

The Song of Solomon 3:1-5:1

It's Time

UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE

1. **Main Idea of the Passage:** The love of the groom for his bride points to the ultimate love of Jesus for his bride, the Church. We are to respond by being 'drunk with His love' (5:1).
2. **Melodic Line of the Book:** God is love and The Song of Solomon sings of that love, revealed in human marriage, a gloriously-intimate bond between God and His people.

KEY WORDS/THEMES

1. **Find (*māṣā'*), see 3:1, 2, 4 (also Prv. 8:9, 12, 17, 35)** – to find what was sought; here the bride seeks the husband, which is also a parallel to hungering for wisdom (Prv. 8) – the church longing and hungering for her Lord.
2. **Love (*ra'yāh*), see 4:1, 7 (also 1:9, 15; 2:2, 10, 13; 5:2; 6:4)** – darling, beloved, companion, a woman who is the object of a man's love and affection; occurs only in The Song of Solomon (9x).
3. **Bride (*kallāh*), see 4:8-12; 5:1** – the basic idea behind this term seems to be 'young wife.' The parallel term 'my sister' is a common term of affection for the girl one loves. It is clear that this couple is in the process of consummating their marriage in this passage.

STRUCTURE/OUTLINE OF THE SERMON

- I. Introduction: A Tale of Two Weddings
- II. The Text
 - A. A Time to Dream (3:1-5)
 - B. A Time to Sanctify (3:6-11)
 - C. A Time to Gaze (4:1-7)
 - D. A Time to Get in the Limo (4:8)
 - E. A Time for the Nervous and Awkward Moment, and yet Glory of the First Moments in the Hotel Room (4:9-16)
 - F. A Time for Union (5:1)
- III. Conclusion: Eden

GOSPEL CENTRALITY

The ultimate Bridegroom, Jesus, invites us to come with him to the New Creation, which, like Eden, is where the presence of God dwells with his people in intimacy. We leave the brokenness and sin of this world to steal away to the New Creation. We are clothed with Christ and, therefore, accepted in God's sight, so we can rest in the love of Christ.

KNOWING AND BEING KNOWN

- How does your mind and heart respond to the language of 'a love affair with God' and 'being drunk with love'? Is this a new way of looking at your relationship with the Lord? If so, what has been your primary frame of reference for your relationship with Christ?
- What are beliefs, values, or practices that are currently competing with your love for Jesus?
- Spend some time recounting the moment(s) when you were seen and known by Jesus (your conversion experience).
- What has been your belief about what happens at the Final Judgement? How does this passage affect your view of that time?

RESPONDING IN PRAYER

- Thank God that he has clothed us in Christ and sees us with the same perfection that He sees in Jesus.
- Pray that we would more and more know God and his passionate love for us and that we would allow ourselves to be more fully known by Him and others.
- Pray for the marriages in our church family to reflect the love depicted in this passage and that they would ultimately be pointers to the love of Christ for His bride, the Church.
- Pray for those among your family, friends, and community that have not put their trust in Jesus, that they would be drawn by the love of Jesus and love Him in return.