

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON

STUDY NUMBER SEVEN – SONG OF SOLOMON 3:1-11

In the last six episodes in the life of King Solomon. Solomon was born to David and Bathsheba. He was named Jedidiah by the Lord which means the Lord delights in him. Solomon was chosen as that one who was going to take the place of his father David on the throne but there were some other people in the family that had some other thoughts about that. In some of these early scenes of the life of Solomon you see David providing everything that a kid could ever want. Besides all of that he provided everything that was necessary for the building of the temple. David was not the one that God was going to use to do that. Solomon was going to be that person and as a result of all of this going on David collected everything that was necessary.

Then comes the time for David to die but before he dies once again the ugly head of the family has to rear up and even haunt David on his deathbed. AMNON had disqualified himself and lost his life. CHILEAB born to Abigail, we don't know what happened to him, he just disappears off of the page, the second born son. And then following him was ABSALOM and he failed at a military coup and lost his life. And so number four is ADONIJAH. Adonijah feels that he has a right to that throne no matter what anybody says. And so he gets

Joab the military commander and Abiathar the priest and he forms another coup. Trying to follow in the steps of Absalom to take the kingdom in that last moment before it would be transferred to Solomon. This is a very painful time because Bathsheba has to run into David's presence and on his deathbed and beg that he do something to save the kingdom for her son Solomon. And he does just that. He makes those decisions on his deathbed that allow Solomon to become king.

Then you get to episode number four you have that dramatic and emotional scene where David dies. When a great man dies there is something that is lost in all of that and it was a very emotional setting.

But then you get to episode number five and here is Adonijah, Joab and Abiathar again trying to get the kingdom now that daddy is dead. And Solomon has enough of a hold on the kingdom that he has all of those guys executed basically. And so now Solomon has secured his kingdom.

In episode number six Solomon thrills the heart of God because God says whatever you want I will give you.

And I'll ask you today if God said that to you, what would you say? You see you would reveal your heart and your priorities by your answer. Most of us would say well, I want to win the lottery and I want to do this

and I want to do that and we would reveal our hearts by what we would ask.

And Solomon thrills the heart of God and he says all I want is wisdom. I want the ability to be able to be a good leader and to make wise decisions and God says you have thrilled my heart by that so I am going to give you everything else you did not ask for. And that is the way God does it. He always does exceeding; abundant above all we can ask or think.

In our last episode we went back to the book of Proverbs and we studied what Solomon had to say about wisdom in Proverbs chapter 2 and we pulled the curtain on the first six episodes.

Now as we come today it is a little bit more difficult chronologically to be sure that we are on track but I am trying to be. And that is that it is time for Solomon to get married. Now it could be chronologically that he has a relationship already with one of Pharaoh's daughters who becomes one of his many wives ultimately in the rest of the story. But today we are going to pay tribute to what marriage should be in one of the most beautiful pictures of marriage in the Song of Solomon. And the marriage itself takes place in chapter 3 so we are going to be studying there just 11 verses in that wonderful little book.

Joseph Stowell is the president of Moody Bible Institute and he has written some wonderful books and

you will do well to read any of those books. In his book *Perilous Pursuits* he describes the relationship with his wife and he uses a little word that I would like to have you use today. Now, maybe you are married and maybe you are not. But I want you to think about the difference in these words to evaluate your marriage. And then secondly I want you to take that same word and I want you to evaluate your relationship to the Lord. So we are going to just stop for a minute.

The question is basically this: Are you living with your mate or are you living for your mate?

As a Christian today, are you living with the Lord or are you living for the Lord?

Significant relationships have the profound ability to transform our lives.

Big question: Are you living with your mate or are you living for your mate?

Marriage was designed for us to live for each other. And it is designed to teach us how to live for one person so we can live for the Lord throughout eternity. Are you living with Him today or are you living for Him.

Abraham Lincoln when he wrote a letter to Mary Owens. Listen to this when it comes to living for your mate. Listen to what he says:

(The Essential Abraham Lincoln by John Gabriel Hunt)

I am often thinking of what we said about your coming to live at Springfield. I am afraid you would not be satisfied. There is a great deal of flourishing about in carriages here, which it would be your doom to see without sharing it. You would have to be poor, without the means of hiding your poverty. Do you believe you could bear that patiently? Whatever woman may cast her lot with mine, should any ever do so, [*get this, oh, I love this*] it is my intention to do all in my power to make her happy and contented; and there is nothing I can imagine that would make me more unhappy than to fail in the effort. I know I should be much happier with you than the way I am, provided I saw no signs of discontent in you.

Now in the study of the life of Solomon, there are a number of books that record his life and so you are committed to being scattered all over the biblical landscape to put it together. And I have not found a book that has done that, okay. So I am traveling, basically, in new territory in this project that I am trying to accomplish. We have a record in 1 Kings, we have a record in 1 Chronicles, we have some in 2 Chronicles, we have the man himself as a prolific author who wrote Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon and so putting all of these things together when I jump from place to place take it by faith there is a reason for why we are where we are.

Now, let me give you a verse.

1 Kings 4:32

“He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five.”

Now we don't have all three thousand proverbs, we only have a few of them in the book of Proverbs. And we do not have his thousand and five songs. We only have his platinum record and that is the Song of Songs which is what we are looking at in this particular episode.

Okay, let's get these two lovers together. Solomon is now king. He is exercising great authority. He is a king of peace. The kingdom is not militarily involved anywhere. He is living in a very, very wealthy society where everything has been provided for him.

Now when he received his inheritance he got a whole lot of real estate holdings from his family. One of the pieces of real estate that he inherited in the process of becoming king was a large vineyard at the foothills of the Lebanese mountains somewhere up near Beirut in the north. Now when you own a piece of real estate you want to go check it out, right, and then you want to make it productive, right? Well he went north and negotiated with a Lebanese family that they would lease that facility and produce the fruit from it and

whatever else from this wonderful vineyard that was laying there on the foothills of the Lebanese mountain. While he was there his heart was captured by a young lady who was the daughter of this Lebanese family and there are four things that caught him. You see he has been living in the palace where all the palace pretties are bubble bathing and oiling themselves up in an intense competition to get the eye of the king. And it is cutthroat. It is ugly. It is unreal. It is distorted. It is Hollywood in the Nth degree. And when he goes north and begins to breath the pure air of the Lebanese hillside and he meets a little girl by the name of Shulamith, who is characterized in four ways, that captures his heart:

1. Her life is filled with simplicity. She does not have a competitive bone in her body. She is just a wonderful person who rejoices in life and what life has to give.
2. Her scintillating purity. I mean she has never known a man. She is a virgin. She is a beautiful lady.
3. Her personal beauty also captures his attention.
4. The sweetness of her spirit just blows him away.

And so the book is the story, the love diary, of these two people coming together in the marriage relationship.

The first two chapters you could write the word COURTHSHIP across the top of it. The next two chapters you have the COMMITMENT, it is the marriage, chapter three through chapter five. And then in chapters five and six you have the CHALLENGE, they have a problem in their marriage and they solve that problem together. And then chapters seven and eight they live happily ever after, it is COMMUNION.

I took the words:

- **courtship**
- **commitment**
- **challenge**
- **communion**

to summarize the whole book in its chapters.

Solomon has two assignments in this relationship:

- 1. He has to deal with her self-image because she feels terribly inferior to everybody in the kingdom.**
- 2. She is very, very, very insecure about the thought of being one among many. Would she put on the docket to fit into Solomon's life only at his own convenience or would she still be very special like she is when she has him and him alone up here in the Lebanese hillside? Would things change when they go to the big city?**

So SECURITY and SELF-IMAGE are the dominant seams that flow through the courtship period as he is trying to help her understand that she is one fabulous person and she has his heart.

Do you know how you know that? Just as the courtship begins to end you read two verses and it is Shulamith talking, let's hear what she says, this will just get you:

Song of Solomon 2:15-16

Let us catch the foxes, the little foxes who ruin vineyards for our vineyards are in blossom. My beloved is mine and I am his, he who pastures his flock among the lilies.

She uses the language that she understands. She says the vineyard of our relationship is starting to blossom to bear fruit. It is a budding relationship but honey it isn't just going to be me catching the foxes, let us catch the foxes.

Now what are the foxes of courtship that create a sandy foundation when it comes to trying to put together a permanent marriage relationship?

- 1. The first one is SLOTH. It is just plain laziness.**

Proverbs 14:23

**All hard work brings a profit,
but mere talk leads only to poverty.**

- 2. Secondly is SEX. When sex is involved in the premarital relationship it distorts the relationship and it makes it difficult. And then sex after the marriage is that which rewards. And as a result it is distorted from what God originally intended for it to be for the marriage bed.**
- 3. The third, is SILVER. This is where the bottom line is more important than my marriage. And I try to help couples recognize the fact that the bottom line really in your marriage is important too because you have an emotional bank and you can draw on that emotional bank in hard times but when you get overdrawn that is when you get into trouble. And the very special things you do and the willingness to work on your marriage and the willingness to be open and to seek counsel and to seek help is making emotional deposits in the bank that you can draw on later when you go through the tough times.**
- 4. The fourth “s” is the “s” of SELFISHNESS. What am I getting out of this relationship? You did not see that in Abraham Lincoln, did you? If I see a moment of discontent in your heart, it would break**

my heart. I am committed to serving you and to make you happy and content.

5. And the fifth one is SATAN. Satan has one project for any believer and that is to destroy the marriage. He destroys your marriage and he has destroyed you as a person and he will disrupt, he will discourage and he will destroy if at all possible.

Now we are going to jump into the passage in chapter 3. You say well I am glad you finally got there.

Setting the scene. Solomon has just proposed marriage. He has come Lebanese and she has accepted but she is scared to death. Now to understand a marriage in those days, they did not go to church and have a service and get it over with in a couple of hours, okay. The way they did this they entered into this kind of contract and then he went back to the kingdom in Jerusalem to work and he promised her that he was going to come back and claim her one of these days but he never did tell her the date. And that is what made marriage so exciting. The king would arrive on the scene, the groom would arrive on the scene, he would claim his bride, he would take her from her house to his house and they would have a feast for a whole week. And at his house they would consummate their marriage on that first night when they got back to the house of the groom.

I have to tell you something, my King, the Bridegroom, is coming to claim His bride, the church, and you better be living on a short fuse so you do not miss that because the kingdom could start tonight and I am telling Him to come every time I talk to Him so you want to do the same. We are living in the days when we can be praying with all the integrity of our hearts, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10, KJV).

The King is coming to claim His own. And Solomon is a type of the greater King, the Prince of Peace, the Lord Jesus who is going to come.

Shulamith is now living with that promise that the king is coming to claim her. Now as the scene opens in this study of course she is having one of those fearful fulfillment dreams, you know. It is too wonderful to be true, I am afraid I am going to lose him. And while she is dreaming in these first verses you see some of the things coming out that he has ministered to in her needs. Are you ready to get into the text? Here we go.

v. 1 How I miss the one I love so deeply, I could not wait to see him.

And during this excruciating period of waiting she is being patient but she is being anxious because she is fearful that he will not get her on his agenda and that he will not come and claim her like he has promised.

And so she aches in her heart as she misses this one she loves so deeply.

Now there are four little phrases in these first four verses that would help you get the feeling of her emotional wellbeing.

1. Verse 1 - "I LOVE SO DEEPLY"
2. Verse 2 - "I LOVE SO MUCH"
3. Verse 3 - "I LOVED SO DEEPLY"
4. Verse 4 - "MY BELOVED"

One of the ways that you can tell that a relationship is forming and is grounds for a marriage is the longing to be together and the agony of being apart.

And there is that longing desire to spend every minute possible together because you realize that this relationship is only temporary, there is one eternal relationship and that is when we are together with the Lord.

v. 2 I thought to myself, "I must get up and find him, I will get up now and look around the streets and squares of the city for him. Surely I'll be able to find this one I love so much." But I could not find him.

It is one of those kind of dreams, do you ever have those dreams where man you are just totally frustrated in your dream because you cannot accomplish what

you are trying to accomplish and you thank God when you finally wake up because it is not true. And she is longing to be with him and so she goes out and starts searching the city.

Probably one of the most touching little books, and it is out of print right now, and it called *At Least We Were Married* by Terry Thomas. Terry fell in love with Nancy Jane Groover and when they parted one night she sat down and immediately wrote these words. This describes it.

(Song of Solomon: Make Full My Joy)

Dear Terry,

You've been gone about 3 ½ hours and I guess you know what's on my mind and heart *now*. I can only trust the Lord to convey to you the way I feel, because I certainly can't.... My tears weren't because I was desperate or lost, but because I really felt like a part of me was missing (Thomas 1979, 38-39).

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Gone, the pain and the hurt. And in that beautiful story, Nancy Jane Groover becomes Mrs. Terry Thomas and it is one of the most beautiful records of a Christian marriage but that one night, the marriage night, had to last forever because she was killed the next day on a rain-slick highway in their little compact car as they were headed toward their honeymoon.

And Terry writes the story *At Least We Were Married*.

That is the feelings that Shulamith has, the self-image and the insecurity start to come to the surface in her dreams.

v. 3 When the night watchmen of the city found me, I immediately asked them if they had seen this one I loved so deeply.

The police department runs into her and wonders what she is doing running around the streets and she asks them, have you seen him? No. Now notice in her dream what happens in verse 4.

v. 4 But they had not. Yet no sooner did I pass from them that I found my beloved, *[now watch what she does because it is very instructive]* I held on and on and would not let him go until I could bring him to my home. *[Why? That is the only place of security she knows. And right now that is everything in the world. Everything focuses on her little farm home in this Lebanese community in the north and so emotionally inside she holds on and on not for him to take her to the kingdom but for her to take him to the only place of stability that she knows. And notice the next phrase – oh man this is good.]* I still held on until my fearful anxieties left me and I felt peaceful once again. How hard it is to be patient!

Now why did she all of the sudden become peaceful when she hung on? It is because he gave her all the reassurances that she needed to be at peace that everything was going to be just fine. Truly Solomon meant what he was saying and so she is at peace.

Louis Evans, pastor of Hollywood Presbyterian Church for many years made a very, very astounding statement. Listen to this:

PRAYING TOGETHER

He said that he never knew a couple who went ahead with a divorce after first praying together, on their knees, every day, for a week.

(From InfoSearch 3.51)

Never in all of his years of ministry did he ever meet a couple who went ahead with the divorce who first prayed on their knees for one solid week before they moved ahead with it.

Paul Tournier is now home with the Lord, the Swiss psychiatrist, he says this:

“It is only when a husband and wife pray together before God that they find the secret of true harmony: that the difference in their temperaments, their ideas, and their tastes enriches their home instead of endangering it . . .

(From InfoSearch 3.51)

Do you pray together as a couple? Do you take those times when it seems like there is no hope for any reconciliation of some circumstances and situations with your children, with your grandchildren, with your family, with your job, that you truly together begin to pray?

Fenelon said it well in his little book *The Seeking Heart*.

(*The Seeking Heart* by Fenelon)

Encourage peace. Become deaf to your overactive imagination. Your spinning imagination will harm your health and make your spiritual life very dry. You worry yourself sick for no good reason. Inner peace, and the sweet presence of God, are chased away by restlessness. How can you hear God speak, in His soft and tender way, when your hurried thoughts create a whirlwind within? Be quiet, and He will soon be heard. Allow yourself one excess: to be excessively obedient.

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Isaiah 32:17

The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.

Look at verse 5. Now she gives her little lecture here at the end of the dream.

v. 5 You women of the court, we must promise ourselves, by the gazelles and deer of the field, not to awaken love until love is pleased to awaken itself.

See the little word “UNTIL”? You have three of them there in verses 4 and 5.

1. The first one, “I held on and on and would not let him go UNTIL I could bring him to my home” verse 4.
2. “I still held on UNTIL my fearful anxieties left me and I felt peaceful once again” verse 4.
3. And then “we must promise ourselves, ..., not to awaken love UNTIL love is pleased to awaken itself” verse 5.

Desires, devotion precede the discipline. The discipline comes into play in the final scenes before the consummation of the marriage relationship. She says patience and purity are the cry of the hour. I am waiting for my lover to come and to claim his bride.

Now the writer, it is so exciting, he becomes a reporter here in these remaining verses. It is like something is going to hit this little Lebanese town that has never hit a little Lebanese town like this before. And when you get to verse 6 it is so graphic but every word by the reporter is so important and you learn so much about how you act in the marriage by what the reporter is saying. Look at it. This gets good.

v. 6 What can this be coming from the outskirts of the city like columns of smoke, perfumed clouds of myrrh and frankincense, clouds of the scented powders of the merchant?

Man, there are clouds coming on down the road where there is something pretty exciting that is getting ready to come. I thought of that great old hymn:

And here he comes and boy what an entourage. Can I give you a side dish you did not order? What do you think mama Bathsheba is thinking about this whole deal? She is here. She is at the scene. You are going to see her a lot. She has a throne right next to her son. She is still very much involved. Do you know what she is thinking? She is thinking boy when you put your hand to the plow and you start doing it yourself you sure miss a lot. You really miss a lot when you sack out with the king on the roof and in secret and hidden away you destroy all the potential for what could have been beautiful like what is happening for my son right now.

There is a bitter fruit for disobedience. There is a bitter fruit for sin. There is a loss that you only see in the joy of those who are faithful to keep on hanging in there. What a tragic loss when we settle for something short of the will of God for our lives.

v. 7 Look! It is the royal procession with Solomon carried upon his lavish couch by his strongest servants. And take a look at all those soldiers around it! That is the imperial guard, the sixty mightiest warriors in the entire kingdom.

This is a military, full-dress wedding and there are sixty chosen warriors that have distinguished themselves on the field of battle according to verse 8.

v. 8 Each one is an expert with his weapon and valiant in battle. Yet now each one has a sword at his side only for the protection of the King and his bride.

So here they come in this marriage carriage which has been built especially for this occasion as you are going to see in just a second. And as they come into town you have these sixty guys who are the guard for the king and his bride.

Now verse 9 focuses on this marriage carriage and it is kind of special, guys, there is a lesson you can learn here, okay.

v. 9 Look at the luxurious couch Solomon is carried on. He has [*made it what?*] had it made especially for this day. [Why?] He made its frame from the best timber of Lebanon.

Now in another episode here about two weeks from now you are going to see all the trouble that goes in to just trying to get a little timber from Lebanon down to Jerusalem. There has to be a negotiated contract with Hiram, the king of Tyre, in order to get that timber down there and then it has to be put into rafts and floated down there and carried over land to Jerusalem.

And here is Solomon down in Jerusalem planning a very special wedding gift for his bride. And he would take the timber of her homeland for which the country was famous and build a beautiful carriage for her to minister once again to her security and her self-image.

So when it says “timber of Lebanon” it is telling you that he has already learned the very first lesson and that is you become a student of your bride and you learn how to please her. And you are committed to live with her according to knowledge 1 Peter 3:7 and to do what you need to do to make that marriage flourish in the relationship.

1 Peter 3:7

You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone

weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

Solomon is already doing some of that stuff and it is beautiful.

“Look at the luxurious couch Solomon is carried on. He has had it made especially for this day. He made its frame from the best timber of Lebanon.”

Now verse 10 goes into more detail.

v. 10 Its posts are made of silver, its back of gold, and its seat of royal purple cloth. And do you see its delicate craftsmanship! It reflects the skill of the women of the court [*Doesn't this look like the bridal page in the paper, I mean with all the little sequins and all this kind of stuff and the cake and all the people and the colors of the clothes and everything. The guy is caught up in not only the pomp and the grandeur of this thing but down to the specific details that made it so special and it reflects the skill of who? – The women of the court. Now that is a miracle because those hussies had hoped that they were going to be taking Shulamith's place a long time ago and for them to swallow their competitive pride and jealousy and make a contribution to the king and his bride is a miracle, number one. The women of the court ...*] who gave their best work out of love for the king and his bride.

Solomon offered his bride the best that he had and isn't it good to put the text down with the two statements of verse 11 and let it haunt you?

v. 11 Let us all go out and look upon King Solomon wearing his elegant wedding crown [*prepared by his mother, Bathsheba*]. Let us go out and see him on the most joyful day of his life.

Ladies and gentlemen, that last statement is something I want you to hold in abeyance through the remainder of these studies. There are peaks and valleys in our lives but we dissipate our potential when we surrender our principles. And this truly is the peak of all peaks. This is truly the happiest day of Solomon's life to this point. There are going to be one or two more little peaks but then it is going to be some awfully deep valleys before we get through plowing with this guy through the rest of his story. It is the most happy day of his life because he has followed the biblical principles.

Love is a four-letter word, isn't it? L – O – V – E. The four-letter word love is not the secret but there is another four-letter word that none of us like. W – O – R – K, the willingness to work, to make the marriage successful.

I think Shulamith understands that because when Song of Solomon ends in chapter 8, verse 6 we read this:

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away.

In one of the *Chicken Soup* books there is a story called *A Trucker's Last Letter*. This one really grabbed me. This guy is driving a truck down from Alaska and he crashes the truck and it is two days later that they find his truck over the bank because of the snowfall. And as they are winching the truck up and they get the body out of the truck they find that he had two hours while he was in the snow bank to write a letter to his wife. Listen to what he writes:

(*A 3rd Serving of Chicken Soup for the Soul: 101 More Stories to Open the Heart and Rekindle the Spirit* compiled by Jack Canfield & Mark Victor Hansen)

A Trucker's Last Letter

December, 1974

My Darling Wife,

This is a letter that no man ever wants to write, but I'm lucky enough to have some time to say what

I've forgotten to say so many times. I love you, sweetheart.

....

I'm hurt and it's bad. I've made my last mile and I want to say the things that should have been said so many times before. The things that were forgotten because I was too concerned about the truck and the job.

I'm thinking about the missed anniversaries and birthdays. The school plays and hockey games that you went to alone because I was on the road.

I'm thinking about the lonely nights you spent alone, wondering where I was and how things were going. I'm thinking of all the times I thought of calling you just to say hello and somehow didn't get around to. I'm thinking of the peace of mind I had knowing that you were at home with the kids, waiting for me.

....

I made lots of mistakes in my life, but if I only ever made one good decision, it was when I asked you to marry me. You never could understand what it was that kept me trucking. I couldn't either, but it was my way of life and you stuck with me. Good times, bad times, you were always there. I love you, sweetheart, and I love the kids.

My body hurts but my heart hurts even more. You won't be there when I end this trip. For the first time since we've been together, I'm really alone and it scares me. I need you so badly, and I know it's too late.

....

You're a thousand miles away but I feel you here with me. I can see your face and feel your love and I'm scared to make the final run alone.

Tell the kids that I love them very much and don't let the boys drive any truck for a living.

I guess that's about it, honey. My God, but I love you very much. Take care of yourself and always remember that I loved you more than anything in life. I just forgot to tell you.

**I love you,
Bill**

Rud Kendall

Submitted by Valerie Teshima

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Dr. E.V. Hill has been used mightily by God in the Promise Keepers movement and in ministry he is the pastor of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles. His wife died of cancer and at the funeral he gives a tribute to his wife:

ONE INCREDIBLE LADY

“As a struggling young preacher, E.V. had trouble earning a living. E.V. came home one night and found the house dark. When he opened the door, he saw that Jane had prepared a candlelight dinner for two. He thought that was a great idea and went into the

bathroom to wash his hands. He tried unsuccessfully to turn on the light. Then he felt his way into the bedroom and flipped another switch. Darkness prevailed. The young pastor went back to the dining room and asked Jane why the electricity was off. She began to cry.

“You work so hard, and we’re trying,” said Jane, ‘but it’s pretty rough. I didn’t have enough money to pay the light bill. I didn’t want you to know about it, so I thought we would just eat by candlelight.’

“Dr. Hill described his wife’s words with intense emotion: ‘She could have said, “I’ve never been in this situation before. I was reared in the home of Dr. Caruthers, and we never had our lights cut off.” She could have broken my spirit; she could have ruined me; she could have demoralized me. But instead she said, “Somehow or other we’ll get these lights back on. But tonight, let’s eat by candlelight.”’

“E.V. continued, ‘She was my protector. Some years ago I received quite a few death threats, and one night I received notice that I would be killed the next day. I woke up thankful to be alive, but I noticed that she was gone. I looked out the window and my car was gone. I went outside, and finally, saw her driving up. I said, “Where have you been?” She said, “I . . . I . . . it just occurred to me that they could have put a bomb in that car last night, and if you had gotten in there you would have been blown away. So I got up and drove it. It’s all right.”’”

[Dr. James Dobson’s monthly letter to Focus on the Family supporters, Feb. 1995. Page 3.]

(From InforSearch 3.51)

Psalm 89:33-34

but I will not take my love from him, nor will I ever betray my faithfulness. I will not violate my covenant or alter what my lips have uttered.

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

LESSON #1: Painful partings and the deep desire to be together is an indication of the growth of love in a relationship.

LESSON #2: Solomon is sensitive to the needs of his bride. He builds her self-image and sense of security. He makes her feel valuable and loved and important.

LESSON #3: Patience and purity are the two major ingredients of a growing relationship.

LESSON #4: We must promise ourselves “not to awaken love until love is pleased to awaken itself.”

LESSON #5: A good marriage involves the grand, the grind, the groan, and the growth.

LESSON #6: A good marriage partner must be a soldier, a student, a statesman, and a servant.

LESSON #7: Solomon offered his bride the best he had and his love for her brought out the best in him.

LESSON #8: A common commitment must be made on the part of each partner to catch the foxes of sloth, sex, silver, selfishness, and Satan in order for a marriage to accomplish its goals.

LESSON #9: Marital love is painful, possessive, persevering, and priceless.

LESSON #10: God's desire for each marriage is that it might be the most joyful day of your life.

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STUDY NUMBER SEVEN – SONG OF SOLOMON 3:1-11

Notes

Song of Solomon 3:1-11

v. 1 How I miss the one I love so deeply. I could not wait to see him.

v. 2 I thought to myself, “I must get up and find him. I will get up now and look around the streets and squares of the city for him. Surely I’ll be able to find this one I love so much.” But I could not find him.

v. 3 When the night watchmen of the city found me, I immediately asked them if they had seen this one I loved so deeply.

v. 4 But they had not. Yet no sooner did I pass from them than I found my beloved. I held on and on and would not let him go until I could bring him to my home. I still held on until my fearful anxieties left me and I felt peaceful once again. How hard it is to be patient!

v. 5 You women of the court, we must promise ourselves, by the gazelles and deer of the field, not to awaken love until love is pleased to awaken itself.

v. 6 What can this be coming from the outskirts of the city like columns of smoke, perfumed clouds of myrrh and frankincense, clouds of the scented powders of the merchant?

v. 7 Look! It is the royal procession with Solomon carried upon his lavish couch by his strongest servants. And take a look at all those soldiers around it! That is the imperial guard, the sixty mightiest warriors in the entire kingdom.

v. 8 Each one is an expert with his weapon and valiant in battle. Yet now each one has a sword at his side only for the protection of the King and his bride.

v. 9 Look at the luxurious couch Solomon is carried on. He has had it made especially for this day. He made its frame from the best timber of Lebanon.

v. 10 Its posts are made of silver, its back of gold, and its seat of royal purple cloth. And do you see its delicate craftsmanship! It reflects the skill of the women of the court who gave their best work out of love for the king and his bride.

v. 11 Let us all go out and look upon King Solomon wearing his elegant wedding crown. Let us go out and see him on the most joyful day of his life.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Song of Solomon 3:1-11 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What is Shulamith's problem in verses 1 & 2?

3. Describe how Shulamith responds to Solomon in verse 4.

4. What promise needs to be made, according to verse 5?

5. Describe what is happening in verses 6 & 7.

6. What is the purpose of having the imperial guard with Solomon on this occasion, according to verse 8?

7. What has Solomon done, according to verse 9, for this special wedding day?

8. What two things are said about King Solomon in verse 11?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

LESSON #1: Painful partings and the deep desire to be together is an indication of the growth of love in a relationship.

LESSON #2: Solomon is sensitive to the needs of his bride. He builds her self-image and sense of security. He makes her feel valuable and loved and important.

LESSON #3: Patience and purity are the two major ingredients of a growing relationship.

LESSON #4: We must promise ourselves “not to awaken love until love is pleased to awaken itself.”

LESSON #5: A good marriage involves the grand, the grind, the groan, and the growth.

LESSON #6: A good marriage partner must be a soldier, a student, a statesman, and a servant.

LESSON #7: Solomon offered his bride the best he had and his love for her brought out the best in him.

LESSON #8: A common commitment must be made on the part of each partner to catch the foxes of sloth, sex, silver, selfishness, and Satan in order for a marriage to accomplish its goals.

LESSON #9: Marital love is painful, possessive, persevering, and priceless.

LESSON #10: God's desire for each marriage is that it might be the most joyful day of your life.