Sermon Notes & Study Guide

Song of Solomon 8

Human love is wonderful, but it was never meant to replace God's love.

Wesche, Claxton, and Waterman (2021) Journal of Sex Research
"Physical pleasure and emotional fulfillment are not the same thing. An experience can feel good in the moment without producing lasting emotional satisfaction."

God's love song:
"Do not awaken love until it pleases." (SoS 2:7; 3:5; 8:4)
"Love is as strong as death." (SoS 8:6)
"Let marriage be held in honor, and the bed undefiled." (Hebrews 13:4)

I. Long-term Relationships Maintain Desire. (1-5)
Oh that you were like a brother to me who nursed at my mother's breasts!
If I found you outside, I would kiss you, and none would despise me.
2 I would lead you and bring you into the house of my mother— she who used to teach
me. I would give you spiced wine to drink, the juice of my pomegranate.
3 His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me!
4 I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, that you not stir up or awaken love until it
pleases.
5 Who is that coming up from the wilderness, leaning on her beloved?
Under the apple tree I awakened you. There your mother was in labor with you; there
she who bore you was in labor.

Can We Influence Our Desires?
- Study 1: Directing your imagination (Langeslag & Davis, 2022)
- Study 2: Practicing habits that cultivate desire (Brotto et al., 2021)
- Study 3: New experiences together (Muise et al., 2019)

II. Long-term Relationships Surrender Ownership to each other (v.6-7)
6 Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death,
jealousy is fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the Lord.

7 Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If a man offered for love
all the wealth of his house, he would be utterly despised.

III. Long-term Relationships Maintain Purity (v.8-14)

Others

8 We have a little sister, and she has no breasts. What shall we do for our sister on the day when
she is spoken for?
9 If she is a **wall**, we will build on her a battlement of silver, but if she is a **door**,
we will enclose her with boards of cedar.

She

10 I was a wall, and my breasts were like towers; then I was in his eyes as one who finds peace.
11 Solomon had a **vineyard** at Baal-hamon; he let out the vineyard to keepers; each one was to
bring for its fruit a thousand pieces of silver.
12 My vineyard, my very own, is before me; you, O Solomon, may have the thousand, and the
keepers of the fruit two hundred.

He

13 O you who dwell in the gardens, with companions listening for your voice; let me hear it.

She

14 Make haste, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices.

"Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable." - C. S. Lewis

1 Kings 11:4

"...when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David."

Romans 8:38-39

38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor
powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other
created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus
our Lord.

Study Guide

- What did God speak to you this weekend?

Read Song of Solomon 8:1–5

- What can come between couples to sour their desire for each other?
- What desires can come between you and God in your relationship?
- Since we have the ability to cultivate our desires, what steps could you take in both of those relationships?

Read Song of Solomon 8:6–7

- What does it look like to surrender ownership to your spouse?
- How can you surrender ownership to Jesus?

Read Song of Solomon 8:8–14

- What is one step toward purity you could take in your marriage?
- What areas of life can tempt you away from Christ?
- What have you tried to substitute for God's love?