

Session 19: The Bride's Response to the 2-Fold Test

Session nineteen on the Song of Solomon, as we are continuing on a twenty-four class series called “The Song of Solomon: The progression of Holy Passion.” In this class we are going to be focusing on Song of Solomon 5:8, and continuing onto Song of Solomon 6:5. As always, I will have more notes than we will have time to cover in the class, so I am encouraging you to take some time to study this. This book is not, it is not enough to go through it once. You want to get it into your prayer life.

You want to find the key phrases that strike your heart that you speak to God in your worship time, in your spontaneous singing, when you speak the word against the enemy, and against your flesh when temptation rises up, when the enemy comes and tells you, “It is not worth it, give up, and give in.”

REVIEW: THE BRIDE'S CRY FOR THE INCREASE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

We say what Jesus said, we say, “it is written,” and we speak the Word of God back to the enemy. We speak it to our own soul in the way David did. He said, “soul,” and he would declare the Word of God to his soul. This book is so awesome, so filled with meaning, and relevant material, but it has to go from a handout in a class into the language of your prayer life.

Just a quick review of the last session of our the last class: in Song of Solomon 4:16, one of the key passages in the entire book, the bride prays a very courageous prayer, and a very important prayer: she asked for the north winds of pressure and of adversity, as well as the south winds of blessing to blow upon the garden of her heart. It is easy to pray for the south winds, but asking the Lord to do whatever it takes to cause us to grow up in love is a prayer that takes confidence that the Lord is a God of love, that Jesus is a King filled with love.

If we know who He is, then we can pray that prayer, and not draw back in fear. She prays to the Lord, to King Jesus, “Awake, O north wind, and come, O south! Blow upon my garden” (Song 4:16). She is basically saying, “let both of them blow upon the garden of my heart” (Song 4:16). Why? “That the spices of the grace of God,

of the presence of God would flow out of my life, that they would increase enough to flow out and be evident to other people” (Song 4:16, paraphrased).

Now she is about to experience this grace flowing out of her life in such a degree that the daughters of Jerusalem in Song of Solomon 5:9, we will look at it in a minute, they are awestruck and perplexed at the measure of the grace of God in her life. The graces truly flow in Song of Solomon chapter five, and then onto Song of Solomon chapters six through eight. Then she prays a second prayer: first, she asks that the blessing, and the pressure would flow in the right combination. She prays that the winds would flow to allow the spice of the grace and the presence of God to flow out of her life in a way that was evident to others. She prays that she could impart it to others, and that the Lord Himself would find pleasure in what He sees when He sees those spices in her life.

She prays the second prayer, “Let Jesus, my beloved one, come into His garden and find pleasure in it.” To eat the fruit, the pleasant fruit means, “I want Him to find pleasure in what is going on in my life, and my life is His inheritance. My life, I live for His pleasure and to be His inheritance.” Now you will notice as we looked at in the last class, that this is the passage where the garden of her heart goes from being her garden, she says, “It is My garden”—and from this point on in the Song of Solomon it is His garden. She is no longer only focused on the fact that she has an inheritance in Him, but now that He has inheritance in her. That is a radical paradigm shift when we begin to view our life, plan our future, and carry our heart with the revelation that we are God’s gift to His beloved Son, Jesus. Jesus has an inheritance in us, and not only do we have an inheritance in Him.

ONE OF THE GREATEST PRAYERS FOR MATURE LOVE AND DEDICATION

Paragraph B—this is one of the greatest prayers for mature love to be increased in our life in the whole Bible. Now it is spoken in a figurative way in the language of love, but it is a dynamic prayer. It is one of the great prayers of your life. I encourage you to have a personal devotional prayer list. I have had one for thirty years, nearly thirty years, over thirty years since I was eighteen and nineteen years old. I guess I am getting into my fifties. It has been over thirty years. I have had a personal prayer list where I would go through it, and I used to go through it daily, go through the list, but after a few years you tend to memorize it. I mean it gets really stamped on your memory. This is a prayer that you want on your personal devotional prayer list. You want to pray this prayer as one of your prayers that you

are contending for breakthrough in your own life, and that this would happen in your heart. I urge you to take Song of Solomon 4:16, and make it a part of your everyday prayer life.

THE LORD COMES TO HIS BRIDE AS THE “JESUS OF GETHSEMANE”

Paragraph D—what happens is Jesus, He comes. She responds by basically saying, “Come to Your garden, come to my life and take possession.”

He says, “Ok.” In Song of Solomon 5:2, He comes to her, and He says, “I want to experience something with you, and I want you to experience something new with Me. I want you to experience, to know Me in the place of difficulty. As a man, I know what you will go through. I did it for love, and I want you to do this and to be true to Me because you love Me.” It is called the fellowship of sufferings and we looked at it in class eighteen. We are in class nineteen.

He asked her to open her heart in Song of Solomon 5:2. He said, “Open to Me” as He reveals Himself as the Jesus of Gethsemane. She responds in obedience in Song of Solomon 5:3-5. Then He comes with what I call the ultimate two-fold test.

ARE WE IN IT FOR HIM OR ARE WE IN IT FOR US?

In Song of Solomon 5:6, He allows His presence to be temporarily lifted from her life, and the issue is, “Are you in it for Me—even if you do not feel the pleasure of My presence at this moment?” Then the second part of the test comes in Song of Solomon 5:7, where the watchmen or the authorities in the Body of Christ, in the Kingdom of God, they wound her and they strike her, and they take her covering away. So the two things she valued most to experience His presence, and to be effective in ministry to others, of bringing His glory to others, both of them were temporarily suspended.

So the question of the hour is, “Will you be true in love? Will you walk with Me, relate to Me for My sake, and not only for what you feel, or how much I will use you, or how big your ministry gets? Will you do this only for Me, or first for Me?” That is the more accurate way to say it.

TO BE “LOVESICK” MEANS WE WANT HIM MOST

Of course the answer is, “Yes.” In Song 5:8 where we left off in our last class, and where we will begin tonight, she says, “I am lovesick.” She is sick with love. She is in it for Him. Beloved, we can be lovesick. We can be sick with love which

means we want Him more than every other thing that comes in our heart. We want Him most, and we want Him first.

We do not have to be able to say that we want only Him. It is alright to have godly relationships, relationships in the will of God. It is okay to want blessing of God in your life, and in other things. It is not a matter of wanting Him and only Him. It is a matter of wanting Him first and most. There are many things in the will of God that are good, and they are of the hand of God. We are to rejoice in them. We are to pray for them. We are to value them, and we are to rejoice in them, but not first and foremost.

To be lovesick means we want Him most. Everything is good, if we do not have a connection with Him, our heart is sick with love because we want to connect with Him more, and we want to be truer in love. This is the glory of every single believer—to have that anointing of love operating in his or her life.

Well we must go through Song of Solomon chapter five, what we covered in our last class, we must go through that door to enter into depths of intimacy with the Lord. There is no way to pray the prayer of faith, and to skip the door of Song of Solomon 5:2-8. We have to go through that door. There is a dimension of Jesus we will not know if we do not stand in the place of difficulty, and be true in love. We have to choose to be faithful because we love Him, and not because we see or feel anything in the natural. That moves His heart as we will see in Song of Solomon 6:5.

He is overcome by that kind of faithfulness, and that kind of devotion to Him in the time where we could feel nothing at the heart level and circumstances were difficult. She stayed true in love, and He was overwhelmed. He says this to her in Song of Solomon 6:5, one of the high points of the whole book which we will look at in far more detail in our next class, session twenty.

WHEN WE DO NOT FEEL HIS PRESENCE OR CIRCUMSTANCES ARE HARD

Paragraph F. Sometimes we do not feel His presence—just to repeat, we looked at this in the last class. Our first tendency when our circumstances are difficult in our ministry, in life, or where the thing we want most, our ministry, or just the blessing of God in circumstances is being withheld, and we cannot feel His presence. The first tendency is to get depressed. It is very natural or to complain. Even to complain in a nice way. “Lord, what about, what about, what about?” The Psalms are filled with, “Lord, what about?”

It is biblical to complain to the Lord. It is not the highest way to walk with God, but it is Biblical. I have done it many times. There is more in the grace of God than complaining even if you can find a Bible verse to back it up. So in the difficulty, I call it exercising that muscle of faith. We are in the difficulty, and we cry out, “Oh God it is bad, it is bad it is bad. Why am I doing this? Why I am doing this? It is too hard.”

Then we recall that there is more than just a blessed ministry, feeling His presence, and things going well. “I am in it for love, and I am in it for You?” It is like, “Oh yes, I am in it for You Jesus. We realign our heart, and then a minute later, we feel the pain again.”

We say, “Lord, why am I even bothering with this? It is too hard, it is too mundane, it is the routine, and there is too much pressure. There are too many people against me. Why am I doing this anyway? Why don't I quit?”

Then the Word of God, and the Holy Spirit rises up within you, and you say, “I am doing it for Jesus because I love Him. Oh yeah, good point. I am doing it for You.”

We work that muscle ten thousand times ten thousand throughout our life, and the pressure realigns our heart with that mindset and then love grows strong in us under the pressure. Most people do not realign their heart in that kind of way when things are going great. They just kind of assume they love God. They go with it. When it is going difficult, we have to ask the question, and answer it ten thousand times ten thousand times. That realigning of our heart is like rewriting lines of code in our spirit. It strengthens our resolve in love, and actually our love matures because as we commit the Holy Spirit imparts more grace to walk in love. That happens at the most intense level, when we are working that muscle of faith, and when we are going, “Wait, why don't I just give up and give into this sin? This sin causes me so much turmoil and it causes me so much pain and shame and every time I cry and I fail. Why don't I just do it and not worry about it for a while?”

You say, “Oh yeah, I love You. You love me and I love You. Oh that is why I am resisting.” I tell you beloved when we realign ourselves in that reality, it realigns our heart, and the Holy Spirit bears witness to it with a small measure, just a regular increase of impartation of love.

He puts in our hearts, Romans 5:5, He imparts it into our heart. He does it, as we realign our self with truth, and we realign our self with love. Again, that happens most intensely, and in the most dynamic way when there is difficulty. I wish it would happen at the highest level when everything is good. We can do it more than we normally do when things are well, but most people just do not get around to it when things are going great. They just ride the wave. They are having the time of their life: "I love You Jesus!" They blow Jesus kisses on the run while everything in their life is increasing, and it is blessed. Jesus says, "Oh, you are into the 'blowing Me kisses now' stage. You used to seek Me, and cry out to Me. You promised that you would be Mine, if the breakthrough came."

A little breakthrough of favor comes, a little breakthrough of finance comes, a little breakthrough of ministry comes, and we get so busy managing it, and now we just blow Jesus kisses because we are so blessed by what He has given us. He says, "I do not want a bride who blows me kisses on the run. I want a bride who sits before Me, and I am number one to her, not My blessings are number one, but I am number one to her." So therefore, trouble causes us to realign more than times of blessing. If we are wise in love, we will do it in times of blessing. We let opportunities go by.

Beloved, we have to let many opportunities go by in order to stay steady in love in times of increase and blessing. I am just speaking this to younger believers in the Bible School. When I was in my younger twenties, I remember I just had so few opportunities, and I took just about every opportunity that came my way for ministry to increase, not all of them, but most of them. Now thirty years later, in my early fifties, I have so many opportunities around the world and many opportunities. I am not saying this to be a hot shot. I am saying this to tell you that it is a tenacious focus that I am presenting before you. I literally say "no" to forty-nine out of fifty requests for something that would increase my ministry. Forty-nine out of fifty times, I say "no" to it. I say, "No I am called to be here. I am called to be in the prayer room."

I cannot even meet that cool guy who is going to open a big door. I have to stay focused, and I have to have time for the Word of God. "I am a lover of God first before I am a worker. I have a lot of work to do. I mean I do plenty of work but I have so many opportunities." It seems like as IHOP is growing every week another door opens and I go, "No, no, no, no." I remember last year I turned down probably ten 5000-member conferences to be the main speaker at. I said, "No, no I

am supposed to be in the prayer room up in my little prayer station up there on the platform. I am supposed to be there in the prayer room.”

It is not a sacrifice. I am not saying this to be a hot shot. I am saying it because I am a lover of God first and I am a worker second. Your work will be far more effective, if it comes out of love. I do not want to blow Jesus kisses when I am the road to world prominence. I am just exaggerating it.

“Jesus, it was great knowing You. You know I love You” with a big thumbs up. “Hey, I will catch up with You later.” I am not going to do that with the Lord. That is the way that the Body of Christ relates to Him. Beloved, there is another way to relate to Him. I am way out on a bunny trail, and that is okay. Here is the point: the point is that we normally realign our heart in love in times of difficulty, but the wisdom of love says, “We do not have to wait for difficulty to do it. We can do it in prosperity but it will require saying no to many open doors of blessing.”

So what? So we miss an open door of blessing and we say “no” to it for love’s sake. The Lord remembers it, and He likes that stuff. Now, you do not say “no” for the sake of “no.” You say “no” for the sake of engaging with Him in a deeper way.

OVERVIEW OF SONG OF SOLOMON 5:8-6:5

Roman numeral II: an overview of Song of Solomon 5:8-6:5, and again we are just going to barely look at because you are not going to get this book in a presentation. Really what teachings are, do you know what is a teaching is? It is a big advertisement for a passage. You cannot really get a passage in a teaching. What happens in a teaching, a little impartation happens, and a couple important ideas, two or three will strike you that will maybe stay with you. What a teaching does is it points to the menu that says, “Go deep, read this, read this, study this, study this.” Do you know what? The menu of the Word of God is not good of enough.

You can go to the nicest restaurant in the earth, and study the menu and underline it with all kinds of different colors and everything else but if you do not eat the food it is not going to do you any good. A lot of people are menu connoisseurs. They go conference after conference, and they are menu connoisseurs. They do not ever actually eat the food, but they love the menu and they underline it. These truths must become a part of your secret, private prayer life. They must be things you say to God in the everydayness of your life, or they will never be written on your heart, and they will never move you deeply.

In Song of Solomon 5:8, she says, “O daughters of Jerusalem,” of course you know they are the sincere believers, but far more immature than the bride is at any time during her progression to holy passion. That is what I call her eight-chapter journey. They are sincere, but they are immature spiritually. They are throughout the Song of Solomon, asking her questions very sincerely. She goes to them, and she says, “Tell Him,” because she cannot find Him, and she cannot feel His presence: “If you find Him” (Song 5:8). I mean what humility!

When a lot of people get hurt in the Church, they boycott the Church. She was hurt in the Church, but she is going to the new believers class with a teachable spirit to receive from them. This is amazing. She says, “I am not offended at Him, and I will receive from anybody who will teach me.” There are two things going on here. She is not offended at the Lord because it would be easy to be offended at the Lord at this time of testing. She says, “Tell Him I am lovesick, and that I am not mad. Tell Him I am in it for love” (Song 5:8, paraphrased).

I AM IN IT FOR LOVE

Beloved, this is a great phrase of truth that you can confess before the Lord. “I am in it for love. I am lovesick. I want You more than other things.” That is the definition of being lovesick. “When other things get in the way, it pains my heart when other things get between You and me, Jesus. When I want more of You it pains my heart.” So we are lovesick because we want Jesus, and we by our own choice allow something in the way. It hurts our heart, and we regret it. We hate it all the way. We look at it and we go, “No, no, no, no this is not what I want. Yes, I did it.” Our heart is sick over that because we love Him. Then, we are sick with love in the positive sense that was the negative sense. We are sick with love because His stirrings are on our heart, but we want more. We want more. We want more. She says, “Go tell Him that. I am not offended.”

THE IMMATURE BELIEVERS ASK THE BRIDE TWO QUESTIONS

Paragraph C. Then the daughters, they ask her two questions, two very different questions, which are such an important part of this journey. In Song of Solomon 5:9, they ask her a question, and the question is, the essence of it is: “Why do you love Him so much?”

She says, "I am lovesick," and they are looking at her going, "Now wait. He just lifted His presence from you, and He let guys be really mean to you. Why do you want to be so radical in loving Him? Why are you lovesick? Why aren't you mad?" They are saying in Song of Songs 5:9, "What is your beloved more than anyone else? We do not get why you are so on fire for Him." That is the first question, "Why do you love Him so much?"

The second question after she answers the first question, "Why do you love Him?" and she gives the most magnificent answer in Song of Solomon chapter five. Oh my goodness, it is one of the greatest statements of the beauty of Jesus. Then after that statement, they are so blown away that they switch the question from, "Why do you love Him so much" to, "How can we experience Him like you are? How can we know Him? Where can we find Him? We want what you have."

Many believers in the Body of Christ will go to someone and say, "Well it is a tough time, and why are you hanging in there?" She does not just convert the carnal and the immature ones who are complaining and doubting. She goes to on-fire ones who are saying, "Well maybe you are right. Maybe this is crazy and a waste of time." No! No, it is not crazy, and a waste of time because we are investing everything in our life to pursue Jesus. She is going to give us the answer to where we can speak it to our own soul before the devil, when he attacks us and before sin. We can speak it to our own soul just in love before Him we can declare to Him, just in love to Him.

We can also say these answers of Song of Solomon 5:10-16 in the context that the bride did. She is telling the younger believers, or the spiritually immature believers who do not understand why she is so on fire, when she has had such a difficult time. Beloved we do not want the passive believers to talk us out of our fire. We want to impart the fire to them, but to often it goes the other way around.

FIRST QUESTION: WHAT IS IT ABOUT HIM THAT MAKES YOU LOVE HIM?

Roman numeral III: there are two questions in this passage, and the first question is, "What is your beloved more than anyone else, more than another beloved oh most beautiful" (Song 5:9)? They are awestruck with her, and they are impressed by her. They call her most fair or most beautiful. Remember, the elders just kicked her out of the Church in Song of Solomon 5:7. They said, "We do not believe the

controversy that is going around about you. We see the love of God you. We see such purity and devotion to the Lord.”

Beloved, when you press into the Lord there will be members, leaders in the Body of Christ that will stand against you who will resist you, and they will tell everyone in their sphere about you. Just settle it that that is not a big deal. It is part of the divine pattern. I have talked to people over the years and they say, “Man, they were so mean to me at the Church.” I say, “That is Song of Solomon chapter five, just settle down. It is not a big deal, and it is going to happen a few more times before it is over.” It is all about figuring out why you live the way you live. Why is it that you want to follow God anyway? Those elders will help you figure out that answer.

I like elders, as I am one. I am not saying that all elders are bad, but I am saying leaders, the watchmen, the authority figures, there are plenty of men and women of God who really love God, but they just got a little mean streak. They really do love God, but they just got a little mean streak. It really is to our benefit that we run into them occasionally. We do not have to connect to them everyday for fifty years but God has seasons where we connect with them, and they create the dynamic where our love grows. It is really actually an important part of our growth in the Lord.

So they say to her, “What is it?” Song of Solomon 5:9, “What is it that you see in Him that makes you so steady and so stable when He has allowed you to have so much trouble?” These are sincere believers, the daughters, they said, “You are beautiful. We think you are right. We do not believe the reports. We think that you are right with God.” Then they ask her the question again, they are so sincere, “What is your beloved more than another that you charge us to help you find Him because you are lovesick?” They said, “We do not have any comprehension of what you are talking about.”

Beloved, there are people in the Body of Christ, many of them who have no idea what you mean when you talk about going hard after God with all of your heart and all of your strength, they do not have any grid for it whatsoever. They understand going to church sixty minutes on Sunday two out of four times a month; they get that. They get putting a little bit of money in the plate, and they understand a little bit of that. But they do not understand this fanatical all of your money, all of your time, all of your energy, bearing trouble, fasting and prayer, believing for breakthrough, falling in love with God, sacrificing opportunities for

Him, “Like what are you doing?” They are truly born again believers. They just have no grid for it at all—zero understanding. When that happens you are on the pathway of the Song of Solomon, Bride of Christ lifestyle. It is not like you are looking for trouble. Trouble will find you. You do not have to look for it.

THE DEFINITION OF SPIRITUALLY MATURE IS WHEN JESUS IS OUR BELOVED

She is lovesick. She is not complaining, and she is not depressed by her troubles, but she is sick over them. “I want a breakthrough,” but she is not mad, and she is not quitting. This provokes them. Her love provokes them far more than her wisdom and her giftedness. Sometimes we might be tempted to think that if we are really wise and really articulate or have a lot of giftedness that then the people will finally say, “Yes.” The people are moved most when they see a heart that is burning. When I talk about burning I am talking about being steady in love. I am not talking about burning at a worship service shouting loud. That is not what I mean by burning. That is burning to do that too, but burning to me is not about the volume, or the lack of it, or what you do at a public service, or at a conference. Burning means steady for years with resolve of making choices of going deep in love. That is what it means to have a heart on fire.

A young guy came to me and said, “I want to do something radical.”

I respond, “What is radical?” Radical to me is a steady lifestyle, a fasted lifestyle through the mundane and the routine. That is radical.

They say, “No, I want to go to that meeting, scream, shout and wave a flag for eight days.”

I say, “Well that is cool, but that is not radical. Anybody can do that. They do that out in the world all of the time. It is called rock concerts. They do that kind of stuff everywhere. There is nothing wrong with that but that is not radical.”

Radical is Sermon on the Mount lifestyle for years with resistance, opportunities, difficulties, and staying steady. That is radical but you cannot do that in eight days. You cannot get on the bus and do that. You have to do that over months and years. That is radical Christianity, and that is what is moving these daughters.

They say, “Why are you so loyal to Him? Why are you so loyal to Him? We do not get what it is that you see that we do not see?” The daughters had other beloveds more important than Jesus. Many people in the Church, I have no doubt that there are plenty in this room that we have other beloveds more than the main Beloved. They are saying to her, “What is your beloved more than others? Why do you love Him more than the other loves of you life?” It is really easy in the Church and it is really common to love people, I am just talking about our three, four or five key relationships, more than the Lord Himself. To love friends and ministry—“Oh, I will do anything to get another open door of ministry, and to get my ministry to grow a little bit”—but you do not want to loose out in your love walk with God!

Money, some people in the Body of Christ are into leisure more than they are anything else. They search the Bible high and low to find Bible verses on grace to prove that leisure is the highest thing. Beloved, there is something better than leisure and free time. It is called burning (Lk. 11:36). Being a burning and shining lamp at the heart level before God, that is better than everything. So there are many, many loves in the Church that are more than our Beloved. So they said, “Why do you love Him more than the other loves that are even legitimate?” Some of these are very legitimate. Now the definition of spiritual maturity is when Jesus is our first Beloved. It is not that He is our only beloved. Some people say, “He is all, and He is the only.”

I say, “Probably not. There are probably five or ten things that you really like, and really appreciate a whole lot. Chances are they are of God.” Whatever their list is, they might have one on the list that is not of God. Maturity is that He is the first Beloved. He is the Beloved more than the other beloveds.

PASSION FOR JESUS IS THE MOST POWERFUL DIMENSION OF OUR MINISTRY

Paragraph H. Passion for Jesus, I mean love for God, love for Jesus is the most powerful dimension of any person's ministry. It is not how wise they are, or how great the song, is or how great the book is, how great the drama is, how great the track is, how great the outreach is.

The thing that moves people most is a heart that burns. I am talking about a consistency of fearing the Lord and going deep in God. I want to ask a question, and my point is not to point out that you are messed up. That is not my point in the question. My point is for you to make this one of your life visions or part of your life vision. Here is the question: Is there anyone in your life in the last three months

or twelve months who has come to you and said, “Tell me how you carry your heart with God because the way you live with God moves me.”

Has anyone said that to you in three months, six months or twelve months to where they would actually say, “I just want to be around you because you have something in God and I got to have it. I do not even know what it is you have, but you have a consistency in God.” I am not talking about you having to have a big preaching ministry. Has anyone said that to you in your life? Now, my point is not to say, “No, aren't I a creep?” No, no that is not my point. My point is that it is within your reach in the grace of God to have a life in God where people will come to you.

They may not say the exact terminology that I am using, but they will say, “I want more of what you have. It is like my goodness you have got something. Tell me how you do this. How do you make it work?” They may not ask you for a weekly Bible study but there is a, “How do you do this? You are going hard, and I want to go hard like you are going hard.” Beloved, you do not want to be content if no one ever asks you that question. Do not get yourself in a mindset, “Well if I could preach at the conferences then maybe someone in the conferences would ask me.” No, no, no. I am not talking about a preaching ministry. I am talking about the way people observe your life coming and going, coming and going. I am just talking about one-on-one kind of thing. I am not even talking about a public ministry type of thing. It may be a public ministry, but people are desperate to know what it is that you have because, “You stay focused on Jesus in prosperity, and in adversity, you stay focused. What is it that you have?”

Make that part of your life vision. You are saying in God, “I am going to walk in that, and I am going to touch that realm before this thing is over.” Now what the bride does, we are just going to go through these ten attributes really fast.

THE BRIDE'S ANSWER: THE MAJESTIC SPLENDOR OF JESUS (SONG 5:10-16)

She answers the question because the question is, “What is you Beloved more than another beloved? Why is it that you tell us to find this One you are lovesick over? Who is He, and what does He have that makes you lovesick? Tell us the secret.”

She is going to break out in one of the most dynamic statements of the beauty of Jesus, it is written in the poetic language of love in her agricultural lifestyle, it is

written in the language of her own heart, and her own life. I mean when you read it, you know that girl is a farm girl when you read this description.

It is the language of agriculture, which was the common language of the day, and it is in the language of Solomon's Temple, the Temple is where the glory of God was manifest. It was in the gold and the silver and the pillars of the Temple. It is in agricultural language, and it is in the language of Solomon's Temple, the language of worship from Solomon's point of view. She speaks part of it from her heart as a farm girl, and part of it from His heart, He is the king who built the Temple. It is really a Shulamite woman who is speaking this to Solomon, talking about their natural love relationship, their relationship in love. This is spiritually used by the Holy Spirit to speak of King Jesus of course.

SONG OF SOLOMON 5:10-16

Paragraph B. This is one of the most powerful revelations of Jesus in the Scripture. It is worth breaking this down. If this is the first time you read it, it maybe will not even make much sense to you, but when it is the hundredth time you have poured over it, and a few years have gone by, and you have poured over it many, many times. You are saying, "Holy Spirit, I want to know what every single phrase means. I want to know what it means. I want to be able to speak these words about Jesus, and to Him.

I want to speak them to other people about Jesus, and I want to speak them to Jesus about Jesus. I want to speak them to the devil when he lies to me about Jesus. I want to speak them to my own soul when I am discouraged about Jesus." There are ten statements. His head, His locks or hair, His eyes, His cheeks, His lips, His hands, His body, His legs, His countenance, His mouth, and then she says, "He is altogether lovely."

HE IS WHITE, DAZZLING AND RADIANT

First, she starts off with a general statement, "My beloved is dazzling" (Song 5:10). I like the New American Standard (NAS) that says, "He is dazzling." I also like the New International Version (NIV) that says, "He is radiant." White is cool but radiant and dazzling is more accurate. Jesus is dazzling. He is "chief among ten thousand" (Song 5:10). That is the general statement. It is like, "Wow!" These daughters of Jerusalem are saying, "Wow, you mean business. You are awestruck by this one. You are fascinated. Your heart is filled with marvel. You are filled with wonder. What do you know that I do not know?"

Then she gives ten different attributes of Jesus, and then she ends it with a summary statement in Song of Solomon 5:16, “He is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend.” Now, I have just a few statements in the notes, and we are not going to go through this just for time’s sake.

However, I have a far more in-depth statement. As I looked over it, I want to add some things to it, so I do not have it on the internet right now, but it is many pages. I cannot remember, but maybe twenty, thirty, forty and maybe fifty pages, a whole lot of pages. I have it on a word file, and I just went through it, and I say, “Oh yeah, I poured lots of time over the years into that. I want to update it.”

For those of you saying “I want to go deep on this description on Song of Solomon 5:10-16, these seven verses,” I will have more on the internet for you. My real point in this class is to tell you that the passage is there and to urge you to go after it.

SHE IS LOVESICK BECAUSE SHE FOCUSES ON JESUS RATHER THAN TESTS

Paragraph C. These are the areas of focus and meditation, meaning the personality of Jesus. The attributes of Jesus, and the personality of Jesus is the same subject. This is why she is lovesick because of what she knows about Jesus.

She is not lovesick because she wants to be lovesick; she is lovesick because it is the fruit of what she understands about the Man Jesus. When we go deep in the knowledge of God the fruit is to be lovesick. You cannot be lovesick by willing it, you are lovesick as the byproduct of encountering the knowledge of God. It is knowledge of Him that makes you lovesick. It is not like just, “I am going to be lovesick, I am going to be lovesick, and Jesus make me lovesick.”

The Holy Spirit would say, “Fill your heart with the knowledge of who He is, and you will be lovesick more and more.” You cannot do that on the run. You cannot do that when your life is so busy. You cannot go deep in the knowledge of God when your life is so full that you do not have any time, even an hour a day to stop and meditate. The reason she is lovesick is because she is focused on these attributes instead of on her two-fold trial. I think it would be very natural to understand that she would be focused on the trial she is going through. She is still in the trial right now. The trial is not over. She is in it. She is worshiping Him, and

declaring who He is in the middle of the rejection from the elders, from the watchmen and from the sense of not feeling His presence. She is speaking it directly by faith. The way we overcome self-focus is by going deep, and searching out the beauty of Jesus. These attributes or just knowing who He is, I do not mean just the ten in Song of Solomon chapter five, but the subject of the knowledge of God, the attributes of God, they will stabilize your heart in the storm.

Paragraph D. I am trying to be helpful in this. I have done this for many years. When I am in turmoil, not every time, but many times when I am in turmoil, my heart is in anguish, and things are really hard. I really do this as a decision. I made this decision many years ago. I mean literally thirty years ago, I made this decision. I study books about the personality of God. I read them. Sometimes it is my own notes. I say, "Oh yeah. I forgot." Sometimes it is other people's books. I like to be in the context of worship music when I do it. I get the books of the attributes of God, and I study them, I read them when my heart is hurting. Beloved, I have never had anything be medicine to my heart like this. One of my favorite books is "The Existence and Attributes of God" by Stephen Charnock. That is a big book. It is about two volumes about two inches a piece like font three. It is so small, the print.

We have it on electronic copies. It is one of the most magnificent statements on the personality of God, it is called "The Attributes of God," ever written in history as far as I am concerned. It is worth going through. The other books I have worked through are "The Knowledge of the Holy." That is a little book but it is awesome. "Knowing God," or "The Pleasures of God" by John Piper. I have a few other books down there by some other guy.

She goes through the general statement, "My beloved is radiant, He is dazzling, He is outstanding. He is chief among ten thousand" (Song 5:10). She then lays out ten attributes and then she concludes with the summary statement, "He is altogether lovely. This is my beloved and this is my friend" (Song 5:16).

SECOND QUESTION: WHERE IS HE THAT WE MAY SEEK HIM WITH YOU

Roman numeral VI. Now, after she has given this awesome statement of who He is to her, Song of Solomon 6:1, they basically say: "You know what? Our first question is what is your beloved? Why are you lovesick? Who is He and what do you know that we do not know?" She gives this rapid-fire declaration of the

majesty of Jesus. The daughters are like, “Wow, you know something we do not know.”

Now their question changes from, “Who is He or what is He?” Now it is a new question, “Where is He? We want to know Him. We want to seek Him. We want what you have. We want that kind of reality.” She is still in a time of pressure. She is in love, and everything is going bad. Beloved, she is in it for love, and there is no question whatsoever. They say, “We want to know what you know, and we want to have what you have.” They are no longer content, the daughters of Jerusalem; they are no longer content to live at a distance like they have been living at a distance.

BRIDE'S TESTING RESULTS IN OTHERS BEING DRAMATICALLY CHANGED

Paragraph E. The bride's testing is resulting in the lives of others being dynamically changed. Beloved, when you are in a time of testing, not only is something deep happening in your heart if you are responding right. Did you know that you can waste a good test? You know that don't you? You can waste a good trial. People have gone through many temptations, trials, and they just waste it. They just give up and give in, and just kind of wait it out. It is like, “Why did you do that?”

You know how the Lord's tests are. The Lord's tests are all open book tests. You can open the book, and take the test. It is an open book test. You can look over at your neighbor's paper, and you can cheat on it, and you can ask somebody the answer. The Lord does not care where you get the answer. The great part about it is you cannot fail because if you fail it, you get to take it again and again and again. You never fail it. I mean the Lord is very different than the university system. It is an open book test, and you can ask your neighbor for the answers. You get to take it over and over and over. Let the reader understand.

Beloved, we do not want to waste a good trial. I am serious. We want to go deep. Not only is something happening in our soul, but others are watching us, whether you know it or not. If we go deep in God, they are going to come along and say, “I want to know how to go deep in God when my heart is hurting. I want to know what you know.”

Paragraph E. The Holy Spirit is raising up a host, an army of lovesick messengers. I do not mean just preachers on a platform. They will preach and sing on platforms, but far more than just preachers and singers on a platform these lovesick messengers will communicate the knowledge of God, how lovely He is, and prepare the end-time Church to stand strong in the midst of the greatest pressures that will ever come upon the earth.

I am looking ahead to our next class. Jesus breaks the silence. Finally the silence is broken. He has been silent the whole time. She cried out in Song of Solomon 5:6, “Where are You? Where are You? I seek You. I cannot find you. I cry out, and You do not answer. Where are You? Where are You? Where are You?”

She looks at the daughters of Jerusalem and says, “Hey if you can find Him tell me where. Tell Him I am lovesick” (Song 5:8).

They say, “If we find Him, we will tell you. Why are you so lovesick?” Then she gives this awesome answer, and then they said, “Do you know what? Why don't you tell us about Him instead of ask us about Him?”

JESUS BREAKS THE SILENCE

Now Jesus breaks the silence. Beloved, there is a time when the silence is broken. He looks at her and He says this, “Oh my love, you are as beautiful as Tirzah” (Song 6:4). We will break this down in the next class. “You are as lovely as Jerusalem. You are as awesome as army with banners” (Song 6:4). An army with banners was an army that came back, after the victory in the city procession. An army with banners came back in victory and marched down the street, that means, “You defeated the enemy in that test. You are victorious.” Then the Lord says to her, “Turn your eyes” (Song 6:5). He is speaking in the language of love: “Away from Me. For your eyes have overcome Me” (Song 6:5).

I tell you that all of the armies of hell cannot defeat Jesus. The only thing that overcomes Him is believers who love Him. That is the only thing that overcomes Him. Beloved, she was in the most difficult time of her life, and she was overcoming His heart. He declares over her in Song of Songs 6:4 (paraphrased): “You are as beautiful as, as lovely as, you are a victorious army. You have overcome Me all through the time even though the elders were against you and the daughters of the Jerusalem could not help you, I was watching you every single moment of the way.”

Again we will look at that in the next class. I am looking forward to the next class. Let's stand. The Lord will touch us now. Oh what a awesome passage that Jesus answers in Song of Solomon 6:4-10. It is a long answer. He gives an answer to her as long as the answer she gave about Him. She had the extravagant statement in Song of Solomon chapter five, and He gives an equally extravagant statement about her in Song of Solomon chapter six. Beloved, we will never out love Him, never, never, never.

MINISTRY TIME

I want to invite different ones of you. You are in a season of testing right now. It is probably everybody, nearly everybody but some of you are in a really intense time. Nobody even has to understand it.

It might be something that is just between you and the Lord, and you are saying, "I have to get a breakthrough at this level or that level. My heart is hurting, the devil is whispering in my ear. I am not going to listen to him, and I need to stand steady, and I need to declare to Jesus who He is, and declare to the devil who He is."

I want to invite you to come and stand up here before the Lord as we worship, and you declare your commitment to the Lord. In a few minutes, I am going to ask the others if you will to come, and just move around as they stand on the lines here. Move around and put your hand upon their shoulder and pray, "Lord, give them grace."

Beloved, the Lord says to you, "When you are steady in a time of difficulty, He says, "Oh My love, you are as beautiful as Tirzah and you are as lovely as Jerusalem. You are as awesome as an army with banners."

When He says, "Turn your eyes away from Me," He is talking in extravagant love language (Song 6:4).. He says, "You are conquering My heart with your love. You are moving Me by your steadiness. You believe Me when you feel nothing. You have set your heart on Me when everything is contrary. You overcome My heart."