

## CANTAR DE CANTARES:

### THE BRIDE LONGS FOR JESUS TO BE PLEASED IN THE FRUIT OF HER WORK

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#### I. QUICK REVIEW

- A. In **Songs. 7: 9-12** we saw how the Bride lives in instant agreement with the leading of the Holy Spirit to minister to those who are spiritually asleep. She recognizes her identity as someone who loves Jesus and He responds with great longing for her people, which is our greatest glory. Then the Bride intercedes to see a greater outpouring of His power and we finally saw how the Bride experiences intimacy with Jesus in the middle of the ministry saying **"there I will give you my love."**

#### II. THE BRIDE ASSOCIATES WITH THE BELOVED AND GIVES A DELIGHTFUL FRUIT FOR HIM

**Songs. 7:13** **"The mandrakes give a smell, and at our gates are all manner of pleasant fruits, new and old, which I have laid up for thee, O my beloved."**

- A. **"The mandrakes send out their fragrance"** The fragrance of mandrakes flows when the Bride works together with her Beloved for the harvest that He is bringing in the nations. Mandrakes give a purple flower with a beautiful fragrance and symbolize intimacy with God. Even today in Jewish tradition its fruit is associated with love.
- B. **"at our gates are all manner of pleasant fruits..."** Having fruit at the doors of both speaks of how the Church produces results in partnership with Jesus to bring glory to Him.

**Phil. 1:9-11** **"And this is my prayer:that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight... <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God."**

- C. **The impact of the maiden's ministry results in pleasant fruit.** There is joy in knowing that the fruit of her ministry is pleasing to Jesus (**Song 4:16**). **We don't just work for God, we work with Him and that pleases and glorifies Him.** Everything we do in association with and dependence on Jesus produces fruit that is pleasing to God.

**Jn. 15:4-5** **"Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup> "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."**

- D. **"fruits, new and old"** The Spirit anoints us to bear all kinds of pleasant fruits, both new and old. Jesus spoke of taking out of our treasure both things that are new and those that we have cultivated in the course of our relationship with Him.

**Mt. 13:52 "...Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old."**

- E. The Holy Spirit gives us the treasures of our life of obedience and faith, which are stored in heaven and we are storing them to give to Jesus. **We will cast our crown at His feet when we are before Him.** Our goal is to accumulate wealth in Him to offer it on the day that we are before Him. Our effort and sacrifice is motivated by love for Him, this is what moves us to go to service fields during our lifetime.

**Rev. 4:10 "the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne... and cast their crowns before the throne..."**

### III. SHE LONGS TO EXPRESS HER LOVE IN PUBLIC

**Songs. 8:1 "If only you were to me like a brother, who was nursed at my mother's breasts! Then, if I found you outside, I would kiss you, and no one would despise me."**

- A. **The maiden yearns intensely to demonstrate her loyalty and affection for Jesus in public. She prays, "Oh, if you were like a brother of mine ..."** It was not appropriate to publicly express affection to members of the opposite sex who were not related. **The young woman longs to be able to relate to Jesus publicly, with the same freedom that she had with a brother.** A woman at that time could be more "expressive in public" with her brother than with her fiancé.
- B. Like the apostles, she longs for continued steadfastness in her life. **Firmness, more than an attribute of personality, is an operation of the Holy Spirit in our lives.**

**Col. 1:9-11 "we have not stopped praying for you... <sup>11</sup> ... tbeing strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience."**

- C. **"Then, if I found you outside, I would kiss you"** The Bride prays that if she found Jesus in public places she would kiss Him without being despised and **this refers to expressing the fullness of her heart to the Lord in public because she is not ashamed of the love she has for Him and wants to make known her passionate love for Him.**

**Rom. 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile."**

**2 Tim. 1:8 "So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God."**

- D. **"no one would despise me."** She recognizes the need to be prudent in public in certain aspects of her life with Jesus. She knows that she will be scorned or labeled "crazy" if she has inappropriate boldness in public. **This lack of prudence creates obstacles to the advancement of the gospel.** We

cannot express everything that God gives us in secret to all. We walk in love when we restrict our freedom at times because outsiders who do not understand (**Rom. 14: 14-15: 2; 1 Cor. 14:20, 23-33, 6-19**).

**Rom. 14:16** *"Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil."*

#### IV. THE BRIDAL ASSOCIATION IS EXPRESSED IN AN ANOINTED MINISTRY

**Songs. 8:2** *"I would lead you and bring you to my mother's house— and you would you teach me the art of love. I would give you spiced wine to drink, the nectar of my pomegranates."*

- A. ***"I would lead you and bring you"*** Jesus gives the Bride the dignity to lead and to take Him to places that honor Him. She prays that she can take Jesus places through an anointed ministry. **She longs to "take" Him without seeking to promote her own name or ministry. Jesus allows us to make some decisions in his kingdom as a result of our zeal for him.**

**1 Chron. 17:1 y 6** *"After David was settled in his palace, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of the covenant of the Lord is under a tent... 6 [God answered] Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their leaders whom I commanded to shepherd my people, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"*

- B. God had not asked David to build a house for the ark yet God was pleased with David's initiative. **He blesses those of us who decide to get involved in the realization of his purposes.** This reveals the dignity He has given us as joint heirs with Him. A mature believer longs to **"take"** Jesus in a way that honors Him.

**Rom. 15:20** *"It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known..."*

- C. ***"bring you to my mother's house"*** She longs to bring Jesus to her mother's house, this refers to those with whom she had had a long relationship. They are the people who initially taught you about God. **Sometimes it is more difficult to minister to those who already know us.** Often times, a prophet is not welcomed into her people (**Mt. 13:57**) but she is willing to minister the truth of Jesus to the people that she knew when she was beginning to walk with God.
- D. **Why is it that the maiden longs to awaken her old friends in the depths of God?** She is grateful to those who instructed her in her early days. The young woman does not forget her roots in times of blessing. **She honors the people who trained her by seeking to serve them. We must honor the inheritance the Lord chose to give us.** We should not judge those with whom we begin by the fact that they do not grow deep with God.
- E. ***"you would you teach me the art of love."*** The Lord teaches us to love as He loves (**John 15:9**). **As we are filled with His love, we can give it to everyone both inside and outside the church and the natural family.**

- F. The Bride longs to give her best to the Lord, praying, **"I would give you wine with spices to drink, and the nectar of my pomegranates"** (Song 5:1). Someone might mix spiced wine when having an honest guest because it is more pleasant. It was more expensive, but appropriate, when seeking to honor the visitor with the best. **She longs to give her best to Jesus no matter how much it costs her.** By saying, **"I would make you drink,"** she promises to attend to all the Lord's desires by serving him as her honored guest.

## V. ASSOCIATION EXPRESSED IN UNBREAKABLE UNION WITH JESUS

**Songs. 8:3-4 "His left arm is under my head and his right arm embraces me. 4 Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires"**

- A. Jesus answers her prayer to draw near to her (8:1) and fulfills His promise to hold onto her (7: 8). **God's left hand** speaks of God's activity that we cannot see with our natural eyes. It is the hand that is under his head, and therefore is out of sight of him. **The Lord does many things for us that we cannot see.** He hides and releases many things to bless us, provide for us, and protect us. He frees us from problems that we don't even know exist.
- B. **The right hand** of God speaks of the visible activity of God. She can see it and feel it. Sometimes we feel our hearts soften by the tender hand of God.
- C. **"Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires"** The Spirit is the one who speaks here. **He has ordained strategic stages in the spiritual life of each person in which the Lord wishes to establish our hearts in new and profound revelations from his heart. The Spirit's agenda for the Bride at this stage was to impart firmness and humility in her life.**
- D. The **daughters of Jerusalem** represent believers who lack insight into the many works of the Spirit and the different stages of God. The Spirit challenges other believers not to interrupt or disturb with their opinions and judgments, to which they are devotees.
- E. The NIV translates the phrase as **"do not wake up or disturb my beloved until she wants to wake up."** **The Bride who must be protected from distraction to allow God's processes to continue in her life.**

## VI. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Do you consider that you are working for God or with God? Explain
2. How do you feel about publicly expressing your passion for Jesus?
3. What things do you consider to be the left hand of God in your life and what would be His right hand?