Better Together! The Joy of Marriage!

Song of Solomon 7

Pray

We are two chapters away from completing this book!

- Throughout our study we have considered many similarities
    - of the love that the king had for his bride
        - in comparison to the love that God has for us.

And we have been learning all about true love, relationships & marriage

we had a whole message just about how to fight fair & resolve conflict.

- And in in front of us today, we see the reward for handling conflict well.
    - A whole message on intimacy after an intense conflict, **A post fight delight.**

What we find is they've made up and reconnected.

- And we will look at several things that can help our relationship go the long haul.

This couple reuniting and reconciling reminded me of the prodigal son in Luke 15

- both passages remind us of the joy of reconciliation
- the beauty of forgiveness
- the blessing of restored relationships

After this couple reconciled their marriage grows stronger and as they grow closer

- he praises her beauty in verses one through six in a creative way

1 How beautiful are your feet in sandals,
O prince's daughter!
The curves of your thighs are like jewels,
The work of the hands of a skillful workman.

if you remember the last time he complimented her He started with her head,

- and he worked his way down. Now, he's starting at her feet,
    - and he's working his way up.
        - **This shows us He is creative & changing things up!**
    - as he heaped upon the bride marvelous compliments

He's seeking to change & mix things up. that is a passion enhancer.

- How do you keep the spice in marriage? You need variety.

creativity keeps you on your toes.

- And I see this in the life and ministry of Jesus.
    - When you look at the ways that he heals people in the New Testament,
        - it's almost never the same way twice.
    - **he might use mud, speaking a word, laying hands on people, wet willy**

There's things that cause Jesus to keep those around him leaning into him in faith.

- creativity is so important.

I don't believe for a second that the bride ever grew tired of hearing him

- tell her how beautiful she was and that he admired her.

My wife has never told me," Stop telling me how beautiful I am. I'm tired of it.

- You can't tell your wife enough how you admire her & appreciate her!

he rejoiced over her. He sang over her. and the Lord rejoices over you and sings over you.

The Bible tells us in Zephaniah 3:17," The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."
Isaiah 62:5 ," as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

one of the most basic laws of science is,

- the second law of thermodynamics, that teaches that everything in existence
    - is in a state of decline and degeneration.

In order for something to be sustained, there has to be some force at work

- that actually overcomes the item's natural tendency toward deterioration.
    - anything in life must be maintained and nourished.

Nothing ever reaches a point where it is permanently self-sustaining.

- For example, a fire must be fed or it will burn out.
    - Structures and machines have to be maintained and improved
        - or they will wear out.
    - People need to be continually nourished or they will become weak and die

Marriages are no different. If wood is not added to the flame and it is not fanned,

- the fire and marriage can go out If a marriage is not nurtured and nourished,
    - it could die.

Some marriages today are starved, wasting away, barely existing,

- but God doesn't want it to be that way.

All the actions that are commanded of husbands and wives in the New Testament

- are in the Greek present tense, which indicates continuous action.
    - Husbands are to continually love their wives.
    - Wives are to continually respect their husbands.

What we see in SOS Chapter 7 & 8 it ends with this couple nurturing their relationship.

- keeping the fires of marriage going.

In the first verse you see the appreciation for his bride.

when was the last time you said to your spouce Your feet are amazing. Their so beautiful.

- You could be a foot model.

If you desire a love that lasts the test of time, you need to continue to appreciate them!

- They are a gift that God has given you
    - and you need to verbalize that

Solomon said in Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue,
And those who love it will eat its fruit.

- If you want to have a life-giving marriage, speak life-giving words.
    - but whenever you start to criticize, tear down,
        - you're actually injecting poison into your relationship.

Every single time you think something positive about your spouse,

- do not rob them of a blessing. Say it. Text it.

Solomon is like the master complimenter.

I love how he brings up she had beautiful feet = I love the Bibles definition of Beautiful feet

romans 10:15 How beautiful are the feet of those who [a]preach the gospel of peace,
Who bring glad tidings of good things!

- we too have beautiful feet when we share the good news & peace of Jesus to others

- He says she's like jewels to him, meaning that she has value.
    - and that she is fearfully and wonderfully made by God

In Psalm 139:13, it says, "You formed my inward parts. You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Marvelous are your works and that my soul knows very well."

As we grow in our relationships, it is important to continue to value the other person,

- to acknowledge their importance in our lives and our appreciation for them,
    - you need to know that you are loved & valued by God

be your spouse's cheerleader, be an encourager

The king keeps going and he compliments next on her stomach & belly button

2 Your navel is a rounded goblet;
It lacks no blended beverage.
Your waist is a heap of wheat
Set about with lilies.

He says even after all we've been through all the ups and downs in marriage

- even after all these years of marriage i still find you desirable
    - i still find you intoxicating

he says you have a Waist like wheat & stomach like a wine glass.

- He's basically saying, I want to eat and drink you up.

wheat in that culture was one of the main food sources in ancient times.

- Wine in that culture, was a very common drink.
    - Thus, his wife was both his food, and drink

He was saying her love nourished and satisfied him.

- The king was content with the wife of his youth. He loved her.
    - He was satisfied with her. There was no one else that he wanted to be with.

3 Your two breasts are like two fawns, Twins of a gazelle.

This is language he has used before.

- it's his nickname for them, the twins of a gazelle.

He then goes on, continues to comment, talks about her neck, her eyes, and her nose.

4 Your neck is like an ivory tower,
Your eyes like the pools in Heshbon
By the gate of Bath Rabbim.
Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon
Which looks toward Damascus.

In previous chapters, Solomon mentioned that his bride's eyes were like Dove's eyes.

- now he says they're like pools
    - There's a greater depth when he looks in her eyes.

the pools of Heshbon are known for their beauty and abundant supply of water.

- they were a place of peaceful relief in the heart of a busy city.

In the midst of his busy life, Solomon could look into the eyes of his wife

- and find peace and rest.

she has a calm peaceful spirit about her

- she brought him peace in the midst of the storm
- I love being around water like, rivers, lakes & ocean as it brings me peace!

1 peter 3:3-4 talking to the wives says Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— 4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God

- she has a calm sweet gentle spirit about her in the midst of turmoil
    - and what a beautiful reason to praise her

There was a deeper appreciation for her than when they began.

He has grown more in love with her over time.

- I love my wife more today than I did when we started out as husband and wife.
    - I was there when all four of our children were born & she did an amazing job
- I watched as she brought these children into the world
    - as she cared for them and nurtured them and fed them
        - and clothed them and took care of me too in the process.
- And the sacrifices that have been made and I have observed amazing character
    - through valleys and struggles and trials and we've grown together.

And so my appreciation and love for her has grown

- because of all of these things that we have gone through together.

don't picture some big nose he is pointing out pointing the way to damascus

- I believe what solomon is talking about are towers in general

because towers represent strength & protection

- so in effect he's saying honey you have a strong character about you
    - you're steadfast in your convictions you're not swayed by others
        - she's going to hold her ground no matter what

- because she knows what she's doing is right

5 Your head crowns you like Mount Carmel,
And the hair of your head is like purple;
A king is held captive by your tresses.

The Carmel mountain range is the most beautiful, lush and green mountain in that area!
- he's saying the head of his bride crowns her body like the majestic Mount Carmel

He says, "Your hair, it's purple." You remember when we began,
- he said her hair was dark black. It's changed colors. He doesn't care.
    - He Loves her & compliments her.

he praises her hair for being purple so now you know where gals get it today
- they die their hair purple it's biblical

purple of course was a very difficult color to obtain = it was the color of royalty
- in fact they often used sea snails to get the colorful purple dye

kings wore purple and he's saying **your royalty**

I Love 1 Peter 2:9 B/c it shows us **who we are In Jesus**
"You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, and a holy nation, His own special people, that **you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light**."

Chosen Generation: Means you were picked
- Like if you were waiting for a team "Captain says I pick you"
    - God picked you for this time
        - "He drew you to Himself"
        - "He knocked on the door of your heart"

Royal Priesthood: Every believer is Royalty!
- Son or Daughter of the King of kings & have access to Him
    - Apart of the Royal Family of God

Holy Nation: Holy People of God
- Holy in the Greek: *hágios* = To be set apart, reserved for special use
    - French Press & Toothbrush is Holy
        - You are set apart in the Lords army for special use

His own special people: Greek: the idea of ownership after a transaction

It's awesome that we are Chosen, Royal, Holy, and Special
- But **God made you to proclaim the praises of Him**: how He saved you
    - God wants to use your life to Bring Glory to Him

He says, “The king is held captive by her tresses.” He already told us he loved her flowing locks, her curly wavy hair flowing down = the king is captivated by her hair

- That word, captive, in the Hebrew,
- it literally means “a prisoner put into chains.”
  - So, he’s saying, “Whenever you do this with ur hair… I’m, like, your love slave.
- I’m your prisoner.” That’s what he’s saying here: “Your hair does that to me.”

6 How fair and how pleasant you are,
O love, with your delights!

The verse speaks to the abundant joys of being married & shares its full of pleasant delights

I want to encourage you to add one word when you tell your lover you love them!

- add the word **because**,
  - and fill in the blank with all the different pleasant delights you see in them.

“I love you because you’re my best friend & your so faithful to me.”
“I love you because your always so fun to spend time with”
“I love you because you have an amazing laugh.”
“I love you because you’re the best mom in the whole wide world.”
“I love you because you make our relationship & family a priority.”
“I love you because …” and you fill in the blanks because of a lot of reasons.

- And I’m learning that’s a game changer.

he says, "I'm delighted by you. You light me up in every possible way."

- Your beauty inside, your beauty outside. It is a delight to me.

He is giving her verbal encouragement,

And I just have to note that he gave her a lot of compliments on their wedding night.

- But he is giving her even more compliments here! After they had been married for awhile
  - He's saying, "I thought you were perfect when I married you,
    - but I've found more to love.
      - I've discovered more the longer I'm with you,

7 This stature of yours is like a palm tree,
And your breasts like its clusters.
8 I said, “I will go up to the palm tree,
I will take hold of its branches.”
Let now your breasts be like clusters of the vine,
The fragrance of your breath like apples,

That’s in the Bible! “I’m going to climb the tree, and grab the fruit.”

here after many years of marriage they still are greatly attracted to each other

- they love & satisfy each other physically
  - and his desire is to be with his wife

9 And the roof of your mouth like the best wine.
The wine goes down smoothly for my beloved,
Moving gently the lips of sleepers.

10 I am my beloved's,
And his desire is toward me.

I love how it says **He desires me**.

- This powerful little word is like National Geographic, when a lion or tiger overtakes
  - a gazelle, or a deer ...

she feels loved, she feels beautiful, she feels cherished,

- As the king expressed his love for his wife and how he desired to be with her.
  - She says I belong to him.

In the same way, we are not our own. If you're a Christian you belong to Jesus.

1 Corinthians 6:19 "Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God and you are not your own, for you were bought at a price, therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

- if you're a Christian, your body, who you are, you've been paid for.
  - By the blood of Jesus Christ. That is how our redemption was secured.

Jesus came. He died. He was crucified. He was buried. He rose again. He paid the price for us

- so that we could no longer be slaves of sin.

And now that we've been purchased, we don't belong to ourself anymore.

- **And we are to live for the glory of God, not the glory of myself,**

You've been bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

- Are you living today to glorify God? To please Him? To build His kingdom?

There is the Hymn "In my life, Lord, be glorified".

- Is that your desire?

When you know that the Lord loves you, when you know that you are not your own,

- you will respond to his love by wanting to live for Him & bring Him glory!

Our Marriage Theme Verse I shared with Shawna during my wedding Vows
Psalm 34:3 Oh, magnify the Lord with me, And let us exalt His name together.

Maybe you thinking, there's nothing desirable about me. No one ever wanted me.

- **The Truth is Jesus says he desires you & desires you so much that he died for u.**
  - Do not let yourself be knocked down by the lies of the devil

You're a pearl of great price. You're a special treasure to the Lord,
Matthew 13:45-46 the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Jesus has clearly expressed his love for you and he has proven his love for you

- And desires for you to be with him throughout all of eternity. You're loved by God.

And the bride knows how the king sees her. She knows that he desires her,

she's so safe in his arms, satisfied. They're both so happy to be with each other,

11 Come, my beloved,
Let us go forth to the field;
Let us lodge in the villages.

In other words, Let's go on a little getaway, where it's just the two of us, no kids around.

- you can't afford not to do this in your marriage.
    - Its so important to invest in your marriage getting quality time together

lets go on a little romantic getaway. Lets go on a date!

12 Let us get up early to the vineyards;
Let us see if the vine has budded,
Whether the grape blossoms are open,
And the pomegranates are in bloom.
There I will give you my love. 13 The mandrakes give off a fragrance,
And at our gates are pleasant fruits,
All manner, new and old,
Which I have laid up for you, my beloved.

Ladies when you say, "Tonight's the night …" he's going to be happy all day long,

- because he knows that you've thought ahead about him.
    - You want them to know you're thinking of them.
        - You're planning; for purposeful time together.
- I scheduled a date night. Let's do some things together"

Men make sure you plan purposeful time together & carve it out of your schedule

- And she will feel very cared for & loved that you took the initiative

Here we see she's very thoughtful planning how she can bless him.

she also says lets have a self-examination "Lets see if the vine has budded

- Lets see if there is fruit on the vine?

It is an extremely important thing for each of us over and over again in the scriptures

- we have been exhorted to examine ourselves to see if were bearing fruit?

the fruit of the spirit is love joy peace kindness,

- Do we see that fruit coming forth from our life as we abide in Jesus?
    - is the fruit of the spirit Budding forth in your life?

Galatians 5:22-26 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering,
kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 [g]gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no
law. 24 And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and
desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not become
conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Those are the characteristic that God wants to see developing in your life

- Sometimes we realize that we've been guilty of neglect
    - we haven't taken care of the vineyard as we should
        - there isn't that fruit really developing as it should
- I've become so busy with the cares of this life and I've neglected the garden

and the Thorns have grown up and they' have choked out some of the sweetness

Psalm 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Try me, and know my anxieties;
24 And see if *there is any* wicked way in me,
And lead me in the way everlasting.

may this week you find yourself abiding in Jesus

- And see this budding and blossoming of the fruit of the spirit in your life

if you don't like what you're getting in life & in your marriage,

- look at what you're giving. Are you giving time with your spouse? And Jesus?

A good relationship isn't going to happen by accident. It's going to take some intentionality.

- It's going to take seeking God, and surrendering to His will.

Share Gospel and Pray