

## **The Gospel Unpacks Our Baggage**

(Song of Solomon 1:2-7)

None of us comes to Christ whole. We come broken, and we bring with us a lot of baggage. Our fallen nature, past sin, our losses and crosses, and the bumps and bruises we pick up along the road of life. Some of us bring great and open sins like Rahab the prostitute, or Saul of Tarsus, the religious agitator and murderer. Others bring deep personal spiritual oppression, like Mary Magdalene, or the woman of Samaria who had a string of failed marriages.

Jesus invites those struggling under the burden of life's baggage to come and find soul-rest (Matthew 11:28). There is no baggage that the gospel can't unpack, and this is the story of the Shulamite through the Song of Solomon.

When we first meet her, she is timid and insecure. She compares herself with others and feels unattractive (vs. 6). Despite her weakness, the Shulamite teaches us what to do when we are burdened by the haunting baggage of the past.

### **Look at the expression of divine love (vs. 2)**

A wounded spirit can often shut out the reality of God's love. We were "kissed" by God when Christ became flesh, and he continues to kiss us through his written Word. Look to him who loves you and gave himself for you (Galatians 2:20).

### **Lean into the influences of divine love (vs. 4)**

Proverbs 18:14 tells us that a crushed spirit is difficult to bear. The hurts of life can paralyse us, cause us to recoil and think that we are safest in our own shell. But we need to lean into the Lord, allow him to exercise his influence over us, to draw us to him, and cause us to run after him.

### **Listen to the voice of divine love (vs. 7)**

Allow the Lord Jesus to be your pastor. Listen to him and let him speak to you in the ministry of his Word, where he feeds his sheep.