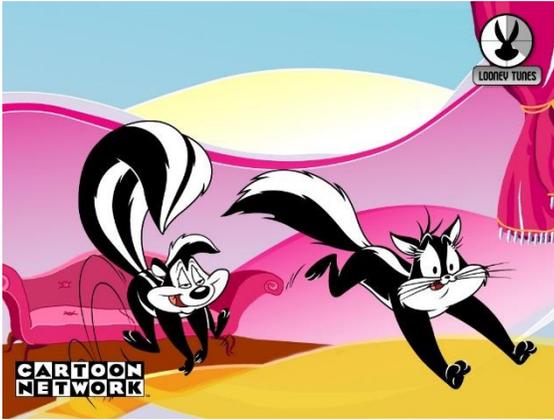


A Love That Pursues

Song of Solomon 3:1-11



In her playful, satirical poem “The Betrothal,” Edna St. Vincent Millay writes:

Oh, bring me gifts or beg me gifts,
And wed me if you will.
I’d make a man a good wife,
Sensible and still.

The bride in this chapter is neither sensible nor still. She’s on a “sought” and “brought” mission, drawn by the power of love – and she’s not afraid. She’s on a love-powered search-and-rescue mission. Let’s consider what this

Scripture is saying to us. And you may want to take a deep breath before you fill in this first blank.

1st, this Text tells us something about an AGGRESSIVE wife.

NOT offensive or assaulting or indecent, but aggressive as opposed to a passive wife.

- **There’s no explicit command here, but . . .** It’s NOT, “Wife, be like this wife . . .” A DESCRIPTION is NOT always a PRESCRIPTION. Proverbs 31 gives no COMMAND to “BE this woman,” but yet neither is the writer saying to NOT be like that woman. He even calls her virtuous. So while there’s no COMMAND, neither is there a “DON’T be this woman” being implied. It’s just a depiction of a wife who is NOT a wallflower twiddling her thumbs and saying, “Where ISSSS he?!?”
- **What we have here is a picture of PURSUIT -- in the context of marriage.** HER pursuit of HIM. She’s not a Victorian lady-in-waiting, sitting in the parlor, powdering her nose, fidgeting, and wondering if her man’s ever gonna show up. This lady has abandoned comfort, safety – even risking her life for the love of her life, for her husband. This is NOT “impulse morality” of so many popular movies. This is not self-indulgent immorality where one “follows her heart” regardless of the context of the relationship. This is not a teen-age girl sending 65 flirtatious texts to a boy she wants to go somewhere and make out with. This is a *married* woman PURSUING her *husband*, out of love.
- **It’s not unorthodox, unethical, or inappropriate for a WIFE to not be a person of PASSIVE desire; but to be focused and determined to PURSUE her husband.** Pursuing him, romantically. A-la-Pepe Le Pew. And, as one of my favorite theologians, Forest Gump, once said, “. . . and that’s all I have to say about that . . .”! TRUE LOVE PURSUES THE BELOVED – in marriage.

2nd, Solomon makes the scene, but as a FOIL*. Cf 3:6-11

- **What is that* ??** It's a literary device, Some ONE or some THING that serves as a CONTRAST to something else. What's going on is that SOLOMON is making the scene, and it's a big deal. 60 elite soldiers (nearly twice as many as David had) – armed and ready to protect. The carriage smells good and looks good. It's sort of a "Roll's Royce Limited meets the Ark of the Covenant" type of carriage. Smoke, smells, and soldiers accompany the king, [Tuscaloosa Elvis Presley Concert beginning – cue the music!!!] you can almost feel the importance and opulence, and hear the beginning strains of [Also sprach Zarathustra \(Strauss\)](#) playing in the background as Elvis is walking onstage!
- **There's contrasts worth noting here...**
 - The UNPROTECTED wife and the OVERPROTECTED Solomon. She is vulnerable walking alone; Solomon enjoys an ornate and bulletproof tank, w/60 armed Green Berets by his side.
 - The SIMPLE, UNADORNED LOVE between the woman and her beloved and the opulence (lavishness) attached to Solomon & His marriage. This contrast becomes more obvious as the Song progresses.

The contrast makes a point. The wife's seeking, finding, and bringing is not in vain b/c her beloved is worth the risk!

3rd, This passage, also, makes us WISE unto SALVATION.

There's been noted some interesting similarities and obvious differences between 3:1-4 and John 20...

This is part of a long tradition of ancient church fathers making a connection between this passage and *John 20*. Mary, whom Jesus loved (as a disciple) comes to the tomb "**while it is still dark**". She is seeking to find Jesus "**Whom are you seeking?**" And once she recognizes Jesus, she clings to Jesus. But there's ALSO glaring DIFFERENCES. Jesus and Mary are NOT married. Jesus tells Mary to let Him go. It's different. But it's a stretch. So what we're looking for is THEMATIC connections between this passage and Jesus. And they ARE there!

What are the THEMATIC connections here?

- **There's the ZACCHAEUS connection.** Cf *Luke 19:1-10* Zac SOUGHT Jesus, found Jesus, and brought Jesus home. But wait. In that account, Jesus says, in *Vv 9-10 . . . THAT'S the BIGGER story*. Jesus came out from the safest place in the universe (Heaven) to seek after people like Zac, people who are lost in the city streets and squares, to bring them home to the security and intimacy of His Eternal Love.
- **There's the GOSPEL is a LOVE story connection.** All through the Bible, the Bridegroom (Jesus) is seeking His bride, to be w/Him in a relationship that far eclipses the best romantic relationship ever! Sinners are NOT by nature SEEKERS. The BIBLE is about God SEEKING the sinner! In Christ, God sought, BOUGHT, and BROUGHT sinners to live happily ever after with HIM! And Jesus did this NOT "at RISK" for His own life, but at the COST OF His own life! Jesus DIED to bring you to HIM! No other religion has that! No other religion has a seeking God Who goes after His people (starting in the Garden and going on even now . . .) When you see "seeking" in a love story, [Ashton Kutcher, Brittany Murphy *Just Married* movie . . .] it's a small picture of what GOD has

done for us in sending JESUS to SEEK and to SAVE that which was lost! It's a picture of the Great Shepherd actively going out to find the lost sheep.

- **There's the One who is GREATER than Solomon is here, alive and well, connection! Cf *Matthew 12:42; Luke 11:31*** SOS is written NOT just to celebrate marital intimacy within the boundaries of marriage, but as an antidote to immorality as the Bible encourages and exhorts us to keep our eyes not on ourselves, but on the One Who is GREATER than Solomon, even Jesus Christ, Whose commitment to us is unquestioned and whose Word tells us what is best for us -- including our relationships w/the opposite sex. Listening to JESUS / doing what JESUS says is more important than doing what our hormones / "significant others" tell us. Jesus is greater than Solomon in His wisdom, His purity of heart, His
- obedience to the Father, His GLORY. We GLORIFY the One who is GREATER than Solomon when HIS WEIGHT carries the most weight in our life ["glory" = "heavy"]!!!

A story about Scripture, Google, and the Holy Spirit . . . WILD STORY, but goes to show, You never know!!! [Lady in church for the 1st time in 10 years. Sunday Night BS . . . "How was it?" "Fine." "What was the preacher saying?" "How wives should NOT be passive when it comes to romancing their husbands." "Say WHAAAAT" (TV remote goes off . . .). Sounds REAL practical! What time is church next week? "Where'd he get that?!? SOS Reference to King Solomon . . . cross reference to Christ as one who is greater than Solomon . . . Google a sermon by Charles Spurgeon "A Greater Than Solomon" . . . traced it to Christ, read up, got the Gospel, and was converted.] Indeed, The One Who is greater than Solomon has come to this earth to seek and to save that which was lost! And this Lord can even use SOS to make people wise unto salvation!