

# Biblical Contexts for *Love (III)*

This verse marks that, and both do make a motion  
Unto a third, that ten leaves off doth lie: . . .  
Thy words do find me out, and parallels bring,  
And in another make me understood.

*The Holy Scriptures (II) (5-6, 11-12)*

1 Corinthians 11.23-25: Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

1 John 4.7-8: Beloved, let us love one another: . . . for God is love. (1)

Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back  
Guilty of dust and sin.  
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack  
From my first entrance in,  
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,  
If I lacked anything.

Gen 2.7: The LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground.  
Psalm 30.9: Shall the dust praise thee? Shall it declare thy truth?  
SoS 5.5-6: I rose up to open to my beloved; . . . but my beloved had withdrawn himself, and was gone. (2)  
SoS 3.2: I will seek him whom my soul loveth. I sought him, but I found him not. . . .

Canticles 3.4: I found him whom my soul loveth, I held him, and would not let him go,  
until I had brought him into . . . the chamber of her who conceived me.

A guest, I answered, worthy to be here:  
Love said, You shall be he.  
I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah my dear,  
I cannot look on thee.  
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,  
Who made the eyes but I?

Luke 15.21: I am no more worthy to be called thy son. (3)  
Rev 5.9: Thou art worthy . . . for thou . . . hast redeemed us.  
Ex 4.10: Moses said unto the LORD, . . . I am slow of speech.  
Ex 3.6: Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.  
BCP 293: Man and wife *pledge their troth . . . by joining of hands.*  
Ex 4.11: the LORD said unto him, who hath made man's mouth? (4)

Ephesians 5.28: So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies.

Truth Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame  
Go where it doth deserve.  
And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?

Gen 2.25, 3.7: both naked . . . not ashamed. . . . the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked.  
Heb 9.28: Christ was . . . offered to bear the sins of many. (5)

Luke 12.37: he shall make them to sit down to meat, and will . . . serve them.

My dear, then I will serve.

Luke 22.27: I am among you as he that serveth. (6)

John 6.53: Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:

Psalm 34.8: O taste, and see, how gracious the Lord is.

John 6.54: Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life.

So I did sit and eat.

Gen 3.12-13: I did eat . . . I did eat. (7)

Canticles 2.3, 4.16: his fruit was sweet to my taste. . . .

Let my beloved come into my garden, and eat.

1. See also John 15.12: Love one another, as I have loved you.  
2. See also Song of Songs 1.15: Behold, thou art fair, my love . . . thou hast dove's eyes.  
3. See also Luke 7.6-7: I am not worthy that thou shouldst enter under my roof. . . . neither . . . worthy to come unto thee.  
4. Also Isaiah 6.5, 9-10: Mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts, . . . [who] said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed; and Mat 13.16: Blessed are your eyes, for they see.  
5. See also Isaiah 53.11: My righteous servant . . . shall bear their iniquities.  
6. See also Luke 17.1-10: Which of you, having a servant . . . will say unto him . . . Go and sit down to meat? And will not rather say . . . serve me, till I have eaten and drunk; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink; and Philippians 2.9: [Christ] took upon him the form of a servant.  
7. See also Isaiah 52.2: Shake thyself from the dust, arise, and sit down; and Herbert's 23<sup>rd</sup> *Psalm*, l. 17: Thou dost make me sit and dine.