

WEEK 06 · 8:1-8:14

Final encouragement on love.

Preface

Last week, we examined the interactions of the two lovers through a series of compliments as their love matured, showcasing key aspects and signs of mature love, including deep mutual admiration and a sense of security rooted in mutual belonging and exclusivity.

This week, we will study the last few vignettes that elaborate on the final charges about love and invite overall reflection on the theme of love as revealed in the entire Song of Songs.

Background: The final vignettes in Song of Songs 8:1-7, “Longing for Her Beloved” and “Final Advice” in 8:8-14, do not provide a conclusive ending. Instead, they leave the narrative open-ended, suggesting further anticipation and waiting. This passage highlights the consuming power of love and its seasonal nature, which further emphasizes the importance of honoring love’s sanctity through establishing a permanent commitment and pursuing chastity.

Warm-up question: What is your favorite love song?

Study

Read Song of Songs 8:1-8:7 and answer the following questions.

1. How does the bride wish to express her love based on 8:1-4? What charge does she give in response to her own desires?

Notes: The bride desires to express her love publicly without judgment and to bring the groom to her parental home for acceptance. She again acknowledges the charge not to arouse or awaken love until it desires, acknowledging the process that love requires.

2. In 8:4-7, how does the bride describe the nature or characteristics of love? What does a seal symbolize, and why is it desirable in love?

Notes: Song of Songs 8:6-7 reflects the **moment of epiphany** that summarizes the major theme of the song collection. These verses describe the kind of love celebrated throughout the book, an all-consuming power that cannot be quenched or swept away and is more valuable than wealth. A seal symbolizes public commitment and inseparability, providing permanence, safety, and security to enjoy this love.

Read Song of Songs 8:8-8:14 and answer the following questions.

3. What does the wall illustration in 8:8-10 imply? What role do the “friends” or “brothers” play? What is the outcome of the bride being a wall?

Notes: The wall symbolizes protection and chastity, while the door suggests moral looseness. If she is a wall, her brothers will adorn her; if she is a door, her family will protect her. By remaining chaste, the bride achieves contentment in herself, allowing her to freely give herself as a gift (contentment) to her lover.

4. How do Solomon and the bride treat their vineyard differently in 8:11-12? What does this imply about love, given the vineyard is likened to love?

Notes: Solomon entrusts the vineyard to tenants, who must pay for the fruit; a metaphor for love as a commodity. Meanwhile, the woman possesses her own vineyard and keeps all its fruit; it is hers to give. The metaphor for love here is that it cannot be bought with money, making it far better than Solomon's.

5. What note does Song of Songs end on? Are the lovers united at the end? How does it demonstrate the chorus: "Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires"?

Notes: Song of Songs concludes with an open-ended note, suggesting further anticipation and waiting. This ending powerfully demonstrates the chorus, showing that true love is a perpetual desire, not a one-time event. This confirms that love's ultimate satisfaction lies in its continual, patient awakening.

Reflect upon the entire Song of Songs study and answer the following questions.

6. What do you learn about love through Song of Songs? How would you define love and how does it compare to the world's definition of love?

7. In Scripture, many references compare God's relationship with His people and Christ's relationship with the church to that of a husband and wife. How has the study of this book enriched your understanding about the passion of God's love?

Application

1. How has this book imparted wisdom in your life and relationships with others and with God? What piece of wisdom would you like to commit to applying in the coming months in your relationships with God and others?

2. Among these aspects of love: giving of self, desire, delight in each other, commitment, marriage as reflection of God's love, which one stood out to you most as an area of growth upon finishing this study?