

SONG OF SOLOMON: THE BELOVED BREAKS THE SILENCE

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Songs. 6:2-3

"My beloved has gone down to his garden, to the beds of spices, to browse in the gardens and to gather lilies. 3 I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine; he browses among the lilies"

I. THE BRIDE ANSWERS THE QUESTION: WHERE IS YOUR LOVED?

- A. ***"My beloved descended into His garden."*** The Bride responds to the request of the daughters of Jerusalem and shows them where they can find Jesus in an intimate way. Jesus dwells in His garden to gather and feed His people. His garden (singular) speaks of the Church throughout the world which is made up of local churches. **Jesus is in His Church and He is building her (Mat. 16:18)**
- B. The bride declares, ***"My beloved has gone down to his garden, to the beds of spices," (Song 6:2).*** The beds of spices (plural) are in His only garden which is The Church (singular). There is a Church on earth, but there are many different beds of spices. The spices speak of manifestations of grace in the different ministries that God has established and each one is a unique species. Every "bed of spices" in the garden has a rich fragrance of Christ. Jesus loves the whole Church.
- C. When we compare **Song. 1:7-8** with **6:2-3**, we see that the bride gives the daughters of Jerusalem the same answer that Jesus gave her at the beginning of the Song when she asked Jesus ***"Tell me, where do you feed your flock?"*** **Song. 1:7-8** Jesus gave her a very clear instruction.

Song. 1:8 ***"... follow the tracks of the sheep and graze your young goats by the tents of the shepherds."*** This speaks of three things:

1. **Commitment to the church life (v.8c):** We must reject isolation for selfish reasons.
2. **Commitment to the ministry of service (v.8d):** We must reject idleness and passivity.
3. **Commitment to spiritual authority (v.8e):** We must reject independence that is disconnected from the body.

II. JESUS BREAKS THE SILENCE WHILE GIVING HER AFFECTION.

Songs. 6:4 ***"You are as beautiful as Tirzah, my darling, as lovely as Jerusalem, as majestic as troops with banners."***

- A. Jesus breaks His silence to honor the beauty of His beloved using three metaphors; after she proclaimed, ***"If you find my beloved, That you tell him I am lovesick!"*** (Song 5:8). **Her beauty is found in her response to the love of**

Jesus. He celebrates the beauty wrought in the young woman by the Holy Spirit. In the Song, the Lord affirms the beauty of the bride nine times (**Song 1:15 [2x]; 2:10, 13; 4: 1 [2x]; 4:7; 6:4; 7:7**).

- B. **"You are as beautiful as Tirzah, my darling [friend]"** The Lord communicates the level of deep relationship he has with her by calling her **"my friend"** and declares her as beautiful as the city of Tirzah, one of the most beautiful cities in the ancient world. Tirzah means beautiful. Before Israel conquered the land under Joshua, Tirzah was the capital city of the Canaanites (**Jos. 12:24; 1 Kings 15:33; 16:61**). Shortly after Solomon's death, a civil war divided the nation of Israel (931 BC). Jeroboam, the king of the northern kingdom chose Tirzah as his capital city (**1 Kings 14:17; 15:21; 16:6**) because it was the most beautiful city in the North which was part of the territory of the tribe of Manasseh.
- C. **"...as lovely as Jerusalem"** Jesus declares that the Bride is as lovely as Jerusalem, which was the spiritual capital of Judah. **It is the city chosen by God to dwell and reign from there, which was the only place on earth that was continually blessed with the manifest presence of God** (the Shekinah glory in the most holy place). God ordained this city as His worship center for the whole world (**Isa. 2:1-4; Ze. 14:16-19**).
- D. **Tirzah speaks of the natural beauty that affects even unbelievers. Jerusalem refers to the spiritual beauty that believers value highly. That the Bride is as beautiful as Tirzah and Jerusalem refers to her impact on believers and unbelievers.** Unbelievers see the bride's sacrificial love and her pure motives. **They see her as someone who gives everything for love.**
Mat. 5:16 "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."
- E. **"As majestic as troops with banners."** In the ancient world, when an army returned victorious from battle, it displayed its banners on a military tour. An army that had been defeated lost its banners. **She defeated her greatest enemies, those who were in her heart. She ended her time of trial as a victorious army with banners because she did not give in to sin or doubt. She won the victory over her own heart. When we feel nothing but fix our gaze on Him with devout eyes, the Lord's heart feels a lot.** The shadows of his sin and his fears are gone (**Song 2:17; 4:6**). She conquered them by grace.

III. JESUS DESCRIBES THE IMPACT THE BRIDE HAS ON HIS HEART

Song. 6:5 "Turn your eyes from me; they overwhelm me..."

- A. **This is one of the most important statements in Scripture as to how God feels about our love.** When He speaks of the maiden's eyes, we understand that she is referring to her look of love for Him.
- B. Jesus is not literally asking you to look away from Him. He is speaking poetically in the language of extravagant love. **His heart is conquered and**

deeply moved by our love for Him; we see it in **Song. 5:10-16** during the trial time. When the daughters asked, "**Why do you love Him so much?**" she spoke to them about Him as all lovely and resplendent.

- C. **Our eyes of devotion touch the heart of Jesus. Our greatest glory is that we can touch the heart of God.** The greatness of the stars, the oceans and the mountains cannot move his heart. The great army of men or demons are nothing before Him. **The bravest warrior in history is "conquered" by our love, when we are sincere before Him in times of trial.** This gaze from **Song. 6:5** is even more intense than his gaze from **Song. 4:9**.
- D. **He is captivated by a weak and broken people who truly love Him.** While she felt nothing in times of trial the Lord felt everything. Our love for Him, in the midst of trial, is more precious than we can comprehend. The young woman did not know the impact that her love had on His heart because she could not feel the presence of the Lord in times of trial.
- E. **We will never understand, in this age, all of the impact we have on the heart of Jesus.** The woman did not know that Jesus was pleased with her when the Lord appeared to reject her.

Mat. 15:28 "**Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith!..."**

IV. JESUS DESCRIBES THE SPIRITUAL MATURITY OF THE BRIDE

Cnt. 6:5c-7 "**Your hair is like a flock of goats descending from Gilead. 6 Your teeth are like a flock of sheep coming up from the washing. Each has its twin, not one of them is missing. 7 Your temples behind your veil are like the halves of a pomegranate.**"

- A. **Jesus describes the maturity of the maiden by highlighting three aspects of her character represented by her hair, her teeth, and her cheeks.** They refer to her dedication (her hair), her life in the Word (teeth) and her godly emotions (cheeks). These are the same qualities that He prophesied when they were only "virtues in the making" (**Song 4:1-3**). Now they have matured in her life.
- B. He repeats these claims, using almost the same words to show that Songs proof of **5:6-7** was necessary and fruitful. **God makes all things work together for the good of those who love Him (Rom. 8:28).**
- C. **THE BRIDE'S HAIR speaks of her dedication to God (Num. 6).** Her majestic hair is the result of being well fed on God's word. The slopes of Gilead were a fruitful place where goats were fed abundantly. The dedication of the Bride is like a herd of goats in the sense that it is a manifestation of divine order (wisdom) in contrast to carnal zeal. The goats walk in majestic order (**Pro. 30:29-31**).
- D. **HER TEETH speak of her ability to chew solid food and to receive the meat of the Word (Heb. 5: 12-14).** Newborns have no teeth and therefore can receive nourishment through milk (**1 Cor. 3:1-3**)

1. **We receive the flesh of the Word and maintain purity through long, grace-filled meditation on the Word of God.** In this way, we keep ourselves as clean as the sheep that come up from where the shepherd cleans the mud for them (**Eph. 5: 26-27; Jn. 13:10; 17:17**).
 2. **His fruit in ministry comes from her life in the Word.** Having twins speaks of a double portion of fruiting. It is compared to herds of sheep among which there are none sterile. **A diligent life in the Word guarantees fruit (1 Tim. 4:6-16; John 15: 7-8).**
- E. **THE CHEEKS of the Bride, speaks of her godly emotions.** Our emotions are expressed on our cheeks. We can see anger, joy, joy, and sadness on the cheeks. They are windows to our emotions.
1. Pomegranate is a very sweet fruit. **Her emotions are pious and sweet to God. We all need to go through processes of inner healing and mentoring so that our emotions align with the heart of God and are pleasing to Him.**
 2. When the grenades are opened they are red inside. **Red speaks of her modesty, and being prone to blush in the presence of embarrassing things. A flushed countenance speaks of sensitivity to shame.**

V. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How do you think new believers can find Jesus in the church life?
2. According to this passage how can you be an impact to believers and unbelievers?
3. How do you think Jesus feels about your love for Him?
4. Which of the three aspects of maturity that Jesus likes is strongest in your life?