



April 15, 2018

“Marital Love”

Song of Solomon 3 – 8

Pastor Gary Hamrick

In the second of three messages from Song of Solomon, Pastor Gary highlights the romantic relationship between Solomon and the Shulammitte woman, which progressed from courtship to marriage to sexual intimacy (in that order!). Sex is a gift from God to be enjoyed by a husband and a wife in a monogamous, heterosexual relationship. The description of the intimate encounter that followed their wedding ceremony is the subject of Pastor Gary’s teaching.

Historical Background

1. In the first few chapters of this book, we are introduced to this couple during their courtship, which is more than what we would call a dating relationship.
2. In their time courtship was a time of preparation for marriage.
3. Marriages at this time were entered into by the parents of the bride and groom.
4. This situation was different because Solomon was the King of Israel, so he was able choose his bride without any family involvement.

Celebration And Consummation

5. [Song of Solomon 3:6-11](#) describes the processional as Solomon came for his bride.
 - a. Solomon was accompanied by 60 groomsmen, who were dressed in full military regalia and accoutrements.
 - b. Solomon made the carriage himself!
 - i. [Song of Solomon 3:9-10](#) - *“King Solomon made for himself the*

carriage; he made it of wood from Lebanon. Its posts he made of silver, its base of gold. Its seat was upholstered with purple, its interior lovingly inlaid by the daughters of Jerusalem."

- c. The Bible doesn't include a description of the wedding ceremony, but as chapter three concludes, it's inferred that the reception has ended.
 - d. Pastor Gary said, "The celebration [was] over, the wedding guests [had] left, the food had all been eaten, [and] the rice had been thrown..."
6. Pastor Gary said: "[Now in] chapter four they are ready to consummate their marriage. [The] first 15 verses of chapter four are foreplay. [Solomon initiated it, he was patient, he was tender, he didn't rush things, and] he made her feel beautiful and safe with him."
7. Pastor Gary commented on the difference between most men and most women, when he said that most men are like light switches, which are either "on or off," and that most women are like crockpots, because they take longer to heat up!
8. Pastor Gary commented on the fact that the language Solomon used was appropriate to that time, and that the words he used to describe his bride were meant to explain how beautiful his bride was to him.
- a. **Song of Solomon 4:1c** - *"Your hair is like a flock of goats descending from Mount Gilead."*
 - i. Solomon used imagery for the way the long black hair of goats would flow as they descended a hillside.
 - b. **Song of Solomon 4:2** - *"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."*
 - i. Solomon commented on the fact that he noticed how white her teeth were.
 - c. **Song of Solomon 4:3a** - *"Your lips are like a scarlet ribbon; your mouth is lovely."*
 - i. Pastor Gary commented on the fact that Solomon was about to kiss his bride.
 - d. **Song of Solomon 4:3b** - *"Your temples behind your veil are like the halves of a pomegranate."*
 - i. The Hebrew word for temples can also be translated, cheeks, which indicates that she was blushing.
 - e. **Song of Solomon 4:4** - *"Your neck is like the tower of David, built with elegance; on it hang a thousand shields, all of them shields of warriors."*
 - i. Solomon remarked about elegant she was, and how she carried herself with strength and character.
 - ii. He commented on her necklace.
 - f. **Song of Solomon 4:5** - *"Your two breasts are like two fawns, like twin*

- fawns of a gazelle that browse among the lilies.*"
- i. Solomon saw his bride as being innocent and attractive like young deer.
 - g. **Song of Solomon 4:8** - *"Come with me from Lebanon, my bride, come with me from Lebanon."*
 - i. This is a reference to the distance they have kept themselves apart sexually.
 - h. **Song of Solomon 4:12** - *"You are a garden locked up, my sister, my bride; you are a spring enclosed, a sealed fountain."*
 - i. This is a reference to her virginity.
 - ii. Pastor Gary said: "Don't stumble on '*my sister, my bride,*' [because] that's just an affectionate term that expresses permanence in the relationship."
 - i. **Song of Solomon 4:15** - *"You are a garden fountain, a well of flowing water streaming down from Lebanon."*
 - i. Pastor Gary said: "Again, this is poetic language [used] to describe the fact that she is now sexually ready to receive him. She has physically responded to him."
 - j. **Song of Solomon 4:16** - *"Awake, north wind, and come, south wind! Blow on my garden, that its fragrance may spread abroad. Let my love come into his garden and taste its choice fruits."*
 - i. Pastor Gary said: "She [invited] him to have sex with her [and they consummated the marriage]."
9. Pastor Gary said: "[Sex] is a gift from God to be enjoyed between a husband and a wife in a monogamous, heterosexual marriage. And, he has given it in this way... not just for procreation... but also for pleasure, [oneness, love, and coming together in a very private, intimate, and exclusive way]. I often get asked this question from time to time: 'What is allowed in the bedroom between Christians, two consenting adults - husband and wife - [in] a heterosexual marriage, [that] is under the headship of Christ? ... [I believe what would be allowed is anything that doesn't dishonor God, brings you closer together, and is of mutual consent]. And, if not mutually agreed upon, then it should be avoided. That said, the bedroom is never to be a place where one spouse tries to either control, manipulate, or punish [their spouse]. The Bible speaks against [this]. [Sometimes this] is a weapon that people will use [to deprive their spouse] of sexual intimacy..."
- a. **Hebrews 13:4** - *"Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral."*
 - b. **1 Corinthians 7:3-5** - *"The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body*

does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.”

Aggravation And Reconciliation

10. **Song of Solomon 5:2-6** provides a description of a couple in marital conflict!
 - a. Pastor Gary provided a modern-day understanding of their conflict.
 - i. He had been away from home a long time, and he finally came home late at night.
 - ii. She locked the door and went to bed because she was tired of waiting for him to come home.
 - iii. She finally opened the door and found that he got tired of waiting and left.
11. Pastor Gary said: “You know how a lot of arguments [happen] because of legitimate needs that each person has that go unmet? ... [He didn’t feel respected and she didn’t feel loved!] We need to have a lot of forgiveness and grace in marriage.”
12. Pastor Gary said: “Fight fair, [and] reconcile rapidly.”

Affirmation And Dedication

13. **Song of Solomon 8:5-7** provides a description of a couple committed to each other in marriage.
 - a. Pastor Gary provided a modern-day understanding of their affirmation and dedication to each other.
 - i. Her friends see them returning their honeymoon.
 - ii. A seal was a sign to others that you belonged to someone.
 - iii. She declared that their love couldn’t easily be extinguished, and only death would separate them.
14. Pastor Gary said: “Now, everybody thinks [these things] at first when they get married. Nobody stands at an altar and thinks [about how they could possibly be divorced or have troubles in their marriage]. But marriages can have troubles and people do get divorced. I love their affirmation and dedication [to each other], if for no other reason than to remind us that no matter how long you’ve been married, you need to continue to affirm your love to your spouse, and to remind each other that you are in this for life. But, again, I’m mindful of the fact that it doesn’t always work out that way. ... But, shouldn’t we be at least willing to say,

‘As far as it depends on me in [my] marriage, [that] I’m going to affirm my spouse regularly, and I’m going to remind myself and [my spouse] that I’m in this for life...’ ”

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).