

## Ringside Seats for the Fight

"I came to my garden, my sister, my bride, I gathered my myrrh with my spice, I ate my honeycomb with my honey, I drank my wine with my milk. Eat, friends, drink, and be drunk with love! <sup>2</sup> I slept, but my heart was awake. A sound! My beloved is knocking. "Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my perfect one, for my head is wet with dew, my locks with the drops of the night." <sup>3</sup> I had put off my garment; how could I put it on? I had bathed my feet; how could I soil them? <sup>4</sup> My beloved put his hand to the latch, and my heart was thrilled within me. <sup>5</sup> I arose to open to my beloved, and my hands dripped with myrrh, my fingers with liquid myrrh, on the handles of the bolt. <sup>6</sup> I opened to my beloved, but my beloved had turned and gone. My soul failed me when he spoke. I sought him, but found him not; I called him, but he gave no answer. <sup>7</sup> The watchmen found me as they went about in the city; they beat me, they bruised me, they took away my veil, those watchmen of the walls. <sup>8</sup> I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if you find my beloved, that you tell him I am sick with love. <sup>9</sup> What is your beloved more than another beloved, O most beautiful among women? What is your beloved more than another beloved, that you thus adjure us? <sup>10</sup> My beloved is radiant and ruddy, distinguished among ten thousand. <sup>11</sup> His head is the finest gold; his locks are wavy, black as a raven. <sup>12</sup> His eyes are like doves beside streams of water, bathed in milk, sitting beside a full pool. <sup>13</sup> His cheeks are like beds of spices, mounds of sweet-smelling herbs. His lips are lilies, dripping liquid myrrh. <sup>14</sup> His arms are rods of gold, set with jewels. His body is polished ivory, bedecked with sapphires. <sup>15</sup> His legs are alabaster columns, set on bases of gold. His appearance is like Lebanon, choice as the cedars. <sup>16</sup> His mouth is most sweet, and he is altogether desirable. This is my beloved and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem. <sup>1</sup> Where has your beloved gone, O most beautiful among women? Where has your beloved turned, that we may seek him with you? <sup>2</sup> My beloved has gone down to his garden to the beds of spices, to graze in the gardens and to gather lilies. <sup>3</sup> I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine; he grazes among the lilies. <sup>4</sup> You are beautiful as Tirzah, my love, lovely as Jerusalem, awesome as an army with banners. <sup>5</sup> Turn away your eyes from me, for they overwhelm me- Your hair is like a flock of goats leaping down the slopes of Gilead. <sup>6</sup> Your teeth are like a flock of ewes that have come up from the washing; all of them bear twins; not one among them has lost its young. <sup>7</sup> Your cheeks are like halves of a pomegranate behind your veil. <sup>8</sup> There are sixty queens and eighty concubines, and virgins without number. <sup>9</sup> My dove, my perfect one, is the only one, the only one of her mother, pure to her who bore her. The young women saw her and called her blessed; the queens and concubines also, and they praised her. <sup>10</sup> "Who is this who looks down like the dawn, beautiful as the moon, bright as the sun, awesome as an army with banners?"

Song of Solomon 5:1 - 6:10 <sup>ESV</sup>

v.1a The glorious deed is done. v. 1b God is pleased.

### **P: Within the context of marriage, sex is meant for enjoyment, and worship.**

v.2 Solomon has lovin' on his mind but has been out working.  
v.3 She is in the bed and doesn't want to get up to answer the door. Likely upset.

### **P: Conflict within marriage is unavoidable.**

### **P: Every conflict brings us to a crossroads question : "Will we fight dirty or clean?"**

*"When you get into a conflict, do you fight dirty or clean?"*

## 9.2.07

### **Things to Avoid If You Want to "Fight Clean" (Some Adapted from Tommy Nelson):**

1. Avoid raising your voice.
  2. Don't call names.
  3. Don't get historical.
  4. Avoid using "always" "never" language.
  5. Don't bring in the in-laws.
  6. Don't use sex as a weapon.
  7. Never touch in anger.
  8. Avoid passive aggressive behavior or ignoring your mate.
  9. Avoid reasoning in the face of pain. (Don't try to 'fix' her guys.)
  10. Avoid having potentially volatile conversations at the wrong time.
- v.4 She is now ready to do what is right.  
v.5 He has likely left myrrh on the handle as a 'peace offering' or it is figurative.  
v.6 He has given up and walked away.

### **P: "Fighting dirty" has consequences.**

#### **Tips for "Fighting Clean" in a Home with Children:**

1. Do your best to avoid having (serious) conflicts in front of your children.
  2. When it does happen, reassure the children that everything is okay.
  3. Take advantage of this Gospel Greenhouse opportunity.
- v.7 Likely confirmation of the dream. Likely 'guilty conscience' imagery.  
v.8 She invites the Daughters of Jerusalem to join the search.  
v.9 In their own way, they are likely reminding her of why she loves this man.

### **P: Being a "friend" in a marriage conflict requires wisdom.**

#### **What to Do When You Are the "Friend" in a Marriage Conflict:**

1. Avoid this kind of counseling in mixed company.
2. Encourage your friend to go back to their mate as soon as possible.
3. Encourage your friend to reflect on the positive qualities of his/her mate.

v.10-16 (Rare) amazing description of this man's beauty and strength.

### **P: We should speak well of our mate in his/her absence.**

*How do you speak of your spouse when he/she is not around? How do you want to be spoken of?*

v.1 The Daughters join the search party.  
v.2-3 Unclear. I believe she has gone out to speak with him.  
v.4-10 Even in the face of being wronged, he replays his compliments.

### **P: When we are wronged, we should be motivated by reconciliation, not revenge.**

*Works Cited: The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Messages by Mark Driscoll, Tommy Nelson, Daniel Akin*