

Song of Solomon 1:15-17

I. Song 1:15-17 God's love for the Bride; the Bride's faith in worship

(Song 1:15-17) "How beautiful you are, my darling, How beautiful you are! Your eyes are like doves. 16 How handsome you are, my beloved, And so delightful! Indeed, our bed is luxuriant! 17 The beams of our house are cedars, Our rafters, junipers."

- a. In these verses, Jesus re-emphasizes the beauty of the bride and His affection for her as he highlights her loyalty to Him(v15). Looking to Him, the bride responds with a fivefold declaration of faith and worship (v16-17).
- b. At the King's table (v12), Jesus begins to speak to us about how beautiful we are in His grace. He declares our beauty to us twice, separated by the the name "my darling" (used also in v9). This speaks of His affection for us in the midst of our beauty to Him. To be the darling of the Lord is to be His friend and lover as we touch His heart, even in our weakness. Our beauty to God is connected to our friendship with Him and our sincere love for Him that is continually growing in our hearts. Our beauty actually moves Him to be affectionate toward us. It is not a static love, but a responsive one.

(Song 1:15-17) "How beautiful you are, my darling, How beautiful you are!"

- c. We are beautiful to God even in our weakness for three reasons. First, we are lovely because we have received the gift of righteousness (2 Cor. 5:17-21). Second, when born again, the Spirit put a willing spirit in our hearts to say yes to God and move toward him (Ps. 51:12; Mt. 26:41). Third, God sees us through the lens of our eternal destiny as the Bride of Christ. (March 11 teaching notes)
- d. Jesus pursues each of us as His "darling" ones. As we continually confess God's heart for us in confidence, we will rapidly grow deeper spiritually. *We will never grow in God apart from a context of being enjoyed by Him.* As long as we feel ashamed, we will distance ourselves from God, but if we feel lovely to God, we will run toward Him, even in the midst of sin. Each of us can declare in faith, "I am the Lord's favorite one; the disciple whom He loves." As we grow in revelation of God's love for us, we will also gain His love for others.

(John 15:9) "Just as the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you; remain in My love."

(John 21:20) "Peter turned around and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them—the one who also had leaned back on His chest at the supper..."

- e. Jesus also declares to the Bride that her eyes are like doves. Throughout scripture, the dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. This speaks of our single-minded pursuit of Christ, our loyalty to Christ, and our perspective of and with Christ.

(Song 1:15-17) "How beautiful you are, my darling, How beautiful you are! Your eyes are like doves."

- i. Dove's have no peripheral vision. They can only look forward. Mated doves, will watch each other and mimic each other throughout the day. What one does, the other does in sync. In this same way, Jesus is seeing out single-minded pursuit of Him; not looking to the left or to the right, but fixing our eyes on Him.

(Matthew 6:22) "The eye is the lamp of the body; so then, if your eye is clear[single, simple, perfect], your whole body will be full of light."

- ii. Dove's only mate once in their lifetime. Both mates will care for their young equally. This speaks of our loyalty to Christ; serving no other gods and rejecting idolatry.
- iii. The eyes of the Holy Spirit (dove symbolically) allow us to see Jesus rightly and to live our lives through the perspective of being seated with him. We want to see Jesus and our lives with the perspective of the Spirit. When Jesus looks in our eyes, He sees the eyes of the Spirit indwelling staring back at Him.

(Ephesians 1:17) "...a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him[Jesus]."

II. Song 1:16-17 The bride's response of faith in worship

(Song 1:16-17) "How handsome you are, my beloved, And so delightful! Indeed, our bed is luxuriant! The beams of our house are cedars, Our rafters, junipers"

- a. As the bride receives revelation of her beauty to God, she responds by seeing with the dove's eyes. She sees Jesus as "handsome", her "beloved" and "so delightful". We can continually declare these truths to God. "You are beautiful, Jesus! I love you! You delight my soul!" Delighting in God is the pleasurable experience of seeing His beauty and growing in love for Him. As we continue to walk with Jesus in obedience, abiding in His love, our joy (delight) will be full.

(John 15:9-11) "Just as the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you; remain in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love. These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full."

(Psalm 16:11) "You will make known to me the way of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever."

- b. Abiding in the love of Jesus brings us into rest and confidence. The bride has found herself now reclining on a luxuriant bed. The word for luxuriant can mean fresh (as in oil), flourishing, or green when referring to plants. The green bed/couch speaks of our confidence in the grace of God which allows us to rest in Him. We can rest because we have been justified by faith(flourishing) and have been given access to God's intimate presence(fresh oil).

(Romans 5:1) “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”

(1 Corinthians 6:17) “But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him.”

(1 John 4:18) “There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.”

(Romans 8:1) “Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

- c. The beams and rafters of the house refer to the strength in the structure of our dwelling with Christ. The bride declares that the beams are cedar and the rafters are fir. Cedar and fir were the most permanent, expensive, and fragrant wood in Solomon’s day. Cedar and fir trees were also used in the temple, resisting decay. Wood in the temple is a picture of humanity.
- d. Our dwelling with the Lord is strong and durable; it will not decay or fade away. Jesus became a man so that He could build a house for us to dwell in forever.

(Ephesians 2:19-22) “...you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.”

(1 Peter 2:5) “you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

(John 14:2) “In My Father’s house are many rooms; if that were not so, I would have told you, because I am going there to prepare a place for you.”

Questions for Discussion:

- 1) What was one point of tonight’s session that was profound to you? How will you live differently as a result?
- 2) How has meditating on the way God sees you brought you into clearer revelation of Jesus? Give an example.