Word Document of This Week’s Homework (Lent #1)

**Sunday:**

1. What stood out to you from the above and why?

**Monday: Enjoying Christ Constantly**

        2. Listen to the message above from Michael Reeves and share your notes.

**Tuesday: As A Bridegroom Rejoices Over His Bride**

If you think the Puritans were "puritanical," that is rigid, not given to enjoyment, blushing at the mention of the marriage bed, you'd be wrong. Even Yale, where Jonathan Edwards had a short presidency before his death,  was reluctant to publish some of his "racy" sermons on The Song of Songs. I absolutely love it that the Reformers and the Puritans understood that the Song of Songs was not just about the earthly marriage bed, but about how Christ woos us, wins us, weds us, and yes, ravishes us! Oh, what our world has lost by pouring garbage on the marriage bed. The world, and many Christians as well, cannot even imagine how God might use marriage and the marriage bed, even though He created it,  to convey how deeply He cherishes us as His Bride.

3. Isaiah 62:5 says "As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you." How does a bridegroom rejoice over his bride? Try to put yourself in the bridegoom's shoes!

Watch the trailer for He Calls You Beautiful - it's the first movie clip on this page. You will see how profoundly Reeves impacted me!

<https://deebrestin.com/hecallsyoubeautiful/>

4. How would you describe the main message of The Song of Songs with the help of the above? Any other comments?

**Ash Wednesday: Death is The Destiny of Every Man**

Ashes are put on the foreheads of many who observe Lent to remind them that from dust they came and from dust they will return. It *is*important to remember this so that we number our days and apply our hearts to wisdom.

5. Why does Ecclesiastes 7:2 tell us it is good to go into the house of mourning?

I am struck by the difference in tone between Ecclesiastes and The Song of Songs, both attributed to Solomon. In order to fully understand Ecclesiastes, you must realize that for most of the time the writer has blinders on, and views life only "under the sun." He does *not,*for most of the book, look beyond his earthly life to God and eternity, but tries to find meaning "under the sun."  It has been called "the saddest song" in contrast to The Song of Songs, which has been called "the sweetest song."

6. Read the opening of each of these books, describe the tone of each, and then explain why you believe they are so different.

A. Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

B. Song of Songs 1:1-4

C. Why do you think the tone of these books is so different? What do you think God is communicating through this?

**Thursday: How Jesus Sees His Own**

The Song of Songs helps us understand just how tenderly Jesus sees us. The Shepherd/King keeps telling the Shulammite, despite her protestations, that she is altogether lovely, there is no flaw in her. He is gentle and oh so tender with her, the way an earthly bridegroom was meant to be with his bride.

7. Marinate in the following passages and ask God to help you believe this is how He sees you!

A. Songs of Songs 2:2

B. Song of Songs 2:10-13

 8. Click on the following link again and scroll down to the 3rd video (I love Lucy) and watch. Share your thoughts.

<https://deebrestin.com/hecallsyoubeautiful/>

**Friday: Gentle and Lowly**

In his book, Gentle and Lowly, Dane Ortlund contends that many of us who know God loves us still "suspect we have deeply disappointed him." But the Puritans can show us how deeply God loves us. Ortlund writes how Charles Spurgeon pointed out that there is only one passage in Scripture where Jesus describes his own heart.

9. Read Matthew 11:28-30.

A. What does Jesus tell us to do and why?

B. How does He describe His heart? Is this different than you sometimes think of Him?

C. What burden do you need to give Him right now -- and leave with Him?

**Saturday: Reflecting**

10. What is your take-a-way this week -- what do you believe God is saying to you for your life right now?