

# Gleanings of Grace

## Song of Solomon

### Lesson 27

In the very first verse of this song, King Solomon claims ownership. At its core, this song is a love song between King Solomon and a woman from Shulam. It is passionate; it is unbridled. Three times in this song, the Shulamite warns her friends, *do not stir up nor awaken love until it pleases*. With this in mind, and the fact that women will study this song who are not married, we will not focus on some of the physically stirring phrases. Rather, we will glean from this song words/verses that we might attribute to ourselves as it describes our love for our Savior and Bridegroom, Jesus, and words that our Savior has for His bride.

#### **OBSERVATION: Song of Solomon 2**

1. In order to get a feel of this song, read Song of Solomon 2 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. The two main characters in this chapter are Solomon (referred to as *beloved*) and the Shulamite (the woman who had stolen Solomon's heart). Separately highlight or underline the verses that reflect Solomon speaking and the Shulamite speaking.
3. Consider the references to each person and record a few of your initial thoughts:  
Hint: It is commonly believed that verse 1 refers to the Shulamite.

Solomon:

Shulamite:

## Song of Solomon 1

1. Consider the last phrase of verse 2. *Wine* was a symbol of joy and celebration. It can also help to forget about cares. In what ways is the love of Jesus better than the things in life we might look to to numb our pain or cheer us?
  - a. Read the words of Psalm 63:3-5. How do you relate to David's acknowledgment of God's *lovingkindness* in these verses?
  
3. ...*your name is ointment poured forth*... (Song of Solomon 1:3). What are some of your favorite names of Jesus?
  - a. In what ways are they like *ointment poured forth*?
  
4. The *Shulamite* was a worker in the fields. As a result of being exposed to the sun, her skin was not like that of women of leisure. What did she ask her *beloved* not to do *because I am dark* (Song of Solomon 1:6)?
  - a. How might this statement be an indication that she was allowing others to determine her value?
  
  - b. A common reaction to exposure to an attribute of God is a sense of unworthiness. Record the reactions to seeing God, or seeing the work of God in:  
Isaiah in Isaiah 6:5  
  
Peter in Luke 5:8  
  
1.) What was David's cry after seeing his own sin and unworthiness in Psalm 51:7?
  
  - c. How does Song of Solomon 1:6 personally encourage or challenge you?

## Song of Solomon 2

1. Although many, including hymn writers, have used verse 1 to refer to Jesus as the *Rose of Sharon* and the *Lily of the Valley*, context would teach us that it is the Shulamite speaking in this verse. The flowers referred to are common flowers and thus, a continuation of her sharing her insecurities. What does her *beloved* counter with in verse 2?

a. What do you think is the difference between a *lily of the valley* and a *lily among thorns*?

2. Consider her words regarding Solomon in verse 3. An *apple tree* would be a strange tree to find in a forest. A modern translation might be, "you are one in a million". In what ways is Jesus different from other sources of refuge?

3. Delight in the words of verse 4. How do you view God's *banqueting house*?

a. Solomon was not ashamed to welcome her into his house. He proclaimed her as his *loved one*, placing a *banner* over her. Psalm 60:4,5 speaks of God's *banner*. What is its purpose?

1.) What are your thoughts as you reflect upon the truth that God is not ashamed to call you His *beloved*?

4. Song of Solomon 2:10-14 are endearing words to the bride, both Solomon's and Christ's. What do you think is the heart behind His words?

a. Bask in the words *come away* as they are spoken to you by the LORD. What are your thoughts?

1.) Add to your understanding Jesus' call in the following verses and share your response to His invitation:

Matthew 11:28

John 7:37

5. We cannot ignore the warning from the Shulamite's brothers in Song of Solomon 2:15. What is it?
  - a. *Little foxes* are seemingly harmless predators. Yet they can devour much. What might be examples of *little foxes*?
    - 1.) What have you discovered about the *little foxes* in your life as it relates to their ability to gnaw at your relationship with Jesus?

### **Song of Solomon 3**

1. Chapter 3 begins with the Shulamite recounting a dream about her beloved, moving to a warning to her friends in verse 5. This warning has already been presented in Song of Solomon 2:7 and is repeated again in Song of Solomon 8:4. What is it?
  - a. The passionate exchange between a man and a woman is designed by God to be consummated, not interrupted. His design of the sexual relationship is intended for marriage. Why do you think the Shulamite felt it was important to warn her friends?
2. The love relationship between Jesus Christ and His intended bride is also one that He intends to complete. What do the following verses say to you about this?

Philippians 1:6

1 Corinthians 1:8

- a. In what ways are you ministered to when you think about how God is able to finish the work He has planned for you?

### **Song of Solomon 4**

1. Song of Solomon 4 begins with the words of Solomon: *Behold, you are fair*. He uses the word *fair* to describe his beloved ten times in this song in relating to her physical appearance. What are some words that God uses to describe you? Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer.
  - a. How does soaking in God's viewpoint of you help you in times of discouragement and self-debasement?

## Song of Solomon 5

1. Record the questions of the *daughters of Jerusalem* in verse 9.
  - a. These questions remind us that she has been talking about her *beloved*. What are some things that you would want others to know about Jesus?
  - b. We know how someone who is in love speaks of their loved one seemingly constantly without embarrassment. Why do you think believers sometimes do not exhibit the same excitement about sharing Jesus?

## Song of Solomon 6

1. The *daughters of Jerusalem* pose more questions in verse 1. Why did they want to know where her *beloved had* gone?
  - a. The Shulamite's friends posed this question after hearing about how wonderful her *beloved* was. What had you heard about Jesus from others that attracted you to Him?
  - b. What was it like when you *found* Him?

## Song of Solomon 7

1. Write the extraordinary words of verse 10.
  - a. What do you have because you belong to Jesus?
  - b. What does He expect of you because you belong to Him? see 1 Corinthians 6:20
2. Describe what a relationship looks like when both parties acknowledge that they belong to one another.

## Song of Solomon 8

1. *Set your seal upon my heart* (verse 6). Read Ephesians 1:13,14. The Holy Spirit is God's seal upon the believer guaranteeing all He has promised to us. What does that say to you?
  
2. Song of Solomon 8:6 gives us three remarkable pictures of love. What are they?
  - a. *For love is as strong as death*. How does the certainty of death compare to the *love* of Christ for you?
  
  - b. *Jealousy as cruel as the grave*. Read Deuteronomy 4:24. This is a difficult phrase to interpret, as God's *jealousy* is certainly never cruel. How would you describe the *jealousy* of God as it relates to His love for you?
  
  - c. *Its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement fire*. What does Song of Solomon 8:7a add to this?
  
3. Meditate on the surety of God's love for you in Song of Solomon, rejoicing that nothing can *quench* His love. What does Romans 8:35-39 add to your understanding?

## REVIEW: Song of Solomon

1. From your study of Song of Solomon, what have you learned about:  
*the love of Jesus for His beloved?*

*your love for your Beloved Jesus?*

*So the King will greatly desire your beauty;  
Because He is your Lord, worship Him.  
- Psalm 45:11*

## Observation Worksheet

### Song of Solomon 2

<sup>1</sup> I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys. <sup>2</sup> THE BELOVED Like a lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters. <sup>3</sup> THE SHULAMITE Like an apple tree among the trees of the woods, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down in his shade with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. <sup>4</sup> THE SHULAMITE TO THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love. <sup>5</sup> Sustain me with cakes of raisins, refresh me with apples, for I am lovesick. <sup>6</sup> His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me. <sup>7</sup> I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or by the does of the field, do not stir up nor awaken love until it pleases. <sup>8</sup> THE SHULAMITE The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills. <sup>9</sup> My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Behold, he stands behind our wall; he is looking through the windows, gazing through the lattice. <sup>10</sup> My beloved spoke, and said to me: "Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. <sup>11</sup> For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. <sup>12</sup> The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. <sup>13</sup> The fig tree puts forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grapes give a good smell. Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away! <sup>14</sup> "O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely." <sup>15</sup> HER BROTHERS Catch us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vines, for our vines have tender grapes. <sup>16</sup> THE SHULAMITE My beloved is mine, and I am his. He feeds his flock among the lilies. <sup>17</sup> (TO HER BELOVED) Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away, turn, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag upon the mountains of Bether.