

Song of Solomon 1:4

I. Song 1:4 The Life Vision of the Bride

(Song 1:4) “Draw me after you and let’s run together! The king has brought me into his chambers. We will rejoice in you and be joyful; We will praise your love more than wine. Rightly do they love you.”

- a. This verse describes the spiritual goals and life vision of the Bride. Combined with verses 2-3, this is the main theme of the entire Song: As the Bride, we cry out for the kisses of His Word, declaring that the Love of Jesus is more pleasant than anything else we can experience in this world. She declares the goodness of Jesus’ character displayed through the perfumes of His heart and the fragrance of His name. She now declares her life vision as one who longs to be drawn away in intimacy with Jesus and to receive grace to run with Him and other believers in ministry.
- b. The Bride speaks from three perspectives in the Song’s three verse theme:
 - i. She sings to the Father, “Let Him (Jesus, Your Son) kiss me with the kisses of His Word” Song 1:2
 - ii. She sings to Jesus, “Your love is sweeter than wine. Because of your character (fragrance) Your name will be poured forth and young believers will love You.” Song 1:3
 - iii. She sings with a chorus of believers running with her, “We will rejoice in you and be joyful; we will praise your love more than wine (earthly pleasures)” Song 1:4
- c. The rest of the Song is the journey of the Bride as she receives the answers to her prayers from these three verses.

II. Song 1:4 The Twofold Vision

(Song 1:4) “Draw me after you and let’s run together!”

- a. This vision statement is a summary of the goals of every believer: (1) to be drawn in intimacy after Jesus and (2) to run with Him and others in ministry. The words “after you” can be placed either with “draw me” or with “let us run together”. In both contexts, it is important to note that Jesus is the initiator of intimacy and the one who sets the pace while running. We follow “after Him” into the chamber experiences and into the harvest fields.
- b. The order of these statements is important for us to acknowledge. Our spiritual journey will constantly hold tension between “drawing” and “running”. Many believers get saved and immediately want to “do something” for God, so they run hard into the harvest field, but neglect being drawn away in intimacy with the Lord. The result is often what we call “burnout” which will see happen to the maiden in v. 5-7.

- i. It is important to note that *burnout is not the result of running*, but the result of not being drawn away in intimacy. The solution to burnout is not to “do less” but to be drawn after Jesus into the secret place and grow in intimacy with Him.
- ii. The maiden temporarily refuses to run with Jesus in Song 2:8-13 and turns Him away, wanting only to experience His presence without a commitment to ministry partnership. In the same way, many who experience burnout will overreact and become determined to be drawn away in intimacy without any vision to run in ministry with the Lord.
- c. There are seasons in our lives where God may emphasize one goal over the other. There is no shame in taking extra time to “prop up” one side of our vision in preparation to move forward into the plans and purposes of God. *However, in every season, we must have a twofold vision to be drawn after Jesus in intimacy and to run after Jesus in ministry.* To live with the twofold vision of drawing *and* running is the most excellent way to live as a follower of Christ.

(1 Corinthians 12:31) “But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.”

- d. Paul taught the Corinthians about the use of spiritual gifts and manifestations. These are the primary ways that we minister to others and “run” to fulfill the Great Commission. He finishes his teaching by telling them that there is an even “more excellent way” in chapter 13: *the love chapter*. Paul uses several examples in this chapter to demonstrate that any kind of ministry is without value if it is not centered around the agape love of Christ. The end of this love teaching is the first verse of chapter 14.

(1 Corinthians 14:1) “Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts...”

- i. In summary, Paul encourages us to earnestly desire spiritual gifts in order to run in ministry, but first to grow in love (the more excellent way). Then, while pursuing love, we should earnestly desire spiritual gifts. Both are emphasized as both are important.
- e. The order of living in the kingdom is to first be drawn in intimacy and then to run in ministry from the overflow of love that results from a close relationship with Jesus. As a result, our lives will fulfill the two Great Commandments (***Matt. 22***) and the Great Commission (***Matt. 28***). Jesus will have in us a bridal partner who will run with Him to touch the nations. *Passion for Jesus will always result in compassion for others.*

(Matthew 22:37-40) “And He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart[emotions], and with all your soul[will], and with all your mind[thoughts/decisions].’ This is the great and foremost[first] commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ Upon these two commandments hang the whole Law and the Prophets.”

(Matthew 28:19-20) “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

III. Song 1:4 The Chamber Experiences

(Song 1:4) “Draw me after you and let’s run together! The king has brought me into his chambers.”

- a. The chamber is referring to a bridal chamber. This is symbolic of our secret life in God; the alone times in the secret place with Jesus that no one else knows about. All of us have a secret history with the Lord where He draws us to Himself primarily through scripture and His still, small voice (*1 Kings 19*). These chamber encounters mold and transform our inner man and prepare us to love and obey Jesus with all of our heart. Many of us have stories of when the Lord encountered us and prepared our hearts for a challenging season.
- b. The maiden begins her life vision by asking Jesus to draw her after Him. She knows that she does not possess the strength in herself to leave the comfort zone and so she asks the Lord to draw her after him, out of sin and self and into His embrace. He responds by carrying her away into His chambers. He will respond again in Song 2 and carry her away to the banqueting house (house of wine). We do not have the strength in ourselves to run after Jesus until he draws us.

(John 6:44) “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.”

- c. The Hebrew word for chamber is literally translated “chamber within a chamber,” which is symbolic of the Holy of Holies in the temple. Jesus as the Good Shepherd of our souls will carry us over His shoulder into the Most Holy Place to reveal Himself to us (*Luke 15:5*). We can know that if we ask Jesus to draw us after Him, He will rejoice greatly and carry us into the hidden chamber of His heart to reveal His secrets to us.

IV. Song 1:4 Rejoice and Be Glad

(Song 1:4) “We will rejoice in you and be joyful[glad]; We will praise[remember] your love[affections] more than wine. Rightly do they love you.”

- a. The Bride declares in faith that she will rejoice in Jesus and remember His love through every season of life. She declares this to and with the Daughters of Jerusalem (young believers). It is our firm resolution to be glad throughout our lives and to rejoice in the Lord daily regardless of our circumstances.
- b. This faith confession in times of despair and struggle is an expression of spiritual warfare. We declare that God is good and the devil is a liar when we face testing and tribulation. This confession foreshadows the marriage supper of the Lamb when we will use a similar phrase.

(Revelation 19:7) “Let’s rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has prepared herself.”

- c. The Hebrew word for “praise” in Song 1:4 is *zakar* (pronounced zaw-kar’), which means “to bring to remembrance, to boast of, to mention, to extol, to remind, to be mindful of, etc.” We praise the love of Christ by mentioning it often in a boastful way, looking back to all the ways He has loved us. By praising His love more than wine, we are walking in righteousness, choosing to persevere for the sake of love rather than running to the wines of worldly comforts.
- d. Remembering His love equips us for perseverance in three main ways:
 - i. We refuse condemnation and instead remember and rejoice in His mercies toward us.
 - ii. We refuse the wine of temptation and instead remember the great joy we experience in His love for us.
 - iii. We refuse to fold in difficult circumstances and instead remember and trust in His perfect leadership over our lives.
- e. Jesus led His disciples through the act of remembering His love to help them through seasons of temptation. When we struggle to *see* His goodness or to *hear* His voice, we can **remember** and remind ourselves of His love. This restores faith to our hearts and equips us with grace to persevere.

*(Mark 8:18-20) “Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember, when I broke the five loaves... how many baskets full of broken pieces you picked up?” ... “Twelve.” “When I broke the seven ..., how many large baskets ... did you pick up?” And they *said to Him, “Seven.””*

- f. Jesus instructed His followers to remember His sacrifice of love on the cross through the act of communion whenever they should gather.

(Luke 22:19) “And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body, which is being given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.””

- g. In difficult seasons, rather than pursuing the wines of earthly pleasures, we are called to praise(remember) the love of Christ and to choose joy. We choose joy by faith and it equips us to walk in righteousness.

(Hebrews 11:24-26) “By faith Moses...refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the temporary pleasures of sin, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.”

(Matthew 10:28) “And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

(1 Timothy 4:7) “But stay away from worthless stories... Rather, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness”

(2 Timothy 3:1-4) “...in the last days difficult times will come...For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,”

Questions for Discussion:

- 1) Does your life vision contain both aspects of being drawn in intimacy and running in ministry? If not, what needs to change?
- 2) Have you ever experienced burnout? How did the Lord heal and restore you?
- 3) Have you ever had a “Chamber Experience”? How did the Lord encounter you?
- 4) Share one item from tonight’s session that inspired or challenged you. What will you do differently as a result?