

Song of Solomon 7-8 – 31 August 2023

“Love That Overwhelms Us”

Introduction

*There are 4 layers by which to interpret this book

*The glory of wedded love

*God’s love for His wife Israel

*Christ’s love for His bride the church

*Christ’s love for the individual – for you

*Don’t leave this book primarily being the wiser for it, but primarily being deeper in love with Jesus

*If in chapters 1-3 we saw a “Love that draws us”, & in chapters 4-6 we see a “Love that restores us” now we see the maturity w/ a “Love that overwhelms us”

*How do we respond to Christ’s overwhelming love that draws us into relationship with Him?

*How do we respond to Christ’s love that restores us even after our failures & indifference toward Him?

Today we’ll see 3 ways to do just that

#1: Love even w/ our bodies to see joy (Chap 7:1-8)

Read Chap 7:1-2 (He speaks to her)

1. Solomon extols the beauty of his bride
 - a. Whether she feels this way about herself or not, this is what's true of her
2. Remember gentlemen to use the 'intent' here not the 'content'

Read Vs 3

1. Now that one translates

Read Vs 4-5

1. Mt Carmel is known for its beauty
2. The king is held, as in, captivated by you
 - a. Jesus is captivated w/ wanting to be with us

Read Vs 6-8

1. No doubt Solomon delights here in his wife's body, but not to exclusion of her as a whole person
 - a. Couples should find pleasure in their spouse
 - b. Read Prov 5:19-20 & I Cor 7:5 – This helps us avoid lustful actions & builds relationship

2. May think of our relationship with Christ as purely *spiritual*, even *mental*, but it's also *physical*
 - a. Jesus doesn't physically touch us, but we are physically the Temple of God
 - b. Use our body effects our relationship with Jesus (Read I Corinthians 6:12-20)

#2: Initiate that love to see intimacy (Chap 7:9-8:4)

Read Chap 7:9 (She speaks to him)

1. She responds with expressions of her own about how good their love-making is together
2. If chap 4 spoke of consummation of the union, this speaks of the overwhelming joy of the union

Read Vs 10

1. "His desire is toward me" – God wants you
2. Jesus' longing is for us – He doesn't long for castles or planets
 - a. He longs for a castle with YOU in it, he longs for a planet with YOU by His side

Read Vs 11-13

1. She's now taking the initiative in bringing them together
2. Chap 2:10 this was his invitation to her, now she's matured to the point of instigating a deepening of their relationship
3. Just like in marriage, it's not only on Jesus to initiated intimacy, but also on us to initiate it

Read Vs 1-3

1. She desires to show her intimacy at all times
 - a. Vs 3 is the lovemaking embrace
2. Considered immodest to have PDAs in those days; could show family love, not intimate love
 - a. Some have a prayer language (ie I Cor 14:2) w/ the Lord, wouldn't make sense in public

Read Vs 4 (He speaks to daughters of Jerusalem)

1. This is the 3rd time he repeats this chorus
2. Something powerful in love that is as fire
 - a. Properly used it warms & brought light
 - b. Improperly used it'll burn your life down

#3: Be motivated by that love to see security (Chap 8:5-14)

Read Chap 8:5 (He speaks to her)

1. It's now noticeable to all that she leans on and depends on her groom
2. When you begin to struggle, is it noticeable to others that you're asking the Lord for help?
3. When you celebrate success, is it noticeable to others that you praise God for it?
4. How would others finish this sentence about you: "They're noticeable in love with BLANK"

Read Vs 6a (She speaks to him)

1. A seal, as a seal on a scroll speaks of commitment, promise and security
2. She wants security of knowing His heart is hers, his strength of arm is hers – she wants that promise
3. In Christ we have that – we're sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise
 - a. Read Eph 1:13 – Jesus Himself used this language in John 6 (vs 27)

Read Vs 6b-7

1. Love has a right to be jealous of what would attack that love – this is the strongest of conditions

Read Vs 8-9 (Her brothers speak to her)

1. When she was young, her brothers motivated her with consequences & rewards to stay pure
2. There are 3 great motivators in life
 - a. Fear of punishment, promise of reward & love
 - b. If you want to see someone enter a lasting relationship w/ King Jesus, they need to fall in love w/ Him – this can't fall apart with a bribe

Read Vs 10 (She speaks to everyone)

1. She proclaims to her brothers that she's kept herself pure and now she's found peace w/ him

Read Vs 11-12

1. Meaning of this ancient analogy is almost lost but sense is that Solomon's vineyard (life) is valuable & she sees her life as comparatively small

Read Vs 13 (He speaks to her)

1. There seems to be a separation between them at this point
2. He longs for her to call out to him as the Lord longs for us to call out to Him in prayer
3. Even while separated, she has influence on her friends

Read Vs 14 (She speaks to him)

1. Make this the prayer of our life
 - a. For Jesus to make haste and come to us each morning
 - b. For Jesus to make haste and come to us ultimately in full glory and establish His rule over His kingdom

Conclusion

So, not only does Jesus draw us with His love, then restores us with His love, He then showers us with even more love!

How do we respond to such a love?

1. **Love Him back with our whole body**
 - a. Not just spiritually (I'll be w/ Him for eternity)
 - b. Not just mentally (I'm thankful & grateful)
 - c. But also physically (I want to use my every faculty and resource to glorify Him)
2. **Initiate love with Him**
 - a. Don't wait for God to shower blessings, but publicly declare His goodness & forgiveness
3. **Be motivated by that love**
 - a. Fear of hell or gaining heaven can only push you so much
 - b. Love of King Jesus is a fountain of living water