



The Wedding (Night!)

Scripture: Song of Solomon 3:6-5:1

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A wedding is one of life's most meaningful moments, but it points to something deeper. Song of Songs 3:6–5:1 reveals love as God designed it—joyful, intentional, and shared within covenant. This message invites you to rethink marriage and intimacy for lasting fulfillment and real connection.

A wedding celebrates a covenant meant to last.

Song of Songs 3:6-11, Friends say (or She says): 6 Who is this coming up from the wilderness like a column of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and incense made from all the spices of the merchant? 7 Look! It is Solomon's carriage, escorted by 60 warriors, the noblest of Israel, 8 all of them wearing the sword, all experienced in battle, each with his sword at his side, prepared for the terrors of the night. 9 King Solomon made for himself the carriage; he made it of wood from Lebanon. 10 Its posts he made of silver, its base of gold. Its seat was upholstered with purple, its interior inlaid with love. 11 Daughters of Jerusalem, come out, and look, you daughters of Zion. Look on King Solomon wearing a crown, the crown with which his mother crowned him on the day of his wedding, the day his heart rejoiced.

IF POSSIBLE, CRAFT A WEDDING CEREMONY THAT IS SYMBOLIC OF THE MARRIAGE YOU WANT TO HAVE:

Be pointed toward God together.

- The smoke is symbolic of God's presence. The incense points us towards religious sacrificial system. The wedding pointed to God.
- How can your wedding ceremony (or marriage rhythms) point toward Jesus?

Be protective of your marriage.

- 60 warriors protected her as she arrived. Maybe these were the groomsmen. It's a reminder to choose people to witness your wedding that will help you protect your marriage.
- How can you protect both your spouse practically (safe car, insurance, alarms, etc.) and protect your marriage from neglect and outside interference?

Be purposeful in your love.

- The pomp and beauty of this sacred procession were wholly appropriate.
- Love is worth splurging on when possible, but make sure you are speaking your spouse's [love language](#) so it's received well.

Be pleased with one another.

- In 1 Kings 1:38-40, the High Priest crowned him, not his mother (Bathsheba), so this must be an earlier moment with a diadem/wreath.
- For Solomon and his bride, their wedding was "day his heart rejoiced", but I imagine that it was a different kind of feeling day for Solomon's mother Bathsheba on her wedding day. She had been seduced into an adulterous affair by King David and become pregnant (2 Sam 11:1-5). David then murdered her husband Uriah to cover up his sin (2 Sam 11:14-16). She would mourn his death, and then be taken by David in marriage (2 Sam 11:26-27). The Scriptures record no fanfare or celebration. It is one of the saddest and most sordid stories in all of the Bible. But Don't miss God's redemption. Her sad start to her second marriage had future joy. David's repentance was real, and God would honor her by including her in the genealogy of Christ (Matthew 1:6).

Intimacy is God's gift, fully enjoyed in covenant.

Song of Songs 4:1-7, He says: 1 How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful! Your eyes behind your veil are doves. Your hair is like a flock of goats descending from the hills of Gilead. 2 Your teeth are like a flock of sheep just shorn, coming up from the washing. Each has its twin; not one of them is alone. 3 Your lips are like a scarlet ribbon; your mouth is lovely. Your temples behind your veil are like the halves of a pomegranate. 4 Your neck is like the tower of David, built with courses of stone; on it hang a thousand shields, all of them shields of warriors. 5 Your breasts are like two fawns, like twin fawns of a gazelle that browse among the lilies. 6 Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, I will go to the mountain of myrrh and to the hill of incense. 7 You are altogether beautiful, my darling; there is no flaw in you.

WHAT DOES GOD WANT US TO KNOW ABOUT PHYSICAL INTIMACY?

Express your love for your spouse.

- Before he ever touches her, he speaks lovingly to her. It's an insecure moment! He creates atmosphere of care.
- He gives her seven physical compliments. In his eyes she was beautiful, though she did not meet cultures objective standard for beauty (1:5-6).
- God shares his wise ways with us for a reason: Don't live together outside of marriage, don't engage in sexual sin, don't fill your mind with pornography, and don't shape a false standard of beauty that your spouse has to compete with. Let your spouse be your standard of beauty. When your spouse is your standard, comparison disappears. There's no measuring, no competing, no constant evaluating. They are not being held up against someone else—they are the measure. And that truth goes both ways in marriage.

Song of Songs 4:8-11, He says: 8 Come with me from Lebanon, my bride, come with me from Lebanon. Descend from the crest of Amanah, from the top of Senir, the summit of Hermon, from the lions' dens and the mountain haunts of leopards. 9 You have stolen my heart, my sister, my bride; you have stolen my heart with one glance of your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace. 10 How delightful is your love, my sister, my bride! How much more pleasing is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your perfume more than any spice! 11 Your lips drop sweetness as the honeycomb, my bride; milk and honey are under your tongue. The fragrance of your garments is like the fragrance of Lebanon.

Express your desire for your spouse.

- Solomon says, "come with me". It's an invitation away from fear towards intimacy. There are no demands, no aggression or selfishness... he just offers.
- Miraslov Volf talks about love and nurturing being connected to intimacy, "It has to do with how you treat each other when dishes need to be washed or garbage taken out, when misunderstandings arise and when one has transgressed against the other. Love is not just the desire to be united with the other, but action on behalf of the other, and constancy in pursuit of his or her well-being."

Song of Songs 4:12-16, He says: 12 You are a garden locked up, my sister, my bride; you are a spring enclosed, a sealed fountain. 13 Your plants are an orchard of pomegranates with choice fruits, with henna and nard, 14 nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, with every kind of incense tree, with myrrh and aloes and all the finest spices. 15 You are a garden fountain, a well of flowing water streaming down from Lebanon. She says: 16 Awake, north wind, and come, south wind! Blow on my garden, that its fragrance may spread everywhere. Let my beloved come into his garden and taste its choice fruits.

Express your availability to your spouse.

- When we read the words, "locked, enclosed, sealed", it speaks of exclusivity and loyalty in regards to intimacy within marriage.
- Proverbs 5:15-18, 15 Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well. 16 Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares? 17 Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers. 18 May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.
- As we hear words like "orchard" and "choice fruits" it points to an obvious truth that there's a lot to enjoy in intimacy.
- Before she says "my garden"; now she says "his garden".

Song of Songs 5:1a, He says: 1 I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride; I have gathered my myrrh with my spice. I have eaten my honeycomb and my honey; I have drunk my wine and my milk... God says: Eat, friends, and drink; drink your fill of love.

Express your satisfaction in your spouse.

- There is human satisfaction in intimacy (5:1a).
 - Everything happens modestly in between chapters.
 - The long anticipated, passionate desires were now He poetically described how pleasing it was to reassure her.
- There is divine satisfaction in intimacy (5:1b).
 - Only the Sovereign Creator would be a welcome guest to this special moment. God addresses the couple, encouraging them to continue to enjoy sex with his endorsement within the sanctity of marriage.
- Here are two Christian book recommendations (they will not in the bookstore 🙄): [Married Sex: A Christian Couple's Guide to Reimagining Your Love Life and Intended for Pleasure](#).

It's almost surprising how good physical intimacy is described in Song of Songs.

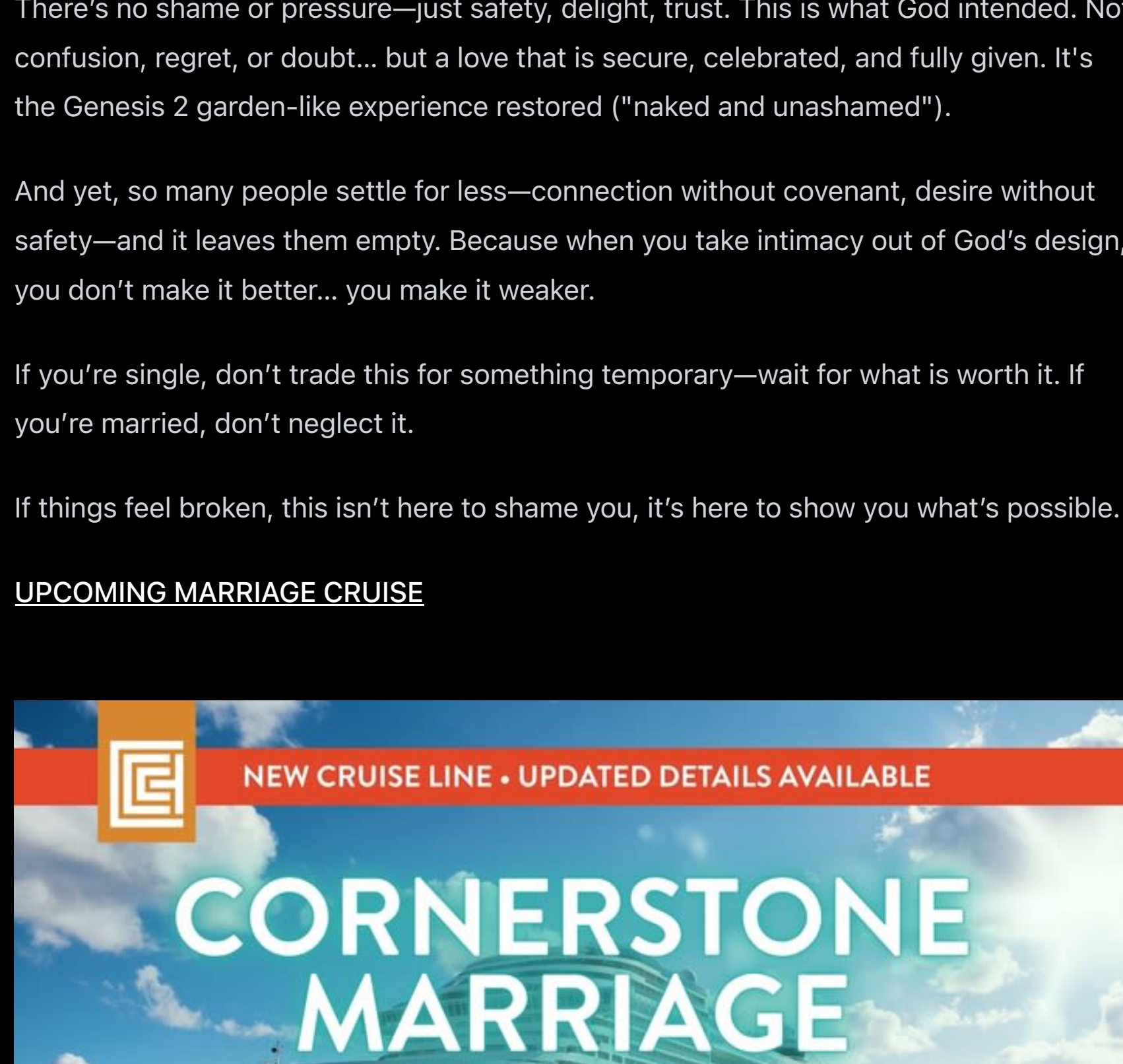
There's no shame or pressure—just safety, delight, trust. This is what God intended. Not confusion, regret, or doubt... but a love that is secure, celebrated, and fully given. It's the Genesis 2 garden-like experience restored ("naked and unashamed").

And yet, so many people settle for less—connection without covenant, desire without safety—and it leaves them empty. Because when you take intimacy out of God's design, you don't make it better... you make it weaker.

If you're single, don't trade this for something temporary—wait for what is worth it. If you're married, don't neglect it.

If things feel broken, this isn't here to shame you, it's here to show you what's possible.

UPCOMING MARRIAGE CRUISE



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