

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: The Music of Marriage

SERMON REFERENCE: Song of Solomon 1:1, 5:2

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Christian Barnard, a famous South African heart surgeon, gained great notoriety because he performed the first successful heart transplant.
 - i) He was in the newspapers and on television and was on the cutting edge in that area.
 - ii) He wrote the book, *One Life*.
 - (1) In that book, he told how he lost his home and family.
 - (2) This man, who was successful in the eyes of the world, was a failure in his own eyes because he gained the whole world but lost his family.
 - (3) His story shows that there was a lack of communication between him and his wife.
- b) Marriage counselors tell us that most marriage problems are caused by poor communication.
- c) Song of Solomon 1:1
 - i) This is a love poem between two lovers communicating with each other.
 - (1) It is the music of marriage.
- d) If you are married or intend to get married, then you will either communicate, or your marriage will disintegrate.
 - i) Proverbs 18:21
 - ii) 1 Peter 3:10
 - (1) If you are a lover of life and want to see good days, then you must control your speech.
 - iii) If you cannot communicate, then you cannot stay together.
- e) There are five basic levels of communication:
 - i) The frivolous level
 - (1) We do this all day long.
 - (2) This deals with clichés, such as, “It’s a beautiful day,” or “It’s hot.”
 - (3) We talk about the weather, sports, clothes, and so forth.
 - ii) The factual level
 - (1) This level is a little deeper.
 - (2) We report facts, but there is no real personal involvement.
 - (a) It’s like a news commentator giving out the evening news on television.
 - iii) The fellowship level
 - (1) We talk about our ideas, our judgments, and our philosophies.
 - (2) At this point, we begin to risk a little bit because someone may reject our judgments, ideas, or philosophies, and we may retreat back.
 - iv) The feeling level
 - (1) Not only do we talk about our philosophies, judgments, and ideas, but we also open up and tell how we really feel about those facts and judgments.
 - (2) This level is about as far as most people get in communication.
 - v) The freedom level
 - (1) We are completely open with our mate.

- (2) We share our dreams, our fears, and our ideas.
 - (3) There is no fear of rejection.
 - f) The word “intimacy” comes from the Latin word “intimus.”
 - i) It means “inmost.”
 - ii) It deals with the inmost part.
 - (1) This includes our dreams, our fears, our secrets, our failures, and our aspirations.
 - (a) Things that we would share with no one else except the person whom we are intimate with.
 - (i) That is the secret of lasting love.
 - g) In the Bible, when a husband and a wife would come together in the act of marriage, the Bible describes it as, “He knew his wife.”
 - i) To be completely known and still be loved is the supreme goal of marriage.
 - (1) This is to be intimate.
 - h) Today, when people talk about intimacy, they are thinking about physical intimacy.
 - i) But physical intimacy is not truly intimacy.
 - (1) It is void and without meaning.
 - (2) It is without spiritual and psychological intimacy.
 - i) God gave us a model for intimacy or communication.
 - i) God shows us, in His Word, how husbands and wives can communicate.
 - ii) This model is found in the book called the Song of Solomon.
 - j) In the Song of Solomon, King Solomon and a Shulamite girl, whom he has married, talk to one another with the most intimate speech.
 - i) It is here by divine inspiration to give us a model for marriage.
 - ii) It is an illustration of how husbands and wives are to talk to one another.
 - iii) They praise one another.
 - iv) They speak in terms of physical attraction.
 - v) They speak in terms of affection and affirmation.
 - k) In today’s message, we will listen to their intimate conversation, and we will see what God has given, in His Holy Word, as a model for intimacy between husbands and wives.
 - i) We will notice four things about the conversation between King Solomon and his wife.
- 2) THEIR WORDS ARE PLENTIFUL
- a) They talk, and they talk a lot.
 - i) Almost sixty percent of the verses in the Song of Solomon are words that were spoken between these lovers.
 - ii) It is obvious that they miss the sound of the other’s voice when they are separated.
 - b) They praise the other’s speech.
 - c) They are free.

- i) One is free to give without embarrassment.
- ii) The other is free to receive without resentment.
- d) Husbands and wives need to learn how to talk together.
 - i) Many times, it is the wife who craves for the husband to talk to her.
 - (1) There is sometimes a problem of the silent man and the woman who talks.
 - ii) Sometimes it seems that when our marriages get older, we get colder.
 - (1) We stop talking.
 - iii) Men are goal-oriented.
 - (1) Women wonder why their husbands don't talk to them like they did when they were dating.
 - (a) He would call her on the telephone and call her from the office.
 - (i) They would talk and talk.
 - (b) When they got married, he suddenly stopped talking.
 - iv) A woman is security-oriented, and she craves conversation.
 - (1) The man, having achieved marriage, moves to some other goal.
 - (2) But the woman has an ever-deepening need of being affirmed.
 - (a) And so, there is a built-in problem.
- e) The first thing a husband and wife should have is communication.
 - i) They must talk.
 - ii) Take time and make time to talk.

3) THEIR WORDS ARE PERSONAL (SONG OF SOLOMON 5:2)

- a) They say very intimate things to one another.
- b) She has a name for him.
 - i) She calls him "my beloved."
- c) He has a pet name for her.
 - i) He calls her "my love" and "my dove."
- d) They have pet names for one another.
 - i) Words are personal.
 - ii) Husband, do you have a pet name for your wife?
 - (1) A name you do not call anyone else by but her?
 - iii) Have some pet names and personal names for each other.
 - (1) They are ways of saying the following to your mate:
 - (a) You are unique.
 - (b) You are special.
 - (c) You are one of a kind.
- e) The Bible says that wives are to submit themselves to their own husbands.
 - i) Ephesians 5:22
 - (1) In the Greek language, the word "own" here is the word that we get the word "idiosyncrasy" from.
 - (a) It literally means to submit to your very special or unique husband.
 - (i) Husbands and wives need to know that they are number one and that they are unique.

- (ii) Husband, if you call your wife “sweetheart,” then don’t call anyone else by that name.
 - 1. If that is your name for your wife, then it is for her alone.
 - a. She is special and unique.
- f) Song of Solomon 5:10
 - i) He is number one in her life.
 - (1) Everyone needs to know that they are number one.
 - (2) Everyone needs to feel unique, like no one else, and like nothing else can take your place.
- 4) THEIR WORDS ARE POSITIVE (SONG OF SOLOMON 5:2)
 - a) They speak positively to one another.
 - b) There is not one negative word of criticism in the book of the Song of Solomon.
 - i) There is nothing critical.
 - ii) There is nothing negative.
 - iii) There is no correction.
 - c) The words “my undefiled” literally mean “my flawless one.”
 - i) Because she was human, she was not flawless.
 - (1) But that is what he called her.
 - ii) He was affirming her.
 - (1) He was not belittling her.
 - d) Song of Solomon 1:8-11, 15-16
 - i) Notice that these words are very positive.
 - e) The Bible says to let our speech be always with grace and seasoned with salt.
 - i) Colossians 4:6
 - ii) Salt adds taste to food, and grace adds flavor to speech.
 - iii) Salt is a preservative.
 - iv) Speech that issues out of the nature of grace will preserve a marriage and a relationship between husbands and wives.
 - v) Grace is not giving someone what they deserve; grace is giving someone what they need.
 - (1) Some may say that their husband or wife does not deserve this kind of speech.
 - (a) Then, that is all the more reason to give it because they need it.
 - vi) Grace is to speech what color is to art.
 - vii) We need to learn to let our speech be positive and not negative.
 - f) One of the key characteristics of intimacy is acceptance.
 - i) There cannot be intimacy without acceptance.
 - ii) If someone is critical and negative, then it is a sign that they have not accepted the other person.
 - iii) When someone cannot be intimate, it is because they are afraid to expose themselves.
 - (1) They are afraid that they will be criticized.

- (2) If they expose their inadequacies, then they are afraid that they will not be accepted.
 - iv) Out of acceptance grows trust.
 - v) Out of trust comes intimacy.
 - vi) Intimacy can only grow where there is a place of safety.
 - g) We want our spouse to think that we are wonderful.
 - i) So, if we are afraid that he or she is going to criticize, rebuff, or chastise us, then we cannot be intimate with them.
 - (1) We have to wear a mask or pretend.
 - ii) But if we know that they love and accept us and that we are number one to them, then for the first time we can be intimate.
 - h) There is a potent power to praise.
 - i) Praise, like what Solomon and his wife gave one another, will transform your marriage.
 - ii) Song of Solomon 5:16
 - (1) "His mouth is most sweet."
 - (a) She spoke of his words.
 - (b) His mouth was sweetness personified.
 - i) Learn to let your speech be positive and not negative.
 - i) When we begin to be positive and not negative, communication will begin to flow.
 - ii) When we are negative, then the other person will suffer from trauma of transparency, and they will withdraw.
- 5) THEIR WORDS ARE PASSIONATE (SONG OF SOLOMON 2:8-14)
- a) This is what God intended for husbands and wives.
 - b) Words of love may flow out of feeling but not always.
 - i) Most of the time, it is feeling that flows out of words.
 - c) Your words will sustain your marriage.
 - d) Your words will repair hurt feelings.
 - e) Your words will grow love.
- 6) CONCLUSION
- a) These four simple things are the goal that God has given in His Holy Word for communication between husbands and wives.
 - i) In order to do this, you have to adjust.
 - (1) And sometimes, you will regress.
 - b) The husband is the one who probably needs the adjustment the most.
 - i) In almost all marriage counseling, it is the husband who will not talk.
 - c) The wife has a need for intimacy; she craves communication.
 - i) She will sometimes push her husband into a corner just to get him to talk.
 - (1) There is something in her that would rather have an argument than to be ignored.
 - ii) She wants communication.

- d) Men do not want to talk, but it is the men who need to talk.
 - i) There are many natural barriers that keep men from communication.
 - (1) There are emotional differences.
 - (2) There are background differences.
 - (a) Boys are taught not to show their emotions.
 - (i) They are taught that it is a sign of weakness if they do.
 - ii) A part of their silence is to show that they are in complete control.
 - (1) They would rather drive around for hours and not know where they are rather than stop and ask for directions.
 - (a) There is something in a man that makes him want to impress his mate.
- e) We need to work on intimacy in marriage.
 - i) It gives incredible freedom, and it is worth it.
 - ii) You'll never arrive at perfection.
 - (1) But you need to make a start if you want to have a happy home.
- f) The first step to having a happy home is to have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.
- g) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- h) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16