

Song of Solomon 1:5-2:7
Sex, God and Love, Part 2
Intimate Apparel

Week 2 of our study in the book of Song of Solomon. We are looking at it from a Literal Historical view

A) Love Song or Poem between Solomon and his first wife and one true love the Shulamite.

B) Looking back over their time of dating, courting, and marriage

1) Sharing their story with the Daughters of Jerusalem – **Notebook 10th century BC**

C) It is a Song that celebrates love in all its respects –

PRAY – IA

Today we are going to talk about intimate apparel –

Not the kind that you are thinking of.

A) Ladies undergarments – Lingerie

B) Here in our text Solomon shares some intimate apparel that fits just right

1) Not clothes but words and actions

C) We see his wife – blossom before our eyes

D) We **left off in Ch.1:4**

D) We finished last time by noting the 1st thing that attracted the Shulamite to Solomon was his Character – V.3 **The fragrance of his name**

E) Name something etched into stone makes a lasting impact... A godly Character that makes a Lasting impact

F) Noted to the young ladies, that they need to spend enough time with a guy to learn his name.

1) Not just the name that he tells you – but the name that he shows you.

Today we are picking up in V. 5 Where we begin to get an idea of how the Shulamite viewed herself.

5 I am dark, but lovely,

O daughters of Jerusalem,
Like the tents of Kedar,
Like the curtains of Solomon.
6 Do not look upon me, because I am dark,
Because the sun has tanned me.
My mother's sons were angry with me;
They made me the keeper of the vineyards,
But my own vineyard I have not kept.

Notice in v.6 She says Do not look upon me because I am dark {not black} She says the sun has tanned me {tents of Kedar} – made of dark Wool.

A) We live in a culture here in So Cal – where TAN is considered attractive

B) But Not in her day – sign of a working girl – she worked out in the vineyards

1) **Mean brothers who made her work**

C) In that day a woman's skin was considered one of the most precious parts of her body.

1) So a woman would seek to protect her skin
Fair skin was in. / She was dark

So right away we see that the Shulamite is insecure about her appearance.

A) She has been working so hard in the vineyards she has neglected her **own vineyard** – her body.

B) She felt unkempt – **Don't look at me!** She is expressing her insecurity about her appearance

C) Most women and even some men are insecure about her looks.

1) Most women wish that **at least one part** of their body was different.

D) Things haven't really changed in 3,000 Yrs

But here is what I want you especially you single ladies to note here:

A) Despite her insecurities she is a woman with Principles and convictions.

7 Tell me, O you whom I love,
Where you feed your flock,
Where you make it rest at noon.
{For why should I be as one who veils herself
By the flocks of your companions?}

B) The last line of this verse is the key to understanding what she is saying.

C)Prostitutes veiled themselves – that was the attire of the prostitute of the day

D)They would seek to position themselves in the places where the shepherds would come to let their flocks rest at noon offer their services

E)Yugo/ Hungary: Truck Stops – truckers

She says: I want to spend time with you – but you need to tell me where you are going to be stopping for lunch.

A)In other words despite her insecurity about her appearance – she will not do anything to get a man

B)She is not going to give sex in order to get love and hopefully gain some form of Self-worth.

C)Not going down that road – too many women especially young women – are doing that today

D)She wants to spend time with him but she is not going to chase him all over.

1)**Watch how he responds**

8 If you do not know, O fairest among women,
Notice men the first thing he does is deals with her insecurity – **Fairest among women** – He is saying you might think you are dark – To me skin tone is perfect

A)Then he deals with her desire and question

**Follow in the footsteps of the flock,
And feed your little goats
Beside the shepherds' tents.**

B)Here is how he responds to her desire to come and visit him spend time with him.

1)You can have a special place near the shepherds tent.

C)Meet with you **right out in the open** – so everyone knows – that I belong to you/ you to me.

1)You have precedence in my life. I will treat you with special attention.

Married men: Does your wife feel like she gets special treatment from you in public? She should

A)Or does she feel like you treat her like any other woman in the room. – Nothing special

B)Worse yet – I have seen some men – treat other women- better than their wives.

1)**Compliment what their wearing** – notice they need a refill – { **Complemented her at home – do it again**

2)Hey everyone doesn't my wife look great tonight

C)Men when you are out in public with your wife – does she feel like she is the only woman in the room that you **are interested in?** – She should

D)Solomon is telling her – You have precedence in my life – You deserve Special attention.

**9 I have compared you, my love,
To my filly among Pharaoh's chariots.**

Did Solomon just call his love – a Horse?

A)Pharaoh had 12,000 stallions {the best of the best} and 1400 Chariots

B)Solomon valued horses a great deal – they were considered a prize to him.

1)He is saying – You are more valuable to me than...

C)Here is the thing – You would only use stallions to pull the chariots –

1)And you would never put a **filly** among the Stallions – {a filly is a young female horse}

Cc) You wouldn't put a filly among the Stallions because they would become distracted

2)They would all be fighting – to get her

D)Only time – She was the lead horse and you really wanted to go fast – **Stallions trying to catch her.**

Here is how Solomon is affirming this woman that he loves – He is saying your beauty is so awesome it is distracting. Hard to concentrate.

A)He is distracted in a good way when she is around.

B)Guys is that how you feel about your wife – and does she know that? **AFFIRMATION**

1) Struggling under this pressure

What would happen if a community of believers simply refused to sing the world's tune.

A) What would it be like to form a culture of people who were not enslaved to cultural and ultimately arbitrary opinions of Beauty.

B) What would it be like for our kids in Children's ministry / Jr High across the alley / Sr Highstreet

1) To grow up in a community that says However you grow and however you develop you **are a work of art in God's eyes.**

D) True beauty is going to be found in who you are on the inside. Who you are in Jesus.

I would love to be a part of a community like that!

A) I have always told my daughters that – Beautiful but what really matters is your beauty on the inside.

B) Getting harder for them to believe that.

C) The gift that we who are older need to give to the generations coming up behind us is the freedom to not CARE what other people think.

D) **We need to be that Community.** – We who are older need to show Biblically what God values

1) Preach that message- affirm those principles

E) The importance of finding their identity in Christ

V.12 Reminiscing about a date.

12 While the king is at his table,

My spikenard sends forth its fragrance.

**13 A bundle of myrrh is my beloved to me,
That lies all night between my breasts.**

Now I told you that there are some comments in this book where those who like to allegorize- Christ and the Church – really struggle

A) This is one of them. – Here are some of the interpretations

B) Jesus is the bundle of myrrh laying between the Old and New Testaments

1) Others say :It is the Shekinah glory of God resting between the two Cherubim in the Tabernacle.

C) What kind of worldview forces that kind of an interpretation of the Bible?

1) **A world view** that basically says that a woman's breast are sinful and wrong

D) Instead of saying – That is a part of a woman's body that God made – for Beauty & intimacy

Proverbs 5:18-19

8 Let your fountain be blessed,

And rejoice with the wife of your youth.

19 As a loving deer and a graceful doe,

Let her breasts satisfy you at all times;

And always be enraptured with her love.

Here is what she is saying: She has a pouch of fragrant myrrh – that reminds her of Solomon

A) So She has something that reminds her of Solomon that she keeps close to her heart.

B) Maybe you Wore his Ring on a chain around your neck – Same idea

Something more

C) The Sack of Myrrh was a small pouch of perfume that a woman would wear around her neck at night when she slept

D) When she woke up in the morning – her body would give off that fragrance or scent

E) So she is saying that / his love for her causes her life to give off that sweet aroma.

Continues:

**14 My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blooms
In the vineyards of En Gedi.**

A) En Gedi is out in the Desert area around the Dead Sea. It is a hot dry arid place.

B) But in the midst of that Hot dry arid climate is this Oasis – called En Gedi

1) **Waterfalls and Springs – David camped**

C) Higher you go – more beautiful – lush – green

Here is what she is saying: Her lover is like an Oasis in the midst of a Desert

A) Think about how people wander thru life – roaming from one desert experience to the next

B) Life can be parched – relationships can be parched

C) But when two pp submit themselves to the leadership of Christ in their relationship

1) That relationship becomes an Oasis in the desert

In your relationship are you more like a parched Desert or an Oasis

A) He comes home – Home Parched – desert – Sanctuary – Oasis

B) What needs to happen in your marriage to make it more like an Oasis?

C) She is saying that their relationship is like this Oasis – refreshing –

1) You are an Oasis to me – I feel refreshed, secure and content when I am with you.

D) She is blessed and refreshed by their relationship – and **that is attractive to him.**

He responds

15 Behold, you are fair, my love!

Behold, you are fair! You have dove's eyes.

Doves were symbols of peace – he is commenting on how attractive it is to see her in state of peace.

A) Place of being refreshed, content, secure!

B) He feels blessed and Validated knowing that is how she feels about their relationship.

1) **You are fair – Gorgeous my love – repeats it again.**

B) Ladies what does your husband see when he looks in your eyes? – Peace – rest – Contentment

1) Eyes that say: you are an Oasis to me

C) Or does he see eyes that say: I wish you were like so & so! **Always comparing – complaining**

1) Never satisfied

D) Eyes that say: You hurt me and I haven't forgiven you-

1) **Forgiveness is not an option Commanded** – trust is won over time and with consistent behavior.

E) Been 2yrs – long enough – eyes still showing pain and sadness.

Listen: I have hurt my wife more times than I care to admit – said things shouldn't – insensitive jerk

A) I am so thankful for her forgiveness

B) Jesus first miracle – wedding feast – water to wine

1) Wine speaks of Joy – refreshing – That is what He does -

She responds:

16 Behold, you are handsome, my beloved!

Yes, pleasant! Also our bed is green.

17 The beams of our houses are cedar, And our rafters of fir.

A) Pleasant in v.16 is the same word used by David to describe Jonathan his best friend

B) When a couple becomes best friends – that is one of the things that makes for a refreshing relationship

C) **V.17 She is expressing** how – His love for her causes her to feel safe. And Protected

D) Beams of Cedar = Strength

E) Rafters of Fir = covered and Protected

Solomon has covered her in affirmation – Intimate apparel of His words –

A) He made her feel special / valuable/

B) She is refreshed and rejuvenated by this relationship

1) She feels secure and protected strengthened

Result there has been a totally change in her perception of her self no longer insecure Ch.2

I am the rose of Sharon, And the lily of the valleys.

He responds **V.2 Like a lily among thorns, So is my love among the daughters.**

Guys just tuck this one away - He is saying all other women are like thorns compared to you!

Exchange is amazing – here She responds
**3 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.**

A) Being with you is like being in the woods – tree after tree and right in the middle of it is this apple tree –

B) Sit in it's **shade and nourished in his love.**

C) His love provides nourishment and Substance.

She continues

**He brought me to the banqueting house,
And his banner over me was love.**

Banqueting house was a Public place

A) Not afraid to be with her in Public

B) Banner over me is love

1) Banner was a military flag easily seen by those who marched

C) She is saying your love for me is vivid it is easy for others to see.

The final sign of her transformation is she is longing for intimacy.

**5 Sustain me with cakes of raisins,
Raisins were considered an aphrodisiac – sexual stimulation – Buying that raisin bread
Refresh me with apples,
For I am lovesick.**

She goes from saying – Don't look at me – to I am love sick –

A) All because she has been covered in the intimate apparel of his love and affirmation.

**6 His left hand is under my head,
And his right hand embraces me.**

B) Picture here is that of embrace and caress

Song 2:7

**7 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.

Daughters bummed – what happened next –
A) There is a time and a place