

SONG OF SONGS: CHALLENGING THE COMFORT ZONE

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I. REVIEW

- A. **Last time we talked about how the Bride has just realized that her spiritual identity and purpose** (she calls herself Rose of Sharon and Lily of the Valley) **in life is to be the inheritance promised by the Father to Jesus.** Jesus wants more than obligatory obedience, He longs for an eternal companion who willingly chooses to love Him with worshipful obedience.
- B. Jesus has a specific plan and purpose for each believer, which is to bring us to the place of celebration at God's banqueting table. In other words, to celebrate Her love for us and our love for Her (His banner over us is love).

II. THE HOLY SPIRIT KEEPS US IN STRATEGIC SPIRITUAL STAGES

Song. 2:7 "Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you by the gazelles and by the does of the field: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires {until the time is right}."

- A. In this portion, the one who is speaking is the Holy Spirit. The agenda of the Holy Spirit for the Bride (the Church) in the first stage was to awaken love in her until she made her sick with love, by going deeper into the Word, feeding on apples and raisins in the banquet room (**Songs. 2:3-5**). **He has ordered strategic stages in the spiritual life of each person.** There are stages, where He longs to establish our hearts in the new and profound revelations of His heart. **Many do not see the need to dedicate stages of their life to go deeper in God and His word but this is something essential not only for our spiritual growth but also for growing in our relationship with God.** Ezekiel and John were told to eat from the scroll, that is, to understand God's word in a profound way (**Ezek. 3:1-2; Rev. 10:9-11**).
- B. **"O daughters of Jerusalem"** In Song of Solomon, the daughters of Jerusalem represent other believers who have no discernment of the moving of the Spirit. **At this stage the Holy Spirit solemnly calls other believers not to bother or disturb with opinions or judgments those with a devout heart.** The Spirit tells those who are not sensitive to the ways of the Spirit not to interrupt the Bride in her particular stage of sitting at the table to be sustained and comforted by the word and the Spirit. Most only listen to the stream that tells them: do not seek God so much, better grow in ministerial activity.
- C. When He conjures the maidens for the gazelles of the field, **He is speaking of the importance of gentleness and sensitivity in relating to the Bride at this stage.** A gazelle or doe has a sensitive nature and can be spooked very easily. **We must have sensitivity in relating to others who are in different stages.**
- D. In the phrase, **"Until it pleases"** here it does not refer to the Lord being moved by the daughters of Jerusalem. The Lord does not need to be motivated by the gentleness represented by the gazelles. **It is the Bride who must be protected from distraction. Most of us are easily distracted from focusing on the Word.**

- E. Three times Jesus says this phrase, **"Do not lift up or wake up my love, until I want to"** (2:7; 3:5; 8:4). Here she is talking about how God wants voluntary love, loyalty and devotion. In 8:4, He used the same phrase **"do not disturb her"** however in the third reference, He omits the phrase *"by the gazelles of the field"* because she is no longer immature and nor is she easily moved in the wrong direction. (Eph. 4:14).

III. 7 CONFESSIONS OF FAITH IN SONGS 2:1-7

A. When we worship or when we are tempted we must proclaim the seven confessions of the Bride in this passage:

1. **I am the rose of Sharon** (Songs. 2:1) We are the inheritance of the Father for Jesus (Eph. 1:18).
2. **I am the lily of the valley** (Songs. 2:1) Our identity is founded on loving and fully obeying Jesus. (Jn. 14:23).
3. **Like the finest apple tree in the orchard is my lover among other young men** (Song. 2:3a). We declare that Jesus is not only our Savior but also our delight (Jn. 6:35).
4. **I sit in his delightful shade and taste his delicious fruit.** (Song. 2:3b) Jesus is the source of our joy and satisfaction (Jn. 7:37-38).
5. **He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love** (Cnt. 2:4) His purpose is glorious and his leadership is perfect (2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:28).
6. **I am sick with love** (Song. 2:5) We are called to have deep emotions in our longing for more of Jesus (Mat. 5:4).
7. **His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me!** (Cnt. 2:6) Both the external or evident movement and the internal or subtle movement of God in our lives are real (Eph. 3:20).

IV. JESUS REVEALS HIMSELF AS THE SOVEREIGN KING

Song. 2:8 "The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes, leaping over the mountains, bounding over the hills."

- A. **This passage marks the beginning of a major change in the maiden's life. The Lord reveals himself to her as the sovereign King over all nations** (Jesus' third revelation in Song of Solomon). She knew Jesus as the counseling Shepherd (Song 1:7-11) and the loving Father (Song 1:12) sitting at the table lovingly feeding her with grapes and apples. Now she sees a different aspect of His personality seeing Him as one who can easily jump over all mountains (obstacles). The depth of their commitment, as we will see in Song. 4-8, flows from this new revelation of Jesus
- B. In Song. 1:4 the maiden cried out, **"Draw me; We will run after you "**. Now a spiritual crisis begins in her as Jesus introduces the **"let's run together"** phase in her life. This is your second crisis after discovering your fear. In Song. 1:5-7 faced her first spiritual crisis by discovering her sin and here her fears.
- C. **The maiden receives a new revelation of Jesus as the sovereign King.** She sees Him as the "Lord of the nations" who easily conquers all the rugged

mountains or high places. She sees Jesus as a fawn that could easily leap over the mountains in victory. A fawn has the ability to easily and quickly ascend a mountain with unlimited energy.

- D. **Jesus is presented standing or ready for action.** He is usually presented in the Scriptures, sitting in rest and victory, with His feet on His enemies (**Ps. 110:1**). When Stephen died, the Lord rose to meet him. When Jesus rises, then powerful things are about to happen.

Acts. 7:55 *"But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God."* (NIV)

- E. **King Jesus triumphed over all demonic powers and principalities (Eph. 1:22).** He has overcome all obstacles (human and demonic). This is why we can command "the mountains of adversity" to move. Collados (hills) being smaller than mountains speak of the minor difficulties we face.

Mar. 11:23 *"Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them."*

- F. Zerubbabel was told to proclaim grace to the mountains of adversity that were before him.

Zc. 4:7 *"What are you, mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground. Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of 'God bless it! God bless it!'"*

V. JESUS SEES US IN SECRET

Song 2:9b *"Behold, there he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, looking through the lattice."*

- A. **Jesus stands behind a wall, looking into the house where the maiden rests without interruption.** He is described behind the door of the Laodicean church when He knocked on the door (**Rev. 3:20**).
- B. Jesus looks at her through the windows with the intention of attracting her with His gaze to bring her into a deeper relationship with Him.

VI. CHALLENGING THE COMFORT ZONE: CALLING TO DEEP UNION WITH JESUS

Song. 2:10 *"My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away""*

- A. **Jesus called her out of the comfort zone so that she could experience deep union and association with Him** but she refuses to obey Him out of fear and tells him to turn around and go without her (**Song 2:17**). **The Lord is testing your confession that God's banner (purpose) in your life is to reveal and impart His love to you.** The issue she faces is whether or not she trusts that Jesus' leadership is good. In other words, **is it safe to obey Jesus one hundred percent, even when it is costly and painful?**
- B. **My beloved spoke She recognizes the voice of her lover.** Every time the Bride speaks to Jesus she calls him "**my Beloved**" and when she talks to others about Jesus she refers to Him as **the One who loves my soul**. Every time Jesus speaks to the Bride in Song of Solomon, He calls her "**my friend**" or "**my**

beautiful one", referring to His affection for her, referring to her beauty. The name **"my beloved"** is used 22 times in Song of Solomon.

- C. **"Arise, my friend, my beautiful one" Jesus speaks to us tenderly with love when he calls us out of the comfort zone to join him in the mountains where there are risks. Jesus is ready for action and deep union with the maiden.** He calls her to rise from her comfort to go with Him to conquer the mountains of this fallen world. Jesus commissioned his Bride to work with Him as He brings the nations to obedience.

Mt. 28:19 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..."

- D. **Jesus challenges us to go to the mountains of faith and total obedience. These high places involve accepting difficult tasks and relationships that challenge our sense of security and comfort; But she doesn't like the risks of walking by faith or the struggles of spiritual warfare.**
- E. **John Wimber said that faith is spelled "R-I-S-K."** Faith (trust in God) is the way to the kingdom. **The question is, is it safe to go outside of the comfort zone with Jesus?** In the flesh, it seems safer to be in the boat with Jesus rather than in the water with Him. This is one of the most practical foundational truths that all of us must live by.
- F. **She must rise up if she yearns to experience mature union with Jesus. We can still go to heaven with a "comfort zone" Christianity but we won't be deep in our union with Him.** There are 6 verbs used in **Song. 2:8-10** to describe the process that Jesus uses to awaken us to mature union with Him. This includes Jesus **coming, jumping, jumping, looking, observing, and speaking**. Our beloved is bold and wants us to be like Him to break our stagnation.

VII. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. **In what ways do you consider the Lord is calling you out of your comfort zone?**
2. **How do you consider that you are responding to that call? Explain**
3. **Talk to your friends in the Friendship Group about some decisions you are going to make this week to move forward in your walk with the Lord.**