

The Song of Songs

LESSON 7: PASSION & DESIRE

Intro:

BIG IDEA: Passionate desire can lead you _____ or into _____.

Delight & a Warning

³ As an apple tree among the trees of the forest,
so is my beloved among the young men.

With great delight I sat in his shadow,
and his fruit was sweet to my taste.

⁴ He brought me to the banqueting house,
and his banner over me was love.

⁵ Sustain me with raisins;
refresh me with apples,
for I am sick with love.

⁶ His left hand is under my head,
and his right hand embraces me!

⁷ I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem,
by the gazelles or the does of the field,
that you not stir up or awaken love
until it pleases.

- As she is a _____ among thorns, he is a _____ tree among ordinary trees.
- Apple trees were not _____ to Israel at that time. It was probably a _____ tree, perhaps apricot.⁴⁵
- Fruit trees stand out because they have an _____ scent.
- Such trees were a frequent _____ for sexual love. She may be praising his love-making skill.⁴⁶
- She places herself under his _____ and _____. Is this happening or what she is imagining?
- “*To sit under the shade*” is a phrase to portray an _____ relationship here and in Hosea 14:8.



⁴⁵ Gledhill, pp. 122,

⁴⁶ Dillow, pp. 31,

The Song of Songs

- “In extra-biblical literature, ‘fruit’ is sometimes equated with the male genitals ... so it is possible that here we have a faint and delicate reference to an oral genital caress.”⁴⁷
- Duguid sees the shade as representing “the _____ he provides for her from the glare of the burning _____, which was a concern for her in the first chapter...”⁴⁸
- For him the ‘fruit’ refers to the _____ of their _____.
- They praise each other, but for different things: he affirms her _____, she that he makes her feel _____, and she enjoys his _____.
- The house of wine was a common reference to the _____ chamber.
- The prior use of wine in the text leads us to believe this is _____: they are making out!
- A banner marked out _____ units. This banner marks her out as his: belonging, inclusion, _____.⁴⁹
- She has left the banner of her _____, and now “joyfully _____ to his authority over her, which he provides her with complete _____ and safety.”⁵⁰
- The raisin cakes and apples would strengthen her, but they may also have been used as _____.
- Some see a pagan cultic reference with the cakes in the shape of _____ women.
- Then again, it could be that she wants more of his fruit, which is sweet to her taste.
- Though satisfied, she has not had her fill of his love.
- The desire and delight is _____.
- “Your right hand you have placed on my vulva; your left, stroked my head.” Sumuzi-Inanna love poem
- She _____ his skill in the bedroom. Ladies, guys need to hear that.



⁴⁷ Dillow, pp. 31.

⁴⁸ Duguid, pp. 92.

⁴⁹ Longman, pp. 113.

⁵⁰ Duguid, pp. 94.

The Song of Songs

- She is _____ with the young women with words of _____ to take an oath.
- Both gazelles and does would be female animals, and _____ as well.
- The 2 verbs come from the same root meaning “to _____ from sleep, or to _____, excite, to bestir something or someone.”⁵¹
- Love here is not the _____ to the well-being of another but _____ desire
- Option 1: Don’t _____ our love until we’ve had our fill.
- Option 2: Don’t _____ the _____ because you want what they have.
- Option 3: Don’t pour _____ in your lap, or stir up sexual desire, until you can legitimately satisfy it.
- “Love is not a passing fling but rather a demanding and exhausting relationship.”⁵²
- She may desire to _____ this relationship but knows the time is not _____.



²⁷ Can a man carry fire next to his chest
and his clothes not be burned?

²⁸ Or can one walk on hot coals
and his feet not be scorched? **Proverbs 6** (in the context of avoiding sexual immorality)

“The first thing that needs to be said is that our imaginations often run far ahead of our physical reactions and they in turn run far ahead of what our actual relationship may be able to bear at that particular moment. When the physical outstrips the fully personal, emotional and psychological integration of two lovers, the danger signals should start flashing.” **Tom Gledhill**⁵³

Allegorical Interpretation: Christ is a fruitful Tree, and his blessings are sweet to taste. She receives those blessings by grace. The banqueting house is seen as the Church. The Christian also feels His absence and longs for His presence. We must not neglect Him and His love.

Dramatic Interpretation: This is the wedding night. She enjoys his caresses and fondling. The young woman are not to enjoy such desire until the time is right: the marriage chamber.

⁵¹ Glenhill, pp. 128.

⁵² Longman, pp. 116.

⁵³ Gledhill, pp. 128-9.

The Song of Songs

“The church, having desired to be stayed, supported, strengthened and comforted, presently found her beloved with her, who with both hands sustained her.” **John Gill**⁵⁴

“The banner is a symbol of safety and protection, a sign that the hose was present. . . . All their protection is from his love, and they shall have all the protection his love can give them.” **John Owen**⁵⁵

Passion Recalled

⁸ The voice of my beloved!

Behold, he comes,
leaping over the mountains,
bounding over the hills.

⁹ My beloved is like a gazelle
or a young stag.

Behold, there he stands
behind our wall,
gazing through the windows,
looking through the lattice.

¹⁰ My beloved speaks and says to me:

“Arise, my love, my beautiful one,
and come away,

¹¹ for behold, the winter is past;
the rain is over and gone.

¹² The flowers appear on the earth,
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove
is heard in our land.

¹³ The fig tree ripens its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my beautiful one,
and come away.

¹⁴ O my dove, in the clefts of the rock,
in the crannies of the cliff,

let me see your face,
let me hear your voice,
for your voice is sweet,
and your face is lovely.

¹⁵ Catch the foxes for us,
the little foxes
that spoil the vineyards,
for our vineyards are in blossom.”

¹⁶ My beloved is mine, and I am his;
he grazes among the lilies.

⁵⁴ Quoted in Fortner, pp. 49.

⁵⁵ Owen, John. *Communion with God*. Carlisle, Banner of Truth. 1991. pp. 44.

The Song of Songs

¹⁷ Until the day breathes
and the shadows flee,
turn, my beloved, be like a gazelle
or a young stag on cleft mountains.

- This is a different _____. Longman sees this as a separate _____. The dramatic view sees this as preparation for the wedding: a time shift.
- Mountains, gazelles and stags form the _____ for this passage.
- She _____ the arrival of her beloved, granting him _____ powers.
- He is like a young stag, _____ & _____. He is _____.
- He has overcome great _____ to see the one he loves.
- He comes _____ and playfully.
- Notice the _____: walls, windows, lattice.
- Notice the contrast between the _____ and _____ environments.
- He calls her to _____ with him (vv. 10-14). His cry is repeated in verse 13.
- Winter (October-April) with its _____ has passed and Spring is upon them. The world is _____.
- The trees are _____ and _____. There are visual and olfactory delights to be had.
- The turtledoves return to Palestine in _____.
- The impression is that she is in a _____ place “in the clefts of the rock” & “crannies of the cliff” which is where doves may often _____. Is she hiding?
- He longs to behold her, and to hear her voice. Is she _____, fearful (a dove) or playing hard to get?
- He wants her to join him in a fertile, beautiful place suitable for intimacy. Calls her out of _____.



The Song of Songs

- What is the purpose of the comment about the foxes? Foxes would _____ a vineyard.
- The foxes pose a threat to the vineyard, which has thus far _____ the woman.
- There is some threat to her and their _____. Rivals? Unwanted suitors
- She affirms her _____ to him and his to her. They _____ to each other.
- His grazing among the lilies indicates some _____ act.
- She wants him to be like a fleet gazelle or stag on the cleft mountains. This is an invitation to _____ with her.



“The foxes stand for anything or anyone who threatens the harmony and well-being of the vineyard garden. ... To preserve sexual joy one must have the perseverance of a gardener who daily weeds her garden and the wisdom of the serpent, thereby outfoxing the foxes in protecting her hard-earned grapes.” **Allender & Longman**⁵⁶

What foxes can threaten a relationship?

¹⁵ Drink water from your own cistern,
flowing water from your own well.
¹⁶ Should your springs be scattered abroad,
streams of water in the streets?
¹⁷ Let them be for yourself alone,
and not for strangers with you.
¹⁸ Let your fountain be blessed,
and rejoice in the wife of your youth,
¹⁹ a lovely deer, a graceful doe.
Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight;
be intoxicated always in her love. **Proverbs 5**

Allegorical Interpretation: Christ comes to the Church to refresh and bless her. This comes after a time of hardship (winter). This is a picture of revival. Fortner phrases it as Christ comes,

⁵⁶ Allender & Longman, pp. 103.

The Song of Songs

calls and communes with His people. “He grazes among the lilies” becomes He feeds His people.

Dramatic Interpretation: This is the time of preparation for marriage. She goes back in time, turning it over in her memory. The engagement period is to know one another, recognize potential problems and count the cost of marrying that person. Your memory does matter! Keep the passion alive.

Wisdom Literature: They are physically ready, and everything seems to cry out to them to consummate. Her refusal is appropriate in light of her earlier warning. What seems natural may actually be a destructive fox, as pre-marital sex can have long term consequences.

Christological Focus: The desire of Christ for the Church, while not sexual, is also deep and abiding. The bond we have with Him is greater than the bond we have with our lover: more permanent, more satisfying. Let’s seek Him as He does seek us.