

IN BODY AND BEING BEAUTIFUL

GRAIG REES



Songs 1:5-2:2

“The late Middle Ages liked its maidens with high foreheads, long necks, sallow complexions and lacklustre eyebrows. Added to that, the babeliest of Medieval babes rocked low sloping shoulders and protruding stomachs.”

Bella, Beauty Tips from the Middle Ages



“Dark am I, yet lovely, daughters of Jerusalem, dark like the tents of Kedar, like the tent curtains of Solomon. Do not stare at me because I am dark, because I am darkened by the sun. My mother’s sons were angry with me and made me take care of the vineyards; my own vineyard I had to neglect.”

Songs 1:5-6



“We have a little sister, and her breasts are not yet grown. What shall we do for our sister on the day she is spoken for? If she is a wall, we will build towers of silver on her. If she is a door, we will enclose her with panels of cedar. [She] I am a wall, and my breasts are like towers. Thus I have become in his eyes like one bringing contentment.”

Songs 8:8-10



“As a sister, destined to marry and leave the household, she receives the harsh treatment that is otherwise reserved for slaves. Regarded as a quasi-outsider who consumes the goods of the household, she is forced by her brothers into menial tasks for the common good of the family and is not free to pursue her own interests.”

D. Garrett, *Song of Songs*, p.134



Cinderella Video Clip



Overcoming Intimacy Issues

These verses suggest that what happens outside the bedroom helps what happens inside it.



First, it takes Commitment (v6)

“My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well.”

Isaiah 5:1b-2



Taking care of a vineyard involved digging ditches, clearing stones, planting vines, building a watchtower, tearing out a wine vat and picking grapes. The commitment needed to grow good grapes is the commitment needed to grow the intimacy in a marriage. Intimacy doesn't just happen.



Second, it takes Courage (vv7-8)

“Tell me, you whom I love, where you graze your flock and where you rest your sheep at midday. Why should I be like a veiled woman beside the flocks of your friends? If you do not know, most beautiful of women, follow the tracks of the sheep and graze your young goats by the tents of the shepherds.”

Songs 1:7-8



Third, it takes Celebration (vv9-11)

Puppy Video Clip



“I liken you, my darling, to a mare among
Pharaoh’s chariot horses.”

Songs 1:9



Fourth, it takes Conviction (vv12-17)

“How handsome you are, my beloved!
Oh, how charming! And our bed is
verdant. The beams of our house are
cedars; our rafters are firs.”

Songs 1:16-17



‘verdant’
רַעֲנָן, raanan,
luxuriant, fresh, green or very green.



“Destroy completely all the places on the high mountains, on the hills and under every spreading tree, where the nations you are dispossessing worship their gods.”

Deut. 12:2



“Long ago you broke off your yoke, and tore off your bonds; you said, ‘I will not serve you!’ Indeed, on every high hill and under every spreading tree, you lay down as a prostitute.”

Jeremiah 2:20



“During the reign of King Josiah, the Lord said to me, “Have you seen what faithless Israel has done? She has gone up on every high hill and under every spreading tree and has committed adultery there. I thought that after she had done all this she would return to me but she did not, and her unfaithful sister Judah saw it. I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent her away



because of all her adulteries. Yet I saw that her unfaithful sister Judah had no fear; she also went out and committed adultery. Because Israel's immorality mattered so little to her, she defiled the land and committed adultery with stone and wood. In spite of all this, her unfaithful sister Judah did not return to me with all her heart, but only in pretense," declares the Lord."

Jeremiah 3:6-10



Fifth, it takes Composure (2:1)

“She’s a natural beauty, and she knows that. She doesn’t have the negative self-image that is all too common today. Rather, she has a realistic self-assessment. She’s not emotionally oversensitive; she’s emotionally sensible. She’s lovely, and she’s like a lily.”

D.S. O’Donnell, *The Song of Solomon*, p.44



Sixth, it takes Correction (2:2)

“In light of this response, it is fairly clear that her claim to being a “rose of Sharon” does describe her as one among many flowers. But for him she is not one flower, however good that may be; she the one and only, the lotus. It goes without saying that these words imply that he is devoted to her. His declaration also has monogamous implications; she is the only flower and he loves only her.”

D. Garrett, *Song of Songs*, p. 149

