



SERMON REFLECTION GUIDE

Song of Songs, Part 7: Two Armies Dancing - Song of Songs 6:4-8:4 - June 7, 2026

SERMON OUTLINE

Intro - *Neo-Platonism* and the *Body/Soul divide*, is the soul redeemable while the body is necessarily base/evil? How does this influence how people interpret Song of Songs? Matthew Henry said we must “*forget we have bodies*” in order to understand Song of Songs! Neo-Platonism is NOT in the Bible, and Jesus’s **incarnation** should be all the proof we need.

A. Beauty Beheld (6:6-7; 7:1-5)

- “Beautiful” 4x in our passage, 16x in the book
- 3 *wasfs* - extended metaphorical descriptions of a lover’s physical beauty, Song of Songs is famous for these (4:1-5; 5:10-16; 7:1-5)
- **Biblically**, beauty is held in tension
 - Beauty FADES - “beauty is vain” (Prov. 31:30)
 - Beauty can be DANGEROUS - the adulteress’s beauty is a snare (Prov. 6:20-35)
 - It is like a freshly cut *rose* - immediately beautiful, already fading, potentially thorny
- **Theologically** - **Romans 1** teaches us that creation should point us to the Creator! That means any beauty in the created order (inc. humans) points ultimately to God’s beauty!
- In the **incarnation**, Jesus was not physically beautiful (Is. 53:2), but his exaltation on the cross was beautiful and glorious (Is. 4:2), which makes us beautiful in salvation! (Is. 60:9)

B. Conflict/Collision (6:4-5, 10-13)

- **Military** language - “awesome (*terrible!*) as an army with banners” (6:4, 10), Solomon’s litter arrives in battle formation (3:7-8)
- Combat? “A dance before two armies” (6:13)
- Passionate love can lead to Passionate conflict - after enough time together, we can instinctively speak/act in ways to intentionally inflict harm
- The word “*desire*” in 6:12 is a different Hebrew word, it matches the “*desire*” from Gen. 3:16 when God curses Eve that “her *desire* will be against her husband and he will rule over her”
- **We collide most with the ones we love the most.** We don’t want familiarity to breed contempt or for hangups to lead to hatred.
- How can we remember our love and put our beloved before ourselves?

C. Pure Passion (6:8-9; 7:6-8:4)

- Instead of passionate conflict, the groom wants passionate connection - he invites himself to “climb the palm tree” (7:7-9), and she accepts the invitation (7:9-13)
- Her pure passion for him:
 - “Oh that you were like a bother to me who nursed at my mother’s breasts!” (8:1)
 - Not incest, but wishful longing that she had always known him.
 - Greatest Love Song of All Time: “*First Day of My Life*” by Bright Eyes
 - We should not simply tolerate our beloved, but cherish each day with them
- His pure passion for her:
 - “There are 60 queens and 80 concubines, and virgins without number. My dove, my perfect one, is the only one...” (6:8-9)
 - My personal view of Solomon in Song of Songs is that the king with 300 wives and 700 concubines (1 Kings 11:3) is writing a “wish-dream” of a poem. The real life king with more women than he can count is wishing for a pure passion of “only one...” (6:9)
 - “Drink water from your own cistern...” (Prov. 5:15)
 - **Satisfaction with one’s long-term love will negate succumbing to short-term surrender to temptation.** - Paul House



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How has Neo-platonism continued to influence how we operate spiritually?
2. Should we “forget that we have bodies”? If not, what are our bodies for?
3. What role does beauty play in the Song of Songs and the entire Bible? What should earthly beauty cause us to see?
4. Why is conflict inevitable in our marriages? How can we grow in the way we handle these conflicts?
5. Josh said that the passion between the two lovers in Song of Songs was *pure*. What did he mean by that?
6. How can we arrive at the gospel message from a text like this?