

Song of Songs

A love song written by King Solomon.

Taking the view of the Man

This text (Song of Songs 1 NCV) can be read as an allegory of our relationship with God. The woman's part being us, and the man's part being Jesus. The friends are our friends, who observe and are influenced by the state of our relationship.

In this meditation, I choose to focus on the perspective of the man in order to see what I can about Jesus' perspective on us. One could look from many different perspectives, including simply the reader of the text.

My approach is to begin by asking God in prayer, "Please meet with me in this reading. I give you permission to bring things to mind that might challenge me, or encourage me, or direct me, or ..." I read short bits of text many times, asking questions of it, emphasising different sets of words each time I read, pausing to think about what new insight springs out from that emphasis.

The Woman Speaks

2 Kiss me with the kisses of your mouth, because your love is better than wine. 3 The smell of your perfume is pleasant, and your name is pleasant like expensive perfume. That's why the young women love you. 4 Take me with you; let's run together. The king takes me into his rooms.

Listening as the man.

How wonderful that the woman loves me like this. How satisfying that my love is appreciated. How gratifying that the perfume is noticed and appreciated. How amazing that things I would never have thought about bring such pleasure. How good it is to be desired. I would desire to run with her.

My response.

Lord, thank you that you care about us, thank you that you listen as one whose heart is stirred by our emotions and by the response of our hearts. Help me Lord to express my heart to you. Help me to express why and how I delight in you.

Friends Speak to the Man

We will rejoice and be happy with you; we praise your love more than wine. With good reason, the young women love you.

Listening as the man.

How wonderful that the friends are influenced by the woman, however immature her love is. It is love that is seen, and love that is caught hold of. Surely this is what is most important at this time.

My Response

Lord, you know that I am not the most passionate of people. Would anyone know from looking at me that I love you? Even though I don't express it well, may my love be deep and may it be seen above all the interesting details of Bible knowledge and the wisdom that you have given me. May people in looking at me know that they are seeing one half of a love relationship with Jesus.

The Woman Speaks

5 I'm dark but lovely, women of Jerusalem, dark like the tents of Kedar, like the curtains of Solomon. 6 Don't look at how dark I am, at how dark the sun has made me. My brothers were angry with me and made me tend the vineyards, so I haven't tended my own vineyard! 7 Tell me, you whom I love, where do you feed your sheep? Where do you let them rest at noon? Why should I look for you near your friend's sheep, like a woman who wears a veil? [Note - veiled woman - prostitute]

Listening as the man.

How painful to hear the woman speak so deprecatingly of herself, to be so conscious of what she sees as her short comings.

How painful to hear the woman speak of the way she has been abused by her family, and those closest to her and more powerful than her.

How painful to hear of her being tempted to go out as a prostitute, when what she really desires is me.

My response.

Lord thank you that you care. Thank you that you see the things that are beyond our control and how we have responded to them. Thank you that you care about the way we have been treated and don't think less of us because we are not made in the image of what Christian culture demands.

Lord, I get the impression from this that you don't want me hunting for you, but being patient for when you come. Help me to be patient and to wait for your presence, knowing that you love me and that you know what is good.

The Man Speaks to the Woman

8 You are the most beautiful of women. Surely you know to follow the sheep and feed your young goats near the shepherds' tents. 9 My darling, you are like a mare among the king's stallions. 10 Your cheeks are beautiful with ornaments, and your neck with jewels. 11 We will make for you gold earrings with silver hooks.

Listening as the man / Thinking as the man.

The man reassures of his love. The man gives instructions on how to come to the right place, even if he is not there right now.

The man tells how he sees the woman with affirming words that build up, that bring a picture of beauty. He does not see the darkness, he sees how she is enhanced by the jewels, that which speaks of her faith.

The man gives explanation as to why he is not there. He is making more beautiful jewellery for her.

My Response

Lord I so want the experience of your presence. There are times when I get fed up waiting for you and think that I have got it all wrong, I am barking up the wrong tree. Sorry for my foolish behaviour. Help me to trust in you, in faith that your not appearing to be there has nothing to do with your not caring, but rather it is so that you can do something even more precious for us.

The Woman Speaks

12 The smell of my perfume spreads out to the king on his couch. 13 My lover is like a bag of myrrh that lies all night between my breasts. 14 My lover is like a bunch of flowers from the vineyards at En Gedi.

Listening as the man

It is lovely to see that the confidence has returned. The woman has responded to my words and realises that I am touched by her heart.

I see the impact in two directions, she knows that although she can't get as close to me as she would like, that her influence reaches me as perfume spreads out. She also realises that she is affected by my words to her so that her perfume is changed to reflect who I am.

My Response

Perfume cannot be seen, but where it goes it produces an effect and it is a delight. Lord Jesus help me to spend the time with you knowing that you have this effect on me. It is not something that can be measured or doled out in some measurable experiment. It is something that happens. People know when we have or have not been around you.

The Man Speaks

15 My darling, you are beautiful! Oh, you are beautiful, and your eyes are like doves.

The man's view

The man delights in how the woman's response has matured and shares his heart again. He expresses his delight in her beauty, a beauty that has become more evident in her contentment.

This contentment is seen in something that the woman cannot be aware of, her eyes. They are now eyes that are at peace.

My perspective.

Help me Lord to be content in you, patient and ready to hear your words from afar knowing that as you express words of love, that you are training my love and helping me to love in a good and appropriate way.

The Woman Answers the Man

16 You are so handsome, my lover, and so pleasant! Our bed is the grass. 17 Cedar trees form our roof; our ceiling is made of juniper wood.

Listening as the man

The woman is appreciating more than the experience now. She can see a little of me. It is not just the kisses, now it is what I am like.

The woman's desire for intimacy would now allow us intimacy in the country, though not in a room. The barriers are breaking down a little. She is not conscious of this as some second best, to her this is the beginning and it is good.

My perspective

Lord thank you that you receive my love without criticism for where it is. You don't push and demand more, you are delighted by the degree of intimacy that I can cope with. Draw me to yourself more and more.