

Cam works now as a chemical engineer, which sort of describes one of his first jobs: food preparation for a sorority. That's where he met Jill, and as they told me, they took a class together, studied for an exam together, and then stayed together. Now they are planning to stay together forever. I'm sure Cam will now do as much food preparation as he wishes. This short story reveals a lot about this couple. They believe in hard work, making time for study, and seeking help for important events like an exam. Cam proposed on a pier because both he and Jill have an eye for beautiful landscapes. They share the Catholic faith, so they can behold the majesty of God in creation and in mutual love.

Those worlds of creation and love emerge in a book of romantic poetry called the Song of Songs. We heard a passage as our first reading today. Unabashedly sensual and joyous, it's the only book in the bible that does not mention God. The Christian interpretation has been, well, God created us, God gives us pleasure, and you can see God even in nature and in human love if you only have eyes. In this passage a woman sees her lover as a young stag springing across the mountains. He sees his lover as a dove in the clefts of the rock. He says to her, "Set me as a seal on your heart." Their love is so intense he wants to be sealed into her like wax. They want each other.

I suspect that sometimes God tricks us into falling in love with someone so he can achieve some greater purpose. When we experience true love, it can never be enough. We are so filled with love that we have to give some of it away. True love is a fountain that never runs dry. The love between parents pours into their love for children. No matter how many children they have, they love each one. The fountain of love never runs dry.

Families with true love give love to others in their community and beyond. Saint Paul wrote to the Colossians that they should put on virtues like garments: Put on "heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another.... And over all these, put on love." Yes, be compassionate and kind, but love your neighbor. Jesus makes the same point with two other images: salt and light. You are what flavors the earth; you are what brings light to the world.

Camden and Jill, not every couple chooses these passages for their wedding, but I love it that you did. Like the lovers in the Song of Songs, you are grateful for the physical and emotional joy that God has given you. Like the Colossians, your gift of love is something to be shared. And like the first disciples of Jesus, you accept the challenge to be salt and light, bringing the message of Christ to all the world.

It may be that when Cam got that job in the kitchen of Jill's sorority, God was tricking them to fall in love for his own greater purpose: so that they would share that love together with people God had in mind. Our prayer today is that everyone who meets Cam and Jill will come to see beauty in nature and in human love because these two have improved the landscape where others can experience the presence of God.