



## SERMON REFLECTION GUIDE

Song of Songs, Part 3: Seeking & Being Sought - Song of Songs 3:1-11  
May 10, 2026 (Mother's Day)

### SERMON OUTLINE

Intro - Dreams! Mostly random and strange, but can expose the fear of loss & pain, along with the relief of waking up and realizing the nightmare isn't real.

There are two *dream sequences* in Song of Songs (3:1-4 & 5:2-8) - and in both dreams, the bride experiences the panic of "losing" her beloved.

In *Song of Songs 3:1-5*, the bride dreams of seeking her husband only to awake and find that she is actually the one being sought by him. (3:6-11)

#### A. SEEKING (*Song of Songs 3:1-5*)

- The previous chapters have established our characters as "sick with love" (2:5), desperately awaiting their wedding day and consummation that follows. Because of that, the bride's dream (3:1-4) is especially disturbing to her.
- She is "seeking" (4x in v. 1-2) her beloved, apparently in a panic.
- She calls her beloved "him whom my soul loves" - the idea of soul (*nepesh*) contains the entire being of a person, expressing extreme desire.
- *Song of Songs* is certainly a book about **desire** - and here, it causes us to ask "what do I desire more than anything else?" And how am I "seeking" that with my decisions and actions?
- Often, we find what we are seeking, and realize that it does not totally satisfy us.
- **Philosophies** (stoicism) and **religions** (Buddhism) recommend we eliminate desire altogether.
- **Illustration**: Tom Brady's 60 Minutes interview - "I wish I knew..."
- If I find in myself a desire in myself which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probably explanation is that I was made for another world. - CS Lewis
- Desire itself was put into our human experience to cause us to desire God. Just as the bride finds her beloved (v. 4) We are to be seeking him, and he is there to be found.
- You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the LORD. - Jeremiah 29:13-14
- Quick look at **Psalms 63:1-8** - is this type of deep desire for God a regular experience for you? This Psalm combines "*nepesh*" and "*clinging*" language just like *Song of Songs 3:4*

ASIDE: *Song of Songs 3:5* encourages patience and **waiting** for the proper time to consummate sexual activity. This is a repeated verse from 2:7 - and we will tackle this subject in full NEXT WEEK as we look at all of *Song of Songs 2*.

#### B. BEING SOUGHT (*Song of Songs 3:6-11*)

- This section is probably the strangest section in the entire book thematically. No where else in this book do we see imagery quite like this. But, interestingly, within *Song of Songs*, this section shares the most in common with the rest of the Old Testament.
- Note - in this chapter, each person is **seeking the other**. So much of sex & relationships these days is self-serving, but this entire book is a picture of focusing on the other.
- King Solomon appears out of the wilderness - and his arrival is quite biblical! (v. 6-10)
  - **Smoke** (fire & cloud) - seen in Exodus at Sinai and in the leading of the Hebrews
  - **Frankincense & myrrh** - seen in the tabernacle & in the gifts of the Magi!
  - The "litter/carriage" of Solomon - is carried in a way resembling the Ark of the Covenant!
- He arrives to the panicked bride - *he was seeking her all along!*
- It is the "day of his wedding, on the day of the gladness of his heart" (v. 11)

While we should seek God - spiritually, *no one actually seeks after God* (**Romans 3:10**)

Yet - God is seeking sinners! (See: **Luke 19, John 10, Rev. 3**)

The Arrival of Jesus in his 2nd Coming looks like Solomon's Arrival (**Rev. 19:11-16**)!

The Reason? **A Wedding!** Jesus arrives as a Greater Husband (**Rev. 19:6-8**)



## **SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

1. What thing or person - if you lost them in a dream - would you awake to the greatest relief?
2. What do we learn about the Bride's desire for her husband in this dream sequence?
3. What is the significance of the title, "Him whom my soul loves" - what is the "soul" in this context?
4. Have you had any of your great desires met and found they didn't satisfy you as much as you anticipated?
5. What are our earthly desires meant to teach us?
6. What does the imagery of Solomon's arrival in v. 6-10 cause us to think? Who does Solomon seem to represent here?
7. If Solomon is meant to symbolize God himself seeking a bride - how does this text point us to the Gospel of Jesus?