

**Song of Solomon 7:1-8:14
Sex, God and Love, Part 8
Avoiding Cruise Control**

Today we come to our final study in the Song of Solomon. – Been a Fun study for most of you

A)Tough for some{ Widows / widowers – Divorced
Some of you who are Single–

B) Thank you for hanging in there with us thru this Study –

C)Response from most of you – Great Mention book – Book of Romance

1)Gleaned some good things from { Book Cart

D)Invite questions on this subject -{ Write down or email – Set up a blog of some sort

1)Address some of those

The theme of our Study today is how to avoid putting your relationship on Cruise control.

A)This is one of the biggest problems I have seen amongst pp who have been married for a # of yrs

B)There can be this tendency to get so comfortable in the relationship – sort just slips into cruise control mode – or Auto Pilot

C)Two pp sort of just going thru the motions – the fire starts to fade – passion starts to die

1)Love becomes lukewarm at best ‘

D)God does not want to happen in our relationship with Him – nor with our Spouse!

1)How do I know that?

E)Song of Solomon Ch.7-8

We have seen this couple date/ get married – go on a honey moon – have their first fight – make up

A)Now we see them after they have been married a while – keep the Passion Burning

B)How did they do – that – Note 3 things about Solomon – 5 things about His wife!

1)Close a word to the singles – Look back

C)We see Solomon is a familiar place – Affirming his wife – {Seen this many times before –

1)Overall theme – God has been showing us over and over again – Guys your wife needs affirmation

2)God has designed her that way - Praise her

Now because we have seen this so many times I am not going to spend a whole lot of time here. – #1 His appreciation for her has deepened!

Rd v.1-6

**7 How beautiful are your feet in sandals,
O prince's daughter!**

**The curves of your thighs are like jewels,
The work of the hands of a skillful workman.**

He liked the curves – she had some shape -

2 Your navel is a rounded goblet;

It lacks no blended beverage.

Your waist is a heap of wheat

Set about with lilies.

3 Your two breasts are like two fawns,

Twins of a gazelle. { Saw this before wedding night talking about tenderness -

Marriage retreat – teaching Ch.4 – How approach two fawns – lady blurts out – Slowly – carefully – Husband turned 8 shades of red

4 Your neck is like an ivory tower,

No mention of a tower of Ivory in the Bible – So this is unique and valuable –

Your eyes like the pools in Heshbon

By the gate of Bath Rabbim.

Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon

Which looks toward Damascus. { safety security

5 Your head crowns you like Mount Carmel,

And the hair of your head is like purple; {

Royalty

A king is held captive by your tresses.

6 How fair and how pleasant you are,

O love, with your delights!

She didn't look the same as she did when they first got married

A)But His appreciation has grown – Note a couple of things

B)This is similar to what we saw Solomon do on their wedding night - Undress his bride

1) Starting with her head he worked his way down her body – stopping at her garden

C) The most intimate and private part of her body - Vagina

Here he starts at her feet and works his way up to her head.

A) His appreciation has deepened – He appreciates every inch of her

B) Notice a few things { V.1 He calls her prince's daughter

1) Earlier we saw him refer to her as His darling His love, His spouse, His friend – Now ROYALTY

C) His perception of her has deepened.

V. 2 Navel is like a goblet that lacks no blended beverage. Lacks no wine! { What mean?

A) In Israel there were two great crops spring & Autumn crops { early & later rains

B) Spring crop was the fruit and grapes – Vineyard

1) **Autumn crop was the wheat**

Bb) Fruitful spring and Autumn crops were a sign of God's blessing upon the land

C) So when a man said his wife's navel was like a goblet never lacking wine – refer to spring blessing

1) When he said your waist is like a heap of wheat
Autumn blessing

D) He was saying – You are a gift from God to me

1) My life is blessed because you are a part of it.

E) Fruitfulness and nourishment come from our relationship

Proverbs 12:4

“An excellent wife is the crown of her husband.”

1 Corinthians 11:7 A wife is glory of her husband. A) My greatest resume as a man is my wife

B) Anything good in my life over the last 22 yrs attribute first to the Lord – then Denise

C) I love for pp to meet her { He ended up with her he must be doing something right

Guys are you finding new things to compliment and affirm your wife in –

A) Is your appreciation for her deepening.

B) See her as this treasure Chest – full of rubies and diamonds you get to spend the rest of your life – discovering new Jewels -

1) Discovery becomes fun – everything you don't understand about your wife becomes an adventure

Look at one more – V.4 Your eyes like the pools in Heshbon By the gate of Bath Rabbim.

A) Seen him several times say she had Doves eyes

Spoke of peace and contentment

B) Here He says her eyes are like the pools of Heshbon

1) Heshbon was a busy city – Pools were like spas where you could go to relax and be refreshed

C) That is how He feels when he looks into her eyes

1) They sparkle when she looked at Him { She is proud of him – Loves and respects him

D) Coming home from a hard day at work – one look into her eyes was refreshing

1) Like going to the Spa

D) So his appreciation for her has deepened

#2 His Desire for her has deepened! V.7-9

7 This stature of yours is like a palm tree, And your breasts like its clusters.

8 I said, "I will go up to the palm tree, I will take hold of its branches."

Let now your breasts be like clusters of the vine, The fragrance of your breath like apples,

9 And the roof of your mouth like the best wine.

This is pretty self-explanatory – not much imagination is needed here – He wants her

A)She was still desirable to him in every way.
Coming to his tree to partake of its fruit

Aa)Solomon is still romancing his wife and
expressing his desire to be with her.

B)Great description of what Biblical sex is
supposed to be – **Delightful – Sweet - nourishing**

C)So With Solomon the thing that kept the flame
going in Him

1)Constantly finding new things about his wife –
growing in his appreciation

D)Because his appreciation was growing so Was
His desire for her – Not just for sex -

**Well now lets take a few minutes to consider
Solomon's wife – What she does to keep the fire
growing! 5 things**

#1 She is still interested in intimacy! V.9-10
Notice her response to his desire.

**The wine goes down smoothly for my beloved,
Moving gently past his lips and teeth.**

**10 I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward
me.**

**A)Picking up on the imagery of the wine she is
expressing her desire to satisfy and bring
pleasure to her husband.**

B)Some women in their later yrs make love to
their husbands out of duty or obligation

1)Simply to keep him from Straying

C)But everything about their approach {
screams I am really not interested any more.

D)That is not the case here – She is still very
responsive –

#2 She takes initiative! V.11-13

**“Come, my beloved, let us go forth to the field;
Let us lodge in the villages.”**

**Because a man's sex drive is usually stronger
than a woman's – A husbands advances can
often be interpreted as an excuse to have sex**

A)Especially if that is the only time that He is
being affectionate toward his wife.

B)Guys need to learn romance is not a prelude to
sex it is to be a part of life.

C)But often times men are having to fight the
perception of always being interested in sex

1)Because of that perception – men can grow
weary of always having to be the pursuer

**What is interesting here is she is the one taking
the initiative in planning a little get away.**

A)My wife is good at this – I so appreciate it!

B)Julian – Coronado – Palm Springs –

C)Special to me that Our alone time is important
to her!

D)I don't know a single husband who doesn't
really appreciate it when His wife takes the
initiative in this way!

**Whenever we do a couples retreat some where
like this past weekend.**

A)I usually do the bulk of the teaching – but we
usually have a session where we split up

B)I talk to the men – and men stuff –
1)Denise talks to the women

C)She usually spends some time talking about
the need for the women to take some initiative in
the area of romance and sexual intimacy

D)When the guys find out what she talked about
they are always stoked!

1)In fact after her session this last time – as we
were leaving greeted by this couple – guy shy –
pastor told us

**E)He reaches over to hug Denise – Planted a kiss
on her Cheek – how appreciate it – Shocked her**

1)For the record she doesn't like that – Unless
your about 90 –

**She takes the initiative – She is both
Spontaneous and Sensual V.12-13**

**Let us get up early to the vineyards; Let us see if
the vine has budded, whether the grape blossoms
are open,**

And the pomegranates are in bloom.

There I will give you my love.

**13 The mandrakes give off a fragrance, and at our gates are pleasant fruits, all manner, new and old,
Which I have laid up for you, my beloved.**

Note this in her desire to be with her Husband she isn't just thinking about looking at grapes in the country side.

This is very sexual – pomegranates & mandrakes like raisins were considered aphrodisiacs

A) So she is expressing her desire to be with Him as well. { **Give him her love!**

B) She has a romantic getaway on her mind!

C) **Friend of mine wife text him** { Flirty message Hey stud muffin or something – what doing later
1) She accidentally sent it to her 15 yr old sons best friend – Be careful

So she is taking the initiative here.

#3 She is public about her Love! She is expressive Ch.8v. 1

**Oh, that you were like my brother,
Who nursed at my mother's breasts!
If I should find you outside, I would kiss you;
I would not be despised.**

What is this talking about?

A) In that middle eastern culture it was inappropriate for a husband and wife to be affectionate in public

B) So she saying I wish you were my brother so she could shower him with kisses because that was permitted in public

C) The pt is this she wanted everyone to know how she felt about Solomon.

Now I am not advocating making out in public!

A) Retreat – Slurpee machine –

B) Not saying you start doing that – but there are others ways of expressing your love in public.

C) One of the best ways is in your speech – how you talk about your husband.

I love listening to some ladies talk about their husbands – you can tell – love respect – admire

A) They are full of compliments – sparkle in their eye

B) Men are like little kids – they need praise

1) Every see a kid who is constantly being criticized by one or both of his parents – never do anything right ?

C) That child begins to shrink – gets rebellious – looking for positive attention

A lot of wives talk to their husbands in that same kind of way! Always condescending –

A) Here is what I think – if that is how you talk to him and about him in public – what is it like in private ?

B) She was being expressive about her love for her Husband

#4 She is playful V. 2,3, 5

**2 I would lead you and bring you
Into the house of my mother,
She who used to instruct me.
I would cause you to drink of spiced wine,
Of the juice of my pomegranate.
3 His left hand is under my head,
And his right hand embraces me.**

Skip V.4 for a minute

**5 Who is this coming up from the wilderness,
Leaning upon her beloved?
I awakened you under the apple tree.
There your mother brought you forth;
There she who bore you brought you forth.**

A) She is being playful and creative about their love life – different times / different places

B) Plan dates – get creative –

1) Avoid the same old thing all the time { take turns planning dates

Interesting that she links together the place where he was born by his mother and the place where she awakened his sexual desire

A) I think the reason is she is expressing that there is a labor involved in love

B) But just like in Child birth – the labor results in a blessing

C) There is labor involved in creating the right atmosphere for romance –

1) But the labor is worth it – because it results in a blessing and deepening of the relationship.

In the middle of this exchange – quick reminder to the daughter of Jerusalem – There is a time for this kind of playful love – { Marriage

A) Don't awaken love until it is time!

B) She is being romantic – She is being creative

So #4 She is playful

#5 She is protective! V. 6-7

6 Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death, Jealousy as cruel as the grave; its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame. 7 Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it.

A Seal was something very precious and expensive – usually carved out of expensive metal

A) Seal was sort of the keys to the family name – it allowed you to conduct business dealings and gave you access to the families wealth

B) She is saying that she wants to be the seal upon his heart –

C) She wants to know that she is her husbands most – precious and valuable possession.

She was willing to fight for that place in his life.

A) Men are easily distracted – and often guys have a hard time switching gears –

B) He is on the job all day – 8-10 hrs at work under and lot of pressure

1) Comes home and often feels like there isn't a whole lot left in the tank

C) He maybe only has 3-4 hrs with you before he hits the hay – do it all over again

1) Make those 3-4 hrs a great diversion!

Love is as Strong as death – What does that mean ?

A) Death is universal and it is unavoidable – affects every person.

B) This is the only time the word strong is used in the book of SOS –

1) The word means irresistible assailant or immovable defender

D) She is saying their love is so strong the only thing that is going to put out their flame is death

1) No flood – nothing – but the grave

V.7b If a man would give for love All the wealth of his house, It would be utterly despised.

A) This is an interesting statement – anyone who thinks they can buy love is a fool

B) Sex can be bought – happens every day – Prostitution

1) Love has to be freely given

C) But some pp try to earn love by giving gifts and doing certain things –

D) Love can't be bought – but it is worth protecting –

1) She is committed to protecting their love

E) She is going to make sure that nothing comes in between them

V.8 closing transition – A Look back {Her brothers

“We have a little sister, and she has no breasts. What shall we do for our sister In the day when she is spoken for?”

Here is what is interesting about this story – there is not any mention of the Shulamite's father

A) Either dead or divorced

B) So it became the responsibility of her brothers to make sure she is prepared for dating

C) Fathers responsibility { Date your daughters

1) No dad – Brothers – Aaron –

D) No brothers – Mom – older couple

1) Church family

Notice what her brothers do!

If she is a wall, we will build upon her A battlement of silver; and if she is a door,

We will enclose her, with boards of cedar.

What is the difference between a wall and a door?

A) A wall is meant to keep things out –
A door lets things in!

B) So this is what they are saying – they are going to let her take responsibility for her Purity

1) Walls of the city – place – Shields of silver – placed on the wall in times of peace

C) So they are saying { If she is a wall – is she is able to fend off the boys and keep herself pure

1) they are going to reward her

D) But if she is a door- meaning loose & open – they are going to take initiative to tighten the reigns around her life { **Close up that door!**

Listen parents Guard your Kids

A) If they can't make their own decision to be a wall make it for them.

B) Pay attention to how they dress - watch how they mix with members of the opposite sex

1) A lot of young girls are boy Crazy – boyfriends at 12 – Stupid

C) If you have been a door – time to become a wall

D) So her brothers took responsibility for her purity

1) They did their Job well

Notice her response { Back to the Present

10 I am a wall, and my breasts like towers;

A) I am a wall – she is older now and He has taken responsibility for herself

B) Breast like towers – Doesn't mean that her breast were large.

1) Context of her purity } Towers were fortified defense – no way to penetrate that compound

C) She is saying – No one is going to penetrate these towers

1) Not going to give myself to just any man!

D) She had made a decision to save herself for her husband –

Notice what she says next

Then { that is when I became in his eyes, as one who found peace.

A) When She made a decision to remain pure and carried herself in that way – that is when she caught Solomon's eye!

B) That is when he was attracted to her!

C) She became in his eyes as one who found peace ie Confident and content

1) Not desperate for a man – not using sex to get love

D) **Men will abuse a loose woman** – but most men are not interested in marrying one!

So She has made a decision to remain pure upright and modest - and save herself for her wedding day

A) Notice what she says next -

V.11-12

**11 Solomon had a vineyard at Baal Hamon;
He leased the vineyard to keepers;
Everyone was to bring for its fruit
A thousand silver coins.**

12 My own vineyard is before me.

**You, O Solomon, may have a thousand,
And those who tend its fruit two hundred.**

She is saying my garden is not for sale – but I can give it away –

He responds – Will you?

**13 You who dwell in the gardens,
The companions listen for your voice —
Let me hear it!**

She responds Yes

**14 Make haste, my beloved,
And be like a gazelle
Or a young stag
On the mountains of spices.**

She opens and closes the book by expressing her desire for her husband { let him kiss me

Another theme – She is expressive and aggressive in pursuing Love –

Not PASSIVE -