



Biblical Manhood

Remembering Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Destiny
May/June, 2012

Dark But Lovely

In **Song of Solomon 1:1-4**, the Shulamite speaks about Solomon. She describes how attractive and desirable he is. The focus of these verses is on Solomon's person and character. She magnifies his greatness and desirability.

In **1:5-7**, she now turns her attention to herself. She begins talking about her own condition. She speaks about her own appearance and her surprise at Solomon's love for her. This text reveals a woman's perspective of herself and how godly men are to respond. It also gives us insight into our relationship to Christ and how we relate to Him.

In **1:5**, she speaks about her looks, "I am dark but lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem, like the tents of Kedar, like the curtains of Solomon." This woman is self-conscious about her appearance. She feels that she is beautiful but is

concerned about her dark skin. She confesses this to the daughters of Jerusalem. The daughters of Jerusalem are the fair-skinned young virgins of Jerusalem. She admits that she feels flawed.

The reason for her concern is that women in this day prized fair skin. They believed that this made them more desirable. It was considered very beautiful and attractive. This is why the woman feels self-conscious about it.

The text says that she was dark "like the tents of Kedar." These tents were made of goat hides that grew dark because of the exposure to the elements. She also says that she was dark "like the curtains of Solomon." These curtains would have been a deep purple, the color of royalty. These words show how conscious she is of her dark skin. Even though she feels she is "lovely,"

she feels this takes away from her beauty.

In **1:6**, she explains why she is so dark, “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.” Once again, she says that she is dark, emphasizing how self-conscious about it.

She explains that she has been forced to work outside in the sun. The sun has then tanned and darkened her skin. There is a word play in this verse. It can be literally translated, “Don’t look on me because the sun has looked on me” or “Don’t stare at me because the sun has stared at me.”

She is very concerned about her dark, toughened skin. She is self-conscious about the stares that she received when she went into Jerusalem. It was awkward and embarrassing. It made her feel uncomfortable and ashamed. She feels that this may not make her desirable after all.

She has been forced to do this by her brothers. They are most likely half-brothers because the text declares that they were “my mother’s sons.” No father is mentioned here or elsewhere. We do not know why these brothers were angry with her and sent her to

work outside all the time. They forced her to work outside which tanned and darkened her skin. This vulnerable woman possesses both beauty and a commitment to care for her family.

At the same time, she confesses that she didn’t have the time to take care of herself, “But my own vineyard I have not kept.” The vineyard refers to her own appearance and person. She didn’t have time or resources to take care of herself. She has not devoted herself to her physical appearance because her responsibilities have not permitted it. This makes her even more self-conscious.

Yet, in **1:7**, this woman expresses her love for Solomon. She refers to Solomon as “you whom I love.” Even though she feels unattractive, she loves him. She is amazed that he loves her. She finds it hard to believe that he desires her. She is overwhelmed that he has such love for her.

She makes a request of Solomon, “Tell me, O you whom I love, where you feed your flock, where you make it rest at noon.” The woman wants to come see him. She wants to know exactly where to find him. Her desire is to be alone with him. This is what she prefers above all.

She also wants to know where he is in order to maintain her integrity,

“For why should I be as one who veils herself by the flocks of your companions?” A veiled woman refers to a prostitute. Not all veiled women were prostitutes, but it was a common practice in this day (**Genesis 38:14**). If she knew where Solomon was, she would not have to wander from field to field, possibly giving the impression that she is not respectable. She wants to be with him, but she does not want to do anything that would damage her reputation in the process. She wants to do it in the right way at the right time, “at noon.”

How do we apply **Song of Solomon 1:5-7** to our lives?

Application To Our Human Relationships

- *Your wife/future wife is self-conscious about herself.* This woman provides an example for men. She does feel that she has beauty but her “flaw” takes away from it. Your wife will have the same type of feels. She will focus more on her flaws than on her positive qualities. She is more self-conscious about her “flaws” than the positive aspects of her character and appearance. Godly men need to make this a matter of prayer. Pray that your wife will not dwell on the
- *“flaws” but on the good, that God is doing in her.* Ask that she will focus on how God has made her beautiful as she is and that He is transforming her character, making her beautiful on the inside.
- *Learn to focus on what is right and good about your wife.* No one is perfect – not your spouse, not you. We all have a lot to be humble about! No one is flawless. Everyone has insecurities and anxieties, spots and blemishes, imperfections and flaws. Moreover, it’s easy to see the faults and blemishes in another person’s life. This is especially true when in the marriage relationship when you know each other so well. You have a choice to make – you can nitpick and focus on the faults and blemishes or you can point out and praise what is good and right about her. Ask God for the strength and wisdom to encourage her in her strengths and positive qualities. Pray that you will help her to develop a positive self-image that sees the good that God has done in her life.
- *Your wife desires quality time.* In this text, the Shulamite longs to be with Solomon. She desires to spend time with him. This gives us insight into a woman’s heart. She desires to have quality time with the one she loves.

She wants him. She loves him and needs time with him. A man's greatest gift to his wife and family is his time. Plead with God to give you the wisdom and time to have this quality time with your wife. Ask that God would create a greater intimacy between you and your wife.

Application To Our Relationship To Jesus Christ

- *Believers are at the same time sinful and accepted with God.* This woman's confession is the cry of every child of God, "I am dark, but lovely (1:5). Sin is so much a part of us that it is mixed with all we do and all that we are. We despise that fact, but we cannot deny it, "If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us." Yet, at the same time, through Christ, we are "lovely" – loved, accepted, and forgiven before God. The Lord Jesus Christ has made us beautiful to God the Father through His shed blood and righteousness. We rest solely in the merits of Jesus Christ – the perfect life, death, and resurrection of Jesus – for our acceptance with God. We are sinful but at the same time accepted and beautiful to God. Rejoice in the Savior who has done this for you! Rest in the perfect
- righteousness of Jesus that makes you acceptable and lovely to God!
- *We cannot neglect our hearts.* This woman declares, "But my own vineyard I have not kept" (1:7). Has this happened in your walk with the Lord? How do we neglect our vineyard? It happens when you don't take time to examine yourself. It happens when you grow cold and mechanical in your confession of sin. It happens when you allow sinful habits to take root in your life. Plead with God to be faithful and earnest in taking care of your walk with God. Ask Him to deliver you from a neglectful spirit that allows what is not pleasing to Him in your life.
- *It is hard to believe that Christ loves us and desires us.* This woman was amazed and overwhelmed that Solomon would love and desire her. The same is true in our relationship to God. How can Jesus, the holy, precious, almighty Son of God love us and desire us so much? It is a marvelous mystery of His love and grace. Human love is a great feeling; it's a wonderful feeling to know that someone loves you and wants you. It is even greater still to know that Jesus Christ loves you and wants you. Even though we can't understand it, we can believe it and rest in it!

Rejoice in the Savior who loves you!
Thank God for such a Savior and
such love!

- *True faith continually seeks Christ.* In **1:7**, the woman refers to Solomon as, “O you whom I love.” She loves him and desires to be with Him. This is the continual confession of the true believer. Faith is not only an act of life; it is also a way of life. We love Christ and desire to be with Him. We are to seek Him earnestly and continually in the places where He says that He will be found – in His Word, in His church, and among His people. Moreover, we seek Him with this confidence – all who truly seek Him find Him (**Jeremiah 29:10-13**). Are you seeking Christ? What holds you back from intimacy with Christ? Why do you not want to draw nearer to Him? Are you ashamed of Him in some way? Is it that you are simply taken up with other things? Seek Christ today. He stands with open arms ready to receive you and to spend time with you. He longs to know you and for you to know Him. If you know Him, don’t miss the precious blessing of intimacy with Him. If you have never come to Christ, don’t make the tragic mistake of missing a personal relationship with the Son of God. This is a

disaster of infinite and eternal proportions. Turn from your sin and yourself. Trust in Him as your Savior and Lord. Ask for a relationship with Him today!

World Prayer Plan

July

- 1-Luxembourg
- 2-Macao
- 3-Macedonia
- 4-Madagascar
- 5-Malawi
- 6-Malaysia-The Church
- 7-Malaysia-The Lost
- 8-Malaysia-Open Doors
- 9-Maldives
- 10-Mali
- 11-Malta
- 12-Marshall Islands
- 13-Martinique
- 14-Mauritania
- 15-Mauritius
- 16-Mexico-The Church
- 17-Mexico-The Lost
- 18-Micronesia
- 19-Midway Islands
- 20-Moldova
- 21-Monaco
- 22-Mongolia
- 23-Montserrat
- 24-Morocco-The Church
- 25-Morocco-The Lost

26-Morocco-Persecuted Believers
 27-Mozambique-The Church
 28-Mozambique-The Lost
 29-Myanmar (Burma)-The Church
 30-Myanmar (Burma)-The Lost
 31-Namibia

August

1-Nauru
 2-Nepal-The Church
 3-Nepal-The Lost
 4-Nepal-Mission Efforts
 5-Netherlands
 6-Netherland Antilles
 7-New Caledonia
 8-New Zealand
 9-Nicaragua
 10-Niger
 11-Nigeria-The Church
 12-Nigeria-The Lost
 13-Norway
 14-Oman
 15-Pakistan-The Church
 16-Pakistan-The Lost
 17-Pakistan-Open Doors
 18-Pakistan-Persecuted Believers
 19-Palau
 20-Palestine West Bank-Open Doors
 21-Palestine West Bank-Peace
 22-Panama
 23-Papua New Guinea-The Church
 24-Papua New Guinea-The Lost
 25-Paraguay
 26-Peru-The Church

27-Peru-The Lost
 28-Philippines-The Church
 29-Philippines-The Lost
 30-Pitcairn Island
 31-Poland-The Church

Confessing God's Word Over Your Marriage

"To keep you from the evil woman, from the flattering tongue of the seductress. Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, nor let her allure you with her eyelids" (**Proverbs 6:24-25**).

Father, deepen my attraction to _____ . Cause me to hunger for her above all others. I ask that _____'s beauty and love would allure me to her more than anyone else. Amen.

PRAY THAT GOD WOULD RENEW AND DEEPEN YOUR PASSION FOR YOUR SPOUSE.

My Confession: I will focus on my wife's inner and outer beauty. I will not lust after the beauty of other women.

Growing In Humility (Isaiah 57:15)

A proud person is unapproachable or defensive when criticized; a broken man receives criticism with a humble spirit, ready to hear and change.

Father, I am proud by nature. I don't want to see my flaws or mistakes. Too many times, I am unapproachable about these things. Too many times, I am defensive when criticized. I plead in Jesus' name that You would create a humble heart in me. I ask that I would be quick to hear and slow to be angry and defend myself. I plead that I would be willing to hear and grow. Mold me and shape me holy Father. Make me into a humble man who can receive criticism and can grow from it. Give me the wisdom and discernment to reject the ungodly criticism and to accept what is true and what I need to hear. Amen.

A Man And His Praise: Meditations On Psalm 9:1

"I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works" (Psalm 9:1).

- God desires that I praise Him from my heart, "with my whole heart." He hates insincere, faint praise. He despises it when I simply go through

the motions. God longs for me to praise Him from the depths of my being with a sense of awe, reverence, and thankfulness.

- "I will praise" and "I will tell" implies a commitment to do these things – a commitment not based on my feelings or circumstances.
- "I will tell of all Your marvelous works." Am I doing this? Am I telling others about the marvelous things that God has done throughout history in His Word? Am I telling others about the marvelous things that God has done in my history?
- God's works are "marvelous." Everything that God does is unique and amazing. No one can match what God does. His works reveal that He is the unique, only, marvelous God.
- Praise begins in the heart. It then flows from the lips. If there is no praise in the heart, there will be no praise on one's lips.
- True praise flows from a heart that is fixed on God. If I am lacking in praise, my heart is fixed on someone else or something else.
- Private praise of God will lead to public acknowledgement and praise for God. "I will praise You" leads to "I will tell."

- “I will praise” means that praising God is a choice. It is a commitment that I must make.
- Our praise is to focus on the character of God “I will praise You, O LORD” and the works of God “I will tell of all Your marvelous works.”

The Purity Creed

The following is a short statement of how to pursue purity. Whether young or old, married or single, men must pursue purity. These statements are designed to be instructions and confessions to help us seek for purity.

- I refuse to put myself in situations where I am tempted to compromise my purity.
- I commit to the Job Covenant (Job 31:1). I make a covenant with my eyes to keep my mind pure and not to look lustfully at a girl.
- I take every thought captive and make it obedient to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).
- My body is God’s temple. I refuse to defile it in any way (1 Corinthians 6:19).
- I commit to filling my mind and heart with God’s Word in order to stay pure (Psalm 119:9).
- I commit to having accountability with a few other men of God.
- I choose to memorize at least one verse a week that will teach and train me to live a pure life.
- I read my commitments to purity every day.
- I ask for the Lord’s strength and power.
- I ask God to keep me from evil and from temptation.
- Every time I am tempted, I run to God as fast as I can.
- I listen to and read things that encourage me to go after purity.
- I don’t view purity as a line but as a lifestyle. Purity is my purpose and my pursuit. Because of Jesus, I am free, and I use my freedom to become more like Christ and have a heart of purity.

**Dr. Kevin Meador, President
The Prayer Closet Ministries, Inc.**

**P. O. Box 278,
Hickory, MS 39332**

**(601) 635-2180
(601) 646-2295**

EMAIL:

prayercloset1998@yahoo.com

WEB PAGES:

www.prayerclosetministries.org

www.kingdompraying.com