



HIS LOVE

Song of Solomon 2:4

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He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.

1. Which do you think is easiest or hardest for people: 1) To accept that God loves you? 2) To see yourself as loveable? 3) To love yourself? On what do you base your answers?
2. Do you think God's definition of love is different than the world's definition of love? How would you explain each definition?
3. Can you share personal examples of how you have experienced each definition?
4. Put another way, what has shaped your definition of love?
5. What does it personally mean to you when you hear that "God loves you"?

He brought me to his banqueting house...

6. Have you ever been to or seen the type of banquet that verse 4 describes? What was that like? What might it feel like to be there?
7. Read Matthew 26:26-29. These verses describe a very different banquet setting than verse 4. But, it is a banquet that Jesus has brought us to. Thinking about what Jesus says in these verses, what does it mean to you as a believer in Jesus that He has brought you to this banquet?
8. Read John 6:35. This verse describes some of what Jesus offers us in Himself at His banquet. What is it that we/others hunger and thirst for? How does Jesus satisfy these needs?
9. Read Revelation 19:7-9. These verses describes another banquet to be held in future history. What does it mean to you as a believer in Jesus that you will be at that banquet?

and his banner over me was love.

10. Consider the four symbolic meanings of banner which were shared during the sermon. Thinking about God's love, what can each of these mean for you personally: 1) Presence? 2) Identity? 3) Protection? 4) Victory?
11. Notice where the banner is located. What do you think is the significance of God placing His banner of love "over us"?
12. The word "banner" is probably the best translation of the Hebrew word "degel." However, "degel" also can be translated "serve" and rendered as an imperative: *"Bring me into the banquet hall and serve me love."* It is interesting to consider the Shulamite bride of Solomon speaking these words as a longing for the love of Solomon. How might we long for the love of God? And why might we long for God's love?
13. How might we act upon that longing?
14. Put slightly different... knowing that God loves you, how might you live differently this week in your relationship with Him? In how you think about yourself? In how you respond to others who need to know that God loves them?
15. If you had to pick just one insight or principle from this study that speaks to the condition of your heart, what would it be? Why? How do you plan to respond to it?