

# Song of Solomon 6 - Reconciliation; Solomon Praises His Wife; Men Behaving Beautifully

## IV. The continuing marriage (Song 5:2—8:3)

### (1) Resolution of conflict within marriage (Song 5:2—6:13)

#### (A) Conflict (Song 5:2—6:3)

(e) Bride finds her husband in his garden (6:1-3)

#### (B) Resolution (6:4-13)

(a) Husband praises his wife (6:4-9)

(i) He describes her beauty (6:4-7)

(ii) He describes her preeminence in comparison to the others (6:8-9)

(b) Bride acknowledges how she had initiated reconciliation and then was "swept off her feet" by her estranged husband (6:10-13)

## Song of Solomon 6

### (A) Conflict (Song 5:2—6:3)

(e) Bride finds her husband in his garden (6:1-3)

1 "Where has your beloved gone, O most beautiful among women? Where has your beloved turned, That we may seek him with you?"

1 "Where has your beloved gone, O most beautiful among women? Where has your beloved turned, That we may seek him with you?"

1 Where did your beloved go, most beautiful of women? Where did your beloved turn, so we may look for him with you?

1 Whither is thy beloved gone, O thou fairest among women? whither is thy beloved turned aside? that we may seek him with thee.

- The daughters of Jerusalem again request of the Shulammitte the location of her love (Solomon)

— It is clear in their minds that she knows where he is

2 "My beloved has **gone down to his garden**, To the **beds of balsam**, To pasture *his flock* in the gardens And gather lilies.

2 "My beloved has gone down to his garden, To the beds of balsam, To pasture *his flock* in the gardens And gather lilies.

2 My beloved has gone down to his garden, to the beds of spices, to graze his flock in the gardens and gather lilies.

2 My beloved is gone down into his garden, to the beds of spices, to feed in the gardens, and to gather lilies.

- "...gone down to his garden" - Solomon has now returned to be with his wife, and has begun giving her oral sex (Cf. 4:16)

— In 5:16 she speaks of the beauty of his mouth and the fact that he is altogether attractive and pleasing to her. Now, she is giving herself to him for a time of enjoyment.

- "...beds of balsam" - she provided a place of pleasure for him, to excite his sense of taste, smell, and sight

— Here, he feeds on that which pleases him. She is available to him; she is there for his enjoyment.

- Notice that there is no mention in the text of reconciliation (although that obviously occurred) or both of them returning home. The narration moves directly from the Shulammitte's description and longing for Solomon to the daughters of Jerusalem (5:10-16) straight into lovemaking (6:2f).

— Men and women obviously do not approach sex in the same way. It is said that men are microwaves and women are crock pots. Men are creatures of sight and are moved by what they see. If he sees what he likes, he can heat up in a hurry.

— Women must simmer awhile before she is ready for sex. This means that it's the husband's job to create in the home an atmosphere of affection in which sex will be enjoyed more often and with greater intensity, pleasure, and satisfaction.

— No marriage will ever be everything God wants it to be without the beautiful gift of sex being active and satisfying for both

3 **"I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine**, He who pastures *his flock* among the lilies."

3 "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine, He who pastures *his flock* among the lilies."

3 I belong to my beloved, and my beloved belongs to me. He is the one who grazes his flock among the lilies.

3 I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine: he feedeth among the lilies.

- "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine" - she expresses great confidence in the relationship she enjoys with Solomon

— He is comfortable in her presence and in the home that she has created

— Not only does he find her physically satisfying, but he also find the home she has created emotionally satisfying. She has created a home that offers him an atmosphere of peace, quiet, and refuge. She, as are all wives, the emotional hub of the home.

One thing a man detests is nagging, griping, complaining, and whining. God knows this, and addresses it several times in Proverbs:

Prov 9:13 [ISV]: The foolish woman is loud, undisciplined, and without knowledge.

Prov 19:13 [ISV]: A father's ruin is a foolish son, and a wife's quarreling is like dripping water that never stops.

Prov 21:9 [ISV]: It's better to live in a corner on the roof than to share a house with a contentious woman.

Prov 25:24 [ISV]: It's better to live in a corner on the roof than in a house with a contentious woman.

Prov 27:15 [ISV]: A continual dripping on a rainy day and a contentious wife are alike.

A husband will not be around long with a wife who continually badgers him verbally. He will take one of two actions:

- (1) He will fight back, which doesn't happen often, either physically or verbally; or,
- (2) he will leave. He may not leave physically, but he will leave mentally. He will become a workaholic, he will find outside activities to engage in, he will essentially find anything he can do to stay away from home so he does not have to endure the verbal abuse.

A wife must understand how crucial she is to providing a home that is a place of support for her husband.

One marriage researcher said: "The key to dealing with men is to stop talking and start acting. Women need to learn male-friendly methods of persuasion and stop doing what doesn't work." Her suggestions included:

- Stop pressing your point when it's obvious he has heard you, even if he doesn't acknowledge it
- Make your goals clear and action-oriented
- Pay attention to how your conflict ends
- Ignore (some) undesirable behavior
- Take a time-out
- Emphasize the positive

"It is far more efficient to praise than scold, to reward than punish."

### **A Wife's Most Basic Needs**

- (1) Personal affirmation and appreciation (6:4)
- (2) Personal affection and romance (6:8-9,11-13)
- (3) Intimate conversation (5:16)
- (4) Honesty and openness (6:10,13)
- (5) Stability and security (5:9; 6:1,13)
- (6) Family commitment (6:9; Cf. 8:1-2)

(B) Resolution (6:4-13)

(a) Husband praises his wife (6:4-9)

(i) He describes her beauty (6:4-7)

4 "You are as beautiful as Tirzah, my darling, As lovely as Jerusalem, **As awesome as an army with banners.**

4 "You are as beautiful as Tirzah, my darling, As lovely as Jerusalem, As awesome as an army with banners.

4 You are beautiful, my darling, like Tirzah, lovely like Jerusalem, as awesome as an army with banners.

4 Thou art beautiful, O my love, as Tirzah, comely as Jerusalem, terrible as an army with banners.

- The Shulammite has praised Solomon, and now he returns the compliment

— As he returns the compliment, we learn something about another basic need of a husband: an attractive wife

- Solomon begins by saying that she is as beautiful as two of the most beautiful cities in Israel: Jerusalem and Tirzah

— In Lam 2:15, Jerusalem is called "the perfection of beauty"

- "...As awesome as an army with banners" - so unbelievable was her beauty that he says it was as if he was facing an awesome army with its banners in full display

- In this verse, we also learn about a basic need of a wife: personal affirmation and appreciation

— In v5-9, Solomon details the qualities and attributes that he finds so irresistible. He is meeting her need for personal affirmation and appreciation.

— A man who loves a woman will praise her often for her personal attributes and qualities. He will extol her virtues as a wife, a homemaker, and a mother. He will also openly commend her in the presence of others as a marvelous friend, lover, and companion. Words of appreciation and affirmation, in front of other people, speak to one of the deepest needs in the life of a wife.

5 "Turn your eyes away from me, For they have confused me; Your hair is like a flock of goats That have descended from Gilead.

5 "Turn your eyes away from me, For they have confused me; Your hair is like a flock of goats That have descended from Gilead.

5 **Turn your eyes from me, for they excite me.** Your hair is like a flock of goats coming down from Mt. Gilead.

5 Turn away thine eyes from me, for they have overcome me: thy hair is as a flock of goats that appear from Gilead.

- "...Turn your eyes from me, for they excite me" [ISV] - her beauty threw him off balance; her beauty overwhelmed Solomon  
- Solomon again repeats his previous acknowledgement of her beauty, paying her the same compliments as he has before, as if to reinforce them

6 "Your teeth are like a flock of ewes That have come up from *their* watering place, All of which bear twins, And not one among them has lost her young.

6 "Your teeth are like a flock of ewes Which have come up from *their* washing, All of which bear twins, And not one among them has lost her young.

6 Your teeth are like a flock of ewes coming up from being washed. All of them are twins, not one has lost her young.

6 Thy teeth are as a flock of sheep which go up from the washing, whereof every one beareth twins, and there is not one barren among them.

7 "Your temples are like a slice of a pomegranate Behind your veil.

7 "Your temples are like a slice of a pomegranate Behind your veil.

7 Your temple behind your veil is like a slice of pomegranate.

7 As a piece of a pomegranate are thy temples within thy locks.

- His love for her has not diminished, and her beauty is as radiant as ever

(ii) He describes her preeminence in comparison to the others (6:8-9)

8 "There are sixty queens and eighty concubines, And young women without number;

8 "There are sixty queens and eighty concubines, And maidens without number;

8 There are sixty queens and eighty mistresses, and too many young women to count,

8 There are threescore queens, and fourscore concubines, and virgins without number.

- This time, he adds to his previous praise...he tells her that she is unique beyond all others...

— This meets the second of the most basic needs of a wife: personal affection and romance

— Romance for a man = sex. Period. But for a woman, romance can mean a lot of things, and sex may or may not be part of it.

— Solomon recognized her need for romance, so he tells her that no other woman compares to her

9 *But* my dove, my perfect one, is unique: She is her mother's only *daughter*; She is the pure *child* of the one who gave birth to her. The young women saw her and called her blessed, The queens and the concubines *also*, and they praised her, *saying*,

9 *But my dove, my perfect one, is unique: She is her mother's only daughter; She is the pure child of the one who bore her. The maidens saw her and called her blessed, The queens and the concubines also, and they praised her, saying,*

9 but my dove, my perfect one, is unique. She's unique to her mother, she's pure to the one who gave birth to her. Young women see her and call her blessed, queens and mistresses praise her.

9 My dove, my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her that bore her. The daughters saw her, and blessed her; yea, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her.

- His opinion of her is also shared by her mother, as well as other women. They too call her blessed, and praise her.

- A husband desires a woman who holds both inner and outer beauty. A woman who is beautiful to her husband will cultivate a godly and Christ-like spirit in herself (Cf. 1 Peter 3:1-5).

— She understands that being beautiful on the inside will make her even more attractive on the outside

(b) Bride acknowledges how she had initiated reconciliation and then was "swept off her feet" by her estranged husband (6:10-13)

10 'Who is this who looks down like the dawn, As beautiful as the full moon, As pure as the sun, As awesome as an army with banners?'

10 'Who is this that grows like the dawn, As beautiful as the full moon, As pure as the sun, As awesome as an army with banners?'

10 Who is this who appears like the dawn, beautiful as the moon, bright as the sun, awesome as an army with banners?

10 Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners?

- With Solomon's words here, nothing about his feelings for her are hidden; every emotion he has toward her is out in the open and verbalized

— A wife needs her husband to be open and transparent with her. She needs him to look into her eyes and, in love, tell her what he is really thinking (Eph 4:15).

— A husband will reveal and explain his plans and actions clearly and completely to her because he regards himself as being responsible for her. He wants her to trust him and feel secure. He wants her to know how precious she is to him.

11 "I went down to the orchard of nut trees To see the plants of the valley, To see whether the vine had grown Or the pomegranates had bloomed.

11 "I went down to the orchard of nut trees To see the blossoms of the valley, To see whether the vine had budded Or the pomegranates had bloomed.

11 I went down to the walnut orchard, to look at the green sprouts in the valley, to see whether the vine had budded, whether the pomegranates had blossomed.

11 I went down into the garden of nuts to see the fruits of the valley, and to see whether the vine flourished, and the pomegranates budded.

- Her response to the praise and affection showered on her by Solomon (v4-9) is to move to the garden to see the beauty of it and fresh evidences of their love

12 "Before I was aware, my soul set me Over the chariots of my noble people."

12 "Before I was aware, my soul set me Over the chariots of my noble people."

12 Before I knew it, I imagined myself among the chariots of my noble people.

12 Or ever I was aware, my soul made me like the chariots of Amminadib.

- Solomon's praise had boosted her self-confidence to new heights

**13** "Come back, come back, O Shulammite; Come back, come back, so that we may look at you!" "Why should you look at the Shulammite, As at the dance of the two armies?"

**13** "Come back, come back, O Shulammite; Come back, come back, that we may gaze at you!" "Why should you gaze at the Shulammite, As at the dance of the two companies?"

13 Return, return, Shulammite, return, return, so we may look at you! Why should you look at the Shulammite, like you watch the dance of the two camps?"

13 Return, return, O Shulamite; return, return, that we may gaze upon thee. What will ye see in the Shulamite? As it were the company of two armies.

- The Shulammite's friends call for her to return, however it is clearly implied that she is in his presence and that he is carrying her away to be with him

— He has placed her in his chariot, and they are going away. She is again secure in the love of her husband.

- The Shulammite is pictured as being swept away, while those who look on her beauty and perfection (at the encouragement of her husband, of course) plead with her to return and not go away

— A woman who responds in this way has her deepest need for affection and romance met by her husband

- One of the most basic needs of a wife is for safety and security provided by her husband (Cf. notes on 6:3)

— A man who loves a woman will firmly shoulder the responsibility to house, feed, and clothe the family. He will provide and protect. He will always remember that he is the security hub of the entire family.

— His wife will be aware of his dependability, and so will others. There will be no doubt as to where his devotion and commitments lie: with his wife and children.

It is crucial that a husband learn how to speak to the needs of his wife's heart in the area of romance. He must demonstrate to her in word and deed that he understands her unique needs and appetites in this area.