**Song of Songs – The Song of Solomon**

 **Lesson Four: Anticipating Marriage**

**Lesson Reference: Chapter 1:12-2:7**

**Objective:** To consider the demonstration of the progression of the relationship between the main characters of the Song.

1. Consider the structure of this passage. In 1:12-14, the woman is musing about her beloved, and then 1:15-2:2 contains a delightful exchange between the two. Finally, in 2:3-7 the Song drifts back to the woman’s perspective. The Song is poetry and thus is best appreciated through careful contemplation of its metaphors. List all the adjectives, descriptive phases, and metaphors that the woman uses to describe her beloved in 1:12-2:7.

2. The “beloved” does not refer to the woman by this same term. This is significant because it suggests again the complementary of male and female presented in the Song. He refers to her repeatedly as “my love”. List the verses in this passage that he uses “my love”. In verse 15, the man twice calls the woman beautiful and then says that her “eyes are doves”. The eyes are the gateway to the soul; what might it suggest that the man links the woman’s beauty with her eyes in verse 15?

3. In these verses the couple imagines their future together. There remains distance between them: the king is on his couch, but the woman is not with him. Refer to verses 12-17; note the shift from “his couch” to “our couch”. What is the significance of the marriage bed being “green”? What does verse 17 suggest about their future life and home as a couple?

4. Reread 2:1-2. While it is important to avoid stereotypes, what does this repeated emphasis on the woman’s feeling of insecurity suggests?

5. Verses 2:3-6 are among the most sensual verses in the Song of Solomon. How does verse 3 suggest that the woman believes that only her betrothed can satisfy her desire?

6. Read 2:5-7, What implications does the advice the woman offers in 2:7 have for relationships with the opposite sex?

**Lesson Applications:**

* The Song of Solomon presents an ideal picture of human love and sexual intimacy fulfilled in the context of marriage. The woman warns her friends – and us – not to awaken desires for such intimacy until they can be fulfilled in a godly way.
* There are only so many days out of a month in which a child can be conceived, and yet there is no indication in Scripture that sex is to be limited to that window of fertility.