

Storybook Sex, Part 3

The Wedding Day

People have been wounded by sex, but the church often doesn't want to talk about it because it's tense. It's uncomfortable, so many times, what we teach is incomplete. We hear THAT we should wait, but we never hear WHY. The Song of Solomon is a love story between two people, and it's got a lot to teach us about marriage, dating, and sex. In chapter three, the couple gets married.

Weddings are holy moments. Whether you get married in a church or a courthouse, it's a spiritual moment.

In Jewish culture, the couple would leave the honeymoon to go and consummate the marriage....then they would return to the party, which often lasted a week! Seems a little awkward to me....you take your bride into the bed chamber, and you're back on the dance floor a few minutes later. Some couples might be gone a long time, while other guys might have their new wives back in ten minutes. But that's another sermon.

Let's pick up the story in chapter 3.

6 What is that coming up from the wilderness like columns of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all the fragrant powders of a merchant?**7** Behold, it is the litter of Solomon! Around it are sixty mighty men, some of the mighty men of Israel,**8** all of them wearing swords and expert in war, each with his sword at his thigh, against terror by night.**9** King Solomon made himself a carriage from the wood of Lebanon.**10** He made its posts of silver, its back of gold, its seat of purple; its interior was inlaid with love by the daughters of Jerusalem.**11** Go out, O daughters of Zion, and look upon King Solomon, with the crown with which his mother crowned him on the day of his wedding, on the day of the gladness of his heart.

Did you notice the pillars of smoke? This would have reminded the people of God leading the nation of Israel out of Egyptian slavery with fire by night and a pillar of smoke by day. God brought this couple to the present. God is the author of this relationship; it wasn't forced by people. When we're willing to wait on God, we will experience his best.

Then check out the wedding party. The guy has 60 groomsmen. Those are a lot of pictures! And these guys all have swords.

Strong men protect women. I know culture teaches women to be independent and that they don't need protecting, but there is something honorable about men protecting women.

Likewise, it's weak men that lay their hands on women to harm them. Ladies, if some guy is hitting or hurting you, then we have a group of men that will come "talk" to that guy. We've got a whole ministry called "beat the crap out of you."

Too many men are strong at work but weak at home. Guys can be creative, passionate, energetic leaders at work, but when they come home, they are tired. Guys, fight for your ladies.

In verse 11, we see Solomon's mom with a crown...a sign of approval. The Bible says "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." - Genesis 2:24. Leaving and cleaving requires maturity from the couple and the parents. You might marry into a family, but you don't marry a family. That's an important distinction.

Some parents need to let their kids go. She may always be your little baby, but you need to treat her like an adult. Some married couples have left the house of their mom or dad, but they haven't really left the home.

The story moves to the honeymoon in chapter 4. He starts off with some compliments.

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.**3** Your lips are like a scarlet thread, and your mouth is lovely. 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.**5** Your two breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle, that graze among the lilies.**6** Until the day breathes and the shadows flee, I will go away to the mountain of myrrh and the hill of frankincense.**7** You are altogether beautiful, my love; there is no flaw in you.**8** Come with me from Lebanon, my bride; come with me from Lebanon. Depart from the peak of Amana, from the peak of Senir and Hermon, from the dens of lions, from the mountains of leopards.

The compliments here are important, because sex is thinking and feeling, not just physical. He says her skin is fair (she complained that it was dark in chapter 1, so he's addressing her insecurities). He compliments her teeth (4:2), saying that each one has its pair. In Tennessee, that's a big accomplishment.

He compliments her lips (4:3), her neck (standing tall...there's no shame here), and her breasts (4:5). He says her breasts are like two fawns. I'm not sure that comparing her breasts to furry creatures is a great strategy, but apparently, it worked. Maybe Solomon was picturing those baby deer in the petting zoo.

Do you see the direction of Solomon's compliments? He's working his way down her body. Eyes, teeth, lips, cheeks, breasts...I'll let you use your imagination to figure out what the hill is (4:6)

What's the deal with the Tower of David? David's men would hang their shields all over this tower during a time of peace...they were prepared for war, but currently enjoying peace. That's a great picture of marriage. At any moment, we will go to war to fight for our marriage, but we live in peace.

Let's read a little more...

9 You have captivated my heart, my sister, my bride; you have captivated my heart with one glance of your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace.**10** How beautiful is your love, my sister, my bride! How much better is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your oils than any

spice!**11** Your lips drip nectar, my bride; honey and milk are under your tongue; the fragrance of your garments is like the fragrance of Lebanon.**12** A garden locked is my sister, my bride, a spring locked, a fountain sealed.**13** Your shoots are an orchard of pomegranates with all choicest fruits, henna with nard,**14** nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense, myrrh and aloes, with all choice spices--**15** a garden fountain, a well of living water, and flowing streams from Lebanon.

Verse twelve says that she was a locked garden. This means that she was a virgin when they were married. She knew that the best sex was with the right person at the right time, so she was willing to wait.

The section ends with verse 16, a simple exclamation to "wake up!" No more "do not awaken" talk like in the chapter before. Now it's time to wake up and get going.

This woman knew that the right time (after you're married) + the right person (your spouse) = ultimate enjoyment. There's no back seats, secrets, guilt or shame. When you go God's way, you'll have the best experience.