LESSON 5: A RENDEZVOUS, MAYBE

Intro:



BIG IDEA: Attraction and desire move us toward .

Poem 3: Her Request

⁷ Tell 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?

CSI	de the hocks 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 alooking 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.

The Song of Songs

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.

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²⁹ Gledhill, pp. 110.

"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



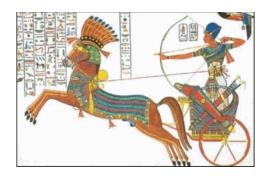
• One view is that she is _____ like one of the horses on Solomon's chariot: veils, sashes, bangles, etc. • Chariots were drawn by _____, not mares. A mare would be _____. In some battles, mares in heat were released to distract the stallions pulling the chariots.³¹ • He is _____! Or perhaps she drives 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.

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30	Fortner,	pp.	29

Fortner, pp. 29.

Solution 103.

The Song of Songs



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?				
	vill make for you ornaments of gold, led with silver.				
• [The word translated "silver" occurs only here in the OT.				
• 1	As part of this couplet, a metal to compliment the gold would be				
8	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,				
j	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*.

The Song of Songs

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 t	he woman	herself, n	not the l	husband'	s responsi	ibility.
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•	Her main	focus is o	n her	beauty, not her	beauty
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- 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.



Otherm 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 _____.

The Song of Songs



Conclusion: