

Song of Solomon 4:1-5

(Song 4:1-6) “Behold, How beautiful you are, my darling, Behold, How beautiful you are! Your eyes are like doves behind your veil; Your hair is like a flock of goats That have descended from Mount Gilead. 2 Your teeth are like a flock of newly shorn sheep Which have come up from their watering place, All of which bear twins, And not one among them has lost her young. 3 Your lips are like a scarlet thread, And your mouth is beautiful. Your temples are like a slice of a pomegranate Behind your veil. 4 Your neck is like the tower of David, Built with layers of stones On which are hung a thousand shields, All the round shields of the warriors. 5 Your two breasts are like two fawns, Twins of a gazelle That graze among the lilies.”

I. Beautiful to God and Cherished in Heart

(Song 4:1) “[Behold]How beautiful you are, my darling, [Behold]How beautiful you are!

- a. God’s primary method to strengthen young and weak believers is to convince us of how beautiful we are to Him and to make us feel loved and cherished by Him. He washes and releases His glory to the Church by cherishing her with His words of affection and affirmation. Shame is replaced with boldness when we believe what God says about us when He looks at us.

(Ephesians 5:26-27, 29) “so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless... 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church,

- b. When God looks at our hearts, He sees beauty for three main reasons: Our nature, our will, and our destiny. A different person would look at the same information in our lives and not call it beautiful, but God sees and thinks differently than man does. We are constantly growing in confidence and wholeheartedness as we choose to believe His thoughts about us instead of our own thoughts or the thoughts of others.

(1 Samuel 16:7) “God does not see as man sees, since man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

(Isaiah 55:8-9) “My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord. 9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.”

- i. **We have a new nature.** We are beautiful to God because we have received the same righteousness that Jesus possesses. When God looks at our hearts, He sees the same beauty that He sees in the heart of Jesus.

(2 Peter 1:3-4) “for His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 Through these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world on account of lust.”

(Romans 5:17) “For if by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.”

(2 Corinthians 5:17-21) “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ ... 21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin in our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

(1 John 4:17) “By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, we also are in this world.”

- ii. **We have a willing spirit.** When we are born again, God puts a “yes” in our hearts to Him. The yes in our spirit is beautiful to God even before the way we live aligns matches it. The willing spirit is each small movement in our heart toward Him by the Holy Spirit.

(Psalm 51:12) “Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And sustain me with a willing spirit.”

(Psalm 119:97) “How I love Your Law! It is my meditation all the day.”

(Romans 7:22) “For I joyfully agree with the law of God in the inner person”

(Matthew 26:41) “Keep watching and praying, so that you do not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

- iii. **Our eternal destiny as the Bride of Christ.** God sees us from an eternal perspective. When He looks at us, He sees who we are now as well as who we are in a billion years as the inheritance of His Son. Weighed with eternity, our weakness and stumbling is but a puff of smoke in comparison to our eternal partnership with Jesus. When He looks at you, He rejoices over you with gladness.

(Revelation 19:7-8) “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.” 8 It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.”

(Revelation 21:1-2) “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”

(Ephesians 1:18) “I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,”

(Zephaniah 3:17) “The Lord your God is in your midst, A victorious warrior. He will rejoice over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy.”

II. Song 4:1-5 Eight budding virtues, *a prophetic word to the Church*

(Song 4:1-5) "...Your eyes are like doves... Your hair is like a flock of goats... 2 Your teeth are like a flock of newly shorn sheep... 3 Your lips are like a scarlet thread, And your mouth is beautiful. Your temples are like a slice of a pomegranate... 4 Your neck is like the tower of David...5 Your two breasts are like two fawns..."

- a. These eight seeds of virtue are descriptions of the Lord's beauty imparted to us and planted within us. When He looks at these virtues, He sees them fully developed before we have even acted upon them and cultivated them into fruit.

(James 1:21) "Therefore, ridding yourselves of all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls."

- i. Eyes like doves: Single-minded devotion and revelation
- ii. Hair like goats: Sacrificial dedication and devotion to God
- iii. Teeth like shorn sheep: Chewing the meat of the Word
- iv. Lips like scarlet: Speech that is redemptive with blessings
- v. Mouth that is beautiful (kisses/words): Intimacy with God
- vi. Temples like pomegranates(cheeks/countenance): Emotions impacted by God's grace
- vii. Neck like David's tower: Setting our will to obey God
- viii. Breasts like fawns: The power to edify and nurture others

III. Song 4:1 Eyes like doves, hair like goats

(Song 4:1) "Your eyes are like doves behind your veil; Your hair is like a flock of goats That have descended from Mount Gilead."

- a. Our eyes like doves behind the veil speaks of our hidden life in God . We continually sit before Him to gaze upon His beauty. Jesus desires us to be with Him where He is to see His beauty. This is because He knows that our seeing Him will transform us into His inheritance. Each strand of our hair represents a sacrifice of devotion to Him. Just as He knows every hair on our head, He sees and intimately knows the willing sacrifices we will make throughout a lifetime. He is moved by our stateliness in presenting ourselves as willing living sacrifices to Him.

IV. Song 4:2 Teeth like shorn sheep

(Song 4:2) "Your teeth are like a flock of newly shorn sheep Which have come up from their watering place, All of which bear twins, And not one among them has lost her young."

- a. Teeth indicate the ability to chew meat and receive nourishment from the Word of God. The teeth are described in four different ways to symbolize strength, abundance, and effectiveness. Christ wants us to receive the meat of His Word (1 Corinthians 3:1-2; Hebrews 5:12-14).

- b. The wool of unshaven sheep grows unevenly. Uneven wool symbolizes unbalanced zeal that comes from self-righteousness and trying to earn our place through our own works. The priests of Zadok had to wear linen garments and were forbidden to wear wool because it made them sweat (Ezekiel 44:15-18). Christ wants us to lean on His grace, not our own strength.
- c. Coming up from the watering place speaks to the washing and renewal from the water of God's word (Ephesians 5:26). As we eat the scroll through biblical meditation and alone time with God, our teeth are like sheep that came up from the washing and drinking.
- d. Diligence in meditating on God's Word results in an abundant impact on others. Every sheep bore twins and not a single one was barren, speaking of abundant fruitfulness. If we commit ourselves to inquiring the Lord about His Word (spoken & written), we will have strong, clean teeth that keep us nourished and fruitful in every season of our lives regardless of life circumstances.

V. Song 4:3 Lips like scarlet

(Song 4:3) "Your lips are like a scarlet thread"

- a. Lips refer to speech. The scarlet thread is a picture of God's redemption through the shed blood of Jesus. Rahab placed a scarlet ribbon from her window to receive redemption (Joshua 2:21). Our words can bring redemption to others in the same way and save them from the penalty of sin and the wrath of God. Her words being like scarlet speak of words that bring redemption to others. Moses took the blood of calves with scarlet wool to sprinkle the people (Hebrews 9:19). Our words can bring the redemptive blood of Christ to entire people groups.
- b. When our lips are impacted with the scarlet redemption of Christ, we will speak in a way that edifies others. It will be an indication of God's grace at work within us.

(Colossians 4:6) "Your speech must always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person."

(Ephesians 4:29) "Let no unwholesome word come out of your mouth, but if there is any good word for edification according to the need of the moment, say that, so that it will give grace to those who hear."

VI. Song 4:3 Mouth that is beautiful

(Song 4:3) "Your mouth is beautiful."

- a. In Song 1:2, the kisses of His mouth referred to our intimacy with God. While the lips symbolize the way we speak to others, our mouth refers to our intimacy with Jesus. Lips and mouth as separate statements is not redundant in this affirmation to the maiden. The Lord delights in the intimate communion He has with us and calls it beautiful.

VII. Song 4:3 Temples like pomegranate

(Song 4:3) “Your temples are like a slice of a pomegranate Behind your veil.”

- a. The Hebrew word for temples can also be translated as the cheeks or the countenance of a person. This speaks of our emotions being open before God. We can see the joy, sadness, anger, embarrassment on the face of a person; God sees our inner godly emotions and calls them a slice of pomegranate. They are sweet to Him. The pomegranate was represented on the gown of the high priest or on the ephod as well as carved on the top of the pillars of Solomon’s temple(1 Kings 7:20).
- b. A blushing or red countenance(color of a pomegranate) symbolizes one who is sensitive to shameful things. We again see our hidden life in God symbolized by the veil. There is a hidden life of modesty and tenderness that God sees as beautiful.

VIII. Song 4:4 Neck like David’s tower

(Song 4:4) “Your neck is like the tower of David, Built with layers of stones On which are hung a thousand shields, All the round shields of the warriors.”

- a. The neck often refers to the will that can either be resistant to God or submissive to His leadership. Her will is like the heart of David set steadfastly before God in contrast to being double-minded or stiff-necked.
- b. Her choices from her will are strong like the tower of David. Her resolute will to obey God is spoken of as 1,000 round shields representing abundant protection against the enemy. This is the shield of faith that protects us from every fiery arrow from the enemy. Each yes we say to God is like a storehouse of protection from the enemy’s plans for our lives.

(Ephesians 6:16) “in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.”

IX. Song 4:5 Breasts like fawns

(Song 4:5) “Your two breasts are like two fawns, Twins of a gazelle That graze among the lilies.”

- a. Breasts represent our ability to nurture others like a mother to a baby. A fawn is a deer or gazelle in its first year of life. Twin fawns symbolize a double portion to nurture others with the milk of the Word of God. In contrast to an aging woman, the milk of a young mother will not run dry and must be expelled to stay in a restful state. The maiden’s ministry is compared to fawns that feed among the lilies, which always symbolizes purity in the song. God sees her need and ability to nourish others and calls it beautiful.

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) Which budding virtue is most difficult for you to believe and receive from God?
- 3) Which budding virtue have you seen God grow in your life in the past year?