



## SERMON REFLECTION GUIDE

### Song of Songs, Part 6: Where Has Your Beloved Gone?

Song of Songs 5:2-6:3 - May 31, 2026

#### SERMON OUTLINE

Intro - idealistic pictures of marriage/sex in Song of Songs, too idealistic to be helpful?

#### A. Going Different Directions (Song of Songs 5:2-6)

- Reminder: Song of Songs is not narrative or history. It is poetry! Don't read literally!
- There is a TON of double entendre (sexual innuendo) here. Let the reader understand.
- If chapter 4 is the bliss of the honeymoon, then chapter 5 is post-honeymoon frustration.
- Arc: husband shows up late, tries to initiate intimacy, wife is uninterested; when she changes her mind, he is gone. They are not on the same page at all.
- This is marriage/sex in the real world - both partners reacting to their own selfish feelings.
- "Thrilled" (v. 4) could actually be "*stirred*" or "*agitated*" - it's not necessarily positive. It hints that her heart is split/conflicted about what to do. *My interests or my spouse's interests?*
- Will we only ever show attention, affection, and intimacy when it is convenient for us?
- 1 Corinthians 7 - if married, we do not have autonomous authority over our own body!
- The creation/marriage idea that 2 become 1 is also a physical/sexual idea - not simply abstract/theoretical/spiritual.

#### B. Getting No Help (Song of Songs 5:7-9)

- The city watchmen scene is confusing (v. 7) - because they were portrayed positively in 3:3.
- Perhaps, we are to see that love turned inward can lead to bad places and bad outcomes.  
Think: *Prodigal Son*
- The Daughters of Jerusalem (the others) are also unhelpful. To this point they have been incredibly supportive of the bride character, but now they are dismissive of her husband.
- Application: When we get the opportunity to speak into someone's relationship, does our advice seek to restore the relationship, or simply to agree and meet the expectations of the person who is complaining about their spouse?

#### C. Gushing About a Friend (Song of Songs 5:10-16)

- Whatever has happened with her surrounding community, the Bride is powerfully reminded of all that she loves about her husband.
- This one of many wasfs texts in Song of Songs - these poetic descriptions of another person's physical characteristics and beauty.
- We cannot break down each individual verse/descriptor, but instead, we can view the overall poem as the Bride being deeply attracted to her husband.
- Note: v. 16 is the first time that either of the lovers refer to the other as "my friend".
  - Friendship is a hugely important factor in marriage relationships.
  - Even in a book centered on sexual attraction, friendship cannot be discounted.

#### D. A Garden Return (Song of Songs 6:1-3)

- The daughters decide they are interested in helping after all!
- The poem doesn't end with the groom located, but an acknowledgement from the bride that she knows where he will be.
- Ultimately, steadfast love and faithfulness go hand in hand. The power of the marriage covenant should be one that persevere through these type of frustrations.
- What a MANTRA for all our married lives: "*I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine.*" (6:2)
- Gospel Connection: Many a man proclaims his own steadfast love, but a faithful man who can find? - Proverbs 20:6
- Jesus also knocks on the door of those who are lukewarm and disinterested (Rev. 3:14-21)
- He waits for us, and will not disappear when we open the door.
- He is also our friend! (John 15:13)



## SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Do you sometimes find the Scriptures as too idealistic to apply? What did you make of the marriage scenario we saw in Song of Songs 5:2-6?
2. How much of your marriage feels like two people who are on different courses? Even with a lack of conflict, is there still frustration with a lack of unity?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-5 again - is that a shocking idea to you in our world of expressive individualism and bodily autonomy? Do our spouses really have authority over our bodies?
4. When someone shares with you something negative about their spouse/marriage, are you quicker to join your friend in negativity or to defend their marriage covenant? Yes, there is room for nuance here, but which way would your knee-jerk reaction go?
5. Why is it significant that the Brides poem gushing about her beloved ends with a declaration of their *friendship*?
6. How can a text like this point us to Christ and our need for the gospel?