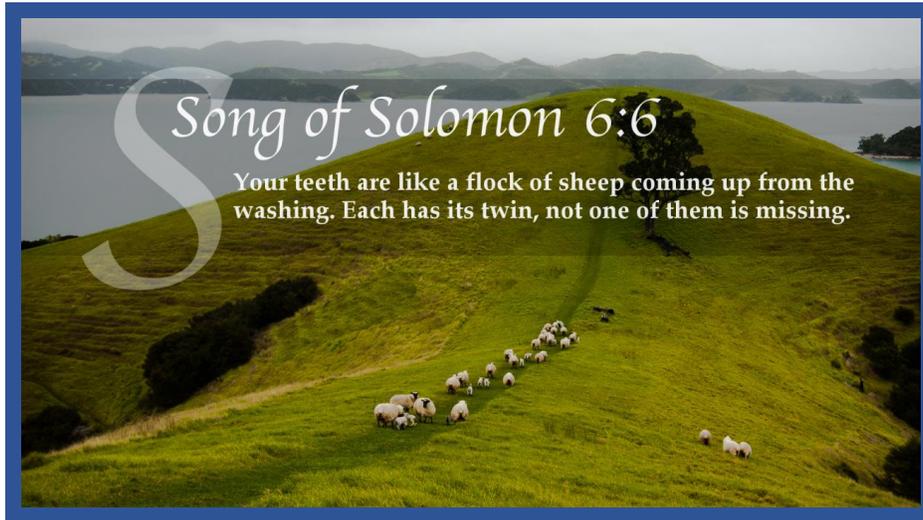


WINTER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2015-2016

THEME: SACRED GIFTS AND HOLY GATHERINGS

UNIT TWO – “Sharing Our Joys and Sorrows”

“THE PORTRAIT OF A MOST SPLENDID BRIDE”



Sunday School Lesson No. VI – January 10, 2016

Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Song of Solomon 6:4-12

Required Reading: Song of Solomon Chapters 1 – 8

Memory Text: Song of Solomon 6:9, *“My dove, my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her that bare her. The daughters saw her, and blessed her; yea, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her.”*

Reliable Resources: Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; Bible Knowledge Commentary; Precepts for Living (UMI Publishing); Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Life Application Study Bible (Tyndale); Libronix Electronic Library; The Jeremiah Study Bible and Resources; Children’s Ministry Resource Bible

INTRODUCTION

It was 4:58 p.m., May 29, 1976 as I stood at the altar of the Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church of New Orleans. The quaint church building was over-heated and crowded as I anxiously anticipated the girl of my dreams and the select of God to enter the doors promptly at 5:00 p.m. Finally, the music started and the procession began, and after the bridesmaids came the chandelier of my heart. Life stood still as I realized she was my Bride and the love of my life. This was the song of my life and 40 years later she still is!

Hebrews 13:4a says, *“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled...”* God, the Master Craftsman, had created and ordained this great institution, and with it a constitution in the Bible. To fully enjoy the relationship we need to examine all the instructions that Solomon the wise, in the early years of his life, was given by God. Some wonderful expressions concerning the splendid joys of the relationship called marriage. God helps us through Solomon’s wise words, to learn not only the rules of the relationship, but the joys of romance and intimacy to the fullest. The book of Song of Solomon, also the “Song of Songs,” describes the zenith of all the 1,000 plus songs that he penned. Some call this book an allegory of God and Israel’s loving relationship; others an allegory of Christ and the Church, and all these truths may be expressed out of these pages.

But, we cannot deny what I believe is the exposition of the Creator of how a husband and wife are to live and love to the fullest while sojourning on planet earth. The depths of desire that are discovered by a loving and devoted husband and wife are without full explanation, but are filled with ecstasy and grandeur! Ephesians 5:31 tells us, *“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.”*

Reading from the Children’s Ministry Resource Bible...Solomon Celebrates Romantic Love:

“Romantic Love Draws a Man and a Woman Together (Gen. 2:23-25; Song of Solomon 7:10).

Romantic Love Leads to Deepening Commitment (1:15, 16; 2:14).

By marrying, they are choosing to meet each other’s needs as long as they live (8:6, 7).

True Romantic Love Requires Acceptance.

When a couple marries, they should realize that neither of them is perfect; each must be willing to accept the other as he or she is (4:1-5; 5:10-16).

Lasting Love Takes Work.

To maintain loving intimacy, both husband and wife must put the needs and feelings of the other before his or her own (5:3-5).

Healthy Romantic Love Mirrors God's Love for Us.

We should love Him deeply in return and give Him our lives in obedience (Rom. 12:1-2)."

Anticipated Power Points:

- **The Superlative View of a Husband's Love. Song of Solomon 6:4-7**
- **The Special Grace of a Wife's Beauty. Song of Solomon 6:8-10**
- **The Swooning of Unconditional Love. Song of Solomon 6:11-12**

LESSON OUTLINE

"The Portrait of a Most Splendid Bride"

I. The Superlative View of a Husband's Love. Song of Solomon 6:4-7

As the beloved, Solomon had undoubtedly gone about the King's business. The Shulamite wife who had been brought from the far pavilion of Lebanon to the palace of the King, longed for him. In verse 1 of chapter 6 the "women of court" who no doubt envied the beautiful Shulamite queen asked,? *"Where has your beloved gone?"* That is a sign of sarcasm. The Shulamite answers with confidence that all is well as her beloved labored about his business, but she knew she was at the center of his heart! vv. 2-3. Now we hear the beloved, King Solomon her husband, pronounce superlatives of her beauty after having returned to his beloved.

In verse 4, he describes his wife like two beautiful cities: Tirzah, meaning favorable, delightful and previously the capital city of the Northern kingdom, and Jerusalem, the great city of David and Solomon, the king's house. He is saying to his wife the Shulamite, "You are fit for a king." She was as impressive as a marching army with banners and flags waving in the wind. To a king, that's awesome.

In verses 5-7, Solomon extols the praises of her enraptured beauty as on their wedding night (read 4:1-3). Eyes, hair, teeth and temples. His words of the past are not forgotten and he knew how to show his adoration romantically. May we as men share the words of beauty and life toward our wives. Let's not use language of praise upon others and forget to extol our wives with the love language of our souls!

II. The Special Grace of a Wife's Beauty. Song of Solomon 6:8-10

From the mouth and heart of her husband, a wife should be in total confidence concerning her relationship to her husband. Solomon was a master of words and building confidence. Solomon assures his wife that she had no rivals, but was in a class all by herself. Her fairness was compared to the creation of God!

III. The Swooning of Unconditional Love. Song of Solomon 6:11-12

Quoting Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator, "One can almost imagine how a woman would respond to hearing that she was the most beautiful and unique woman a man ever met." Such a wondrous experience simply caused the Shulamite to swoon and be swept off her feet into the arms of her loving husband.

CLOSING:

One day we, the bride of Christ, shall be caught up into the arms of our King who will return and take us to His home! I Thessalonians 4:16-18, *"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."*

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TV Telecast: WHNO TV-Channel 20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.

Looking Ahead:

January 17, 2016

Hosea 1:1-11

Please join us each Wednesday at noon at Bibleway where you can ask questions and make comments as Pastor Davis teaches the weekly Sunday School Lesson. All are welcome!

