

Lesson 13: Ain't No Love, In the Heart of the City

Intro:



BIG IDEA: Marriage is something of a return to the Garden.

11 Come, my beloved,
let us go out into the fields
and lodge in the villages;
12 let us go out early to the vineyards
and see whether the vines have budded,
whether the grape blossoms have opened
and the pomegranates are in bloom.
There I will give you my love.
13 The mandrakes give forth fragrance,
and beside our doors are all choice fruits,
new as well as old,
which I have laid up for you, O my beloved.

- This is a love monologue: she is inviting him to take a _____ into the _____.
- She is taking the _____ in their love-making in this instance.
- She wants to see if they the _____ is producing. The _____ are enticing.
- In the Song, the vineyard, like the garden, is a symbol for the _____.
- There she offers to give him her love. This is fitting with spring in the air.



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- Mandrakes were known more as an _____ than a _____ flower (Genesis 30:14-16).
- The idea is that she has reserved herself for him (_____) and exploring new ways of pleasing one another.¹⁰⁰
- “She is creating a mental and physical environment in which their union may be consummated with the maximum intensity and minimum of inhibition.”¹⁰¹
- The “*all choice fruits*” could be a merism to refer to all kinds of _____ love.

Allegorical Interpretation: The faithful church longs to for intimacy with Christ. “We want to know our Savior doctrinally, experimentally, growingly in the fellowship of his suffering and in the power of his resurrection, being made conformable to him in his death.”¹⁰² The vineyard is our soul which must be tended.

Dramatic Interpretation: She invites Solomon for an escape to the forests of Lebanon for alone time. Dillow notes there are places beside the bedroom for love-making. Just be careful. He encourages creativity and skill (mostly enthusiasm, not technique).

“Romance in the great outdoors is also a picture of untrammelled freedom and of closeness to nature. The literary fiction reminds us of our creatureliness and of our unashamed delight in participating in the natural order of things.”¹⁰³

Typological Interpretation: The more we know of Christ’s love for us, the more we will seek Him through the means of grace. This is the reflection of a wife’s response to knowing the depths of her husband’s love for her.

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.

- Brothers, and near relatives, could show _____ affection.

¹⁰⁰ Gledhill, pp. 212.

¹⁰¹ Gledhill, pp. 213.

¹⁰² Fortner, pp. 185.

¹⁰³ Gledhill, pp. 212.

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- She feels they can't, but she wants to show him _____.



- But the public would not approve of their _____. There is an element of _____.
- Cultures _____ in terms of what is acceptable in public w/regard to dress, and PDAs.
- Verse 2 is nearly as difficult for us to understand. Did her mother teach her about sex? Or how to behave in public (which should have already happened, right?)
- Or is she bringing him to her to in order to arrange a marriage?
- Gledhill recommends emending the text to be “*she conceived or bore me.*”
- Longman suggests a key word should be a 3rd person masculine instead, so he _____ her the ways of love.
- The drinking of intoxicating liquids is meant to signify sexual _____. She’s not offering a drink, but herself to him.
- There is a word/sound play between “*I would make you drink*” and “*I would ... kiss you.*”
- We’ve seen verse 3 & 4 before. They are embracing one another. But she provides the warning again.
- “Love that cannot be celebrated by the wider society is love that is incomplete and frustrating: a privately enjoyed love in the countryside is not enough.”¹⁰⁴
- Gledhill views this as to not disturb their love- _____ others to keep them apart.

“The marriage certificate is not ‘just a piece of paper’ which transforms an immoral cohabitation into an acceptable relationship. But it is a public exchange of vows that the couple will support and edify each other ‘for better, for worse, in sickness, in health, till death do us part.’”¹⁰⁵

Allegorical Interpretation: This desire for one like a brother, has been met in Christ our elder brother who has made like us to bring us into fellowship with God (Hebrews 2). The young

¹⁰⁴ Duguis, pp. 150.

¹⁰⁵ Gledhill, pp. 217.

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Christian seeks instruction from those who “conceived” them. The Christians is supported by the “everlasting arms.”

Dramatic Interpretation: She expresses her desire to be unashamed in public like she is in private. She imagines his left hand under her head while his right hand caresses or fondles her. Dillow talks about promiscuity resulting in various forms of dysfunction after marriage.

Wisdom Literature: Marriage is not a private affair, but a public affirmation of a relationship. Their approval is a reflection of God’s approval. It is to be celebrated. When a marriage is healthy, there are times when we return to the Garden as “naked and unashamed.”

Conclusion: