

Song of Songs: Song of Commitment

Song of Songs 8:1-7

This Semester, we're studying the Song of Songs to see how the melody of a relationship can present the message of the Gospel. This week, we're looking at the role of commitment in our relationships and how the Gospel is reflected in their permanence rather than their perfection.

Read: Song of Songs 8:6-7

Marriage feels like a foreign concept... because it is! Marriage was created by God in Genesis 2 as the way to bring permanent unity to a man and a woman who need reconciliation with one another

The Truth is...

- We don't see marriage as permanent or necessary – We've all seen marriages fall apart & we've all seen couples decide they don't need marriage to know they're committed to one another – and even Christian marriages are broken, so why marriage?

This Semester...

- We've been studying the Song of Songs to better understand God's design for relationships. Just as a song has a melody and a message, God created relationships to function the same way. We don't want to just pursue great relationships, we want to pursue Godly relationships that sing His beautiful song over the broken noise of our world! We want to see how the melody of a relationship can reflect the message of the Gospel!
- We've discussed How to reflect God in our attraction, How to reflect God in our pursuit, How reflect God in relationships, and How to reflect God in sex? Last two weeks, we discussed how the conflict and resolution every relationship inevitably faces can be another reflection of the Gospel!
- If you've missed any, easiest access is through our Grace APP

This Morning...

- We're wrapping up the series by looking at the end of the book & seeing how we reflect the Gospel in our Marriages – in our Commitment

Delighting in Love – v1-4

- Read: v1-4 – The woman describes her passion for the man & warns against rushing love AGAIN! But this time, she finally explains why...

Declaring Their Commitment – v6a

- Read: v6a – The woman wants the man to give himself over to her & put her seal (stamp or roll) on his heart and arm – signifying his commitment in desires & actions; inner & outer
 - Ex: Aggies bleed maroon & wear rings
 - She's describing marriage – when you proclaim to family, friends, the government, and God that you're committed to each other
 - This is why commitment outside marriage never stacks up – there's always a back door.
He/she might say "u kno u my whole world" but the relationship can end in a text message
 - Marriage is leaving your parents, clinging to one another, becoming one flesh in the eyes of God & Man
 - Marriage is NOT telling each other you're committed so now it's cool to sleep together
 - And when this commitment is made, you unlock the full beauty of what love can offer...

Describing Complete Love – v6b-7

- Read: v6b – it's as permanent & possessive as death -
 - Rushed – permanent jealousy is creepy

- In Marriage Commitment – it creates security & confidence in the fact this person will be there tomorrow
 - Ex: Tom Nelson cutting his arm off – When my arm acts up, I don't cut it off, I try to fix it! It's part of my body!
- Read: v6c – it's as powerful as fire
 - Rushed – misdirected passion burns
 - In Marriage Commitment – passion leaves an impression
- Read: v7a – it's unquenchable
 - Rushed – overwhelming neediness
 - In Marriage Commitment – always excitement & change
 - Ex: Always having wife by my side at everything from funerals to childbirth class
- But what about when there's too much change?
 - What about when he starts acting like this? Or she won't support me in that? Or we don't connect like we did back then? Or when that person isn't the man/woman I married!
 - Your commitment is ultimately to God, who never changes
 - Your commitment is not based on the actions of the other person, it's based on the actions of Jesus Christ
 - Read: Eph 5.31-32
 - It's a covenant, not a contract
 - You leave your wife when Christ abandons the church
 - Read: John 10.27-29

In the mean time...

- You focus on your single maturity before you worry about your married status – Godly singles become Godly spouses
 - If that guy/girl isn't following the God you're following, don't even think about committing yourself to him/her
- Remember: We're attracted to a person's name and we pursue that person in a way that is positive and protective. One day, we hunt foxes with that person realizing that God uses broken people for his purposes. We see sex as a unity reserved for marriage. We respond to God in the midst of conflict and we seek reconciliation after conflict.
- And when we fail, we remember: Love is Complete in Commitment & God's Love for us is more Complete than we can imagine -
 - Read: Romans 8.38-39
- When we fail, we remember: Our relationships aren't a reflection of the Gospel because they're Perfect, they're a reflection because they're Permanent
 - Imagine if all Christians truly Committed in Marriage!

[1] 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.

[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.

(Song of Solomon 8:1-7 ESV)

[8] For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, [9] not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

(Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV)

[27] My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. [28] I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. [29] My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

(John 10:27-29 ESV)

[38] For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, [39] nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 8:38-39 ESV)

[31] "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." [32] This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.
(Ephesians 5:31-32 ESV)