

“Let’s Get It On”

Song of Solomon 3:6-5:1

Yeah we are going there today. We are going to be looking at Song of Solomon chapter 3 and 4. If you have young ones with you, we are giving this message a PG rating today. Feel free to go and check your kids into our kid’s ministry if you need. But when you do that...come back, because we need to talk about this topic. Why? you ask.

Let me tell you a fictional story. There was a man who visited a small little village that lived beside a river. He sat down to have lunch with some of the locals, and they were sitting at a picnic table near the river bank. As they began to eat, the man noticed something in the water slowly approaching them. Whatever it was, it was big and caused ripples in the water. Soon it was right at the edge of the water just a few feet away from the table, when he realized that it was a big 15 foot crocodile. The crocodile sprang up on the bank, the man screamed, “Look out, a crocodile!” But the locals, said, “Shhh, sit down, we don’t talk about crocodiles here.” At that moment the crocodile grabbed ahold of a young teenage boy at the end of the table and pulled him into the water, and disappeared. His mother began screaming and crying, but still no-one talked about the crocodile.

The man was just astounded, but then as he looked around he noticed something about this local village, some people were missing arms and legs, some people had big open gashes from run ins with the crocodiles. Then he noticed that the crocodiles seemed to focus on teenage boys and girls...every once and a while an adult would get pulled into the river, a father would go missing, a marriage would be ripped apart...but no one talked about the crocodile problem. This little village constantly lived with the effects of a problem that no one wanted to talk about.

Sex is like a crocodile in our village. Today many of you are nervous, and you want to say, shh, we don’t talk about that here. Our kids go home and begin to ask questions and we say, “Shh you can’t talk about that here...go talk to your mom.” They go to school and we have sex ed, where you learn the names of various parts of the body, and what happens when our bodies change, but it’s all academic. So most of the education about sex happens on the playground or on the bus and so many people grow up maimed by the misuse of sex, because we don’t talk about it.

So we are going to talk about it. You might say this is just uncomfortable...hey you could be me...you want to trade places? I talked to my in-laws yesterday and told them what I was preaching on and they said we will definitely be listening in on the podcast...Awesome.

Honestly, I recognized that for some of you, if you have been divorced, this series and especially this topic of sex is painful, but we must talk about it. If you are single this is hard, but if we talk about sex now it will only bless your married life later. If you are married, listen, when you have a problem in your marriage, where is the most likely place that it will show up? It will show up in the bedroom.

Sex must be talked about...now some of you have been maimed and hurt by the misuse of sex in your past. Before we get into this topic I want to say that God is in the redemption business. Don’t believe that lie that you are damaged goods. God can take a bad history and make a beautiful future. He makes beauty from ashes. My goal here today is not condemnation, but to show you when we do things God’s way it is so beautiful and life giving. God can redeem even your sex life.

The past few weeks I have thrown out the challenge to the men in the room to take their significant others on an intentional date. Plan, conversation, food, activity. Men we need to

get on the ball...Ladies the emails are starting to come in...myhotdate@greencastlecc.org. There are some good stories coming in. You have a few weeks left, I want to hear what you did, and the details of your date. The winner gets a nice fully paid dinner at a restaurant in downtown Indy. Why are we doing this? We want the marriages at GCC to deepen and you do that by spiritually and emotionally connecting with each other...now when we deepen spiritually and emotionally with each other, sexual desires spring out of that.

In week one we learned that what it is that makes this couple attracted to each other. And as a result of that she says in 2:5-6 that she is sick with love and that she wants him sexually. But they aren't married yet so we hear the refrain - 2:7

Then again in chapter 3, they are dating and these sexual feeling arise again...which is natural as you grow deeper together, but once again 3:5 we hear the same refrain. The couple is telling us that they have sexual desire for each other, but they must keep those desires in check until they are married.

So let's turn to Song of Solomon, its wedding day...chapter 3:6-8, she sees King Solomon's processional. Solomon has 60 groomsmen, these aren't just any men, these are the mighty men of David, these were the men that were closest to the king, skilled in battle, they were tough and honorable men, their all wearing swords. Now I had 7 groomsmen in my wedding, some of my closest friends, but they weren't packing, at least to my knowledge. There ain't nobody that's going to bust up this wedding...this couple is safe.

And notice that he also brings up his limousine 3:9-11...the wedding day has arrived and the ceremony has begun and they get married. They hop in the limo and head towards the DoubleTree Inn that they have booked for the evening. They have been patient in regards sex and now after they are married they are about to deepen their physical intimacy.

When we get married, we bring baggage into our relationships. We all do, because we are all sinful people, and sinful people have baggage. If you were to open up our baggage you might see things like relationship with parents, self esteem, identity, communication issues...when you think about the baggage that we carry into our marriages there are two that are really important in regards to the bedroom that we must understand and these are emotional connectedness and physical intimacy. When emotional connectedness and physical intimacy are dealt with in healthy ways, you have a really good marriage. The problem is many times their not dealt with in a healthy way, because as men and women we are wired differently.

This is a picture of Anisha and myself on our wedding day, our day was chaotic with having to move the reception the day of the wedding, but once we dealt with the details we were able to enjoy the ceremony and reception. We invited a lot of friends and family, many of whom we had not seen in years. I had a great time, but I remember feeling..."Man this reception is taking forever!" Anisha is feeling "this is great having all of these people from different seasons of life in one room." And I'm like, "yes it is, but they all need to go home!" Eventually we were able to leave and make our way to the DoubleTree about 20 mins away. From that moment, we have continued to learn how we are wired differently and how that plays out in almost every area of our marriage...even the bedroom.

As we get into this passage we are going to talk about God honoring sex, and how our wiring as men and women feed into that.

The first thing is that God honoring sex starts before the bedroom. Women and men are wired differently. Men use romance to get sex, women use sex to get romance. It's kind of like that old phrase men are microwaves and women are crockpots. Over the past two weeks we

have seen Solomon pursue this woman, be gentle with this woman, care for this woman; and that really turns her on. She wants him, sexually! Men are totally opposite, we are microwaves...have you ever noticed how men can turn anything into a sexual comment? The wife might say, "Babe would you pass the salt?" and the husband responds, "I'll pass your salt." Hey let's take a walk..."I'll take you on a walk." Could you go to the grocery store for me..."I'll take you to the grocery store." Ladies you probably are thinking, how doesn't your mind go there...that's how men are wired! Men use romance to get sex and women use sex to get romance. Nothing more romantic than a comment like that.

So our couple makes it to the hotel room.

4:1 - Hey baby, your hair is like a flock of goats, romantic right? Remember this around 1000 BC, in that day ladies kept their hair up and covered. Now her hair is uncovered and it is let down and it flows over her shoulders...this is an intimate moment, and he is complimenting her.

4:2a Baby your teeth are clean and your breath is not funky. 2b - And they are straight and compared to the other women who have smiled at me, you have all of your teeth - your smile is beautiful.

4:3-4 - What is Solomon doing here? He starts with eyes, moves to hair, teeth, lips, cheeks, neck...What direction? He is starting at the top and slowly moving down...he is looking at the naked body of his wife. It's obvious that he likes what he sees.

Men are visually oriented...now, women are too, but not to the point that men are. In this moment this Solomon is complimenting what he sees. They are married, but notice he is not an animal in the bedroom, he continues his emotional pursuit of his wife. He compliments her, he is gentle with his approach...she is in the most vulnerable of spots...she is naked in front of him. I know that he is thinking about sex **verse 4:6**...He desires physical intimacy...but notice he is also speaking to how his wife is wired...he continues to have emotional connection, being gentle and tender and respectful.

Because we are visually oriented **I want you to notice what Solomon says in 4:7**. Here is the truth, men, never make a negative comment about the body of your wife. The media culture that we live in already does a unrelenting job at body shaming our ladies. Men we are visually oriented...that can actually drive a wedge in our marital relationship. Satan is great at distorting this visual wiring in us. **One way that he does this is that he bombards us with unrealistic images.** In our culture erotic images of beautiful people are everywhere...you don't really need to look for them, they will find you. We can be introduced to pornography at such an early age and become addicted and then we think...well when I get married this won't be such an issue anymore, because my spouse will be my sexual release.

There is only one way to get past an addiction to unrealistic images...you have to bring it all out into the open. We need to stop hiding, we need to shed some light on those things that happen in the dark. However, to unload a pornography addiction on your spouse may not be the best way to handle it either, because your spouse may have baggage regarding that issue too. Your first step would be to find a trusted friend, or counselor or pastor, someone who is safe, but who will walk with you and help keep you accountable, and help you create some boundaries. Secrets hinder intimacy in our relationships, and that affects the bedroom. Darkness flees from light, we need to light up this area of our lives.

There are also unrealistic expectations that we deal with. Movies, tv, romance novels give us their glimpse into what the bedroom should be like. Many couples leave the bedroom

discouraged because it didn't live up to their expectations. Last week we talked about how intimacy is what holds the relationship together, and intimacy is not romance...it's transparency. We have seen Solomon and his wife have some great conversation back and forth. They have been encouraging and tender with each other...they have been transparent with each other and because of that, the romance is white hot between them.

When we are dealing with expectations in the bedroom, we need to be transparent with each other. We need to talk about it. When we don't talk about our expectations we will leave frustrated and misunderstood. Talk it out and make sure your on the same page. **Have you ever had a shoe that was too tight, it may be mildly uncomfortable at first, but if left unattended it becomes so painful even to the slightest touch.** Unsaid expectations lead to frustrated reality...get it on the table and talk about it. God honoring sex starts before the bedroom.

God honoring sex is built on absolute trust.

Look at verse 8 - Solomon is talking about dangerous places, mountain peaks and lion's dens. Why is this thrown in here? At this point they haven't consummated the marriage yet and she is wondering did I marry King Solomon or Norman Bates when it comes to the bedroom? Seriously, he is re-affirming that he is safe, "Babe we have deepened our relationship spiritually and emotionally...I want you to know that in this physical space of our relationship I am safe... you are protected in the most vulnerable of places, the bedroom.

Look at verses 9-11 - What kind of kiss is that? That's a french kiss and the French weren't even in existence yet. The French got nothing on God's design romance. Finally the couple has touched. But in all seriousness I want you to see something here.

Many times we come to a marriage and we think this relationship is 50/50, we are in it together. I do my part and you do yours and we will meet in the middle. However that is not the way that God designed relationships. God designed relationships to be 100/100, you give all that you are and you get all that the other is.

I look at that young couple on the screen and I think, you toddlers, you don't know what love is, in a few years you are going to go through a season of dealing with infertility, and the complications of going through in vitro, you will have a three tough pregnancies, one which was a baby born at 30 weeks. You will suffer the lose of family members and care for each other as you are puking your guts out. Those are the times where love is formed. It's 100/100 and it's built on absolute trust...and here is a warning...you are the only outlet for your spouse's needs - men if your wife doesn't get emotionally built up and validated from you, she will look somewhere else. Women if your husband doesn't get physical intimacy with you he will look somewhere else. Build trust and give each other 100% of yourself.

Lastly we see that God honoring sex is holy. Verse 12. Solomon is saying your sexuality has been locked up until now. You have saved yourself for me, no one else has known you in the bedroom...that is God honoring and holy. Maybe some of your baggage is this fact that you haven't been locked up...God is in the redeeming business...there is no life story that God can't redeem and make beautiful. I hope you know that and it begins to chip away at any guilt or shame you might feel.

Look at 13-16. This passage is this as is sensuous as your mind can imagine. And the beautiful thing is that God is the designer. Let that sink in for a moment, God created and designed sex...when we follow God's plan for sex in our relationships it is absolutely beautiful and good. Notice that two times the couple has been warned not to awaken love...but now, they are married the message is "awake and enjoy"...and give yourselves to each other. Isn't that great...but there is always one question that comes up, in regards to this passage. What

is legal in the bedroom? Well, that depends on your wife, men if you hurt and demean your wife in bed, it will destroy your relationship. Honestly I have seen this go the other way too, where a man was so destroyed in the bedroom that intimacy dwindled and the relationship fell apart. Sex when handled God's way is holy and it deepens the marriage relationship.

One last thing look at verse 5:1 - Some commentators think this is God's voice here at the last part of 5:1...he comes and says "Eat, friends, drink, and be drunk with love!" God is giving his blessing on the bedroom. That is so cool, that the creator of the universe not only cares about his relationship with me, but he also deeply cares for my relationship with my spouse, and wants my marriage to be life giving and fun.

Now I have been wrestling with this for a few days...how do you close a message on sex? The Junior High boy in me thought of this verse...**James 1:22**.

Think about this...the TV show *Friends*, which ran for ten years between 1994 and 2004, and is now one of the most popular shows in syndication. Funny, right? But not innocent. A survey of all 236 episodes of the NBC sitcom found that the characters had a total of 85 sexual partners –and that's only counting those who appeared on screen. What does that do to us? More than we realize. What the media does is normalize things. If you see likable characters on TV having sex outside of marriage enough times, it becomes not only acceptable, but desirable.

Passion always feels like love - many couples who should have never been married, to spice things up they get physical and it's like throwing lighter fluid on a fire and yet there was no deep relationship to begin with and so they start their marriage with a white hot flame that has no longevity to it to keep the embers glowing. - Singles when you have patience and strive for purity in your dating life you will be rewarded in your married life.

I hope you have seen that God designed sex and that when used in the right context it is honoring to Him. Maybe there's guilt and shame in the room, I hope you know that God so loved that world that he gave His only Son, Jesus. That whoever believes in him will not die but have eternal life. God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but he sent his son into the world so that the world might be saved through him.

Our actions don't make us right with God. Jesus makes us right with God. When we come to Jesus, God he casts our sin into the depth of the sea, He separates us from our sin as far as the East is from the West, He makes us white as snow, He chooses not to remember our sins. Jesus redeems us...we are not damaged goods to him.

Come to him and allow him to deal with your shame and guilt...He has something much better in store for you.