



# Love Story



A STUDY OF THE SONG OF SOLOMON

1:5-8



Song 1: 5 I *am* black, but comely, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, as the tents of Kedar, as the curtains of Solomon.

6 Look not upon me, because I *am* black, because the sun hath looked upon me: my mother's children were angry with me; they made me the keeper of the vineyards; *but* mine own vineyard have I not kept.

7 Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest, where thou makest *thy flock* to rest at noon: for why should I be as one that turneth aside by the flocks of thy companions?

8 If thou know not, O thou fairest among women, go thy way forth by the footsteps of the flock, and feed thy kids beside the shepherds' tents.

A romantic scene of a couple holding hands in a field of tall grass at sunset. The background is a warm, golden-orange glow from the setting sun, creating a soft and intimate atmosphere. The couple is seen from the waist down, with their hands clasped together in the center of the frame. The woman is on the left, wearing a light-colored sweater, and the man is on the right, wearing a plaid shirt. The grass is tall and thin, swaying slightly in the breeze.

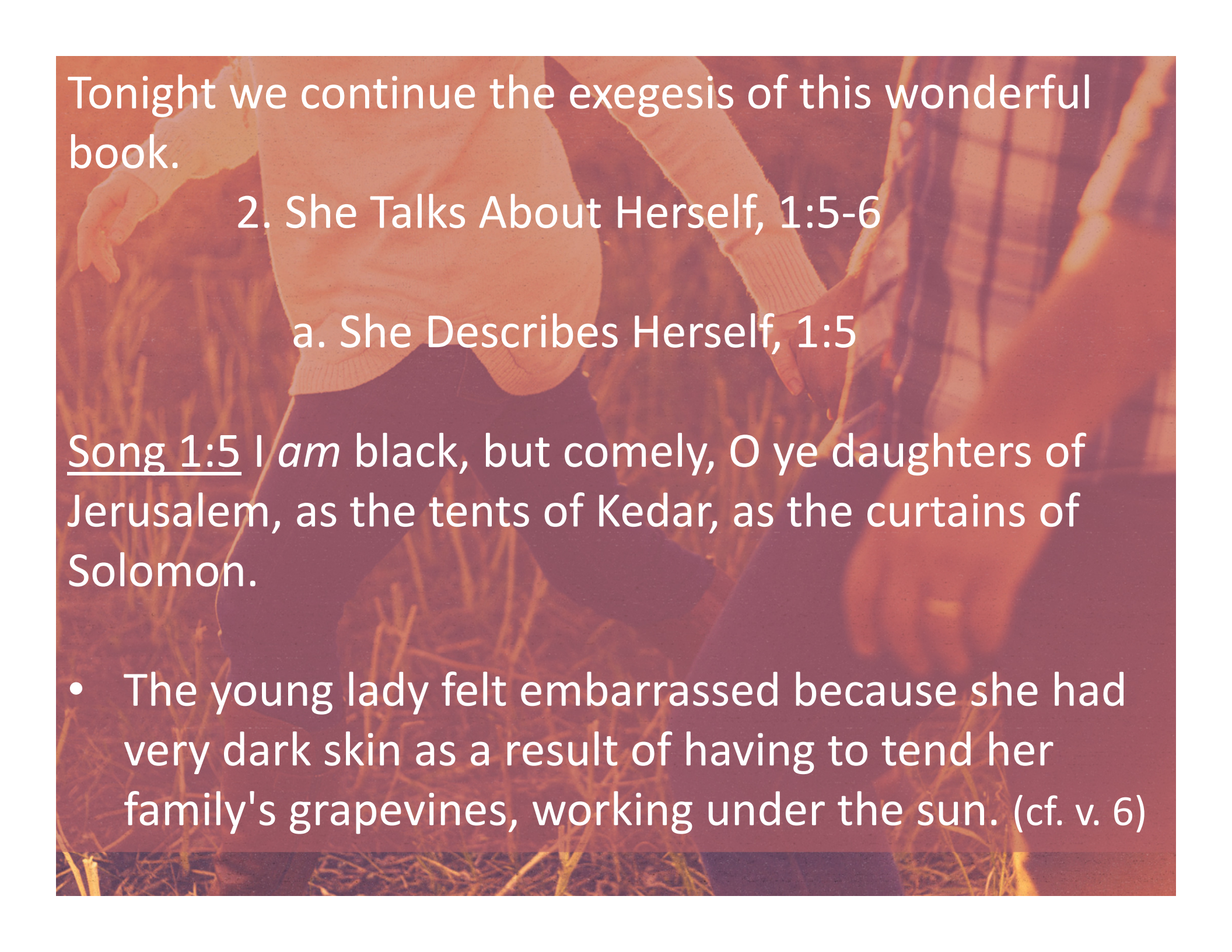
Tonight, we continue our new journey into the first chapter of the Song of Solomon. Last week, we considered the first four verses of the chapter.

## I. AN HOUR OF TROUBLE, 1:1-8

### *Introduction*, 1:1

The Shulamite remembers:

- A. The Fervor Her Beloved Had Shown toward Her, 1:1-2
- B. The Fragrance Her Beloved Had Shed upon Her, 1:3-6
  - 1. She Talks About Him, 1:3-4
    - a. The Magnificence of his Presence, 1:3a
    - b. The Magnetism of his Personality, 1:3b-4



Tonight we continue the exegesis of this wonderful book.

## 2. She Talks About Herself, 1:5-6

### a. She Describes Herself, 1:5

Song 1:5 *I am* black, but comely, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, as the tents of Kedar, as the curtains of Solomon.

- The young lady felt embarrassed because she had very dark skin as a result of having to tend her family's grapevines, working under the sun. (cf. v. 6)

- The "tents of Kedar" (v. 5) were apparently black and were probably animal skins. The Kedarites were nomads who lived in northern Arabia southeast of Damascus.

**Original Word:** קֶדָר

**Part of Speech:** proper name, of a people

**Transliteration:** Qedar


**Definition:** perhaps "swarthy", a son of Ishmael, also his descendants

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/6938.htm>

**swarthy**  
*adjective.*

(of skin color, complexion, etc.) dark.

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/swarthy?s=t>



Gen. 25:13 And these *are* the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, according to their generations: the firstborn of Ishmael, Nebajoth; and **Kedar**, and Adbeel, and Mibsam,

Isa. 60:7 **All the flocks of Kedar** shall be gathered together unto thee, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister unto thee: they shall come up with acceptance on mine altar, and I will glorify the house of my glory.

Ezek. 27:21 Arabia, and **all the princes of Kedar, they occupied with thee in lambs, and rams, and goats:** in these *were they* thy merchants.

- “...O ye daughters of Jerusalem...” = “virgins” of verse 3 and Psa. 45:7-9, 14-15

Heb. 12:22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, **the heavenly Jerusalem**, and to an innumerable company of angels, 23 To **the general assembly and church of the firstborn**, which **are** written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,



b. She Defends Herself, 1:6a-b

6a “Look not upon me, because I *am* black, because the sun hath looked upon me:

- Her skin was dark because of the sun's rays, not primarily because of her race.

6b “...my mother's children were angry with me; they made me the keeper of the vineyards...”

- Her siblings, probably step-brothers, mistreated her, taking her from the flocks and working among the grapes.



Mt. 10:36 And a man's foes *shall be* they of his own household.

- Female courtiers, those attending the court of the king, did not work outdoors, so their skin was lighter than women's who labored in the fields.

c. She Despises Herself, 1:6c “...*but* mine own vineyard have I not kept.”

- These words express humility without shame.
- Her "own vineyard" refers to her personal appearance.

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- "Vineyard" is a frequent metaphor for the physical body in this song.
  - She had not opportunity to have the luxurious baths and toiletries or fashionable clothing of the court.
  - There had been no opportunity for her to take care of her hair, skin, or hands according to the obvious courtly style.
  - No "primping" available, but a concern to look good.

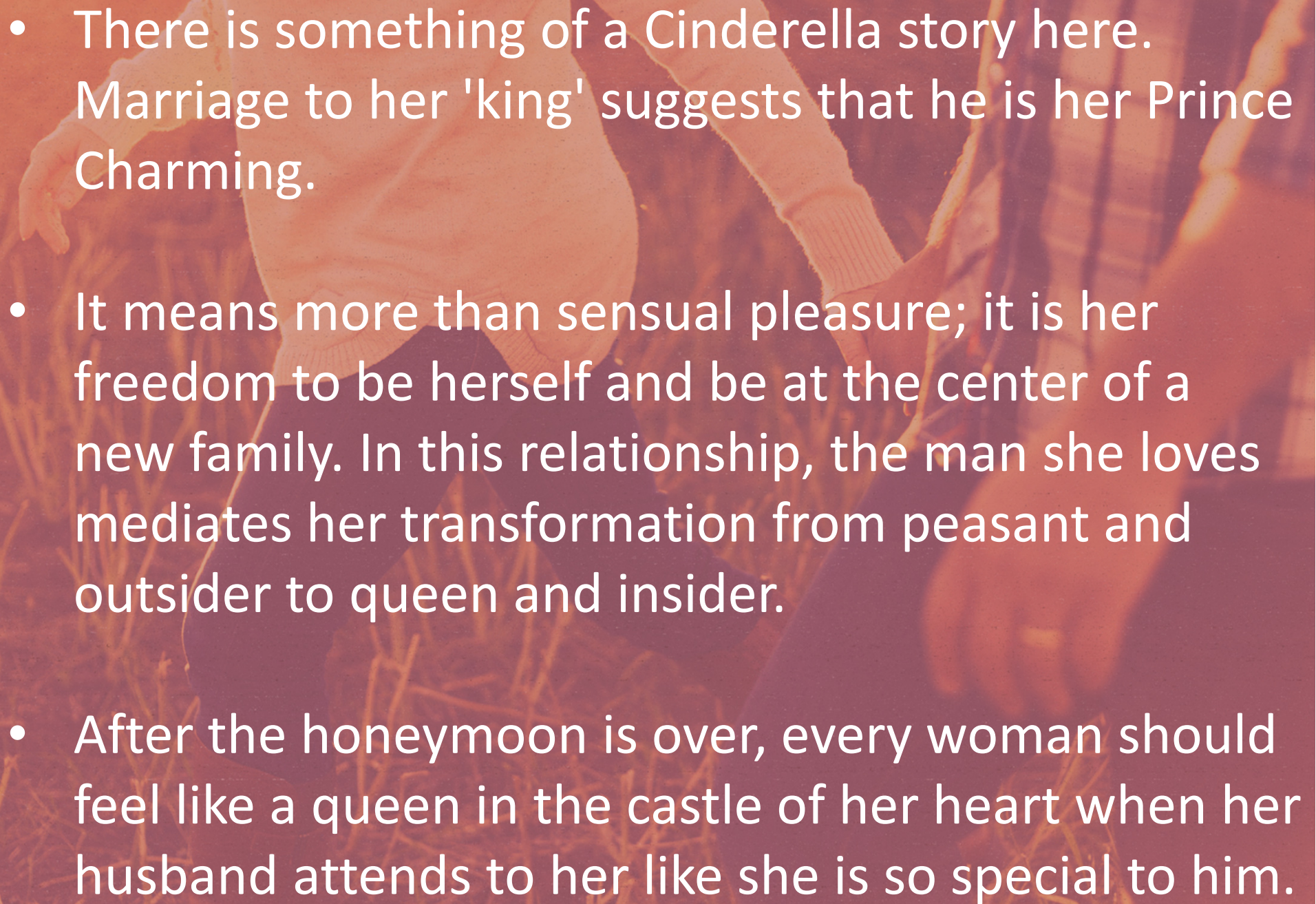


1 Tim. 2:9 In like manner also, that **women adorn themselves in modest apparel**, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;

1 Pet. 3:3 Whose **adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel**;

4 But **let it be the hidden man of the heart**, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.*

5 For after this manner in the old time **the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves**, being in subjection unto their own husbands:

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- There is something of a Cinderella story here. Marriage to her 'king' suggests that he is her Prince Charming.
  - It means more than sensual pleasure; it is her freedom to be herself and be at the center of a new family. In this relationship, the man she loves mediates her transformation from peasant and outsider to queen and insider.
  - After the honeymoon is over, every woman should feel like a queen in the castle of her heart when her husband attends to her like she is so special to him.

- Every man should feel like he is honored as a king when he is attended to by a loving wife who honors him with her love.

## C. The Freedom Her Beloved Had Shared with Her, 1:7-8

### 1. How it was Recalled, 1:7

Song 1:7 Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest, where thou makest *thy flock* to rest at noon: for why should I be as one that turneth aside by the flocks of thy companions?

- David, Solomon's father, was a shepherd. Would not David's son learn his father's craft? Absalom did. Why not Solomon?

2 Sam. 13:23 And it came to pass after two full years, that **Absalom had sheepshearers** in Baalhazor, which *is* beside Ephraim: and Absalom invited all the king's sons.

24 And **Absalom came to the king, and said, Behold now, thy servant hath sheepshearers**; let the king, I beseech thee, and his servants go with thy servant.

- “Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest...” – The Shulamite girl wants to know where her beloved is and wants to be with him!

- “...O thou whom my soul loveth...” indicates an expression of the depth of her love. = true “soul-mates.”

### New International Version

**Tell me, you whom I love**, where you graze your flock and where you rest your sheep at midday. Why should I be like a veiled woman beside the flocks of your friends?

### Holman Christian Standard Bible

**Tell me, you, the one I love**: Where do you pasture your sheep? Where do you let them rest at noon? Why should I be like one who veils herself beside the flocks of your companions?

### New King James Version

**Tell me, O you whom I love**, Where you feed *your flock*, Where you make *it* rest at noon. For why should I be as one who veils herself By the flocks of your companions?

### Douay-Rheims Bible

Shew me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest, where thou liest in the midday, lest I begin to wander after the flocks of thy companions.

### English Revised Version

Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest thy flock, where thou makest it to rest at noon: for why should I be as one that is veiled beside the flocks of thy companions?

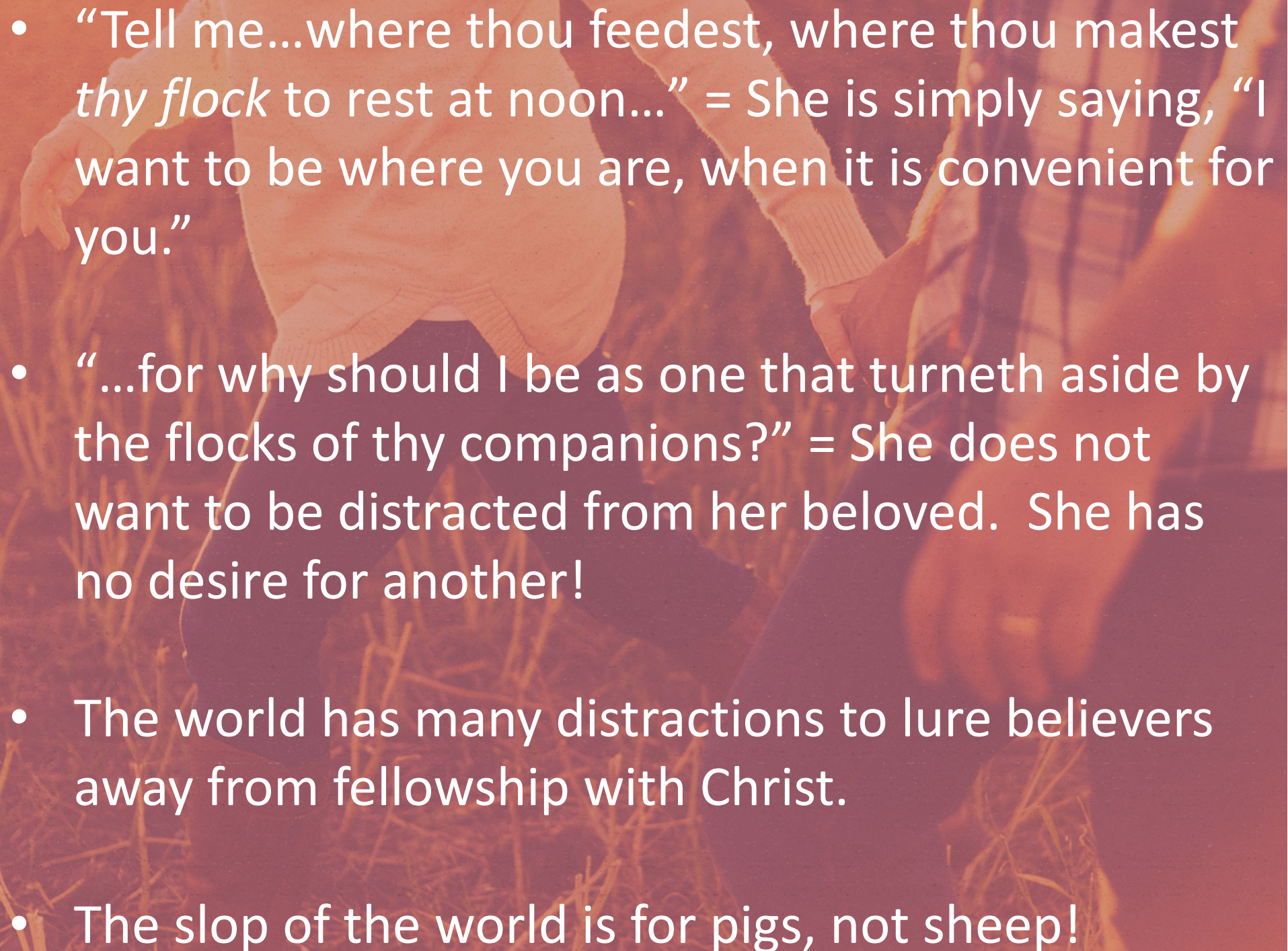
### New American Standard Bible

"Tell me, O you whom my soul loves, Where do you pasture your flock, Where do you make it lie down at noon? For why should I be like one who veils herself Beside the flocks of your companions?"

### King James Bible

Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest, where thou makest *thy flock* to rest at noon: for why should I be as one that turneth aside by the flocks of thy companions?

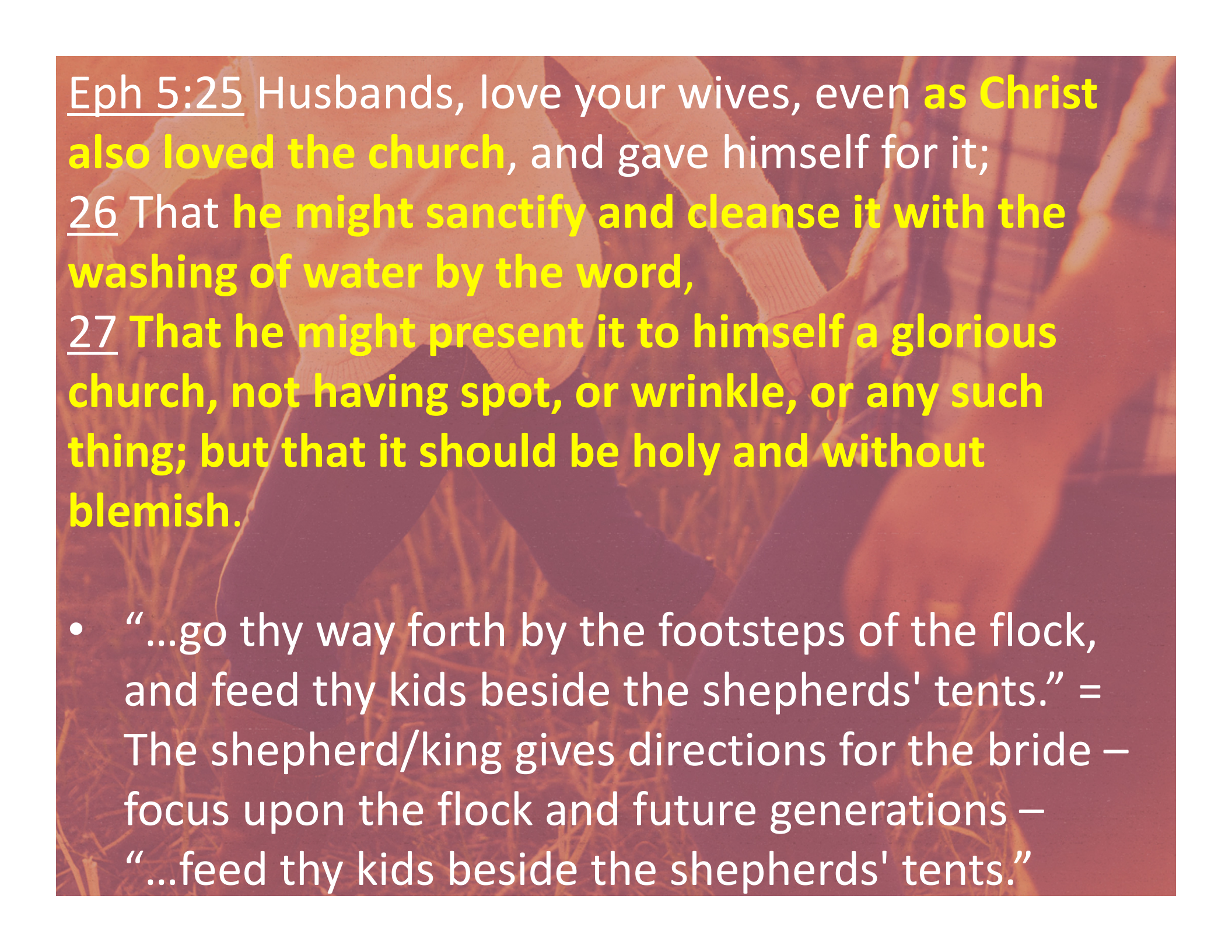


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- “Tell me...where thou feedest, where thou makest *thy flock* to rest at noon...” = She is simply saying, “I want to be where you are, when it is convenient for you.”
  - “...for why should I be as one that turneth aside by the flocks of thy companions?” = She does not want to be distracted from her beloved. She has no desire for another!
  - The world has many distractions to lure believers away from fellowship with Christ.
  - The slop of the world is for pigs, not sheep!

## 2. How it was Responded, 1:8

Song 1:8 If thou know not, O thou fairest among women, go thy way forth by the footsteps of the flock, and feed thy kids beside the shepherds' tents.

- The shepherd/king speaks reassurance to the Shulamite girl.
- “If thou know not...” = But you SHOULD know.
- “...O thou fairest among women...” = The shepherd/king expresses his opinion of her beauty.
- The Lord Jesus Christ looks at His bride and sees her future beauty!



Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even **as Christ also loved the church**, and gave himself for it;  
26 That **he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word**,  
27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

- “...go thy way forth by the footsteps of the flock, and feed thy kids beside the shepherds' tents.” = The shepherd/king gives directions for the bride – focus upon the flock and future generations – “...feed thy kids beside the shepherds' tents.”

## Conclusion

As the bride longs to be with her shepherd/king, she expresses a very deep love for him from her soul. She wants to be WITH him. Believers should long for fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ, our Great Shepherd. The directions of the Shepherd/King apply to us, too. Focus on following the flock and take care of the children. Honor Him by being faithful to His commands.

Psa. 95:7 For **he is our God**; and **we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand**. To day if ye will hear his voice,

8 **Harden not your heart**, as in the provocation, *and as in* the day of temptation in the wilderness:



Psa. 100:3 Know ye that the LORD he *is* God: *it is* he *that* hath made us, and not we ourselves; **we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

Psa. 23:1 **The LORD is my shepherd;** I shall not want.

Jn. 10:11 **I am the good shepherd:** the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

1 Pet. 2:25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto **the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.**

1 Pet. 5:4 And when **the chief Shepherd shall appear,** ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.