

“Song of Solomon ~ Deepening Love” [10-29-06]

Video [Finishing strong]

He got to spend 10 more yrs. taking care of his sweetheart Muriel; in a letter to friends Robertson wrote, “*For 55 yrs. Muriel was flesh of my flesh, bone of my bone. So it’s like a ripping of my flesh & deeper ~ my very bones; But there is also profound gratitude for (10) yrs. I’ve delighted in recalling happy. I still do. No regrets. I’m grateful.*”

What was their secret to lasting romance?

Ladies, can you imagine your husband saying after (45) yrs. of marriage; “*It’s not that I have to take care of her, it’s that I get too!*”

This type of faithful commitment is completely foreign to our culture.

Country music theologian Johnny Cash summarizes best the world’s view on the *possibility of passion lasting beyond the honeymoon* in his song “Jackson.”

“*We got married in a fever – hotter than a pepper sprout; we’ve been talking about Jackson ever since the fire went out!*”

According to the world’s view = strong passionate flames of romance & intimacy eventually die down into smoldering thoughts of *what use to be* ☹

This perception is *completely contrary* to what the Bible teaches; God intends for your *passion & love life to deepen* as you grow older together!

Song of Solomon is an amazing (3,000 yr. old book)

- [chapter 1 & 2] teach us “*how to date*”
- [chapter 3 & 4] describe a God-honoring “*wedding & honeymoon*”
- [chapter 5 & 6] teach us “*how to fight cleanly*”
- [chapter 7 & 8] teach us “*how to deepen our marital relationship*”

(R) Song of Solomon 7 or p. 515 in pew Bible

The text picks up years after the Honeymoon; what Marriage & Family therapists refer to as the middle yrs. of marriage!

This morning we will learn that God’s plan for us is not to only survive these yrs. between the honeymoon & the grave; *But to [actually thrive] w/bride of your youth!*

Let’s Pray [Father, please teach us to renew & deepen our passion for our spouse]

Pay attention to these timeless biblical principles that insure our marital relationships grow stronger through-out the years!

1st principle we observe today is...

I. Intimate knowledge deepens...

A. (R) Song of Solomon 7: 1a

1. “O *queenly maiden*” – Notice how the Shulamite’s position has [now changed] from a *lowly migrant worker to royalty!*
2. [Question] do you think she now carries her self differently?

B. ← ← Story of “10 cows”

How you view your spouse is directly related to how they view their value!

C. “How beautiful are your sandaled feet”

1. Solomon’s intimate knowledge of his wife has now deepened
2. (In antiquity) sandals were worn by only those who were trusted to leave the confines of a home or palace.
 - a. Slaves were [kept barefoot]
 - b. & so were the women in the harems of wealthy or powerful men
3. Solomon deeply trusted the Shulamite to come & go from his presence; he had [total faith she would behave] in an honorable manner away from him!

Proverbs 31: 11 tells us, “*The heart of her husband safely trusts her.*”

4. Her feet had become beautiful throughout the yrs. to him [trust & loyalty]

D. Sustaining attraction w/my bride...

1. [early on] noticed her pretty brown eyes & she looked nice in her Levi’s
2. [now] keeps herself in beautiful shape – even notice her lovely hair today
 - a. [early on] attracted to her great personality – she loved to laugh
 - b. [now] notice her self-less nature – very generous – great hostess

Throughout the yrs. God has allowed me to notice qualities about my wife that I somehow missed in my early days of marriage.

E. (R) Song of Solomon 7: 1b

1. “*rounded thighs*” = Solomon notices her (hips still look nice)
2. After all those babies; she still looks nice in her Levi’s ☺
3. Wives in Solomon’s time did not wear bikinis to the beach
 - a. A woman’s body belonged exclusively to her husband & his pleasure alone.
 - b. No man other than her husband ever saw her upper legs & tummy
4. Notice Solomon’s perspective = *never mentioned a single flaw in his bride!*

F. (R) Song of Solomon 7: 2

1. Good Gentile man in Central Indiana this statement could be confusing; it’s never good to tell a woman it looks like she has eaten a loaf of bread ☺
2. Hebrew audience understood (2) seasons of blessing
 - a. 1st = wheat was result of God’s blessing in the spring
 - b. 2nd = wine was result of God’s blessing in autumn

3. Solomon was conveying, “*From beginning to end, you have been fruitful & diligent in your giving blessings to me and others!*” Shulamite – you are a gift from God!

G. (R) Song of Solomon 7: 3

1. “...*your breasts are like twin fawns*”
2. Notice – the same phrase he used @ their honeymoon (just as tender)
 - a. Major complaint & heartache in marriage counseling; we’ve lost our passion & tenderness – now he gets what he needs & rolls off
 - b. Left feeling used & prostituted
3. Solomon tenderness towards his wife increased throughout the years!
4. When husbands fail in tenderness & wives fail to show respect, marriages wither.
5. Revere your mate; *if you don’t* – Satan will find someone who will.

H. (R) Song of Solomon 7: 4 – 5

1. Solomon’s need for his wife is now deepening
2. Notice he’s not focused solely on her body but *her beauty from neck up!*
 - a. “*Her eyes*” insightful perspectives
 - b. “...*tower of Lebanon*” indicated a watchtower built to alert the Israeli’s of any attacks from the Syrians [strong sense of safety]
 - c. After nearly (20 yrs.) of loving my wife – she has never harmed me with her tongue
 - d. “...*Mt. Carmel*” represents the very best of Israel; it overlooks the Mediterranean Sea & Palestine crown of Israel
 - e. Solomon’s wife had become his crown of glory!

The 2nd principle we observe is...

II. Physical passion deepens...up to this point, not touched this woman

A. (R) Song of Solomon 7: 6

1. Still treats her with tenderness & respect
2. Not as an old skillet or Tupperware container = soft & delicate

B. (R) Song of Solomon 7: 7 – 9

1. [Hebrew translation?] your assumptions are correct ☺
2. Solomon’s desires his wife sexually
 - a. After all these yrs. she *still remains his oasis* in a barren desert
 - b. Marital sex is intended to be nurturing
 - c. Notice how it is described; apples + dates + grapes = pleasure ☺

C. (R) Song of Solomon 7: 10 – 12

1. Notice who initiates the lovemaking...it’s the woman!

2. The Shulamite is responsive to the positive reinforcement she has received consistently over the yrs.
3. Sex is not an obligation for her; it is something she desires to share with her wonderful husband.

D. (R) Song of Solomon 7: 13

1. Mandrakes were a rare plant often thought to increase fertility
2. @ the mention of mandrakes (Hebrew audience would giggle)
3. (R) Genesis 30: 14 – 17 [let's dispel any myths that Bible is boring]
4. ☆ "...*new delights as well as old, which I have saved for you, my lover*"
5. *What a woman!* Incredible fruit of nurturing your wife
 - a. no ruts in their love life
 - b. nothing routine and old hat for her
 - c. She exclaims, "*Come in here big boy – I've got something old for you tonight but I've also got a big surprise for you as well.*"

E. (R) Song of Solomon 8: 1 – 3

1. In antiquity the only men that a woman could touch in public were her father & her brothers.
2. Even till this day in the holy city of Jerusalem husband's & wives can't touch in public.
3. Shulamite was saying, "I wish I could love you in public with the same passion I have for you in private. I'd like to love you passionately 24 hrs. a day ☺"

As a result of their intimate knowledge & physical passion [deepening], now...
 III. Contentment deepens...

A. (R) Song of Solomon 8: 10

1. Goal of marriage
2. "...*thus [I have become] in his eyes like one bringing contentment.*"

B. Five Biblical Rules that will deepen your relationship

1. If they are breathing, your mate will eventually offend you. Learn to forgive.
 Luke 6: 37 "...*if you forgive others you will be forgiven*"
2. Never go to sleep w/an argument unsettled
 Ephesians 4: 26 "...*don't let the sun go down while you are angry*"
3. @ least once a day, try to say something complimentary to your spouse
 Proverbs 15: 4 "*Gentle words bring life & health; a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit*"
4. "*For richer or for poorer*" – rejoice in every moment that God has given you together.
 Proverbs 15: 17 "*A bowl of soup w/someone you love is better than steak w/someone you hate.*"

← ← {55 yrs. of marriage} ☺

5. If you have a choice between making yourself or your spouse look good, always choose your spouse.

Proverbs 3: 27 *“Do not w/hold good from those who deserve it when it’s in your power to help them.”*

God longs to deepen His love relationship with you:

- Confess your sins and ask Jesus to be Lord of your life
- Need a church home – we would be so honored to have you join our family!