

Season of Singing

Song of Songs 2:8-17

Interpreting the Song

The sermon argued that we don't have to choose between reading the Song of Songs as a human love poem and reading it to see Christ - because human marital love is already about Christ and his love for the church. Looking at Ephesians 5:21-33, do you think this is right? *If you wanted, you could also look at some OT passages, like Hosea 1-3, or the brief reference in Jeremiah 31:32.*

What might go wrong in reading the Song this way, and how could we guard against that? *For example, we might make the mistake of imagining God's love in Christ in line with our own experience of human love; or we might import sexuality in an inappropriate way into our vision of God. I think the answer to the question is that we need to keep the Christ of the gospels and the New Testament witness in general central as we read the Song!*

Song 2:8-9

How does the poet build a sense of anticipation in these verses?

How is anticipation a part of our relationship with Christ in the here and now?

Is anticipation a blessed experience to you, or a frustration? (Or both?) How might these verses help us to wait for Jesus?

Song 2:10-14

How do you think the male speaker feels about his bride? Do you find it possible to hear the voice of Christ to his people in these verses?

The bride is invited to come away with the bridegroom. What does it look like for us to respond to his voice?

How does the description of spring here image the blessings of the gospel? (Why might it be particularly appropriate to read these verses at Easter?)

Song 2:15-17

Note that it is particularly unclear who is speaking in verse 15.

What 'little foxes' threaten to trouble our relationship with Christ?

'My beloved is mine and I am his' - do we feel comfortable using that sort of language in relation to the Lord Jesus? If not, why not?