

Divine Gift of Love

Song of Songs 5:2-8

Old
Testament
Story Time

The Book of Song of Songs is unique in the Old Testament. First, the title of the book, Song of Songs, tells us it contains the greatest songs ever. The eight songs in the book are a collection of love poems between a man and a woman who are engaged to be married.

So why would love poems be in the Bible? The Song of Songs is filled with Hebrew idioms and metaphors. What do we mean by Hebrew idioms? Well, an idiom is a phrase where the words are not meant to be read literally, but rather convey a different meaning. An example is when we say “it’s raining cats and dogs.” This doesn’t mean that cats and dogs are literally falling from the sky, but rather that it is raining really hard.

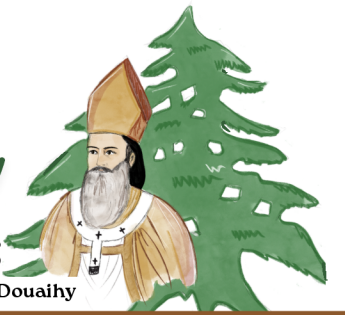
In the Song of Songs, the deep love and desire between the man and woman who are to be married represents the relationship the Lord God wills to have with His people. The Lord God has a deep love for His people, and He wants each of us to love Him in a similar way. Just as a man and woman to be married want to spend all their life together, so the Lord God always wants to be united with each of us.



The poems in the Song of Songs use many different images to describe the mystery and power of love, and some sound a little funny and are hard to understand. What does it mean that the bride’s fingers are dripping with myrrh? Well, myrrh was a precious perfume in ancient times and it was used for anointing, for embalming a body for burial, and as a sign of love. The flowing and dripping myrrh is an image to portray one’s overflowing love and devotion.

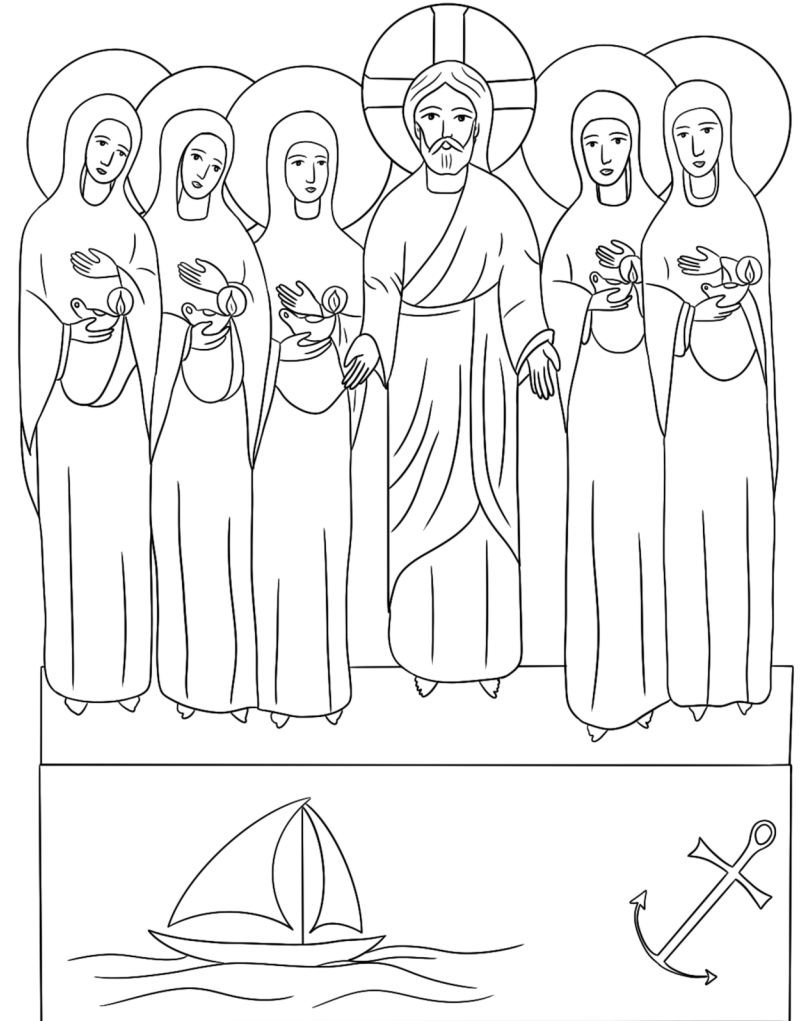
The Divine gift of love is a deep mystery. As the Song of Songs shows us, it is difficult to fully express how much God loves us and wants to be in relationship with us, and the best example is in the love between a husband and a wife.

Cedar Kids



The Way of Blessed Estephan Douaihy

5th Sunday after Holy Cross, Vol 1, No. 61



“Therefore, stay awake,
for you know neither the day
nor the hour.”





Gospel Corner

Matthew
25:1-13

Like the last few weeks, our Gospel reading this week is about Jesus' second coming. One day this world will end and Jesus will come and judge the living and the dead, but no one knows when that time will be.



In today's reading Jesus tells a parable about ten virgins and a Bridegroom. The virgins represent us and the Bridegroom represents Jesus.

The virgins bring their lamps while they wait for the Bridegroom to come. However, only five of them bring extra oil for their lamps. (In ancient times, lamps stayed lit with oil.)



The Bridegroom takes longer than they expect and the virgins who do not have extra oil have to go buy some before their lamps go out. While they are gone, the Bridegroom comes and takes the five prepared virgins with Him.

When the other five return, they realize they missed their chance to leave with the Bridegroom because they were unprepared and there is no second chance.



Jesus tells us this parable because He wants us to live every day as if it is the day that He is going to call us back. Let's not be caught unprepared at the store buying oil for our lamp, so to speak.

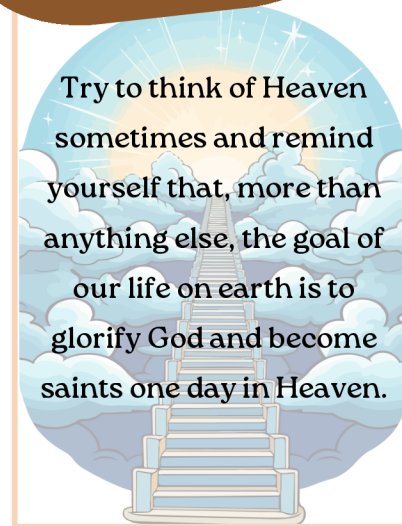
Did you know?

HEAVEN

Heaven is not a physical place in the clouds but the supreme, definitive state of happiness and ultimate fulfillment of humanity. Heaven is characterized by eternal, perfect communion with God, the Holy Trinity. This state is known as the "beatific vision" and involves a personal, living relationship with God and all the saints and angels for ever.



What you can do



Try to think of Heaven sometimes and remind yourself that, more than anything else, the goal of our life on earth is to glorify God and become saints one day in Heaven.





Which Lamp?


Follow each line to figure out which lamp belongs to each virgin.

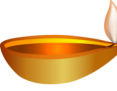
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2.  

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A. 

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