

Security Foster's Intimacy

Song of Solomon 3&4 (ESV)

INTRODUCTION:

Chapters 3 and 4 are Solomon and the Shulamite looking back on their wedding day and honeymoon. Now in the midst of this day they will have the most unbelievable acceptance, security and intimacy. But I want you to notice that the day doesn't start that way... it starts with the Shulamite gripped with fear. It begins with a nightmare.

We are going to see that in the Christian marriage - the fearful, ashamed, broken, partner turns to their spouse who like Christ gives great security.

Insecurity -

TEXT: Song of Solomon 3: ¹ On my bed by night I sought him whom my soul loves; I sought him, but found him not. ² I will rise now and go about the city, in the streets and in the squares; I will seek him whom my soul loves. I sought him, but found him not. ³ The watchmen found me as they went about in the city. "Have you seen him whom my soul loves?" ⁴ Scarcely had I passed them when I found him whom my soul loves. I held him, and would not let him go until I had brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her who conceived me. ⁵ I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or the does of the field, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.

Now, I'm very grateful this passage is here. You see, it's easy to look at this couple and think they are the **perfect couple**, no issues, no problems, no baggage. But as the Holy Spirit continues to reveal the couple to us... we see that this is a girl that on her wedding day seems to have a **near nervous breakdown** in fear that her groom may have changed his mind. Now we don't know why this insecurity is there but it's there nonetheless:

- Perhaps her father left her mother - we know she was raised by her brothers.
- Perhaps she had never known the love of her dad.
- Maybe she had been hurt in another relationship, maybe abused, assaulted.

You see sometimes we have mental and emotional wounds because of sins we have committed, but sometimes we have wounds because of sins committed against us. Jesus wants to heal us of both.

Whatever it was - she was deeply insecure. I want you to see that, because she will ultimately have a Beautiful marriage.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND - the Gospel is not the story of a perfect Groom - JESUS and a Perfect Bride - THE CHURCH. **The GOSPEL is a picture of a perfect groom pursuing an imperfect bride and making her more and more perfect.**

There is an unbiblical idea that reverberates through our culture that God's plan for you involves finding **MR. RIGHT or MRS. RIGHT** - which tends to mean, a person with no past, no baggage, no scars, a person who has been raised by a perfect family.

The goal is to find this person, get them to marry you, and live happily ever after. **THIS IS NOT at all THE BIBLICAL PICTURE OF MARRIAGE.**

Stanley Hauerwas - Professor at Duke University

There is this assumption is that there is someone just right for us to marry. And that if we look closely enough we will find that just right person. This overlooks a crucial fact and that fact is this - ***that we always marry the wrong person.*** You see, we never know whom it is we marry, we just think we do. And even if we do marry the right person, just give it a while and he or she will change. For marriage being the enormous thing it is means that ***we will not be able to stay the same person after we have entered it that we were before.***

Marriage changes us, so you can't be sure who the person you are married to will be in a couple of years. ***The great challenge therefore is learn to love the stranger to whom you often find yourself married.***

Did you know one of the **leading causes of divorce is a significant change** in the person you married. What did you expect?

ILLUSTRATION: You see marriage is a like erasing the borders between two sovereign countries and uniting the citizenry. The two become one! This can't happen without changing both nations. In the same way, when two people become one they both change!

If you find the perfect woman and marry her - you will change her and she will be less perfect. If you find the perfect church... whatever you do - don't join it. You'll always lessen it.

The person who know's himself or herself knows they are imperfect and while they want the right one, they aren't looking for perfection in another.

The great theologian Groucho Marx said, "I would never join any club that would have me as a member". Well if you know yourself you might say, "I would never marry a woman who would have me as a husband!".

Adrian Rogers said of his wife Joyce - *I've been married to 5 different women in my life and all of them were Joyce.*

Tim Keller - if you understand this view of marriage you realize **you aren't looking for great for great sculptures** but rather **great chunks of marble** and when you fall in love with someone - **you should be attracted to what God is going to make them... not just what they are.**

I say it this way - commit to the **TRAJECTORY** as much as the person.

ILLUSTRATION: I received a wedding invitation recently and it had a drawing of a couple embarking on a journey and it said, "I am looking for someone to share in an adventure". I thought to myself what a nice way to portraying marriage. But here is the thing - those two people will be very different when they reach their destination than they are when the embark on the journey.

Dad's remember this - if you are waiting on a perfect guy to marry your daughter - Jesus already has a bride called the church.

You aren't looking for the perfect sculpture, simply a good piece of marble. In other words - falling in love in a christian way is to say - ***I am excited about your future... and I want to be part of getting you there.***

C.S. Lewis - he can make the feeblest and filthiest of us, if we let him, into a dazzling immortal creature pulsating all through with such energy and joy, wisdom and love that we cannot now imagine. A bright stainless mirror which reflects back to God perfectly though on a smaller scale his own boundless power and light and goodness. The process will be long and in parts very painful but that is what we are in for, nothing less.

INSECURITY SLAMS THE BREAKS ON PROGRESS - if you want your marriage to progress and grow in intimacy you have to wage war on your mate's insecurity.

3 Ways to Make Your Spouse More Secure -

1. Security Grows through Practical Safety

⁶ What is that coming up from the wilderness like columns of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all the fragrant powders of a merchant? ⁷ Behold, it is the litter of Solomon! Around it are sixty mighty men, some of the mighty men of Israel, ⁸ all of them wearing swords and expert in war, each with his sword at his thigh, against terror by night.

Imagine what it was like to behold the procession of Solomon coming to his wedding day. 60 groomsmen all with a 357 magnum on his side. This girl has nothing to fear - Solomon is taking care of her.

Ladies there are three men that ought to make you feel ABSOLUTE safety - Your Dad, Your Husband and your Savior.

Men, there is no higher confidence that God places in your then trusting you with one of His girls. You better protect her.

MEN - Does your wife feel safe with you in regards to:

- **Finances?** Does she worry about whether or not the house payment is going to be made this month - do something about that.
- Does she have safe and reliable **transportation?**
- Does she worry about whether or not you can keep a **job?**
- Does she worry about your **moods?**
- Does she worry about how you will be if you drink too much?
- Does she worry about the men you hang out with?

Guys, part of your calling is to deliver her from insecurity.

In 1 Corinthians 7:26–27 (ESV) Paul writes...

²⁶ I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is.

So this was a time of great and growing persecution... Paul is saying, "You may not want to get married right now". Why - it is going to be very difficult to provide your wife with personal safety

and security in the coming days. You may be imprisoned, or martyred - think twice before getting married. Your job is to keep her safe and secure...

1. *Security Grows Through Practical Security...*

2. Security Grows Through Personal Communication

Chapter 4 the ceremony is over and the honeymoon has begun... Incidentally our culture puts enormous focus on the wedding ceremony, scripture skips over the ceremony entirely giving all of the focus to the actual marriage.

The **honeymoon** begins with a monologue of Solomon praising his bride.

60% of this book is what the husband SAYS to the wife. and the wife SAYS to the husband. Do you remember when you dated and felt such strong emotion? Do you remember how much you talked?

As we said last week, **Proverbs 18:21 (ESV)**

21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

THERE ARE FIVE BASIC LEVELS OF COMMUNICATION.

1. THE FRIVOLOUS LEVEL - That's what we do with most strangers. This deals with Cliches, weather, sports, clothes, etc.
2. THE FACTUAL LEVEL - Where we are reporting facts, no real personal involvement, almost like a news commentator.
3. THE FELLOWSHIP LEVEL - We talk about our idea, our opinions, judgements, philosophies... at that point we are risking a little bit because the other person may reject our opinions and that may cause us or them to retreat a bit.
4. THE FEELING LEVEL - Not only do we talk about our thoughts and opinions, but we express how we feel about these things.
5. THE FREEDOM LEVEL - This is when we trust the other person enough to be completely open with them. To talk about our failures, our fears, our dreams. We are completely free.

**A great night in the bedroom
begins with a great conversation at the breakfast table.**

When the Bible describes the most intimate relationship between a husband and a wife it uses the word, "Knowledge". Adam knew his wife and she conceived.

The supreme goal of marriage is to be completely known and completely loved. It's not all together different than the goal of parenting.

According to Relationship Expert Ester Perel - The greatest fear people have in regards to a relationship is the feeling that ***they fundamentally they just don't matter.***

Do you realize that your **indifference** may be a bigger threat to your marriage than an **affair**?

I am convinced that the road to divorce is paved with complacency.

Solomon is anything but complacent...

Song of Solomon 4:1–16 (ESV)

¹ Behold, you are beautiful, my love, behold, you are beautiful! Your eyes are doves behind your veil.

Note how he starts at the face - this was the aspect of her that he was most familiar with. Later in chapter 6 he will start with her shoes and work up. But they are just married so he knows her face...

Ladies, let me encourage you to dress in such a way that a man's attention is drawn to your countenance.

1b. Your hair is like a flock of goats leaping down the slopes of Gilead.

Jewish women would wear their hair up until a moment of intimacy. The way flocks of jet black goats would come leaping down Mt. Gilead the same way the Shulamite's hair appeared to Solomon when she let it down.

² Your teeth are like a flock of shorn ewes that have come up from the washing, all of which bear twins, and not one among them has lost its young.

So in a day when dental care was not at it's peak - it was a very special thing to say, your teeth are really white. And you have all your teeth.

³ Your lips are like a scarlet thread, and your mouth is lovely. Your cheeks are like halves of a pomegranate behind your veil.

So apparently she used makeup. Ladies, the bible says that your beauty should not be ONLY the outward, makeup, braided hair, jewelry, etc - but notice here it isn't forbidding those things...

Dr. Rogers said, "A little pain can help any old barn". I quote people for things like that so if anyone gets mad I can say, "yes he ought not have said that".

⁴ Your neck is like the tower of David, built in rows of stone; on it hang a thousand shields, all of them shields of warriors.

So apparently, the shulamite had a really long neck, and Solomon liked long neck. BTW, whatever your wife is like... that's what you are into. She's tall? You like tall. She's short? You love short.

⁵ Your two breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle, that graze among the lilies. ⁶ Until the day breathes and the shadows flee, I will go away to the mountain of myrrh and the hill of frankincense. ⁷ You are altogether beautiful, my love; there is no flaw in you.

GOOD RULE -

- **If you think something good say it (text it, email it, whatever)**

ILLUSTRATION: We are often texting romantic things to one another. Now this can be a problem, one time Carly was playing on Julie's iPhone and I sent Julie a romantic text... and suddenly these teenage girls started cackling in the back of the car.

Year's ago my son was on his iPad and apparently we didn't have all of the kinks worked out on family share and some of my texts were coming up on his device. I said, ahhhh we need to do a total restore on this and make sure it's logged in with your apple ID. He said, "ah dad it's ok, I can just turn off messaging...." I said, "Nahh... we are going to do a total restore". I can't afford your therapy.

But USE WORDS they are powerful!

1. *Security Grows Through Practical Security...*
2. *Security Grows Through Personal Communication*

3. Security Grows Through Private Celebration

A Garden Locked -

¹² A garden locked is my sister, my bride, a spring locked, a fountain sealed.

Notice that he views his bride as a **locked garden**, rather than a **public park**. The idea is that there is this garden in the Kings Palace that is cultivated only for him. It has a fountain providing fresh water, it has his favorite scents, is favorite fruits... it is a personal paradise just for Solomon...

Ladies, remember - there are some things that are not to be posted on Instagram. You are not a public park, you are a locked garden. The honeymoon is meant to be the first time some things happen.

I remember a young man at my first church told me about his experience on his honeymoon. He said, "Zach we sat there on the side of the bed nervous, not sure where to start" I said, "Dear brother, that's how it is supposed to be".

CONCLUSION: The woman at the well... Jesus said, "I can give you living water so that you will never thirst again".... she says, "Well, yeah, I'll take it"... do you remember what Jesus said next? God get your husband.... she says, "i don't have a husband"... Jesus said, "the fact is... you've had 5 husbands...and the one you have now isn't your husband". Do you see what he's saying - before you can turn to me and find living water that will cause you to never thirst.... you must STOP looking for it in these immoral relationships...

Jeremiah 2:13 (ESV)

¹³ for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

CONCLUSION/INVITATION: *Someone said, "the young man who rings a bell at a brothel, is in fact searching for God". It's so true...*

There is something innately spiritual about sexual intimacy.

Andy Warhol said, "Sex is the biggest nothing of all time," - He couldn't have been more wrong.

Now if he only meant don't you know that when the flesh is united... the flesh is united... it would make no sense... he is saying something profound... he is saying when sexual intimacy occurs, something happens to the person... all other sins are outside the person... but when you sin sexually you are changing you.

But there is one who can give you an artisan well of living water - but you have to turn from the broken cisterns to drink from this fountain.

1 Corinthians 6:16 (ESV)

16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh."1 Corinthians 6:18–20 (ESV)

18 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.

When Paul says you are sinning against your body - he means the totality of your person. So in another place he says, "The Spirit will be poured out on all flesh".. it's the same idea... not the physical flesh but the person. Sexual sin is always, always, effects the spiritual person.

ILLUSTRATION: YEARS AGO PASTOR MATT CHANDLER SHARED THIS STORY.

During my freshman year of college, I sat next to a 26-year-old single mother trying to get her degree. We began a dialogue about the grace and mercy of Christ in the cross. Some other guys and I would go over and babysit her child and try to talk with her. A friend of mine was in a band playing in the area and we invited her to hear him. She agreed. She thought it would be a concert. I knew better. It was shady and she agreed to come.

The minister got up and said, "Today I want to talk to you about sex." And I immediately thought, Uh oh. He took a red rose, smelled it, showed how pretty it was. Then, threw it out in the crowd and told them to smell the rose. "I want you to smell it and touch it and feel the texture in it." (There were about 1000 people there.) He then began one of the worst, most horrific handlings of what sex is and isn't that I ever sat through. It was fear-mongering at its best. I'm thinking, with Kim beside me, What are you doing? As he wrapped up, he asked, "Where's my rose?"

Some kid brought the rose back and it was broken. The petals were broken. And he lifts it up. And his big crescendo is to lift up that broken rose and say, "Now who would want this?" Anger welled up within me and I wanted to say, "JESUS WANTS THE ROSE! That's the point of the gospel! That Jesus wants the rose. That he made him who knew no sin to be sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.