

sermon notes

Oct 4, 2026 | Tony Caffey, Messiah Bible Church | **Song of Solomon**
“Longing, Desire, and the Goodness of Delayed Gratification” | **Song 2:8–3:5**

Two Scenes:

- 1) The _____: The wonder is worth the wait (2:8–17)
- 2) The _____: Delayed gratification is a means of sanctification (3:1–5)

Two Cautions:

- 1) The _____: Protect the garden of sexual delight (2:15)
- 2) The _____: Don’t get ahead of the marital covenant (3:5)

Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Song of Solomon 2:8–3:5. This passage divides naturally into two scenes: 2:8–17 and 3:1–5. Who is the main speaker in each scene? Where does the speaker change? What messages are being conveyed?

The woman says in 2:16, “My beloved is mine, and I am his.” How does this declaration support the Song’s portrayal of monogamous, heterosexual marriage? What evidence in the book supports this reading rather than a description of Solomon with one of his wives in the harem, a man with his mistress, or a woman with her adulterous lover?

The woman has strong words for the daughters of Jerusalem in both 2:7 and 3:5. How does this refrain relate to the rest of the Song? What is she asking of the daughters of Jerusalem?

GET PERSONAL

How are longing and desire presented in this passage of Song of Solomon? How is delayed gratification exemplified? Share your own experience in this regard. What are the dangers of instant gratification? What good can come from delayed gratification?

Reread Song of Solomon 2:15 and consider the meaning of that verse. What does it mean to catch the foxes in the vineyard? What damage do foxes cause? What might this metaphor represent? Why does the verse say, “Catch the foxes for us”? Who is the “us” in the verse, and who is being told to catch the foxes? How might the identities of the speakers and their audience affect your interpretation? How might this verse encourage us to approach sexual purity as a community responsibility?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Make a list of the things that you are trusting God for right now. Include those things that are most consuming in your life (e.g., employment, marriage, children, salvation of family members, eternity with the Lord). Take a moment to thank God for his faithfulness during the wait and for the ways he can work through delay. Is God good? Can he be trusted even when his answers differ from your hopes? Thank him for his provision of life and salvation. Ask him to help you trust his purposes as you wait.

ADVANCED QUESTION

What does the garden and vineyard imagery symbolize in the Song of Solomon? Do these images hark back to the Garden of Eden? If so, how, and why is that connection significant?