

DANCE OF MAHANAIM (6:11-7:10)

Genesis 2:23-25 Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

God intends that husbands and wives experience true sexual freedom in marriage. They should be abandoned sexually to enjoy unrestrained passion and to intoxicate one another with delight. His only boundary: one husband, one wife, in private, for life. Within this context God encourages FREEDOM! Exclusively with our mate, we have permission and are encouraged to be free with our WORDS, to be free with our BODY, and to be free in our MIND. But this is only possible when spouses learn to become Servant Lovers. We have seen over the last few weeks how sin and selfishness work against this goal, and that is why Jesus has to be at the center of a marriage. He is our example of true servant love and we are to imitate him in all of our relationships, especially marriage.

SOS 6:11-13 Rekindling of Desire

To put what’s happening here in context, Solomon had approached her many times and at the wrong times to make love and she refused him. She wakes up in Chapter 5 to find that Solomon is not with her. She has a dream that creates in her a desire to make love with her husband. Solomon shows up in Chapter 6 and assures her of his love regardless of her performance. Then Solomon returns to the palace and now she goes down to the garden to be alone with her thoughts. There she begins to think about Solomon, and her desire for him is rekindled and she seeks him out. She finds him and in the next verses she initiates lovemaking with him. Even though much of their problem was Solomon’s fault, she assumed responsibility for her own behavior. We saw at the end of Chapter 5 that she changes her attitude, and now we’ll see that she changes her actions.

SOS 7:1-10 The Dance of Mahanaim

Solomon’s wife actually performs an erotic dance for her husband. The dance before two armies or two companies is a translation of the Hebrew word “mahanaim.” This is an ancient strip tease that the queen performs for her husband. Solomon has been and continues to be verbally generous as a servant lover and he speaks the affirming words that she needs to hear. In this section of Scripture we see is that she is visually generous as a servant lover as she understands his visual nature and acts to meet his needs as a man.

Men naturally capture sensual images that can be stored in their minds from boyhood. These images can often pop up without warning, even if not wanted. They can also be recalled on purpose and entertained in a sinful way. As we are constantly bombarded with sensual images from our culture, wives can serve and love their husbands by seeking to understand their visual nature and the struggles they face to honor God and their wives in their thought life. An effective and biblical way for a wife to support her husband is to be visually generous—to fill his mind with many redeemed and beautiful images of her. This will help him make her his standard of beauty and give him strength to discard unwanted images from the world.

This is an example of servant lovers expressing sexual freedom in the exclusiveness of marriage. There are many, many reasons why married couples don’t experience this type of sexual freedom. Things like just plain selfishness, discouragement/lack of affirmation, porn addiction, abuse, guilt from the past, poor body image, fear of rejection or embarrassment, performance issues, and religious modesty among other things. Couples may have to work through some of these issues before they can really be free in their words, mind and body. It starts with embracing God’s perspective of sex as seen in the SOS. Then by learning to serve your spouse by giving your body to them as the great gift that it is. And finally, by being willing to demonstrate your freedom through new actions. By taking a risk—a leap of faith. For some, this may be years down the road. But prayerful goals can be set now to move in the direction that God intends for marital intimacy with your spouse—to become sexually free servant lovers—to be naked and not ashamed as one flesh