



Biblical Manhood

Remembering Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Destiny

July/August, 2013

When The Road Gets Rough

A relationship does not proceed on a smooth path. It will take various twists and turns. There will be bumps in the road. There will be detours at times. It requires commitment to the other person. This is revealed in **Song of Solomon 3:1-5**.

In these verses, the Word of God shows us that there will be difficult times in a marriage relationship. The other spouse will appear to be absent. The love may seem to have disappeared from the relationship. Yet, Christian spouses must pursue one another in love.

The same is true in our relationship to Jesus Christ. When we first come to Christ, we love Him and embrace Him. However, over time, there will be times when we will not feel His presence. It will appear that He is absent from us. Yet, it is in these times that we must pursue Him with all our being.

The Distress (3:1)

In **Song of Solomon 3:1**, Abishag has a disturbing, unsatisfying dream. She has a most terrible dream, "All night long on my bed I looked for the one my heart loves; I looked for him but did not find him." It appears that her beloved Solomon is gone. He has completely disappeared from her life. He is nowhere to be found. The word "night" in the text is in plural form. It points to a series of recurring dreams.

It appears to her that Solomon has deserted her. She is distraught at this very thought. Her heart is filled with distress over the prospect that Solomon is no longer in her life. Her wedding day is approaching and she is overcome with anxiety that Solomon is no longer a part of her life.

The Determination (3:2-3)

Despite her anxiety and distress, her love for Solomon is singular and sincere. This fuels her desire to find him, "I will get up now and go about the city, through its streets and squares; I will search for the one my heart loves. So I looked for him but did not find him" (3:2). Abishag determines to go and look for Solomon. She must find him! Her undying love cannot live without him! She decides to carry out an intense search for the one her heart loves.

As Abishag searches, she runs into the watchmen, "The watchmen found me as they made their rounds in the city" (3:3a). The watchmen were the ones who patrolled the city to keep things in order. These men would stop and question suspicious persons. No doubt that a desperate woman would draw their attention.

Before they could question her, she blurts out a question to them, "Have you seen the one my heart loves?" (3:3b). They have no answer

for her. They have not seen him. This only increases her distress but she is determined to find Solomon. Nothing will stop her in her search for him.

The Discovery (3:4-5)

No one has seen Solomon. The reasonable thing to do would be to give up her search. Yet, she will not; she cannot! Suddenly, she finds him, “Scarcely had I passed them when I found the one my heart loves. I held him and would not let him go” (3:4a).

When she finds Solomon, she “held him,” literally seizes him. She would not release him. The verb “would not let him go” comes from the same Hebrew word that God uses to promise Israel and Joshua that He would never forsake them or let them go (**Deuteronomy 31:6, 8; Joshua 1:5**). She clings to Solomon and will not let him go!

Abishag then leads him to her mother’s home, “till I had brought him to my mother’s house, to the room of the one who conceived him” (3:4). She wants her mother to get to know Solomon. Abishag wants the one she loves to meet and know her mother who loved her and taught her. This is not speaking of sexual intercourse because it would contradict **Song of Solomon 2:17**. Solomon is precious to her; she wants those she loves to know this precious Solomon.

How do we apply this text to our personal lives today?

Application To Marriage

- *There will be times of distance and difficulty in marriage.* The path of true love is seldom

smooth. A spouse can be distant, even absent from the relationship. It’s inevitable when sinners say, “I do,” there will be struggles.

- *Pursue your spouse with intensity.* During the difficult times, there is a tendency to despair or even to grow self-centered in these times. Yet, it’s precisely then that you should pursue your spouse with intensity. Strive to kindle the intimacy with your spouse. Bless your spouse. Minister to your spouse. Show kindness in every possible way. Love takes time and patience (**Song of Solomon 3:5**).
- *Pray for a strong marriage that grows in intimacy.* Knowing that there will be times of struggle and difficulty should drive a person to pray for his/ her marriage. This can fuel your intercession for your marriage. Only God can bring two hearts together and make them one. Only God can reach down in a heart and work. This makes prayer a necessity for a healthy, growing marriage.

Application To Christ And The Believer

- *True union with Christ can never be severed, but there may be a loss of fellowship.* There will be times when Christ seems far away, even absent from our lives. There will be times when we will not sense His presence in our lives. This does not mean that Christ has forsaken us. When we come to Christ in faith, we are joined to Him – that union can never be severed. Yet, for a variety of reasons, we can lose the sense of His presence in our lives – sin, laziness on our part, chastisement, God’s stirring our heart to seek Him more intensely. Even when He

seems absent, He never forsakes us. We are joined to Him and we are never separated from Him. Fellowship with Christ can be interrupted; our union with Him cannot be destroyed.

- *No true believer can be satisfied long with an absent Savior.* Just like Abishag who searches for absent Solomon, we begin to seek after Christ more intensely. No Christian can rest when Christ seems far away. This is one of the marks that we have been truly converted.
- *When Christ seems absent, seek Him even more fervently.* During the times when Christ feels far away, seek Him with all your heart. Search for Him in the Word; look for what the Word says about Him. Cry out to Him; make time to seek after Him in prayer. Worship Him with all your being. When Christ seems far away, it's not time to despair; it's time to determine seek Him even more. Those who search for Him will find Him!
- *Our great hope is unceasing fellowship with Christ in heaven.* In heaven, there will be no sense of absence. In heaven, there will be no interruption in our fellowship. There's coming a day when we will see Christ and be with Christ without any distraction or despair. That is our sure hope!

World Prayer Plan

September

- 1-Poland-The Lost
- 2-Portugal
- 3-Puerto Rico
- 4-Qatar
- 5-Reunion
- 6-Romania-The Church
- 7-Romania-The Lost

- 8-Russia-The Church
- 9-Russia-The Lost
- 10-Russia-Mission Efforts
- 11-Russia-Freedom and Peace
- 12-Russia-Spiritual Awakening
- 13-Rwanda
- 14-Western Sahara
- 15-Samoa
- 16-San Marino
- 17-Sao Tome
- 18-Principe
- 19-Saudi Arabia-The Church
- 20-Saudi Arabia-Open Doors
- 21-Saudi Arabia-Persecution
- 22-Senegal
- 23-Seychelles
- 24-Sierra Leone
- 25-Singapore
- 26-Slovenia
- 27-Solomon Islands
- 28-Somalia
- 29-South Africa-The Church
- 30-South Africa-The Lost

October

- 1-South Africa-Political Future
- 2-Spain-The Church
- 3-Spain-The Lost
- 4-Sri Lanka
- 5-St. Helena and Ascension Island
- 6-St. Kittis and Nevis
- 7-St. Lucia
- 8-St. Pierre and Miquelon
- 9-St. Vincent
- 10-Sudan-The Church
- 11-Sudan-Persecuted Believers
- 12-Suriname
- 13-Svalbard
- 14-Swaziland
- 15-Sweden

16-Switzerland
17-Syria
18-Tajikstan
19-Tanzania-The Church
20-Tanzania-The Lost
21-Thailand-The Church
22-Thailand-The Lost
23-Togo
24-Tokelau Island
25-Tonga
26-Trinidad and Tobago
27-Tunisia
28-Turkey-The Church
29-Turkey-The Lost
30-Turkey-Mission Efforts
31-Turkmenistan

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