
- (1) *We are the bride and He is the bridegroom*
 - (2) *Marriage was created by God with the intention reflection our Relationship with Jesus*
 - (3) *2 Corinthians 11:2 (ESV) ² For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.*
 - (4) *Ephesians 5:25–27 (ESV) ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.*
- F. **The flow of the book** - *The flow of the book is that it has no flow... It's just snap shots in the lives of 2 people who love each other and desire each other...but it's not in chronological order*
- 1. *It's like looking back at photos on your iPhone...their random... but there still powerful*

G. The characters of the book - *There's really 2 Main characters*

1. *There's the young maiden, the Shulamite.*
2. *There's the young man, Solomon, the Beloved.*
 - (1) *Some people take real issue with this being Solomon - because scripture tells us he has 700 hundred wives and 300 concubines*
 - (2) *The Song of Solomon surely does not reflect the big picture of Solomon's life...but by inspiration of the Holy Spirit Solomon captures and conveys the beauty and glory of romantic and sensual love in a monogamous relationship of marriage. Tragically for Solomon the ideal never endured in the fabric of his personal life.*
 - (3) *“Solomon was not the first, nor the last wise man that lived as a fool when it came to romance and sexuality.”*

H. How does this book speak to us? - *This book give us insights as to how we can express love in marriage, both physically and emotionally...Most of us here are or will be married at some time in our lives...This book gives us an Idea of what the desire portion of the marriage should look like...*

I. Our plan tonight:

1. *We're gonna see good examples*
2. *We're gonna some warnings*
3. *We're gonna see how this books speaks to us about Jesus*

I. We're gonna see good examples

Their must be Attraction...

*Song of Solomon 1:1–3 (ESV) ¹ The Song of Songs, which is Solomon's. ² Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! **For your love is better than wine;** ³ your anointing oils are fragrant; your name is oil poured out; therefore virgins love you. ⁴ **Draw me after you; let us run...***

- A. Here we see the necessity of attraction...She says there are things about his outside that I'm attracted too - His lips - His scent...
- B. But **Notice she's also attracted to the inside - His love...draw me after you** - Out of all the things you could be attracted too, this is by far the most important
 - 1. A good name is better than fine ointment
 - 2. John.M "People are born pretty...but they have to become beautiful...It's a choice"

There will always be Baggage...

*Song of Solomon 1:5–7 (ESV) ⁵ I am very dark, but lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem, like the tents of Kedar, like the curtains of Solomon. ⁶ **Do not gaze at me because I am dark, because the sun has looked upon me.** My mother's sons were angry with me; they made me keeper of the vineyards, but my own vineyard I have not kept!*

She essentially says, "Don't look at me. I'm really not beautiful." And the reason she doesn't think she's beautiful is because of the way she's been treated. She's like the stepsister out working while her siblings were in the house. on them. In Solomon's day, for a woman to be dark skinned was an emotional beat down

A. Many people have a sense of Ugliness because of their past and the way they have been treated...they have Value issues, self esteem issues, insecurity issues which can take a long time to work through...

Solomon could have said "Get over it already!" but look at how he responds to her...But look at how he responds...

Song of Solomon 1:8–10 (ESV) ⁸ If you do not know, O most beautiful among women, follow in the tracks of the flock, and pasture your young goats beside the shepherds' tents. ⁹ I compare you, my love, to a mare among Pharaoh's chariots. ¹⁰ Your cheeks are lovely with ornaments, your neck with strings of jewels.

He says "just in case you didn't know, you're the most beautiful among all women...in fact, if you were all horses they would be battle horses and you would be the beautiful filly that belongs to the king"

He continues...

Song of Solomon 1:15 (ESV) ¹⁵ Behold, you are beautiful, my love; behold, you are beautiful; your eyes are doves.

Later on he just goes crazy with the encouragement...

Song of Solomon 4:1–7 (ESV) ¹ Behold, you are beautiful, my love, behold, you are beautiful! Your eyes are doves behind your veil. Your hair is like a flock of goats leaping down the slopes of Gilead. ² Your teeth are like a flock of shorn ewes that have come up from the washing, all of which bear twins, and not one among them has lost its young.

Now these things were culturally appropriate for the time and location, but to us this sounds horrific...I find this funny, because have you ever tried to give a compliment that sounded so good in your mind then came out your mouth just sounds like an insult...

³ Your lips are like a scarlet thread, and your mouth is lovely.

uh...maybe

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Your cheeks are like halves of a pomegranate behind your veil. ⁴ Your neck is like the tower of David, built in rows of stone; on it hang a thousand shields, all of them shields of warriors.

No...

⁷ You are altogether beautiful, my love; there is no flaw in you.

Here's what He's trying to do, He's trying to get her to see herself the way he sees her...

And guess what...She believes him

Song of Solomon 2:1 (ESV) ¹ I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.

Song of Solomon 2:4 (ESV) ⁴ He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.

She's saying "He's so relentlessly poured out love upon me...that he hasn't given me a choice in the matter...His banner of me is love"

*B. **Here's the point:** For those of you who are in a relationship, whether you're married or dating, remember this time is short, games are stupid, and words are powerful...use them to build up your spouse*

C. Now they should always be accompanied by actions...but use words of encouragement while you can...

II. A warning

Song of Solomon 2:7 (ESV) ⁷ I adjure you, 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 is something she reiterates to her friends 3 times...now, there were some commentators, they tried to make this say that this is really saying,

“Look, please don’t interrupt us while we’re having sex.” I’m looking at this; and I’m just reading. Hebrew scholars translated it. And I’m looking at this. And what I see is this woman and she’s simply saying ladies i’m begin you to understand that their is a time and place for this type of love...but don’t get it out of order...Don’t stimulate love prematurely...Don’t make a relationship move too fast

A. The times we live in:

1. **Some say sex is just a natural appetite:** they say “sex used to be surrounded by all these taboos but we have moved past that to see that it’s just an appetite that needs to be satisfied like hunger or thirst
2. **Others would say that sex is a way to find out who you really are:** it’s your path to fulfillment and satisfaction...it’s main goal is to be pleasing to you

B. What does God says about it - ³¹ “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

1. **Notice the particular order:** God says first theres a “holding fast”...then their a “becoming one flesh” - that’s important, because first theres a joining of lives...then a joining of flesh
2. “The word “one” is echad in Hebrew...when echad is set alongside the word flesh, it essentially means “**fused together at the deepest levels.**”
3. Understand “**one flesh**” means more then sex: when we hear one flesh we think body, but it it means more then just the physical... do you remember when God spoke to the prophet Joel and he told him he would pour out his spirit upon all flesh (Joel 2:24) He wasn’t just speaking about our bodies...He was speaking about every part of us...thats how you should see “one flesh” here...it’s no less sex...but so much more then sex

- a) **Here's the point:** *God is not prudish, He created sex - Sex was given to us by God for pleasure - connection - multiplication - according to the Bible, a covenant is necessary for sex. It creates a place of security for vulnerability and intimacy.*
- (1) *Those things are to be enjoyed someone who has stood before you, your family, and God and promised themselves to you completely*
 - (2) **Sex outside of marriage is odd and destructive:** *because you are joining yourself with that person...and that's a piece of yourself you can't get back...You're attached forever to that person...even if they want nothing to do with you...If you do this too much you will eventually deplete yourself*
 - (3) **"But we're getting married, so sex should be alright right?":***all that means is they care about their own personal gratification above you and your well being*
- C. **Here's the point:** *Don't awaken love before it pleases...don't let culture articulate that which God has given us clear instruction on...*
1. *This starts when you're single - What you watch - who you allow to speak your life - what you listen to...walk with wisdom...*
 2. *This continues into marriage...*

Here's one more warning...

Song of Solomon 2:15 (ESV) ¹⁵ Catch the foxes for us, the little foxes that spoil the vineyards, for our vineyards are in blossom."

Here's a little bit of advice for those of you who are dating or wanting to... deal with the little things today before they become big things tomorrow...

- A. **App:** *Relationships fix nothing about you - who you are as a single person is who you will be as a married person...deal with those things now*

III.How does this point to Jesus?

The song of Solomon is all about this young women who was loved deeply by the inspire of her past baggage...not think about Jesus

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

In other words, he says, "Get ready, because I'm going to tell you all the blessings that belong to you if you're a believer in the LORD Jesus Christ."

⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world,

Jesus chose us...before I could do anything to deserve His salvation

- A. Before I could anything to earn His love, He says "I loved you first"

that we should be holy and blameless before him...

He chose us with the purpose...And that purpose was to make us holy and blameless...And, guys, I'm just telling you – the young Shulamite woman paints such an epic picture of reality in regards to how great Jesus is, and what He's done for us.

Remember she says, "Don't look at me. I am not attractive."

- A. How do we become holy and blameless?...Is there some Christian hoops that we're to jump through to become holy, to become blameless, to be appealing to the LORD?
- B. **The answer is** – No! We become holy and blameless by what our king did for us on the cross. God looked down on us, and He said, "I want that one. I want him. I want her. But they're not holy; they're not

blameless. And I can't have that one; I can't have that guy; I can't have that woman, unless he's holy, unless she's holy and blameless. So here's what I'm to do. I'm going to send my Son, my only Son, who is sinless, holy and blameless. And He's going to be bear the weight of all of their sin. I'm going to take everything that's ugly about them; and I'm going to lay it all on Jesus. And He'll wash them from their sin with His blood so that they can be holy and blameless, and have a relationship with me."

In love, ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

What's so great about Jesus? Well, because of Jesus I'm no longer an orphan in this world!

⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

because of Jesus I'm accepted by the God whom I had so horribly and utterly betrayed!

And here's the grand finale!

¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

In other words, guys – There's coming a day when all of us who have put our faith in Jesus are going to be gathered together in Christ for all of eternity.

Conclusion:

Here's the deal with song of Solomon, it truly is filled with powerful imagery concerning the a man and a woman, but as you grow in maturity as a believer something almost magical happens... You start see the Love of Jesus in the way this groom loved this bride... You see that sees me at my best when I'm at my worst and it invokes in us confidence to say "I am my beloved and He is mine...and His banner over me is Love"

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