

The Song of Songs

LESSON 5: A RENDEZVOUS, MAYBE

Intro:



BIG IDEA: Attraction and desire move us toward _____.

Poem 3: Her Request

⁷Tell me, you whom my soul loves,
where you pasture your flock,
where you make it lie down at noon;
for why should I be like one who veils herself
beside the flocks of your companions?

- Imagery shifts to the field. To pasture or graze (*ra'a*) the flock is similar to intimate companion (*ra'ya*). It has also been used of _____ activity (6:3 also Proverbs 29:3).
- Many think this refers to the longing for _____, not just a private _____.
- As she seeks him out, she doesn't want to be mistaken for a _____ looking for business among the other shepherds.
- This is a veiled threat to him so she does not gain a bad _____.
- This is about "_____".
- Within marriage, the husband and wife can _____ each other. Both can _____ sexual activity, or private conversation.

Christian Allegorical Interpretation: The Christian soul longs for Christ. We flee to Christ in time of need (Heb. 4:16). But there is no sign of need or lack.

Dramatic Interpretation: She longs to return to her "lover" who is a shepherd. She tries to get away for a rendezvous.

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His Response

⁸ If you do not know,
O most beautiful among women,
follow in the tracks of the flock,
and pasture your young goats
beside the shepherds' tents.

- He affirms her _____ as he provides directions, sort of.
- All she needs to do is follow the _____ of his _____.
- Every relationship needs _____ AND _____.
- Often _____ need more apartness than _____. Pressure to be together can drive you apart.
- Perhaps if she has her own flock with her, it will provide proper “_____”, a good excuse for her to be up there.
- The shepherd’s tents were often _____ during the day, so they might meet there.
- “Tents” could be translated “_____” leading some to think this is about a _____ cult.



“Similarities in language, particularly the images from nature, are no basis for supposing an original for the song in an alien cult, whose whole ethos was an abomination to the orthodox spokesmen of Yahwism, the prophets such as Hosea, Jeremiah and Ezekiel.” **Tom Gledhill**²⁹

Christian Allegorical Interpretation: Jesus finds His people beautiful for He beholds us in light of our imputed righteousness. The tracks of the flock are seen to be the Scriptures: go to the prophets & apostles. These are the paths the flock of God have always walked.

²⁹ Gledhill, pp. 110.

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“As we read the book, we who belong to Christ, we who are married to the Son of God ought to make it as personal as possible. Whenever the bride speaks, read it in the first person. Her words are the expressions of every believer’s heart.” **Don Fortner**³⁰



Attractiveness Affirmed

⁹ I compare you, my love,
to a mare among Pharaoh's chariots.

¹⁰ Your cheeks are lovely with ornaments,
your neck with strings of jewels.

- Is verse 9 part of the same poem as 8? It seems an odd shift
- He uses the term of affection for her mentioned above. She’s not a _____.
- One view is that she is _____ like one of the horses on Solomon’s chariot: veils, sashes, bangles, etc.
- Chariots were drawn by _____, not mares. A mare would be _____. In some battles, mares in heat were released to distract the stallions pulling the chariots.³¹
- He is _____! Or perhaps she drives men _____.
- Unlike Tertullian, he appreciates beauty _____: ornaments and jewels.
- There is a time for work (out) clothes, and a time to dress up in a way that _____ your beauty.
- What we wear is often a _____ of our self image.

³⁰ Fortner, pp. 29.

³¹ Longman, pp. 103.

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Christian Allegorical Interpretation: This again is about how beautiful Christ finds us in Him. We are decorated in His grace.

Wisdom: Healthy relationships have two people willing to pursue one another thoughtfully.

Others Rejoice?

¹¹ We will make for you ornaments of gold,
studded with silver.

- The word translated “*silver*” occurs only here in the OT.
- As part of this couplet, a _____ metal to compliment the gold would be appropriate.
- This could be the words of _____, like the daughters of Jerusalem.
- Or perhaps the man still speaking and will participate in the _____ of the jewelry.
- If this is the case, he may not be a jeweler but that he works to _____ her beauty.
- He will increase her _____ beauty to match her _____ beauty.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. **Ephesians 5**

- Christ does indeed make the Church beautiful beginning in _____ but continuing in _____.
- A husband can enhance her physical beauty by providing, within reason, for _____, jewelry, _____.
- A husband should also enhance her _____ beauty by cultivating a gentle and quiet spirit or the fear of the Lord.³²

³² Dan Allender and Tremper Longman discuss this as enhancing one another’s dignity and restraining their depravity in *Intimate Allies*.

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³ Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—⁴ but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. **1 Peter 3**

- The focus here is the woman herself, not the husband's responsibility.
- Her main focus is on her _____ beauty, not her _____ beauty.
- Let us not fall into the either/or trap. _____ beautiful women can be _____ beautiful as well.
- Remember, a woman is not a block of _____ to be _____ out, but a tender _____ to be cultivated.
- Pride can lead us to look beautiful for _____, instead of bringing _____ to God.



³⁰ Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. **Proverbs 31**

²² Like a gold ring in a pig's snout
is a beautiful woman without discretion. **Proverbs 11**

- These passages prove as warning to those who focus on physical beauty.
- Men can be _____ by beauty and charm into giving themselves to a person with little to no character.
- Yes, infatuation _____ us to a person's character _____.

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Conclusion: