

The Song of Solomon

Lesson 5: The Beauty of the Beloved and Mutual Delight -- Song of Solomon 6:4-8:4

Have you ever watched a husband look at his wife across a crowded room, years into the marriage, and seen something that words can barely carry? Not the wide-eyed infatuation of the first week, but something steadier and warmer: a settled, glad knowing. He has seen her at her worst and her best. He has watched her change. And still, when she walks in, his face changes too. That look is one of the quiet glories of a faithful marriage, and it is the look that fills this section of the Song. The bridegroom turns to his bride and says again, as if for the first time, "thou art beautiful, O my love."

We come now to the heart of the Song's celebration. After the night of separation in chapter 5, the lovers are restored, and the bridegroom's praise pours out fresh and unhurried. He calls her beautiful as Tirzah, comely as Jerusalem. He says of her, against all the daughters and queens and concubines of a divided heart, "my dove, my undefiled is but one." One. In a world that multiplied wives and scattered affection, the Song lifts up exclusive, undivided love as the truest beauty. This is not the love that keeps a wandering eye. This is love that has chosen, and stays chosen.

And the bride is not silent. She answers from a place of deep security, with one of the most beautiful confessions in all of Scripture: "I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me." She is not anxious about whether she is wanted. She knows. She rests in being cherished, and out of that rest she invites her husband out to the vineyards and the villages, longing for love that is undisturbed, honorable, and shared. Mutual delight, freely given and freely received, is woven through every line.

Three times now the Song has charged the daughters of Jerusalem not to stir up or awaken love until it pleases. We hear that refrain again in 8:4, and it guards everything else. The same poetry that celebrates love so warmly also fences it, protecting it from being rushed, cheapened, or taken out of its proper home. As we walk through these verses together, let us learn what God means love between a husband and wife to look like: admiration that does not fade, security that does not strive, faithfulness that does not wander, and delight that waits for its right time. And let us see, without forcing it, how such covenant love faintly mirrors the steadfast love of the God who set His heart on us.

Group Discussion: The bridegroom keeps finding his bride beautiful long after the wedding, and the bride rests in knowing she is wanted. Why do you think admiration so often fades in real marriages over the years, and what does this passage suggest about how it can be kept alive?

Personal Reflection: The bride could say with quiet confidence, “I am my beloved’s, and his desire is toward me.” Where in your own life do you find it hardest to rest in being loved and wanted, whether by a spouse or by God Himself, and what feeds that restlessness?

Read Song of Solomon 6:4–8:4

Study Questions

1. When the bridegroom says “my dove, my undefiled is but one” (6:9), what does the Song teach us about the exclusive, undivided nature of the love God designed for marriage?
2. Think honestly about your own attention and affection. Are there ways your heart or eyes wander from the one person, or the One God, to whom you owe undivided devotion?
3. The bridegroom keeps praising the bride’s beauty in detail (6:4–7; 7:1–9). What does this sustained, specific admiration reveal about how God means husbands and wives to value one another?
4. When was the last time you spoke specific, genuine praise to someone you love rather than taking them for granted? What holds you back from speaking it?
5. The bride confidently declares, “I am my beloved’s, and his desire is toward me” (7:10). What does this mutual belonging teach us about security and self-giving in a covenant relationship?

6. Do you tend to relate to those closest to you, and to God, from a place of security or of anxious striving to be accepted? How does that shape the way you love?
7. The bride invites her husband out to the vineyards and villages, longing for shared life and undisturbed love (7:11-13). What does this teach about the daily, ordinary work of nurturing love together?
8. What is one ordinary, shared rhythm of life you could intentionally protect or rebuild this week to nurture a relationship that matters to you?
9. Three times the Song charges that love not be stirred up or awakened “until he please” (8:4; also 2:7; 3:5). Why does the same Scripture that celebrates marital love so warmly also so firmly fence it, and what does this teach about God’s design for love, restraint, and its proper time?
10. Name one specific way the Lord Jesus is using this study to reshape how you love, whether to cherish more faithfully, rest more securely, or honor love’s proper boundaries more carefully.

Digging Deeper

Reflect on these passages: Genesis 2:24, the one-flesh union of one man and one woman is God’s design from the beginning; Proverbs 5:18-19, rejoice in the wife of your youth and let her

love satisfy you always; Malachi 2:14–15, God witnesses the covenant of marriage and hates faithless dealing with the wife of one's youth; Ephesians 5:25–33, a husband's cherishing love for his wife mirrors Christ's love for the church; Hebrews 13:4, marriage is honorable in all and the bed undefiled.

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