



Wisdom and Whispers PT. VI | Don't Awaken Love Too Soon

Mark Allen | 06.14.26

The Book of Song of Solomon

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by asking God to open hearts and minds to His truth and to help group members apply what they learn.

Icebreaker

What's the most romantic gesture you've ever witnessed or experienced? What made it meaningful?

Sermon Overview

This week, Pastor Mark explored the Song of Solomon, revealing it as both a beautiful love story between Solomon and the Shulamite woman AND a prophetic picture of Christ's love for the church. The sermon emphasized the importance of purity, the beauty of marriage within God's design, and our identity as the bride of Christ waiting for the King's return.

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **The Song of Solomon is about waiting and purity** - The Shulamite woman warns three times: "Do not arouse or awaken love until the proper time."
2. **Marriage reflects Christ and the Church** - Our earthly marriages are meant to be a picture of the bridegroom (Christ) and the bride (the Church).
3. **We're living in the "winter season"** - As believers, we're waiting for the King to call us home, just as the Shulamite woman waited for Solomon's return.

4. **The King came in disguise** - Solomon disguised himself as a common man; Jesus came as a humble servant before being revealed as the King of Kings.
 5. **Persecution intensifies our longing** - Throughout church history, persecuted believers treasured this book because it reminded them the King would call them home.
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. **What surprised you most about the Song of Solomon being in the Bible?** How does understanding it as both a marriage manual and a picture of Christ and the Church change your perspective?
2. **Read Song of Solomon 2:7, 3:5, and 8:4.** Why do you think the Shulamite woman repeats this warning three times? What does this tell us about God's heart for purity?
3. **The Pastor Mark mentioned that the Shulamite woman didn't know she had fallen in love with the king.** How does this parallel our relationship with Jesus? When did you first realize who Jesus truly is?

Personal Reflection

4. **For Singles:** How does the call to "not awaken love until the proper time" challenge our culture's approach to relationships? What practical steps can you take to honor this wisdom?
5. **For Married Couples:** The Pastor Mark said marriage should include both love AND friendship. How would you rate these two aspects in your marriage? What's one way you could strengthen the weaker area this week?
6. **Solomon described jealousy within marriage as healthy and protective.** How is godly jealousy different from toxic jealousy? How does this apply to God's jealousy for us?

Application to Christ and the Church

7. **Read Ephesians 5:25-32.** Paul says this passage is "really about Christ and the Church." What does it mean that we are the bride of Christ? How should this identity shape our daily lives?
 8. **The Pastor Mark mentioned that persecuted Christians throughout history found comfort in Song of Solomon.** Why would a love story bring comfort during persecution? What does this teach us about our relationship with Jesus?
 9. **"We're living in the winter season, waiting for the King to call us home."** How does this perspective change the way you view current difficulties or waiting periods in your life?
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge (Choose One or More)

- **For Everyone:**
 - Memorize Song of Solomon 8:6-7 and reflect on what it means for Christ's love to be "as strong as death" for you.
 - Journal about what "winter season" you're currently in and how knowing the King will call you home brings hope.
- **For Singles:**
 - Write out a personal commitment to purity and share it with an accountability partner.
 - Pray specifically for your future spouse (if marriage is your desire) and commit to wait for God's timing.
- **For Married Couples:**
 - Schedule a "date night" this week and discuss: "How can we better reflect Christ and the Church in our marriage?"
 - Husbands: Do something this week that shows you see your wife as "unique" and "the apple of your eye" (like Solomon did).
 - Wives: Find a way to express that your husband is both your "beloved" and your "friend."

▪ **For All Believers:**

- Read through the entire Song of Solomon this week with fresh eyes, looking for parallels to Christ's love for you.
- Share the gospel with someone this week, inviting them to become part of the bride of Christ.

Memory Verse

Song of Solomon 8:6-7a *"Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot sweep it away."*

Prayer Focus

Pray for:

- Purity and wisdom for the young people in our church and community
- Marriages in our group and church to reflect Christ's love for the Church
- Believers facing persecution around the world, that they would find comfort in knowing the King will call them home
- Those who don't yet know Jesus as their King and Savior
- A renewed sense of anticipation for Christ's return

Closing Prayer

"Lord Jesus, thank you for being our King who came in disguise, who pursued us with relentless love, and who will one day call us home. Help us to live with purity, to honor marriage as a reflection of your love for the Church, and to wait with hopeful anticipation for your return. For those in the winter season, remind them that spring is coming. In Jesus' name, Amen.."

Leader Notes

- Be sensitive when discussing purity and sexuality—some may carry shame from past decisions
 - Emphasize God's grace and redemption for those who haven't waited
 - For mixed groups (singles and married), ensure both feel included in discussions
 - Consider having married couples and singles break into separate groups for questions 4-6
 - Celebrate anyone who made a commitment to Christ during the sermon!
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