

# Song of Solomon

Sunday 9/26/2010

I have to go over the sermon four days before I preach it. You only have to hear it once. If you have your Bibles this morning, we are in the Song of Solomon. We have been coming through the books of the Bible, and I think it is very good that John is doing the Bible basics right now in connection with what we are doing. We did not orchestrate that; it just fell together. We have a host of new people who have come into our church, and they all want to learn the Bible. So, we are working at getting the books laid out for you.

On Thursday night, I go through and show you the natural breakdown and outline of every book of the Bible, how you can get a handle on the context of each book. In reality, every book not only has its own breakdown, but every chapter has its own breakdown. We try to do that as we can.

On Sunday morning, I told you a while back that we know the predominant character in the Bible is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the predominant good character. The predominant bad character is obviously the devil. We know that the whole Bible is built around that basic concept of good versus evil. You do not go two or three verses in your Bible in Genesis 1 before you find out what the issue is going to be. The Bible says that God divided the light from the darkness. He separated light from darkness. Light in your Bible will always be a reference to God. Darkness in your Bible will always be a representation of the devil.

*And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*

You do not go very far in the first chapter before you see what the issue is going to be. The issue of your Bible is the same issue of life. It is the same issue that you and I struggle with every day: light versus darkness. That is always going to be the struggle; it always has been the struggle.

## I. The Wisdom Books and Christ's Portrayal

We have started coming through and laying out for you how Christ is portrayed in every book of the Bible. I told you that some of them stand alone, like the book of Esther. Some of them go into groups. Certainly, the group we are looking at right now is the Wisdom Books. These are the books in the middle of your Bible that really lay out for you the great teachings of life. The five Wisdom Books in your Bible are probably the key. We have come through each one of them. We have looked at Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Psalms, and Job. Now we are at the last one today.

I wanted to save this one all by itself because the other ones are very important for an overall understanding of life. I personally believe that everything you are going to experience in life is found in those Wisdom Books. We talked about how Job represents an unhappy man, and Psalms represents a happy man, somebody who has the blessings of God.

*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

We saw how the book of Proverbs represents a wise man. We saw how the book of Ecclesiastes represents the worldly man, someone who looks at the world and understands it for what it really is. Then we have the book of Song of Solomon. The book of Song of Solomon deals with the heavenly man.

I do not know of another book in the Bible that will help you with your relationship with God more than the book of Song of Solomon. I meet a lot of people over the years, and many of them tell me the same thing: "I just do not know how to build a relationship with God. I just do not know how to do that." I have people tell me all the time, "The Bible is a hard book. The Bible is a hard book to figure out."

No, the Bible is not a hard book to figure out, but you will never figure the Bible out if you do not get to where the Bible is taught. A person can say, "Well, I cannot figure out the Bible." Well, are you going to a church that is teaching you the Bible? "Well, no." Well, then, hello, that is your problem. You have to get to where the Bible is taught. You cannot go up to the Chevrolet factory and order a Ford; it just does not work that way. They build Chevys. You have to go to the Ford factory to get a Ford. It is the same way with the Bible. You have to get to where the Bible is taught. I do not know of another book that will change your life as far as your personal one-on-one relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ more than the Song of Solomon.

## II. The Allegory of Christ and His Bride

Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived. There are people today who doubt that Solomon was a real character. I have no doubt in my mind that he was a real character. Any man who has a thousand wives has to be a real character. Solomon was, without a doubt, the wisest man who ever lived.

If you go to secular universities and they study ancient history, you will find that they talk about the ancient nations: the Egyptians, the dynasties, the upper, later, middle kingdoms of the dynasties, and all of that. We see a lot of movies on TV. A couple of weeks ago, the movie Troy was on. The movie 300 was on, about the Battle of Thermopylae and the Battle of Troy, where we get the Trojan horse, Achilles' heel, and all that stuff comes from that. Hollywood makes movies about that, and those were all real empires that at one point or another ruled the known world.

But you will never find a movie that talks about the greatest time on this planet when God's nation was established with the nation of Israel under David and under Solomon. The Bible tells you in 1 Kings and Chronicles that when Solomon was on the throne, all the nations of this world recognized who God was. You do not get that in colleges today. You do not get that in the news media. You do not find that in Hollywood. The closest you get is Charlton Heston leading them out as Moses in The Ten Commandments, and that is where it stops. I like The Ten Commandments. I like Ben Hur too, especially when that guy gets run over by the chariot. But there again, what do you have? Light versus darkness. It is portrayed in everything. In history, there was a time when God's nation was the greatest nation on this planet, and that was under David and Solomon.

The nation of Israel came through a process of spiritual growth, much like you and I do. God formulated them early in the book of Genesis. At the end of Genesis, they go into Egypt and are down there for 430 years in the bondage of Pharaoh under Egypt. Four hundred thirty years later, He brings them out to take them to a promised land. When they finally get to that promised land, He establishes them. We go through Joshua, and Joshua takes them over after Moses is dead, and he fights the initial battles that take place.

The greatest king they ever have is David. What David does and what Solomon does really sets the picture for understanding what happens. David goes in and wipes out the last of the nations. Joshua killed a lot of them; Joshua wiped out the major campaigns. But there were little pockets of resistance all around: the Jebusites, the Canaanites. They were all little pockets of resistance that were still in the land that God had given to the nation of Israel, His people. David wipes out the last of those nations. This is why David was not allowed to build the temple, because David was a man of war.

To throw this out, that is why when you get into David's life and David's reign, it is a picture of the second coming of Christ. All the battles that David fights, wiping out the enemies, are a picture of the second coming of Christ, or what Christ is going to do. So David wipes out the last of Israel's enemies, and then once they are all out of the land, Solomon comes on the throne, David's son, and he establishes 40 years of peace. Solomon represents for us the millennial reign of Christ. David represents the second coming and wipes out the enemies, and then Solomon represents the millennial reign of Christ, and for 40 years there is no war in Israel. He sets a great type for us in the Bible.

We also see during this time that this is Israel's highest apex in history. When Solomon comes to the throne, you can read about it in Kings and Chronicles. All the world, the Queen of Sheba, is coming up and looking at everything that Solomon has. God's nation has finally been established, and God's name is known throughout planet Earth. They come from every nation that is around at that period of time, bringing gold, looking at the glory of God, looking at all of those things. Everybody on planet Earth knows that the God of Israel and the God of Jerusalem has established His kingdom.

It is during this time that Solomon is at the peak of his wisdom. He writes the wisdom books that he writes. He writes the book of Ecclesiastes. God gives him the ability to experience everything that the world has. We talked about this last week. God gives him the ability to study everything that the world has and then comes back and lets him write about it in relationship to what the Bible says and what God says. I told you last week, at the end of his book, he says:

*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.*

He came to that conclusion after looking at everything that the world has to offer. The reason why God picked him as the wisest man who ever lived to make those statements is for your benefit and my benefit. He is a lot smarter than I am, and he shows me by that that this world has really nothing to offer me. Then you have the book of Proverbs. Personally, I believe the book of

Proverbs is key to the issues of life. I believe that everything in Proverbs is going to go right up against an issue that I have to deal with in my life as a human being and as a Christian.

Then he writes the Song of Solomon. Oh, what a book! Solomon had a quest. His quest was that out of all those thousand wives and concubines he had, he never found one who had the virtue that he was looking for. This is where the Song of Solomon began to take shape for you and for me. He is looking for a virtuous woman, and he goes through 400 wives and 600 concubines. I am sure they came from all around the world, and he saw them, and the Bible says he loved very many strange women. He brought them in, and ultimately they were his downfall. We know that. But he was looking for a virtuous woman. He was looking for a woman that had all the characteristics that he wanted. In doing that, we have a great picture of what Christ looks for in you and me.

The Bible says in the Song of Solomon that he had a thousand songs. That is why women love love songs. Women love songs. Guys like them too; they just do not really pretend to love them, but women love them. Women get emotionally tied to love songs, and that is by design. That is just human nature; that is the way a woman is. When Elvis Presley sang, "Wise men say, I can't help falling in love with you," that is a beautiful love song. Back in the old days, "She'll Be Coming 'Round the Mountain" was a love song back in those days.

My point is this: he went through a thousand women, and he only found one that had virtue. In Proverbs, he writes about that woman in the last chapter, Proverbs 31. He talks about the virtuous woman. He lists a whole area of things. We obviously did not have time to go through that. Sometime in the future, I would love to teach the book of Proverbs verse by verse, word by word, because it is one of the richest books in the Bible, personally, as I think it is. He goes through there, and finally he writes about the virtuous woman. In the Song of Solomon, he finds her. He actually finds her. He basically calls her, just paraphrasing it, "my one in a thousand."

Here is how it applies to you and me. Solomon is a type of Christ. I long ago figured out that that is a great practical application because the book of Song of Solomon is a book about God's Son looking for a bride and what He wants in a bride. Then the bride, you and me, looking back at the Bridegroom, Christ. That is the picture in the Bible. Christ is the Bridegroom; we are the bride. He is wanting somebody that has the virtue that He wants to find, and He finds her. But the problem is, He finds one out of a thousand.

Everything in the Bible is there for a reason. The Bible is unlike any other book you will ever read. I believe that God is showing us there that out of a thousand Christians, out of a thousand men and women who say and name the name of Christ and call Christ their Savior, I think probably, based on the Bible, you find one in a thousand that really builds the right kind of relationship with the Lord. Now, do not take that personally today. Everybody in here, you have to judge your own heart. It could be that out of all those thousands, hundreds of thousands, every one of you fits into that category. I do not know. You have to look at your own heart. But I will tell you this: when we are done today, you will completely understand, hopefully better, what God looks for in a relationship with you. Because that is what the Song of Solomon does. The Song of Solomon tells you and me, as God's Christian, how God thinks about us, how He looks

at us. Not only does He tell me how He looks at me, but then He breaks down the book on the other half and tells me how I ought to look at Him. Nothing will build your relationship more than understanding the book of Song of Solomon.

With that in mind, and that very short, lengthy introduction, let us all stand up and hold our Bibles up and say our little thing about our Bible.

*This is God's holy Word, divinely inspired by God, infallible and inerrant. It is my sword to fight the devil and his temptations. It is my comfort in times of trouble. It is my compass for my life journey. It is God's love letter to me personally and my companion every day of my life.*

Let us pray. Father, we thank You today and ask You to bless us as we come to Your Word. Bless these good people today. May it be good to say that we have been in God's house today. Thank You for our visitors. May they get a blessing today, and we will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name. Amen. You may be seated.

### III. The Three Aspects of Relationship: Lordship, Relationship, Fellowship

You might know by now that in the book of Song of Solomon, Christ is typified, and that is really what we are going to talk about today. Christ is typified as Christ, the love of my life. Notice I did not say "the love of your life"; I said "the love of my life." I cannot speak for you; I can only speak for me. I cannot speak for my wife. I cannot speak for my kids. I cannot speak for anybody other than myself. But Christ is typified in this book as Christ, the love of my life. The New Testament book that would match up to this obviously would be the book of Ephesians.

The Song of Solomon in its entirety, when you get this theme going, lays out three things about your relationship with Christ that most of God's people do not understand. I think it is a tragedy that most of God's people, and this is not going to be a hard message today. I have a tendency to get a little passionate about what I say, but I am worn out from yesterday, so my passion level is pretty low today, and it is probably a good thing. This will not be a hard message today, but it will be a real message from the aspect of pointing out some things that I think we all need to know as Christians.

The Song of Solomon lays out the three aspects of my relationship, my walk with God.

#### 1. Lordship(Song of Solomon 1)

Is Jesus Christ Lord of your life? We talk all the time about being Christ. Christianity, in my opinion, is so shallow. I told the people yesterday down in Joplin, "I am going to say a lot of things down here I cannot say back home. I look at this as a venting experience; I can get some things off my chest." But I told them, "Christianity just absolutely drives me nuts today for the most part." I have never seen people who claim to be saved, who claim to love God, but continually do not do anything that God tells them to do. I find people that God saved, God saved their kids, and then something goes wrong in their life, and they get mad at God after all that God has done for them. I have seen people come in and embrace God, and then suddenly they get a better deal someplace down the line, and they leave God. It just

happens. Nothing drives me more crazy than inconsistent Christians. Jesus said it best in Luke 6:46: And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? I think that probably drives me nuts more than anything else, but I understand.

2. Relationship (Song of Solomon 2)

Song of Solomon 2 is going to deal with relationship, and it is going to show you how to build the right relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. Fellowship (Song of Solomon 3-5)

Song of Solomon 3, 4, and 5 are going to focus on the third aspect, which will be fellowship.

You will find that when you put lordship in your life, and you put the right relationship with Christ in your life, and you put the right fellowship in your life, you produce something that most people in Christianity circles never have, and that is an intimacy with the Lord Jesus Christ.

When we say the word "intimacy," in man's mind, it conjures up sex. Intimacy has a different meaning for men and for women. For men, intimacy is sex. For women, intimacy is the tender, talking, loving, touching, holding, conversation time that does not necessarily include sex. A man cannot get to that, because his mindset is one where the woman is the other. Of course, intimacy really has nothing to do with sex or the sexual relation. Sexual relation should come through the process of intimacy, but it is not the same. Intimacy is what you have with a person that makes you one with them. Intimacy is the bond that you have, that you get through the tough times in life, that you talk through the tough times in life, that you do not have to get in fights.

I know that every couple has squabbles. Mel Sabach, my Father in the Lord, used to preach all the time, and he married for like 45 years at that time, and he said, "In 45 years, my wife and I have never discussed divorce." He would say that when he was preaching. Of course, everybody would say, "Amen, glory to God," because that is a good thing. He said, "Murder many times, but never divorce." That is how it works. Intimacy is what this book deals with. The end result is your intimacy that you have with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let me take it one step further. People today say, "Well, I have been saved for years and years and years. Why can't I win people to Christ?" You can go out and get every packet on soul winning, or you can buy somebody's book, you can buy somebody's tapes, you can buy all the information you want on soul winning, and then try to make yourself a soul winner. You can practice your technique. You can witness to everybody on the planet. But the truth of the matter is, soul winning, I have even had pastors say that soul winning is a gift. Soul winning is not a gift. Soul winning is the natural byproduct of an intimacy that you have between your life and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When you got married, you were allowed then by the Word of God to enter into the intimacy act of having a sexual relationship. If you do not do something to prevent getting pregnant, you are going to have a child. Many of you have found that out here. Or maybe, no, I think many of you have not found that out here, because we have had the water tested, we have had everything tested, and people just keep having babies, which is a good thing. Having children in a physical sense is a natural process through intimacy. Maybe not the first time, maybe not the second time,

maybe not the third time, but if you do not do something to stop that pregnancy, you are going to be with child before very long.

In Christianity, in a spiritual sense, it is the same way. God does not make you a soul winner. You do not learn the technique of being a soul winner. When you build the intimate relationship that you want to have and you need to have with the Lord Jesus Christ through relationship, fellowship, and lordship, through that natural intimacy process, in time—maybe not the first time, maybe not the second month, maybe not the third month, maybe not the sixth month—but in time, that intimacy will produce fruit, and you will win somebody to Christ. Soul winning is based on your intimate relationship, and I cannot stress that enough. Everything in your Christian life with God is based on the great unknown word today in Christianity, which is the word "intimacy."

The failure of the Laodicean church in Revelation 3 is that basically they have lost all the concepts of reality of God in the Bible, much like the nation of Israel, and they have become indifferent today. One of the things that I think has happened to us is we have lost the definitions. We do not even know what the things that meant something 100 and 200 years ago even mean today. Somebody was telling me this morning, one of my ladies, Christi, Joe's wife, was telling me about it at work, talking to some lady. They were talking about the versions of the Bible. The lady asked her what Bible she used, and she said the King James Bible. The lady said, "Oh, I cannot read that one. I cannot get anything out of that one." Of course, that is people's take on it today. The bottom line is, I guarantee you, whatever you are reading is a lot harder than that book there. Do you realize that that book is 98% one-syllable words? Somebody said, "Well, it is the 'thees' and the 'thous'." Are you so stupid you do not know what "thee" and "thou" mean? Are you going to get hung up on "thees" and "thous"? How easy could it get? The Kincaid organization, which grades out books for kids, put the King James Bible at a second and third-grade reading level. Your NIV is a seventh and eighth-grade reading level. That is a bunch of horse stuff that just says that that book is hard to read.

#### IV. The Mind of Christ and the Unfaithful Bride

The book of Proverbs, we saw, had to do with the mind of God. We saw basically every issue of life that you and I have to deal with. I showed you last week where the book of Ecclesiastes dealt with the mind of the Spirit. Now we know that primarily God, and we are going to look at this a little bit today because I am sure this is something that you never thought about. Maybe many of you will not believe it, but it does not really matter; it is still true. We know that the mind of God deals with how God looks at things. God primarily is concerned with the nation of Israel. We will explain it here in a moment. The mind of the Spirit deals with the movement of God down through history, down through the church, down through all that God is doing. We saw last week in Ecclesiastes 1 and 2 that it follows the circuit.

Then you have the mind of Christ. Basically, that is simply all Christ thinks about, really. When you get into Christ's mind, and this is what the Song of Solomon tells us, the Song of Solomon does the greatest thing for me because it tells me that Jesus Christ 24/7—I do not know if they have 24/7 up in heaven, but they have it down here—24/7, every day of my life, all Christ thinks

about is me. It is all He thinks about. We get the idea that we go to see football games, and somebody scores. I have seen guys in a tight football game where the players are all around a corner or underneath praying, "God, give us the win of the game." Then, of course, on the other side, the other guys' players are down there praying, "God, win our game." They actually think that God cares who wins the game. God does not care about who wins the Super Bowl. He does not care who wins the Stanley Cup. He does not care who wins the World Series. And Christ does not either. Christ cares about one thing: "What are you doing today? And can I do it with you? Where are you at today? And can I go with you? Can we talk? Can we walk? Can I spend all the time with you today?" That is all He wants. All Christ thinks about is you and being with you every day and every moment of the day. It is absolutely ludicrous, the absolute abuse that we as God's people put on the Savior who is our Bridegroom.

Mel Sabach is my Father in the Lord. You hear me talk about him a lot. Many of you know him. He has preached for years and years and years; he is too old to get around now. Most of you know him. Many of you have met him. We have been out together when he has been here. You know who he is. He was probably one of three men that really taught me three different aspects of the ministry. He was my Father in the Lord. He was my Paul; I was his Timothy. His relationship with me was much like my relationship with many of you young men and young ladies. He was my mentor. I trusted him because I saw the proof in his life, the power of God in his life. Not many people liked him, but that is okay; God liked him. No matter what anybody said about him and did not like about him, they could never deny that he had the power of God in his life when they did not have it in their life. What anybody did not say about him, he did not like about him, he was in church on Sunday when they were out fishing on Sunday, wherever they were. He was the Apostle Paul of my life, and I listened to everything he said.

He said something one time, and we were driving back and forth. He never preached this. This was a conviction of his. I do not know if you know the difference, but I understand what a conviction is. A conviction is something that you have in your own life that you would not necessarily preach. I have convictions in my life about a lot of things that I would not preach. If I told you my convictions on some of the things about that Bible, you would not sleep tonight. You say, "Well, why do you not preach those things?" Because they are my convictions. They are not a doctrinal thing. When you come to the Bible, you are going to find that there are things in the Bible that you get convicted about that maybe you do or will not do. It is not a doctrinal issue. Most pastors get their convictions and then try to force their convictions on the people in the church. You will never hear me preach about my convictions. Oh, I may say I do not like this or I like that, but you will never hear me get up and preach my convictions. You know why? Because no pastor or Christian should preach their convictions. You preach the truth of the Bible, but the Bible says:

*Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.*

When I believe something that for me may not necessarily work for you, I do not want you to grow up spiritually on my convictions. I want you to get your own convictions. How do you do that? I just teach you the truth of the Bible, and in your personal relationship with God, you develop your own convictions. You cannot live your Christian life on my convictions any more

than you can live your Christian life on my spirituality. You have to develop your own. That is the difference between the liberty you have in Christ and something doctrinally in the Bible that there is no guessing about. We know what that issue is.

Anyway, this was Mel's conviction. He never taught this. I never heard him publicly in all the thousands of times that I was with him, heard him ever say this, but this was his conviction. It was so private to him that he would not even explain it to me. It was so private to him that I think he felt bad that he even said it to me. We can talk about anything. But it was something that we were driving back one night, and we had experienced some things, and he kind of let this out. When I questioned him on it, he just clammed up and said, "I really do not want to get into it. Do not want to talk about it. You have to figure it out for yourself."

I have to tell you what I am about to say to you: I do not really believe it. I just want you to know that. So if you take this tape and edit me out someplace to make me sound like a heretic, like some people have done in my lifetime, that is okay, because I will say it enough through here that this was, "I do not believe this. I do not think I believe this." He had come to the place and the persuasion and the conviction of his life—just hear me out on this; when I say this, you are all going to fall off the chair, and I do not want you to fall off the chair—I do not believe this. This was his conviction. He never preached this. He never wrote it in any book. He would not even tell me. I do not think he told another soul on the whole planet. He would not even explain it to me. He told me, "This is my conviction."

But he had a conviction that not all saved people were going to go in the rapture of the church. When he said that to me, I was driving in the car, and I am just glad there was nothing coming the other way in the other lane, because I was worried. "What?" He said, and he repeated it. I said, "Wow." He did not talk anymore about it. He never said anymore about it. But he said basically that when the rapture can take place, he does not believe that necessarily all saved people are going to go in that rapture. Now, I know what your question was; it was my question: "Where do you go? Sam's Club? What do you do? We do not go through the tribulation period. Has he got a big barn up there where all certain people go?" But he would not tell me. I pressed him, and he said, "No, I do not want to persuade you one way or the other. That is not for me to do that." He was very conscientious, as I am, about my conviction. If I told you some of my convictions about that book you are holding in your life, you would have a heart attack. But I do not, because that is my conviction. You have to be smart enough in this business to know what you preach and what is your own conviction.

But he did say this. Looking back in retrospect—that means looking backwards—I understand why he said what he said. Because now, after 40 years, I have seen in Christianity what he was seeing back then, but I did not understand. He asked me this: "If you had a girl and you were getting married, would you marry that girl that every chance she could, she betrayed you? Would you want a girl for your wife that stole from you? Would you want somebody for your wife that lied to you? Would you want somebody to marry and be your bride that cheated on you every chance she could with everything out there? Would you really want somebody in your life and come back for them and want to be with them for all of eternity when every time they turned around, they were going after something else, somebody else, and on their top 10 hit parade, you

were 949 on the bottom?" He said, "Would you want a wife like that?" I thought to myself, "I still do not believe that, but boy, I understand." Maybe he was just setting me up. Maybe he did not believe it either. I do not know. He never told me, but maybe he was just making the point as I am making this morning: Is that the kind of wife you would marry?

My point is this: You have one who loves you, cares for you, thinks about you 24/7, died for you, and wants to give you everything and be with you all day long. We sell Him out like a cheap suit most of our lives. Then we will be so glad to see Him when He comes. You know what bothers me about God's people? If Jesus Christ would come right now, it would ruin some of your people's day. That bothers me.

I will give you one of my convictions. I do not preach this. I may have said this a couple of times, but you do not hear me harp on it all the time. If the Holy Spirit of God would walk in here right now and say, "Bob, I am going to give you one wish; I will grant you whatever this wish is," some of you would ask for a new car. Some of you would ask for a million dollars. Some of you would ask for a new house. Some of you would ask for this or that. I would not mess with that stuff. You know what I would ask? I would just say, "Lord, where is that rapture switch? I want to throw it." I do not know if there is a rapture switch, but if there is one, that is all I want to do is throw it.

Would you want a bride like that? How about it, guys? You find the love of your life, like Christ as the church. You are madly in love with her. As the Bible says, He found a pearl of great price, and what did He do? He sold all that He had that He might buy that. What if you found the most beautiful woman in the world? Well, obviously you have if you are sitting here today with your wife. Thank you. All that proves is Bob Gregg is the smartest one around here this morning. He saved the rest of his day, maybe his marriage. I sure hope that all of you women out there who have married your husband to have your concealed carry permit left your weapon home this morning.

Say you found this woman that you just fell in love with, and you sold everything you had to be with her. Too late now, pal. You get a second chance with God. You never get one with your wife. I am just telling you that right now. She may say it is okay. You will pay for that the rest of your life. No, I am just kidding. Obviously, that is not true. The bottom line is that you sold everything that you had, and you want to be with this woman. All day long, you just call her on the phone every 15 minutes. You text her. You do everything you can. You send her flowers. You send her cards. You send her love letters. You are away. You are on a business trip someplace, and you are going to be gone for a while, and you want to protect her. So you send her love letters. In those love letters, you say to her how much you love her. You point out, "Be careful going here. Be careful going there." How many times does your wife leave, or you leave, and the last thing your wife says, or a husband says, is, "Please be careful now. Call me when you get there. Call me before you get there." For all of you today, it will be, "I do not care whether you get there or not."

Every time you call her, you can hear somebody else's voice in the background, the party music being real loud. Somebody comes up and takes the phone out and says, "Who is this? Well, she is

with me right now," and then hangs up the phone. How would you feel that every letter you got was, as the old Elvis Presley song, "Return to Sender"? You are in Memphis. You were lying to me this morning. You are in Memphis. I know you are in Memphis. You are in Memphis, are you not? Amen. God bless you, darling. I knew you were. That is my girl right there. That is what I am talking about. Would you want to keep, would you come back and you found out that over the door, you were so excited, and a string of guys was coming out of the place, beer bottles all over the place? By this time, she probably had three or four babies by six or seven other guys. I do not find this funny at all. I do not know why you do. You get my point. Would you still marry her? Would you still marry her?

## V. The Illusion of Relationship and the Desire for Intimacy

The breakdown of this book breaks down into two aspects, and it breaks down around your relationship with Christ, your lordship with Christ, and your fellowship with Christ, which leads to your intimacy with Christ. I want to make a bold statement. I know that some of you here are just young Christians, and you are working your way through it and learning a book, and most of you are. But I want to say this to you: if you have been around for a while and you have been saved for a number of years, and for whatever reason, you do not have the book of Song of Solomon down as far as your relationship, and you do not have a handle on it as far as the things that I am talking about of understanding, and you have not gotten into that book to get this stuff, I do not mean this in a bad way, but I want to be honest with you because I do not want to ever, I want to always tell you the truth. Paul said one time, "Because I tell you I am your enemy because I tell you the truth." Yes, and to some people, you are. That should never stop you from telling the truth, but the bottom line is, if you do not understand the aspects of this book—and I realize that Christianity is a process, and this is not a condemnation on anybody; I am just trying to help you today—my point is this: if you do not, maybe I should say it this way, if you do not get to the point in your life where you understand the aspects I am about to lay out for you, I think it is safe to say that your reality relationship with Christ is somewhat of an illusion. I think it is like most Christians in the Christian world; I think it is somewhat of an illusion.

New Year's Eve a couple of years ago, I announced for I do not know how many weeks, how that we were going to, and this is not a condemnation to anybody, I do not even remember. I just know it happens every New Year's Eve. I felt like the church was at a place where we really needed to get some things done, and we had grown, and I thought it was... We always do one of two things on New Year's Eve. We either have a... We always eat no matter what we do, but sometimes we will have like a three or four-hour Bible study, and sometimes we just ask questions. We start at eight o'clock, go to ten or eleven or whatever, twelve, however it works, and we just work through, or we have a systematic study. I never said anything, but I watched, and I thought, "Now this will be something the church would really want to get." Here we have a concentrated time because the book of Song of Solomon is not something that, in my mind anyhow, I would want to try to teach. I think when you get it all in one shot, when you have four or five hours that you can really lay it out and break it down, that is when you can get the thing done. I thought to myself, "The church will really want to be part of this, and there will be people who, this will be what we need, and it will get everybody to that next level that we can work on."

I will be honest with you, I was disappointed that night. I had people who probably should have been here that went to a party. They wanted to go out and celebrate the New Year. I never say anything about things like that, but it does speak; it says something. I thought to myself, "Here was probably the greatest opportunity that we will ever have as a church to get together from where we are right now and what God is doing." If He is doing anything here in this church, maybe He is not; maybe that is the problem. But we can take one time, and yet it blows my mind, but this is Christianity. This is, "Welcome to the 20th century." This is Christianity when it comes to something that deals with that. If I was going to talk about the Antichrist and the wound on his left thigh and expose it to you and show you who he was and tell you where he is living and where he is at, and he is in Kansas City tonight, and I know exactly where he lives, this place would be packed. But you see, most people do not want to learn how to build an intimate relationship with Christ. It is not exciting for them. But the parties are. That is just the way it is.

I guarantee you, that is not my personal thing. Every pastor on this planet wants the best for his people. I cannot speak for every pastor, but I do know this: my wife can bear this out. You will never find anybody that spends more time, works more, longer hours, and harder hours digging out the Bible so I bring you something that gives you exactly what you need. I never show up in the pulpit. I never show up on Thursday night. I never show up when you come over to see me. I never just show up and say, "Well, I will just wing this tonight and fly by the seat of my pants." No, no, but if you are going to come here and meet with God and you have that expectation, I am going to make sure my side of it is up to the expectation. That is just the way it has to work.

## VI. The Functions of the Trinity

The book shows two things. First of all, the book shows how Christ looks at us. It also says how He feels toward us. Christ is portrayed in the book of Song of Solomon, especially in Song of Solomon 2, as the doting Bridegroom who cannot wait for His bride. It says down there in Song of Solomon 2 that He is coming to get her down at the end of the chapter. But during the church age, before He gets down to get her, He is sneaking a peek through the lattice, hoping to get a glimpse of her out there. She walks from the garage to the car because He just cannot wait to be with her, but He cannot be with her yet. Most people do not grasp this, and it is the reason why we have the lackadaisical attitude we have with Christ.

Christ cares nothing about world events. He does not care about the 9/11 disaster. He does not care about tsunamis. I know this is shocking to you. He does not care about hurricanes, hemicanes, or any other cane. He cares about you. Obviously, if you are in one of those things and you are His child, He cares about you, and He will protect you. He has written you over 1,500 promises in the New Testament alone that are yours. He does not care about world events in this church. We will get to that in a minute. But He does care about you and me in the world events. Those are the things that He...

*But my God shall supply all your need.*

Those are the things that whatever state I am in, I am content, because you know that God has got your back, so to speak, and God takes care of you. He only cares about and looks after His

bride. You may be in the world scenario. You may be somewhere in life in this city or around the world or in this country where bad things are happening. God, or Christ, even though He does not really give a flip who kills who out there in the world, He does care about you, and He will guide you and protect you and give you everything that you need. That is what He does.

I think one of the things that we are all short on, and I know this is true in my life, is understanding the three functions of the Trinity. We have the mind of God, we have the mind of Christ, and we have the mind of the Spirit. They are all different. It is like the Trinity. You have God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. They are three different offices, but they are all one. They are all one as far as purpose and deity. Then you have God's mind, the Spirit's mind, and Christ's mind. They are all one, but they all three have a different purpose.

Do you want a little spiritual test? I like tests. Do you want a little spiritual test? Know where you are really at with God? It is real simple. In this life on planet Earth and the history of man, write down on a piece of paper sometime and explain to yourself God's job on this planet down through history, the Holy Spirit's job, and Christ's job. That will pretty well sum up where we are as Christians. Jeremiah 23:25 is a great verse. It says that back then, Israel and the leaders of Israel lived in a dream world. I think that is where most of God's people are at today. I think that we go through life claiming to be God's child, claiming to have a relationship with God, and yet we cannot even functionally lay out and talk about what God does, what His job is, what the Holy Spirit's job is, and what Christ's job is. The more I think about it, maybe Sabach was right. Maybe he was.

Let us talk about God for a moment. I want you to at least leave here. I cannot do this in any real depth, but I just want you to get some things worked out this morning. Let us talk about God and what His job is. God cares about world events. If you want to know God, and most people do not know this, God is a politician. He is. Politicians run governments. When Christ comes back, He is going to run a world government. He is going to be crowned King of kings and Lord of lords. He is a politician. He is also a lobbyist.

You know what a lobbyist does? In our world, in Congress, a lobbyist is someone who finds the big bucks of somebody who wants to get an agenda accomplished, and so they will find a congressman or a senator or a group of people who can get that done for them, and they will lobby them. What does that mean, "lobby them"? It means it gives them a lot of money. That is not what it really means, but that is what it winds up being. You will pull a congressman in and say, "We want to get this bill passed. Let us say we have tobacco growers, and we want to lower the tax because people are not buying our cigarettes. We want you to go into Congress and put a bill in and get the tax lowered. Put a bill that is in there that will get us what we want." The guy says, "Well, okay, I see that. What are you going to do for me?" The guy says, "Well, you have an election coming up, right? Yes, I do. Okay, I will tell you what we will do. If you get that thing done, we will stand to make about \$60 billion next year. I will tell you what, we will give you a \$5 million contribution to your campaign. How would that be?" That is how it works.

God is a lobbyist, and He is a politician, but He is a righteous politician. What He lobbies for is not for the tobacco industry or the beer industry or anything else. He lobbies for one thing: the

nation of Israel. That is all He lobbies for. If you did not know that, then all you have to do is spend a little time over there in Jeremiah 1:10, Daniel 2:21, and Romans 13. God cares about world events. How do you know that? Because the Bible tells you in those verses that He sets up kings, knocks down kings, sets up governments, takes them out. He cares about world events. How do you know that? Because He destroyed the world with a flood back in Genesis 6. That was a world event.

I was so happy to find out last week on the 6 o'clock news that they solved the great miracle problem of the parting of the Red Sea. How many saw that on TV? We have to all buy a TV and watch it sometimes. It would be a good play. Big time, prime time news. Diane Sawyer. She got on there, and she gave the lead, and I just could not leave; I had to see this. She said, "Finally, the mystery solved about the biblical explanation of the parting of the Red Sea." Well, first of all, it was never a mystery to me. It is like a guy said one time, "You realize they found Noah's Ark?" "Where did they find it at?" Up and down there, where the Bible told you it was there from Genesis 9.

Sure enough, some scientist who claimed to be a Christian, and he said, "When I studied Christian things, I put my Christian hat on. And when I studied scientific things, I take off my Christian hat, put my science hat on." I thought that was very instructive. My problem in life is I only have one hat: the Bible hat. I am in trouble. He came up with, "Solve the world's problems." He says, "When the wind blows in that part of the country from the north, which it does in the Bible, what it does is that it pushes the water back, and the water then goes back, and you have an open corridor for a period of time until the wind stopped blowing or changed the direction." For the wind stopped blowing, an open corridor that is three miles long at that particular point and a mile and a half wide. He said that is what happened, and everybody just went crazy. What is wrong with the fact that God just said, "Water, move"? Why do we always have to have a plausible explanation of why God just could not come down and do whatever He wanted to do? He did.

In Genesis 6, God was watching world events. The Bible says He came down. He wanted to see the wickedness of man. He came down. In Genesis 11, when they are building the Tower of Babel, He came down. He said to the angels, "Put those video games away; we are going down. We are going to see what man is doing." He did that because He cares about world events. In one case, He said, "Oh, okay, let us back up there. Rain!" And it rained. The other place, He just changed all the languages, and He put man 5,000, 6,000 years behind. Still was not caught up to where they were in Genesis 11. God cares about world events. Daniel 2 says He sets up kings. He knocks down kings. He cares about kingdoms. His one purpose, His one agenda, is political. He wants to establish the literal, visible kingdom of heaven with a literal, visible nation of Israel in the literal, visible Jerusalem. He cares about world events.

The Holy Spirit of God, I am not going to spend a lot of time with this one. The Holy Spirit of God is called the great unknown person of the Trinity. He is called that because He does not seek any glory for Himself. He seeks glory for God and Christ. But if you want to find out the work of the Holy Spirit of God, there is one chapter in the Bible that tells you simply the seven things

that the Holy Spirit of God does on this planet. I am not going to give you that one; you figure that one out on your own. Then we have Christ. We have all of those things.

## VII. Similitudes of the Bride and Bridegroom

The second thing the book shows us is how we should look at Christ. When you realize the mind of Christ is different than the mind of God, which is different than the mind of the Spirit. You see where God cares about world events because He is orchestrating the events to get Israel back to the land and get them established. The Holy Spirit of God is going through the circuits, Ecclesiastes 1 and 2, and He has a plan. He follows that flight plan. Christ's mind has to do with me and you. It is all He cares about. He wants to be with you 24/7, and it grieves Him when you want to be with somebody else.

What follows down here as you read down through this chapter of the whole book, we will just look at a few examples. What follows down here in this chapter is a very elaborate plan of similitudes that begin to unfold. This woman, as Christ, talks to her, or the bride talks to the Bridegroom back and forth. You find all these things connected, all these feelings, all these things that He looks at. We find them likened to animals. We find them likened to fruit. We find them likened to plants or trees. I will give you an example.

Look at Song of Solomon 1:14.

*My beloved is unto me as a cluster of camphire in the vineyards of Engedi.*

You read that, and you would probably say to yourself, "What does that have to do with anything?" Everything in that sentence means something in the Bible. Everything. This is where you have to study to show yourself approved. This is where you have to dig out the meanings of these things because we know that the church is a mystery, and the relationship that God wants to have with us is a mystery. So when He wrote that thing, He wrote you something in there that He figured that because you loved Him so much, you would not let heaven or earth get in your way to find out what that verse meant. Boy, was He wrong. Maybe Mel was right.

He says, "a cluster of camphire." Camphire comes from a tree. It is a medicine. They take it out of a tree or extract it out of a tree, and then through a process, it becomes a medicine by which it has a healing agent to it. Let me tell you how that fits. When you got saved, God wants to take what is inside you. He wants to, through a process, change it. He wants your life to be a medicine in healing circumstances in life. That thing works. It says, "in the vineyards of Engedi." Engedi is where David's stronghold was in 1 Samuel 23:29. It is a picture of what He is looking at, and what He is talking about is you and I through a process becoming strong, becoming a stronghold for God, but at the same time, not so strong that we are not part of a healing agent in people's lives.

There are Baptist churches like that. There are Baptist churches that every time you go, you just get your clock cleaned. You get your clock cleaned here, but I can do it and smile. I have learned the art over the years that I can clean your clock, and you will walk out and say, "Thank you. That was a very nice sermon." I mean, you just learn how to say things. Some preachers never

learn that. Some preachers just get up and blast you with a machine gun every time they get up and preach. Of course, they are a stronghold, but they do not have any healing aspect to it. When Jesus Christ came, in the book of John, the Bible says when Christ came, He came with two things: He came with grace and He came with truth. Those are the two elements you have to have in your life, in ministry, and certainly as a pastor. I have the truth. A lot of pastors have the truth, but grace is the balancing act that shows you how to use that truth. What good is the truth if you do not have the grace of God in your life to use it?

Most pastors, I always imagine them this way: they stand at the top of the stairs, and they look at all these sinners down here at the bottom of the stairs, and they stand up there waving their Bibles in a three-piece suit, and they are throwing everything around and yelling at everybody to get up here where they are. That is truth. But if you have grace, you do not just tell the people, "You need to be up here where I am at." That is okay. But then you have to walk down those steps and help those people up those steps one at a time. That is grace.

When we start to talk about these things, you are going to find two things, very important. You are going to find that these things always have a smell to them. This woman smells good to God, and the Bridegroom smells good to the woman. All of these things in here, and remember now, people are like trees. One time Jesus healed a man, and he said, "What do you see?" The guy stood up and said, "I see men walking around like trees." That is a great designation because it shows you that people are like trees in the Bible. You say, "Well, I do not believe that." Really? Have you ever checked out your ancestry? Yes, I have. What is it called? Your family tree. Trees have limbs, so do you. Trees are made up of cells, so are you. In the Bible, trees are likened to people. So when you start reading about all these things in here, they may be a picture of animals or fruit or pictures of spices. They all have a smell.

Smell is very important when it comes to God. We do that today in the world of scents, do we not? This is why women like to wear perfume. That is why men wear cologne. I mean, I wear it too. But this is how we do it. A person will mask their real smell from a human side by something that smells lovely. They make millions and millions of dollars making women think that if you wear this perfume, the name on the perfume will give you the effect that you want. So we have one called "Taboo." Put this on, walk around men, and they will say, "He is taboo." I saw one one time. When your wife is off shopping sometime, and you have to go with her because you love her and want to be there, if you want to get a biblical exegesis, just walk around and check out the perfume. Now that I am about to tell you this, it makes a lot more sense. I saw one over there the other day called "Sinful." I bet it was. Sure it was. I saw one over there that said, "Rendezvous." Or as Rocky would say, "Rawn-day-voo." "Night Passion." I am sure it was. "Obsession." Put it on, and he will smell it, and he will be obsessed with you. My favorite one is "Holstein." That is my favorite smell. I like that one. When you get in the car, you can say, "Move over."

Smells in the Bible are very important. That is why men put it on. It always has manly names. When we put it on, "Brute." The funniest thing in the world is some little wimpy guy with legs like toothpicks walking down smelling with "Brute" on. Of course, that is what we do. We do that in a worldly sense to mask so we smell good. My question to you this morning, as a child of

God, based on what we are going to talk about, is, "How do you smell to God?" How do you smell to God when He smells you? Smells in the Bible are very important.

I do not even know if you know it or not. You have to have a good nose. When I was a kid growing up, we used to do things differently. Some of you older folks remember this. We had, when you got a cold, Vicks VapoRub. Remember that? You can still buy Vicks VapoRub, but I do not think they do with it what they did with it when I was a kid growing up. Joe has been Vicks VapoRubbed a few times, I can tell. I remember when I would have congestion and a cold, my mom would say, "Okay." What she would do is she would get a big old finger of Vicks VapoRub, put it in a saucepan on a burner, let it melt down. I can see it as I am just sitting there. I was just a little guy. We had a kitchen chair, an upback chair, and I would sit on that chair with my little chest out there, and she would take that Vicks VapoRub and she would rub it on my chest, and then she would take a washcloth and she would put it over it. Then she would rub it on my back and then put it over it, and it would get really warm. If you had an earache, that was another thing. They put it in your ear and all around your ear. To this day, if I have a cold and I cannot sleep at night, I learned this when I was nine years old. If I have a cold and I cannot sleep at night, I shot a Jack Daniel's, who puts me out just like that. No, I am just kidding. You are always so serious. I just could not pass that up. Do not get that serious; it scares me when you get that serious. You are going to do two things today. Every man here is going to be begging for his wife to forgive him.

Anyway, they would rub that on you, and it had a smell to it, did it not, Joe? Remember? It had a smell to it. It smelled. The whole house smelled, and it smelled like Vicks VapoRub. You could walk in the house, somebody is sick. It had a smell to it, and it permeated the house. I remember going to bed at night, and it was the most uncomfortable thing because you had a washcloth on the front, a washcloth on the back. You felt like a cheese sandwich in a microwave someplace. But it was a medicine. It was a salve. It was something that was supposed to heal, and it had a smell.

A Christian needs to have a certain smell to God. There have been situations when you are around somebody, and I do not really know how to explain this. I can walk into a situation with Christians, or I can talk to a Christian, or I can just see the way Christians are when I talk to them, because I talk to people a lot, and over the years, you just learn. The best thing you can have is a good nose. Something stinks here. Something is rotten in Denmark. People try to mask it, but you cannot really mask it.

*But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.*

Remember in the Old Testament, when they had a sacrifice, they burned that sacrifice. You know why they burned that sacrifice? Because that smoke from that burnt offering of that innocent lamb or ram or whatever it was, that smoke from its burning flesh, it went up, and the Bible says that God smelled that, and He was appeased. Every time Christ was Jesus, Christ was God's

sacrifice. So every time you speak to Christ about Christ, it does not matter if the person gets saved or he does not. I want him to get saved, but as far as God is concerned, He wants him to get saved too. But the truth of the matter is, it is not about whether he gets saved or not. The Bible just told you, to one that is life, the other one is death, saved, lost. But the bottom line is, either way, when you speak the name of Christ, God smells that sacrifice of His Son, and it pleases God. Smells in the Bible are very important. You can say whatever you want to say about God and claim in your life, but does the smell match up?

I hesitate even saying this because preachers should not say things like this, I guess, I do not know. I go up here to a fitness center a couple of days a week, and they bring in a busload of old folks from John Knox Village. Folks, I just want to tell you, I do not know how this works out, but every old, dear, sweet, godly lady at John Knox Village buys their perfume at the same place. Might I add, it is a god-awful smelling stuff you ever saw in your life. I do not know what Saddam Hussein used to gas the Iranians; this would work. I try to get there before they get there. No, it is true because they all wear it. I do not even ask. They all wear it. It permeates the place. I watched the bus drive out one day, and a blue haze was falling about. There was a trail of dead flies and mosquitoes all the way back to John Knox. That is not the best part. They get on the machines; it is hot in there. You know where I am going now, do you not? I come home, my wife says, "Who have you been with?" But she was over 90, was she not? My point is this: I think a lot of God's people throughout the day and out their life smell like a cheap bottle of perfume to God. That is what I think.

Look at another example, Song of Solomon 1:15.

*Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair; thou hast doves' eyes.*

Very quickly here, if you would go back to Song of Solomon 1 and Song of Solomon 5:12, you would find when talking about the Lord Jesus Christ that Christ has doves' eyes. So you make the comparison there, what He is saying, that the church, the bride here, has eyes as a dove. Christ has eyes of a dove. The logical conclusion is you ought to see things the way Christ sees it. You ought to see things through His eyes. That is the conclusion. Do you love Him like He loves you? Do you look at Him like He looks at you? Do you love people like He loved people? Or are you selective in who you love? Do you look to help the fallen like He did? The woman at the well, remember her, had five husbands, and the one that she had now was not even her husband. How about blind Bartimaeus? One of the criticisms they had about the Lord Jesus Christ was that He was always hanging out with the publicans and the sinners. The scribes and the Pharisees did not think you had to do that. Do you forgive those that have done wrong to you like He did? They crucified Him. They put nails in His hands and His feet. They beat Him, flayed Him with bleeding, and they beat Him up all day long. They made fun of Him, spit in His face. They hung Him up on a cross, and then what do you think He said?

*Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.*

Can you do that? How are you smelling so far?

Look at another one. Look at Song of Solomon 1:16.

*Behold, thou art fair, my beloved, yea, pleasant: also our bed is green.*

Green is fruit-bearing. I know you are young and you are growing, but if it comes a time in your life that you have not won somebody to Christ after 10, 15, 20, 30 years, you know what I do? I quit blaming my spiritual problems on the preacher or somebody else. Somebody says, "Well, I do not like this church; I am going to another church." You might as well; you never win anybody to Christ. We need your seat. It is one of those things where, is your bed green? Is your bed green today? Is it like an evergreen? It just keeps flowering and evergreen.

Look at Song of Solomon 1:17.

*The beams of our house are cedar, and our rafters of fir.*

The Bible says, "Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God?" When they made the tabernacle back there in 1 Kings 5-8, and they made that thing, they made it with cedar and fir. It is a picture of the wood. Both cedar and fir are a very strong, hard, enduring wood, but they both have a smell with them. Have you ever got out in the morning down in South Carolina or maybe up in Maine or in some of those places where you walked out on the porch in the morning where there are pine trees all around and just smelled that fragrance? Have you ever got something out of a cedar chest that is cedar and smelled the cedar on it? It has a smell. A Christian needs to have a certain smell to God.

A great truth comes to light with all of this, and it would take you forever to figure it out, but that is what God thought we would do. Somebody said, "Why did God write a book that you just cannot get it down in one setting?" First of all, God does not think like that. But second of all, God loved you so much that He wrote you everything that He thought about. He put it in a poetic form because we like poetry, and the bottom line is, He just thought for sure you love Him so much more than anything else on planet Earth that you would just spend the rest of your life figuring out what He wrote you. Boy, did we show Him. Maybe Sabach was right.

Have you ever noticed that when I preached yesterday down there about sound doctrine, sound mind, sound words, sound speech, sound faith? Have you ever noticed when God built something, He always built it solid and sound? When He built Noah's Ark, He built it out of gopher wood, absolutely rock solid. When He built the tabernacle, the one that Moses had, He built that out of acacia wood. When He built the temple, it was cedar and fir. Have you ever studied oak trees in the Bible? Have you ever studied palm trees in the Bible? All of those things that you have, they either produce fruits or they have a smell with them, and that is just the way that it works.

All right, turn over to Song of Solomon 4 for a minute. We will be done here in just a second. Look at Song of Solomon 4:1.

*Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair; thou hast doves' eyes within thy locks: thy hair is as a flock of goats that appear from mount Gilead.*

I suggest that when your wife asks you how your hair looked, that is a line you abstain from unless she is very versed in the Bible, and then it probably will not work anyhow. But you look

at that. What a thing to say. "Honey, how is my hair?" "Well, it looks like a flock of goats that appear from Mount Gilead." Slam! You are out of it, boy. But it means something. Have you ever read in the Bible about the balm of Gilead? That was a medicine for healing. Notice how the hair of the flock of goats that appear from Mount Gilead. Notice hair in Mount Gilead. Hair is a picture of somebody that is submissive in the Bible. That is a picture of your submissiveness in being used to heal people. Gilead represents a place of good pasture. It is always found in the Bible where it had good pasture, clean water. That is where they took the sheep and the goats to get them ready to serve. It all means something.

Look at Song of Solomon 4:2.

*Thy teeth are like a flock of sheep that are even shorn, which came up from the washing; whereof every one bear twins, and none is barren among them.*

That is a great analogy there. It talks about the fact that teeth are like a flock of sheep. Sheep are sacrificial animals. Notice it says, "came up from the washing." This woman here, when she got saved, she washed her mouth out. She does not talk the same way she used to talk. She got her mouth washed out. Now her mouth, her teeth, are like a sheep. The Bible says, "every one bare twins, and none is barren among them." She has a perfect set of teeth in her mouth. She is no snaggletooth. Like the old hillbilly song, "The girl I am loving has beautiful teeth in her mouth. One points north and the other points south." I just crack myself up sometimes. That is not this woman. Teeth are very important. It helps you enunciate, helps you speak clearly.

If you ever talk to her, I use my mother, bless her heart, and I love her to death. She has false teeth. I do not think they do false teeth anymore unless they have to. But back in my day, it was just easier to pull them all when you got a set of dentures. My dad did not have any teeth either. The greatest time of my life, I think remembering, is when those two got in a fight, and they would go at each other. One day I stole their teeth, and they just went at it, flapping at each other. It was the craziest thing in the world. My dad had a joke. I asked him, he told me this as a kid, I said, "Dad," because he used to put them in a bottle of water, I mean a cup of water, I guess to clean them, I do not know. He put them in there, and he put that Polident stuff in them, and it bubbled up, cleaned them off. I know he is kidding me. I said, "Dad, how come you lost your teeth?" He said, "Because I did not brush my teeth growing up every day." They were trying to encourage me along. I said, "Dad, does it hurt when they pull them out?" "Oh, yeah, it hurts. You always want to brush your teeth, because it hurts." I said, "You got all your teeth pulled?" He said, "Yeah, I did. And I got to wear dentures." He said, "Are they really expensive?" He says, "Oh, they are really expensive." I said, "How expensive?" He said, "Well, I really do not know. Dad got his, I got mine at a discount place." I am saying, "Really?" I said, "Where did you get them?" He says, "I got them down at the funeral parlor." He says, "You have to try a few sets on to get some to fit." I believed that. I do not know what to tell you. I believed that. I brushed my teeth every morning. I want you to know that.

Look at Song of Solomon 4:3.

*Thy lips are like a thread of scarlet, and thy speech is comely: thy temples are like a piece of a pomegranate within thy locks.*

"Lips like a scarlet thread." There is a good one. I bet some of you are already figuring that one out. Joshua 2:8. Remember when they laid down the scarlet thread there when the spies came into Jericho? That scarlet thread represented the binding word between God and man. That is what it represents here. This woman, her words are her bond. She says what she means, and she means what she says. Everything means something. The teeth. We look at it there, and it is goofy. We make jokes about it. We laugh. We have a good time. But in reality, it is a picture of something.

"Temples like pomegranates." Have you ever seen a pomegranate? They are real red inside and real juicy with a lot of seeds. That is why women wear makeup. They will put, I do not know if they do it anymore. They look like they have got little spray painting kits now. But back in my day, they had a little thing with a little thing in it. You take that red rouge with a little mirror in there, and you would rub it on your cheeks like that. You have these big red blotches. You just rub it in. It makes you look healthy. Now they have it. I mean, you get a workover. It comes like a little body shop where you can just do everything you need to do. But back then, in the old days, and some of you ladies, you young ones are laughing because you do not understand. But back then, it was serious. You had a little compact, and you opened it up with a little mirror. It was neat. You could look in there and put it on there. A plane came over. You could signal with the sun, and put it back in there, put it back down, put it in a purse. It gave you a healthy look. Spiritually, you ought to have a healthy look today.

You know what God said to Cain when Cain did not like the way God dealt him? The first thing He said was, "Why has thy countenance fallen?" You can tell somebody, if you know somebody and you know them well and you see them, you can tell a mile away when they are out of fellowship with God. It does not matter how they pretend. It does not matter how they paint themselves up. When the joy, joy, joy, joy is not down in your heart, and something else has taken its place, you look like Noah's Ark in Central Park. It just absolutely does not belong there.

Look at Song of Solomon 4:4.

*Thy neck is like the tower of David builded for an armoury, whereon there hang a thousand bucklers, all shields of mighty men.*

The neck in the Bible always depicts the picture of the will of man. The Bible talks about stiff-necked and uncircumcised. Somebody gets hardened in their heart; they get a stiff neck. The neck is used because we are to bow to God. When you do not bow to God, it is because you have a stiff neck. In the Old Testament, Exodus 34:20, when they redeemed the firstborn of an ass with a lamb, if they did not do that, that ass is a picture of an unsaved man being redeemed by a lamb. It is a picture of you and me getting saved. When he did not do that, you know what they did to that ass? They had to break his neck. It is a picture of you and me being broken. The neck is always a picture of the will of man, Isaiah 3:16.

Then in Song of Solomon 5, we will just talk about the Bridegroom here for a moment. We have the Bridegroom. In Song of Solomon 5:10, this is now the church looking at Christ. This is how you ought to look at Christ. We have seen how He looks at you and what you ought to have now. This is how you ought to look at Him.

*My beloved is white and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand.*

"White and ruddy." In other words, He is a man's man. White, pure; ruddy, He is human. He is a man's man. He is someone who loves God, loves the Word of God, but yet at the same time, He does not look like a wimp. He says, "the chiefest among ten thousand." He is a leader. Ladies, may I say something to you? Do not ever marry a person, a man, who is not going to lead you spiritually. I tell you all the time, you do not marry the man; you marry the Christ in the man. You thought you were getting the chief of 10,000. You wound up getting the cheapest of 10,000. Do not make that mistake.

Look at Song of Solomon 5:11.

*His head is as the most fine gold, his locks are bushy, and black as a raven.*

"Head gold, but hair black and bushy." That is a picture of His deity, the gold, and yet He was God, but He was man, the black bushy locks.

Song of Solomon 5:12

*His eyes are as the eyes of doves by the rivers of waters, washed with milk, and fitly set.*

"Eyes as a dove." We talked about that in Song of Solomon 1:15, did we not?

Song of Solomon 5:13

*His cheeks are as a bed of spices, as sweet flowers: his lips like lilies, dropping sweet smelling myrrh.*

"Cheeks, bed of spices." There is that smell again. "Lips like lilies." There is that smell again. "Sweet smelling myrrh." There is a good one. You know the three gifts that they brought Jesus Christ when He was born? They brought Him gold, frankincense, and myrrh. All three of them line up to the three offices that Christ had. Myrrh lines up to the fact that He was a prophet. He is telling you something about prophecy there, if you know your Bible.

Song of Solomon 5:14

*His hands are as gold rings set with the beryl: his belly is as bright ivory overlaid with sapphires: His legs are as pillars of marble, set upon sockets of fine gold: his countenance is as Lebanon, excellent as the cedars.*

"Hands like gold rings, belly, bright ivory, legs, pillars of marble." Marble is the hardest stone you can get. We make tombstones out of it because it endures forever. It says His legs are like marble. What does that mean? It means there are some things in that book that are unmovable. There are some things in that book the Bible itself will stand the test of time.

*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*

You ought to stand for something.

Song of Solomon 5:16

*His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.*

"Mouth, most sweet. He is altogether lovely." All of the things that He is talking about down through here, altogether He is lovely. Then it says, "This is my beloved, and this is my friend." Is He? Is He?

## VIII. The Call to Intimacy and Self-Reflection

My dear people, it is real simple. Every one of these things in a careful study and a prayerful study will reveal Christ to you in a way that you will begin to see yourself, see Him, and then through your understanding of that intimacy with Him, you will have a relationship, you will have a lordship, and you will have fellowship. Jesus Christ will become, as He is portrayed in this book, the love of your life. You will put the character qualities of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Look at it this way: you and I ought to be a bouquet of flowers to our Bridegroom. When people buy a bouquet of flowers, it is not just roses or one. It is a mixture of flowers. The mixtures of flowers give off a mixture of aroma. So when you are taking a bouquet with all kinds of different flowers in it, it is giving off all kinds of different aromas that kind of blend together, and the smell is a very good and pleasant smell. We have now seen that everything—we just scratched the surface—everything in there, everything that we have talked about, is a picture of something that we ought to have in our life that gives off a smell.

When you and your life put the things, the character qualities of Christ, each character quality smells different to Him. The love for the book will smell different than your witness for Christ. Your witness for Christ will smell different than your walk with Christ. Your walk with Christ will have a different pleasant smell to Him than your prayer time. Your prayer time will have a completely different smell than your attitude of healing, forgiveness, and restoration. Your forgiveness, healing, and restoration will have a completely different smell than ministry. Your ministry will have a completely different smell than your thoughts about Him every day of your life. Your thoughts will have a completely different smell than your attitude of heart and loving Him with all your heart, with all your mind, and all your soul. When you get all those things together in one bouquet, in your life, in my life, these are the things that make us sweet-smelling unto the Lord. These are the things that you begin to understand as the Song of Solomon lays out how He looks at you, what He thinks about you, and what He wants from you. He wants to be with you 24/7. He wants to be included in everything you do.

Let me ask you a question. If you were Christ, and I asked myself this question all last week as I was putting this together, it weighed on my heart very heavily. After hearing what you have heard today, after knowing the way you are and the way I am to Him, and now understanding how He is to me, if you were Him, would you come for you? With all of the things that we sold Him out with last week, with all of the things that when He wanted to do this, we said, "Hit the road, I am doing this," but "I love you." Your husband says it all the time, ladies, when he does something really stupid, and you are really so angry at him, and it does not work, does it work for you? When you make him so mad because he did something stupid, it does not work for me.

You did something really dumb, and then you get upset about it and mad about it, and then he says the stupidest thing in the world when he says this, "Oh, come on, honey, you know I love you." Does it work for you? Actions speak louder than words. It does not work for God either. Actions speak louder than words.

When you understand all of those things, ask yourself this question: If you were Christ, would you want a bride like you? I thought about that thing all week when I put this thing together, and I thought to myself, "Who I am and what I am." I thought to myself, "You know what? If I was Christ, would I want me? Would I want to spend eternity with me when at the drop of a hat, I will walk away from Him and go do what I want to do? When all day of my life I have my own big plans, and many times they do not include Him, that I want to do what I want to do, and I want to do it my way, and I appreciate it, and I will get back to you, Lord, but I need you." Is that the kind of person you want to marry?

Song of Solomon talks about something that most of us know nothing about: intimacy. Intimacy. You know why marriage has obviously failed many times? Marriage has obviously failed for a number of reasons, but at the core root of marriage failures, and this is not a judgment—everybody has their issues that they go through, and I make no judgments toward anybody—but this is the bottom line fact. The bottom line where it fails is intimacy, not sex. The number one problem in marriages today is communication. Being able to talk, being able to reason, being able to work through issues. One wants to, the other one does not, and you know what happens all the time? You grow farther apart, and pretty soon the ultimate happens. That is exactly what happens in any man or woman in this church or any other church. That is why they come to church for a while and then they quit coming. They can blame it on anybody or anything they want. At the end of the day, it comes down to what in this world, what person, what preacher, what anything is going to separate you from your relationship with God that you do not want to go here to preach in the Word of God. I will tell you, it comes right back to your intimacy, relationship, and communication with Him. Song of Solomon. All the other books, they are great. We are going to learn a lot. That one there hits us right between the eyes because that is not where we live. That is where our relationship is.

Every head bowed, every eye closed. Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We do love You. Lord, You know we love You. The reason why I know that is I understand where Mel was coming from, and I understood what he was saying, but the reason I know that that is not true is because I may be like that with You, but You would never return the favor and be like that with me. I fail You, but You never fail me. I have been very unfaithful to You in my life many times, but You have never once been unfaithful to me. Lord, that makes it all the worse because I could deal with it easier if You were unfaithful to me and just put me in a wreck someplace or put me in a wheelchair someplace or put me in the ground someplace, but You do not. You simply keep loving me and doing what is right, and that only makes me love You more. Help us to learn today what we need to have in a relationship with You. Help us to realize that most of what we have is an illusion. The reality of life is what we have in the Song of Solomon. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name. In the name of Jesus, amen. God bless you. You are dismissed. Amen.