

The Song of Solomon

Lesson 2: My Beloved Is Mine: Spring and the Voice of Love -- Song of Solomon 2:8-3:5

There is a sound the heart never forgets. For a child it is the gravel-crunch of a parent's car in the driveway after a long day. For a soldier's family it is the knock at the door that means, this time, good news. For the bride in this song it is footsteps on the hills. Before she sees him she hears him. "The voice of my beloved! behold, he cometh leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills." Love has a sound, and she knows it. The whole passage we open today begins not with an embrace but with a listening ear, a woman who can pick her beloved's approach out of all the noise of the world.

Then comes the season. "For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come." If you have ever lived through a long gray winter, you know what it is to step outside one morning and feel the air has changed. Something in you thaws. The Song uses that thaw as a picture of love calling love out of hiding: "Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away." God made spring, and God made marriage, and here He lets the one preach the other. Renewal is possible. Coldness is not the last word.

But the same passage that sings of spring also warns us. "Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes." Not the wolves. The little foxes. Not the dramatic betrayals that make the news, but the small neglects, the unkept words, the slow drift of two people who stop turning toward each other. The Song is honest enough to celebrate love and sober enough to guard it. Then it gives us one of the most quietly glorious lines in all of Scripture: "My beloved is mine, and I am his." Mutual belonging. Not ownership that crushes, but covenant that holds.

The lesson ends in the dark. "By night on my bed I sought him whom my soul loveth." She rises, she searches the city, she is found by the watchmen, and at last she finds him and will not let him go. And then, for the second time in the Song, the charge: "that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, till he please." Love that is real is worth waiting for, and worth protecting. So we will listen for the voice, walk into the spring, hunt the little foxes, and learn what it means to say, and to mean, "my beloved is mine, and I am his."

Group Discussion: The Song moves from spring's celebration of love to the warning about "the little foxes, that spoil the vines." As a group, name some of the "little foxes" that quietly damage marriages, friendships, and our walk with God. Why are the small things so often more dangerous than the obvious sins?

Personal Reflection: Read “my beloved is mine, and I am his” slowly. Where in your life are you holding something back, refusing to fully belong, whether to a spouse, to the family of God, or to the Lord Himself? What would it cost you to say “I am his” without reservation?

Read Song of Solomon 2:8–3:5

Study Questions

1. When the bride says “The voice of my beloved!” and describes him “leaping upon the mountains,” what does this opening reveal about love that recognizes and longs for the beloved, and how does Scripture describe God Himself as One who comes to us?
2. She heard his voice before she saw his face. How well do you know the “voice” of those you love, and how attentive are you to the voice of God in His word? What competes for your hearing?
3. “Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away... for, lo, the winter is past.” What does the picture of spring teach us about renewal in love and in the life of faith, and how does God use the created order to instruct us (Romans 1:20)?
4. Is there a “winter” in one of your relationships, or in your devotion to the Lord, that has gone on too long? What would “rising up” and “coming away” look like for you this week?
5. Consider “the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.” What does this teach about the nature of love and the kind of watchfulness God calls us to in marriage and in holiness?

6. Name one “little fox” you have let run loose in your closest relationship or in your own heart. What is the small, faithful step that would begin to catch it?

7. “My beloved is mine, and I am his.” What does this mutual belonging reveal about God’s design for marriage as a lifelong, exclusive, one-flesh union, and how does it point forward to Christ and His church (Ephesians 5:25–32)?

8. Belonging means both receiving and giving yourself away. In what relationship are you tempted to want “he is mine” without truly offering “I am his”? What does wholehearted devotion ask of you?

9. In 3:1–4 the bride rises by night, seeks him through the city, is found by the watchmen, and at last finds and holds him fast. What does this seeking and finding teach about the costliness, persistence, and reward of love, and how does Scripture call us to seek the Lord with the whole heart (Jeremiah 29:13)?

10. Looking back across the whole passage (the voice on the mountains, the call of spring, the little foxes, the mutual belonging, the seeking in the night, and the charge not to “stir up” love before its time), name one specific way the Lord Jesus is forming you through this song, in your marriage, your purity, or your pursuit of Him.

Digging Deeper

Reflect on these passages: Ephesians 5:25–32, where Paul takes the one-flesh union of husband and wife and unveils it as a picture of Christ’s love for the church; Romans 15:4, which teaches that the Old Testament was written for our learning, so the Song instructs us still; Jeremiah 29:13, where God promises to be found by those who seek Him with all the heart, as the bride sought her beloved; Genesis 2:24, the foundation of marriage as one man and one woman becoming one flesh; Song of Solomon 8:6–7, which declares that love is strong as death and that many waters cannot quench it.

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