

Song of Solomon 2:2-7

Song of Solomon 2:2-4 (The man is speaking) A lotus blossoming in a swamp of weeds - that's my dear friend among the girls in the village. (The woman is speaking) As an apricot tree stands out in the forest, my lover stands above the young men in town. All I want to do is sit in his shade, to taste and savor his delicious love. He took me home with him for a festive meal, but his eyes feasted on me! (The message)

The relationship between the two is growing and deepening. They choose to regard each other as superior to any other. She is to him a lotus blossoming in a swamp of weeds. He is to her like an apricot tree hidden in the midst of the forest. The distinguishing of your love interest from all others leads to exclusivity. The heart is meant to belong to just one. Once it has been so given, it is no longer available to any other.

If you were to be asked, what is it about your husband or wife that captured your heart? How would you answer? Is there a difference between how you felt then and how you feel now? One of the challenges faced in any romantic relationship is that of hanging on to your first love. When love

blossoms we tend to see each other through rose tinted glasses. As time passes, the tinting tends to wear off leading sometimes to discouragement and or frustration. We had friends, years ago who encountered a rough period in their marriage when the wife became frustrated by her husband's silence. But he had always been a very quiet man, he had not changed but she had changed her mind about him. She had moved from appreciating him as "the strong quiet type" to being very angry and hurt when he could not share his feelings with her. The reality of human personality is that for every positive and attractive trait there is a corresponding negative trait that can potentially be a turn off in a relationship. In a relationship we choose how to view the other and we can change our minds. When we do so in a negative way, the relationship will be harmed.

In the case of the young lovers in the Song, they are now completely caught up in the excitement of their infatuation. They look for the fulfillment of their desires in one another and this is what they find. The satisfaction and the contentment they feel is like nothing they have ever experienced before. She wants only to "sit in his shade

to taste and savor his delicious love." He wants only to feast his eyes on her.

The intensity of this experience is too much for her to bear. She needs sustenance. Anything to put her feet back on the ground. She warns the sisters in Jerusalem, "Don't excite love. Don't stir it up, until the time is right and you are ready."

The spiritual parallel to our passage is the experience of active love of the Lord so that He becomes the object of our affections as if we were in love with Him. The one who makes God precious to herself will soon find that she is precious to Him. You cannot out give God. Give Him your complete and entire devotion and then the rains of His blessing will come pouring down. "Oh taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him." (Ps 34:8) "Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass." (Ps 37:3-5) "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholds him with His hand." (Ps 37:23,24)