

Storybook Sex

Chapter 2: You're Getting Warmer

The Song of Solomon is one of the most confusing books in the Bible, and throughout history, Bible people have struggled with what to do about it. Most of the Bible is about God, Jesus, or the church, but this book seems to be about sex.

The book is basically a love story between two people – Solomon and The Shulamite woman. It's going to present sex as a good thing, even a God thing. Sex was created by God and it doesn't have to be dirty. We're going to pick up in chapter two where the couple continues with the compliments.

1 I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys. **2** As a lily among brambles, so is my love among the young women. **3** As an apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved among the young men. With great delight I sat in his shadow, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. **4** He brought me to the banquetting house, and his banner over me was love. **5** Sustain me with raisins; refresh me with apples, for I am sick with love. **6** His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me! **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.

In verse four, Solomon takes his girl to a banquet hall. This may mean that we should take our women out to nice dinners, but the idea here is that he's proud of her and wants to be seen in public with her. The banner mentioned here reminds us of the banners or flags that armies used to lead the army. If the army was victorious, they would march back into town, with the banner leading the way. Solomon's banner was not one of conquest, but a banner of love.

In verse five, she mentions raisin cakes. Raisins were thought to be an aphrodisiac...something that would get you in the mood. Maybe if you want to drop a hint to your spouse, you could leave Little Debbie crème pies all over the house.

Notice the position that's described in verse six. That's a position of love, or perhaps even a sexual position. This couple wants each other really bad.

But then notice verse seven. It says, "do not awaken love before it's time." Even though he wants her, he recognizes that he needs to wait. Even though they are attracted to each other and they are going to be together, it's not time. In other words, if you like it then you shoulda put a ring on it.

So here's the big idea: The best sex is with the right person at the right time.

- Who is the right person? Your spouse. The Bible is very clear...sex is a good thing, in fact it's a God thing, but it was created for marriage. **Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage. - Hebrews 13:4**
- When is the right time? After you're married. Not before. There are ton of Bible verses that teach this principle. Acts 15:20; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:13, 18; 10:8; 2 Corinthians 12:21; Galatians 5:19; Ephesians 5:3; Colossians 3:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Jude 7

This is a controversial principle in today's culture, because most people don't live this way. Culture teaches us that we take cars for test drives. Nobody these days is saving sex for marriage.

But where culture and God's Word don't agree, it's culture that is off base. God's Word has not changed, and we need to return to what he says. Even if culture laughs. Sex is a good thing, and God wants it to be a great thing, but in the proper place.

Here's an example that might help.

Fires are great when they are where they are supposed to be.

A fire in the fireplace is a good thing. You can sit around it and sip some hot chocolate in the winter. But if that fire gets out of the fireplace and into the living room, destruction is coming. A campfire is a good thing. You can roast some marshmallows or make S'mores. But if that fire does not stay where it's supposed to stay, it can create a blazing forest fire and destroy homes.

Sex is like that fire. When it's where it's supposed to be, it's a good thing. Even a God thing. But when it gets out of bounds, it can end up destroying relationships. The bottom line is that sex outside of marriage is not God's plan.

Let's get back to Song of Solomon.

8 The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes, leaping over the mountains, bounding over the hills. **9** My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Behold, there he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, looking through the lattice. **10** My beloved speaks and says to me: Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away, **11** for behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. **12** The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. **13** The fig tree ripens its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away. **14** O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the crannies of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely. **15** Catch the foxes for us, the little foxes that spoil the vineyards, for our vineyards are in blossom. **16** My beloved is mine, and I am his; he grazes among the lilies. **17** Until the day breathes and the shadows flee, turn, my beloved, be like a gazelle or a young stag on cleft mountains.

It's spring, and the couple is enjoying their new love. Flowers are blooming; the animals are running through the forest. It's like a Disney movie.

But then some little foxes come in and begin to nibble on the grape vines. The flowers are blooming and the vines are maturing, but these foxes will nip away at the blossoms and keep the fruit from maturing.

When I read about foxes, I think about Swiper, the little fox from Dora the Explorer. If you have preschoolers, you can relate. Swiper comes into the picture to swipe things, and when you see him on the screen, you yell "Swiper no swiping!"

If you ever wonder why grown men talk to the television sets during football games, it's because they learned this behavior during their childhood.

I think there are Swipers that want to come into your relationship and keep it from blossoming. There are little foxes that will nip away to keep your relationship from becoming all that God wants it to be.

Here are a few little foxes.

- Dating people that you would not marry. This may not be all that profound, but you are probably going to end up marrying someone that you date. So if you only date people that you would marry, you will not end up marrying someone that you shouldn't. Too many people date people just for fun or to fill some relational void. They know this isn't the kind of guy or girl that they would end up marrying, but they want to have a good time. Then they fall in love and the rest is history. Don't date people that you would not marry. If you are a Christian who loves Jesus, then you should only date Christians who love Jesus. Yes, this might cut down on your options, but you won't end up marrying someone who doesn't share the biggest part of your life...your faith! Dating someone you wouldn't marry is a little fox. Don't let it swipe your future.
- Communication. This is probably the #1 reason that married couples go to counseling. The biggest part of communication is listening, and in a relationship, we've got to be a good listener. We must be on the same page about things. If you fail to really communicate, then that little fox will nip away at your relationship.
- Flirting with people you're not married to. Affairs don't begin physically. They start out emotionally. It's that guy in the office who compliments you. It's the girl at work who validates you or thinks you're funny. Somewhere along the line, you move from communication to flirting, and you know your heart. This is a little fox that is going to destroy your relationship.
- Selfishness is focusing on getting instead of giving. And it's not God's plan. God wants us to have self-less relationships, not selfish relationships. When we start thinking of ourselves and over-concerning ourselves with our own happiness, we're headed in a dangerous direction. Selfishness is a little fox that will nip away at our relationship, and it can lead to resentment.

These are just a few of the little foxes that will destroy your marriage. If you're married, then sit down with your spouse and list the little foxes that are threatening you. Then decide what you're going to do about them.