

SONG OF SONGS

a series on:

SEX • ROMANCE • MARRIAGE • LOVE



Parental Advisory Explicit Scriptures
What Is Your Love Reflecting?
Song of Songs 8:5–14

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5 Who is that coming up from the wilderness,
 leaning on her beloved?
Under the apple tree I awakened you.
There your mother was in labor with you;
 there she who bore you was in labor.

6 Set me as a seal upon your heart,
 as a seal upon your arm,
for love is strong as death,
 jealousy is fierce as the grave.
Its flashes are flashes of fire,
 the very flame of the Lord.

7 Many waters cannot quench love,
 neither can floods drown it.
If a man offered for love
 all the wealth of his house,
 he would be utterly despised.

Others

8 We have a little sister,
and she has no breasts.
What shall we do for our sister
on the day when she is spoken for?

9 If she is a wall,
we will build on her a battlement of silver,
but if she is a door,
we will enclose her with boards of cedar.

She

10 I was a wall,
and my breasts were like towers;
then I was in his eyes
as one who finds peace.

11 Solomon had a vineyard at Baal-hamon;
he let out the vineyard to keepers;
each one was to bring for its fruit a thousand pieces of silver.

12 My vineyard, my very own, is before me;
you, O Solomon, may have the thousand,
and the keepers of the fruit two hundred.

He

13 O you who dwell in the gardens,
with companions listening for your voice;
let me hear it.

She

14 Make haste, my beloved,
and be like a gazelle
or a young stag
on the mountains of spices.

What is love?

Love is a Pledge

- “Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm” (SoS 8:6a).
- Marriage requires commitment.

- “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).
- “Wedding vows are not a declaration of present love by a mutually binding promise of future love” (Tim & Kathy Keller, *The Meaning of Marriage*, 87).
- Love is not noncommittal.

Love is Powerful

- “for love is strong as death, jealousy is fierce as the grave” (SoS 8:6b).
- Marriage requires strength.
 - “*Love is as strong as death*. It is not the case here that love survives death, that love is stronger than death, but rather that love holds its victims under its sway in exactly the same way as death does” (Tom Gledhill, *The Message of Song of Songs*, 218).
 - “God is love” (1 John 4:8, 16).
 - “For God to cease to love his own, God would need to cease to exist, because God does not simply have love; he is love” (Dane Ortlund, *Gentle and Lowly*, 193).
- Love is not weak.

Love is Passionate

- “Its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the Lord” (SoS 8:6c).
- Marriage requires intensity.
 - “4 “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing” (Luke 15:4–5).
 - 8 “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? . . . (Luke 15:8).
 - 20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 22 But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. 23 And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate” (Luke 15:20–24).
- Love is not apathetic.

Love is Persevering

- “Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it” (SoS 8:7a).
- Marriage requires perseverance.
 - “7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends” (1 Corinthians 13:7–8a).
- Love does not quit.

Love is Precious

- “If a man offered for love all the wealth of his house, he would be utterly despised” (SoS 8:7b)
- Marriage requires priority.
 - “6 Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. 7 Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows” (Luke 12:6–7).
- Love is not worthless.

“He 13 O you who dwell in the gardens, with companions listening for your voice; let me hear it. She 14 Make haste, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices” (Song of Songs 8:13–14).

6 Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. 7 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; 8 it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. 9 And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God” (Revelation 19:6–9).

Your love should reflect divine love because divine love is the source of marital love.

What is your love reflecting?