**Song Of Solomon**

**Reading – Hebrews 13:1-6**

If Proverbs could be described as a father’s advice to his son, the Song of Solomon could be considered a father’s instruction to his daughter.

Basically Song of Songs is a romantic love story. The main female character is the Shulamite woman, a country girl who is dark and lovely, unlike the city girls. The main male character is called the Beloved, a young suitor who sweeps the Shulamite off her feet.

In the background is a chorus of the Daughters of Jerusalem, a gathering of the Shulamite's brothers, and some friends of the Beloved

**The Plot**

1. The Shulamite is just a young girl, inexperienced in love and uncertain about her own physical appearance when her Beloved becomes engrossed with her features, both physical and spiritual. ***--(Song of Songs 1:5-6)***

2. They shower each other with compliments and pledge their devotion to the other. -- ***(Song of Songs 1:15- 2:3)***

3. Though her father does not appear, her brothers take a paternal care for their young sister-- ***(Song of Songs 2:15)***

4. As their love grows, she fears being separated from him in a dream. ***(Song of Songs 3:1-3)***

5. But the fourth Chapter returns her to reality and his loving words until the fifth Chapter makes her nightmare come true-- ***(Song of Songs 5:2-8)***

6. The games people play -- when he comes to her door, she makes excuses to keep it closed and when she finally opens it, he is gone

7. The two lovers are reunited in chapter six

8. Their love matures over time and they commit themselves to one another forever

**Practical Lessons**

There Is a Difference Between Infatuation and Love

Love Develops Over Time. ***-- (Song of Songs 7:10-13)***

Love is Physical AND Emotional. You must love the person ***inside*** to make it last-- ***(1 Peter 3:1-7) Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, {2} when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. {3} Do not let your adornment be merely outward; arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel; {4} rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. {5} For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, {6} as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror. {7} Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.***

 ***“My Sister, My Friend, My Spouse” (Song of Songs 4:9-11)***

Do Not Stir Up Love Before Its Time. ***(Song of Songs 2:6-7)***

***(Song of Songs 8:4) I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, Do not stir up nor awaken love Until it pleases.***

These two young lovers ***long*** for each other and yet understand the importance of ***waiting*** until they come together in spirit before God-- ***(1 Thessalonians 4:3-8) For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; {4} that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, {5} not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; {6} that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. {7} For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. {8} Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.***

Marriage is Devotion-- ***(Song of Songs 8:6-7)***

***(Song of Songs 4:12) A garden enclosed Is my sister, my spouse, A spring shut up, A fountain sealed***.