

"Song of Solomon ~ The Wedding" [10 – 8 – 06]

Drama

The wedding is finally here!

- In chapter 1 we learned about godly attraction
- In chapter 2 God gives us practical guidelines & standards for dating
- In chapter 3 Solomon's wedding day has finally arrived;

But before we take a closer look @ the events surrounding the wedding day; let's 1st pay attention to Solomon's last piece of advice for dating.

(R) Song of Solomon 3:5 or p. 513 in pew Bible

v. 5b " ...do not awaken love until the time is right."

Impatience is a destructive force!

- I learned *this principle* this summer while taking an educational tour with my family in the wine country of Napa Valley.
 - No matter how fertile the soil; how perfect the climate; or how productive the vines;
 - The fruit of the vineyard will not be ready until several months after small clusters of grapes 1st appear.
 - Harvested too early, the grapes are not yet sweet enough for good wine.
 - So an early harvest brought by impatience will be a bitter one.

 - Solomon & the princess are convinced their sexual love must be an expression of mature love w/in the context of marriage.
 - To rush this experience of the physical – sexual union is to create an unnecessary experience of bitterness!
- Illustration: *Safe sex*
Teenage boy & his grandfather went fishing one day; while fishing the grandfather begins reflecting about how much times have changed.
 - His grandson picks up on this & starts talking about the various problems & sexually transmitted diseases going around his high school.
 - Finally, he musters up courage to ask his grandfather a tough question;
 - "Grandpa, they didn't have a whole lot of problems with all the diseases when you were young did they?"
 - Grandpa replies, "NOPE."
 - The teen says, "Well what you guys use for safe sex?"
 - Grandpa did not miss a beat, "a wedding ring." 😊

2nd chances in God's economy;

- There is GRACE for those of us who have “messed up” – “missed the mark!”
 - Some of you live in overwhelming guilt & shame from the past; this is *not God's plan* for your life!
 - Bible says, “...for all have sinned & fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3: 23
- Every last one of us needs grace (including me) no chance w/out Jesus' blood!
- Would be a great day for a new start – no feeling like it in the world!

So, when are you ready to date & eventually marry? (Quick check-list)

1. 1st, when you do not have to compromise any aspect of your relationship w/God in order to be w/the person to whom you are attracted.
2. 2nd, when you are willing to be single rather than to make a bad choice of a marriage partner.
3. 3rd, you are ready to date and marry when you are becoming the person that your ideal mate is praying about meeting.

Back to the text;

God desires that you have the [most pure & satisfying] marriage possible;

Here are (5) hallmarks of a great wedding ~ how to get started correctly;
If you are already married; not too late to make some adjustments!

The 1st mark of a great wedding is a...

- I. Divine Appointment
 - A. (R) Song of Solomon 3: 6
 - B. Who is this sweeping in from the deserts “like a cloud of smoke?”
 - Ancient Hebrews would have understood this reference to the wandering of the children of Israel in the wilderness; led by the Spirit of God who manifested Himself in the form of a pillar of cloud by day & pillar of fire by night.
 - The wedding was a holy moment – a divine appointment
 - They openly recognized that God was the “author” of their relationship & also they would trust Him to be the “finisher” of their relationship!
 - Your wedding vows are *so much more* than a legal transaction.

- The word sacrament means literally “sacred moment;” God is actually present for this “sacred moment.”
- Malachi 2: 14 says, “...the Lord witnessed the vows you & your wife made to each other on your wedding day when you were young.”
- It is a moment in which God is fully present as the foremost witness!

The most important part of any wedding ceremony is the intent of both individual’s regarding marriage; if you are thinking;

- Well, I want to get married, but if this doesn’t work out as I hope it will, I will bail out
- I love this woman & I want to be with her as long as our love last 😊
- I’m not sure whether a person can be faithful to another person all his or her life, but I’ll be faithful as long as I can be = you are not ready to marry.
 - You desire a sexual affair – not a marriage!

A great wedding should also have a...

II. Supportive Atmosphere

- A. (R) Song of Solomon 3: 7 – 8
- B. Solomon did not go to his wedding alone – he took (60) of his best troops from the Israeli Special Forces for protection!
- C. *Can you imagine* how a young woman would feel as he came up the aisle @ the wedding ceremony to find that her husband-to-be had (60) groomsmen, all fully armed with .44 magnums ready to use them if anyone tried to disturb the wedding 😊
 - She would have to feel safe [I’m protected]

MEN – protecting our families is our God-given responsibilities; eternally indebted to Coach Bill from “Promise Keepers.”

(3) goals of a godly man

1. Praise & honors God daily; in my thoughts, words, & deeds
2. Honors & respect his wife; loving her as Christ loved His church; providing for needs
3. Spiritually protects his family; by interceding in prayer for their needs; establishing the word of God as our home’s final authority!

A great wedding is marked by...

III. Strength

- A. (R) Song of Solomon 3: 9 – 10
- B. Everything about these verses speaks of strength & being established
 - Solomon was “solid”
 - Cedars of Lebanon; the costly material of silver, gold & royal purple indicates that Solomon was not flying from the seat of his pants; *he was ready to provide for his new bride!*

A great wedding also has...

IV. Parental Approval

- A. (R) Song of Solomon 3: 11

B. Symbolism from antiquity

- Solomon’s mother crowned him with the wedding crown that a royal groom would wear in those days.
 - It was a sign of her approval that he was marrying a woman she valued & would love as a daughter.
 - It was also a sign to the general public that he would be leaving his parent’s home and making a home of his own.
 - A genuine embracing of Genesis 2: 24,

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother & be joined to his wife, & they shall become one flesh.”

Practical tips to consider before saying, “I DO.”

- If you are uncomfortable around the family members of your beloved; take this as a warning of troubled waters ahead.
 - Pray to discover the reasons for your lack of comfort!
 - What unresolved issues are lurking just under the surface?
 - Don’t rush – what’s the hurry; I’ve never heard someone say – I should have gotten married sooner!

A final mark of a great wedding is it should be a...

V. Day of Splendor

A. Solomon's wedding day was a day of pure splendor;

- Things had been done right order; (2) lives were joined as one spiritually & emotionally!
- This is what God wants for you = fruit of spiritual oneness!

B. Another wedding you don't want to miss!

- (R) Revelation 19: 5 – 9 or p. 960 in your pew Bible [there has to be more]
- Are you ready for the wedding of the Lamb?
- What's needed to attend?
 1. Clean heart = Psalm 51: 10, *"Create in me a clean heart, o God. Renew a right spirit within me."*
 - a. What makes my heart clean?
 - b. (R) Romans 5: 6 – 10 or p. 860 in your pew Bible
- Where & when can I pick my invitation up for Jesus' wedding?

TODAY – humbly confess your sins & receive & ask Jesus to be the Lord of your life!

A great day to repent – clean start!

Need a church family – we would be honored to have you come and join our family!