

YOU TAKE MY BREATH AWAY

Song of Solomon 4

Pray

Do you remember that moment

- the first time you saw your wife walking down the aisle in her wedding dress!
 - The music starts playing, everybody stands up, and there she is!
- and you can't even find the words to describe how beautiful she looks!
 - You just stand there thinking, "WOW! That's MY wife!"

Adam had a similar experience when he saw his wife for the first time

You remember in **Genesis 2** When God brought Eve to Adam

- Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;
 - She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

When he saw Eve His breath was taken away as He said WOW man!

- He was blown away by how beautiful she was
 - And that is where we got the word Woman

We've been following this couple as they have been falling. In love.

- their love was blossoming and growing it led them down the aisle to marriage
 - what's happened up to this point, the rings and vows have been exchanged.
 - Their husband and wife, the reception has taken place.
 - The couple had gently fed their cake to one another.
 - Then they danced so much their feet hurt.

They smiled so much for pictures, their cheeks hurt. that's how I remember it.

- **And finally, it was time to make their way to their honeymoon,**
 - happily running through the tunnel of friends and family
 - who had sparklers, glow sticks or blowing bubbles.
- And they get into their chariot hot rod and it reads, "Just married."
 - And they head off to the honeymoon suite.

As SOS continues, the couple begins to sing about their intimate love for one another.

- And it is important to understand that the sexual relationship
 - was made for the marriage between husband and wife.

The Lord said in the very beginning, in **Genesis 2:24-25** a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.**25** And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

God is the one that designed the intimate sexual relationship between husband and wife.

- It's not something dirty. It was created to be a blessing for the husband and his wife.

Jesus chose a wedding to perform his first miracle.

- And I believe it was a divine sign of his approval for the wedding ceremony.
- God, inspired those to write scriptures on the subject of intimacy in marriage.

In **Hebrews 13:4** it says, marriage should be honored by all and the marriage bed kept pure.

Sex is not something to be embarrassed about. This is something that God created.

- It is beautiful. It is good. It makes babies, but its meant to only be for marriage.

You might think, How can a pastor talk about sex and all this at church?

- **We shouldn't just let the world be the only one who talks about sexuality?**
 - We need to open up Gods Word and see what He says about it

Its where we will see the words of the one who invented it to learn how to use this gift

- that he gave to us.

people might say its weird to talk about these things in church but

- we shouldn't just allow our thoughts on it to be framed by worldly Shows & songs!

Billions and billions and billions of dollars are spent to market a plan for sexuality

- that we will see on movie screens and cell phone screens and songs
 - that's promoting a kind of sexuality different from the one who invented it

what we will see is physical Intimacy starts long before the bedroom.

- And the women know this. The men need a little work in this department.

Men are microwaves, Woman are like Crock-Pots,

- A man is ready to make love Anytime with their wife, it's just the way men are.

But we need to understand that, especially for the men, that God-honoring lovemaking

- starts long before the bedroom. And we will watch & see how Solomon
 - honors his bride, compliments her, how he builds her up,
 - how he shares in conversation with her,
 - how he pays very careful attention to the details in her life.
 - Before they have sex

- Its like he warms up the crockpot slowly as he builds her up

And he starts out by telling her "How beautiful she is in vs. 1"

1 Behold, you are fair, my love!

Behold, you are fair!

You have dove's eyes behind your veil.

Your hair is like a flock of goats,

Going down from Mount Gilead.

Telling a woman she looks like a goat in today's age, isn't a good idea! it doesn't really work.

- That will turn the crock pot off = that is like unplugging the crockpot

The king begins by letting his bride know that she is fair.

- It means you're beautiful, you're excellent.
 - And he says it twice for emphasis and reassurance.
 - The groom wanted his bride to know how he sees her.

You remember from previous studies, we pointed out that the bride actually struggled

- in this area of personal self-image. She did not see herself as fair, beautiful,
 - or excellent, but rather she saw herself as average.

But the king, he loved her and found her beautiful and declares his feelings for her.

- this wasn't the only time or the first time that he had told her
 - that she was beautiful. He actually said it before.

he didn't tell her she was beautiful only when he desired something from her.

- He affirms his love, lets her know how he feels about her.
 - And the truth is Jesus sees us in the same way.
 - He looks at us with eyes of love and he sees us differently
 - than we see ourselves.

there is so much pressure as to what is classified as beautiful in our culture.

- But the Bible's perspective on beauty is far different than this world's.

God-honoring lovemaking starts long before the bedroom.

- It may be when you just send a no-reason text in the morning
 - "Thinking about you." "Missing you ..." "I love you." you're building them up.
 - "Your beautiful" It could be when you just have conversations,
 - and you pay attention to the details of her day,
 - or you ask her how she feels about something,

As he begins, he comments first and foremost on her eyes that were behind her veil,

- He is actually looking into her eyes.
 - He didn't quickly rush into the intimate experience,
 - he took time to patiently consider his wife

The Bible tells us in **Matthew 6:22**, Jesus said "**The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light.**"

- You can tell a lot about a person by looking into their eyes.
 - In the previous chapter, the king had already commented on her eyes
 - in the same way. He said she had dove's eyes.

Doves, are one of the rare species of birds that will mate for life. faithful

- A dove in scripture reminds us of a few things.
 - innocence.

Matthew 10:16 when Jesus spoke to his disciples, he said, "**Therefore, be wise as serpents, be harmless as doves.**" These small birds are characterized by peace, gentleness & softness.

- **Doves are also symbolic of the Holy Spirit in scripture.**
 - When Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River,
 - as he came up out of the water, the Bible says that the spirit of God
 - descended upon him in the form of a dove. Representing God's presence.
- What a blessing it is when you can see the work of the Holy Spirit in your spouse
 - The fruit of the spirit, which is love.

she has doves eyes she doesn't have angry eyes she's not loud & obnoxious

- doves eyes are soft and gentle she had a calm sweet gentle spirit about her

He commented on her eyes, but next he complimented her hair.

- She had long flowing locks of hair and he likes it,

If your wife comes home & she has gotten her hair done

- and you don't notice, you are not getting any kisses.

He says, "Your hair is like a flock of goats descending from the hills."

- The Goats on the mountains of Gilead had long beautiful flowing hair
- A Jewish woman usually always had her hair up. Now she's got her hair down,
 - and he likes what he sees.

when Shawna has long hair and its wavy, flowy & bouncy I like it.

- All she has to do is take that long hair and go...
- That one move, and She can have anything she wants. I love it.
 - he's like, "Your hair, it's down, and I love everything about it!"

and then he comments on her teeth In verse two,

² Your teeth are like a flock of shorn sheep
Which have come up from the washing,
Every one of which bears twins,
And none is ^[a]barren among them.

He says, You have the most beautiful white teeth & you have all your teeth!

- this was a pretty big accomplishment before dental floss, and dentist visits.
 - Your hair's down & there's teeth on every place there's supposed to be one!"

they're bright they're brilliant she's not missing any of them

- he's glad she's got all her chompers

he said, They've been washed & brushed.

- Also, very important side note as it relates to intimacy, good hygiene goes a long way.

³ Your lips are like a strand of scarlet,
And your mouth is lovely.
Your temples behind your veil
Are like a piece of pomegranate.

"Your lips are like a scarlet ribbon." She's got beautiful, lovely red lips = lip stick

Our lips and our mouth communicate the words that we speak.

- The Bible has much to say about the words we speak & how we speak to our spouse,
 - they can have a direct impact on your intimate relationship
- If you are verbally abusive, forcefully criticize, or insult your spouse,
 - your communication is characterized by underlying anger, bitterness,
 - hostility, profanity. It's destructive and it harms the other person
 - and produces negative emotions
 - that will certainly crush the desire for intimacy.

The Bible tells us in Psalm 19:14, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, oh Lord, my strength and my redeemer."

In Psalm 34:13, it says, "Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit."

Colossians 4:6, "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt that you may know how you ought to answer each one."

Ephesians 4:29, "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification that it may impart grace to the hearers. "

- What kind of conversation are you having with your spouse?
 - Is it an environment of encouragement?
 - Are you building that other person up or are you tearing them down?

When I think of the temple, it makes me think of the mind.

- the mind is a battleground for believers. A lot of the battles we fight R in the mind,
 - the majority of fear, worry, doubt, discontentment, lust, hatred.
 - it starts in the mind.

That is why the Bible has much to say about the mind.

1 Peter 1:13, " gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. "

2 Corinthians 10:5 we are to cast down arguments, every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bring every thought into captivity and to the obedience of Christ.

Philippians 4:8, " Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report. If there's any virtue, if there's anything praiseworthy, meditate or think about these things. Don't fill your mind with all kinds of garbage

- that you'll have a very difficult time sorting through.

He relates her temple to Pomegranates which have great Brain Boosting Benefits!!!

⁴Your neck is like the tower of David,
Built for an armory,
On which hang a thousand ^[b]bucklers,
All shields of mighty men.

She likes to wear jewelry & he likes it! I love it when Shawna get all bedazzled for me!

Solomon was very gentle with her

- **before he ever touched her with his hands, he touched her with his words.**

He understands verbal communication is key.

⁵Your two breasts are like two fawns,
Twins of a gazelle,
Which feed among the lilies.

I'm not going to make any eye contact while I explain this verse.

if you saw two baby deer and you thought, "I want to pet them."

- You would need to move slowly & be very gentle
 - I actually got kicked by a deer trying to feed it an apple = true story

If you come just diving in like a bull in a China shop, Hey, you twin fawns!

- the fawns will no longer be browsing among the lilies.
 - They will be fleeing for the forest!

That's why, men, we need to learn to work on our approach.

- Start long before the bedroom.

build her up & care about the details of her life.

- **Ladies, make an approach, Put on something that will get him excited!!**
 - **Bless him & it will bless your marriage!**
 - he wants you to want him out of desire,
 - not to give in to him out of duty.
 - **when you make a move on him, that gets him excited & blesses him!!!**

When you initiate there's something about that that just makes a man more of a man!

- Men Work on your approach & Ladies, make an approach.

Another tool you can use that's really effective, is called NST – that's the initials.

- "NST" stands for Non-Sexual Touching. It's touching without an end goal in mind.
 - It's just a back rub, a touch on the cheek. Holding her hand or hug, cuddles
 - these things build the emotional tank.
- God-honoring sex starts long before the bedroom.

All of us have different needs. We've got emotional needs. We've got spiritual needs.

- We've got physical and sexual needs, as well.
 - And when you think about it, you are your spouse's only legitimate outlet
 - to meet that sexual need. You are the only way that your spouse
 - can have that need met.
- So, if you pull back, and if you start to put distance between you and your spouse,
 - your spouse has no other God-honoring outlet for that need to be met.

God wants you to minister to your spouse in the needs they have & to bless them!

- What's amazing is, when you minister to your spouses needs,
 - They will naturally want to meet your needs.
 - there's a positive cycle, when I minister to her, she ministers to me.
 - And your love grows more & more when your selfless
 - By putting our spouse before yourself

⁶Until the day breaks

And the shadows flee away,

I will go my way to the mountain of myrrh

And to the hill of frankincense.

She wore a necklace with Myrr in it and it hung between her breasts

- and he is saying that's where I want to be and I want to stay there all night long.
 - I want to snuggle with you all night

When Solomon says until the day breaks and the shadows flee away,

- he is saying there is nowhere else that I want to be.
 - He's not going anywhere. He is committed to her

⁷ You are all fair, my love,
And there is no spot in you.

When you brought a sacrifice, the priest would judge it as being spotted or spotless

- He says you're without defect. Now she wasn't flawless.
 - She wasn't perfect,

but you know the Bible says that **love covers a multitude of faults, a multitude of sins**

- to him When he looked at her, he looked at her with eyes of love
 - and to him, she was perfect. She was made for him
 - and to him she was without spot.

It makes me think of how Jesus sees us today, that when he looks at us,

- even though we have faults, flaws, shortcomings, that he sees us with eyes of love
 - and we have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
 - Jesus has washed and cleansed every stain that would be upon us.
- By taking our place and dying upon the cross. He died in our place, paid the price
 - so that we could be cleansed from all the stains of our sin,
- Don't listen today to the Devil (Our Accuser) who says you're unworthy.
 - You can't repent. You can't get right. You've messed up one too many times.

Romans 8:1 **there's no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.**

It's refreshing to be reminded how the Lord sees us without stain & spotless

- because of Christ.

⁸ Come with me from Lebanon, my spouse,
With me from Lebanon.
Look from the top of Amana,
From the top of Senir and Hermon,
From the lions' dens,
From the mountains of the leopards.

when looking at these things that Solomon is mentioning,

- the heights of Herman, the dens of lions, the mountains of leopards,
 - those are frightening places to be.

What is he talking about? I believe he's speaking to her fears.

- She's afraid, but he says to her, whether it's the height of the mountains
 - or the den of lions or the mountain of leopards, he says, "Come with me.
- He's helping her to feel secure in his love, to not be afraid b/c he's going to protect her
- one of the woman's greatest needs is security.

1 John 4:18 **There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear**

Jesus calls us to follow Him = Come with me & FEAR NOT!!!

2 Timothy 1:7 says God hasn't given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and a sound mind.

1 John 4:4 Greater is he who is in me than He who is in this world

Jesus said in Matthew 28:20 lo I am with you always even to the end of the age

- Always remember in high tide or low tide, Jesus is by your side

She knows as long as he's there, I'm going to be all right.

- Solomon was helping his bride to feel secure

- I will take on a lion for you!

I'm gonna protect you from the Lions and the leopards there in the mountains

- I'm gonna watch over you and guard you against anything that might hurt you

⁹ You have ravished my heart,
My sister, my spouse;
You have ravished my heart
With one look of your eyes,
With one link of your necklace.

¹⁰ How fair is your love,
My sister, my spouse!
How much better than wine is your love,
And the [c]scent of your perfumes
Than all spices!

¹¹ Your lips, O my spouse,
Drip as the honeycomb;
Honey and milk are under your tongue;
And the fragrance of your garments
Is like the fragrance of Lebanon.

Intimacy within a marriage was never meant to be a burden.

- The whole experience was intended to be a blessing from the Lord.
 - You can note here all the senses are firing.
 - It speaks of sight, smell, touch, taste.

honey and milk are two things you can eat & drink on this planet

- that don't involve any death of any kind. And they're a picture of the promised land.

¹² A garden [d]enclosed
Is my sister, my spouse,
A spring shut up,
A fountain sealed.

He says, "You're a virgin. You have saved yourself for me." You are a garden locked up

- a spring enclosed, a sealed fountain.

This is like Neil Armstrong saying, I'm about to go where no man's ever gone before.

- This is beautiful as she saved her virginity for Solomon

It was such a special gift to find out when I met Shawna that she had been saving herself

- For Marriage and how she wanted to be a virgin until she got married
 - She made a commitment early on to save herself for her husband one day.
- And I just honor her for saving herself for me and fighting for me and waiting for me.
 - And what a joy that was to be a part of that,

¹³ Your plants are an orchard of pomegranates

With pleasant fruits,

Fragrant henna with spikenard,

¹⁴ Spikenard and saffron,

Calamus and cinnamon,

With all trees of frankincense,

Myrrh and aloes,

With all the chief spices—

¹⁵ A fountain of gardens,

A well of living waters,

And streams from Lebanon.

here Solomon speaks of her body as something as being very precious & very valuable

If you circle the word orchard, it's the only time in the entire book of Song of Solomon

- this word is used And we get our English word paradise from it.
 - So he's calling Her body paradise as he describes her.

When you study Solomon in scripture, what you come to find out is that

- He knew how to make things grow. He had 2 green thumbs
 - The guy built hanging gardens. He produced national forests.
 - the guy was a genius when it came to planting things and causing them to grow.
- And seven times in the book of Song of Solomon, he uses the metaphor garden
- to describe his relationship with his spouse that he loved.
 - He lists the rarest, the most expensive, the most sought after plants
 - and flowers and spices and he compares them to this relationship.
 - And when you think about a garden, you got to cultivate these things.
 - There's weeds that need to be pulled. There's things that need to be uprooted
 - There's watering, planting.
 - There is hard work involved in the garden to make it something beautiful.

What was the secret of all of the fruit that was growing?

- What was the thing that really made it flourish?

verse 15 says, " **living water**."

- **Things can't grow without water. You need water in order for it to grow.**

in scripture, living water is a type, is a picture of the work of the Holy Spirit?

- You remember Jesus was in Samaria at a well speaking to a woman.

- She'd been in many relationships and she was empty.

She drank from many cisterns that were broken.

- And he offers her LIVING WATER in John 4,

In **John 7:37-39**, **On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive**

the key to a successful marriage is when the Holy Spirit's involved in the life of two people.

- When you are just being filled with Gods Word & the Holy Spirit
 - and overflowing, the garden becomes something beautiful

Too many couples leave the Lord out of their marriage and everything suffers.

- But when the Lord's in the midst of it,
 - the fruits of the spirit are ripe and beautiful and refreshing

Many people are familiar with Ephesians 5. Some men, it's their life verse.

- Wives submit to their... that's the only verse they've ever memorized in the Bible.
 - They sometimes don't read the verses after,
 - "Love your wife like Christ loves the church."

But the thing that some people don't realize is that before you get to the verses

- that talk about marriage, the verses before are significant in their context
 - because before you get to the part about marriage, it says this,

"Be continually being filled with the Holy Spirit."

- And in our marriage, we need the Holy Spirit's involvement in this relationship
 - for it to be all that God intended it to be.

How much work is a good garden. To have a garden takes a lot of intentionality.

- It takes a lot of time and energy and investment.

And just because you have a garden doesn't mean it'll stay beautiful.

- You need to tend to it constantly. he's saying is that marriage is like a garden.

That the husband and the wife both need to tend to that garden.

- It takes a lot of sewing and reaping and watering and pruning.
 - It takes a lot of attending.

- A good marriage is not something that just happens.

It's something that requires a mutual effort and a lifelong pursuit from a husband and wife.

If you don't tend to your garden, eventually you will destroy your garden.

- **If you stop walking with God, you start walking the way of the enemy.**

Now, for some of you, single people here today,

- you should be cultivating a garden. You should be planting things.
 - You should be allowing the Lord to break up hard ground in your life,
 - develop a safe place, a purity and wholeness so that when it's right
 - and when it's time, someone could walk into that garden
 - and say, wow, look at what's planted here.

This is a place that I want to be.

- In your singleness, you ought to be cultivating your relationship with Jesus.
 - the Bible says he is the vine. We are the branches.

If you abide in me and my word abides in you, you will bear much fruit.

- Don't waste time in your singleness, Cultivate that beautiful garden
 - that brings forth the fragrance of Christ that he's pleased with
 - and he'll bring someone else into that to share that with you

multiple times throughout their dating and engagement, they had to remind each other,

- "It's not time to wake stuff up yet. It's not time

She gave her advice to her girlfriends. Don't wake up, love.

- What's the first word in verse 16? She said, "Awake, awake, It's time to wake stuff up.

**¹⁶ Awake, O north wind,
And come, O south!
Blow upon my garden,
That its spices may flow out.
Let my beloved come to his garden
And eat its pleasant fruits.**

She invites him in now. She is secure in his love and she invites him into that relationship

- and responds to him because of all that has happened up to this point.

she's saying okay now that we're married I'm all yours I give all of Who I am

- and what I have to you
 - She invited him into her paradise and he accepted the invitation.

Jesus wants us in paradise with him for all eternity.

- He invites us into a relationship with Him!

If you want to go to paradise when you die

- having a relationship with Jesus is the only way

Give your heart and life to God

Pray & Share the Gospel