

## ***Song of Solomon 4:1, 6***

***(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. 6 Until the cool of the day When the shadows flee, I will go my way to the mountain of myrrh And to the hill of frankincense.”***

### **I. Review:**

- i.** Jesus is revealed as Lord of the Nations as He leaps over the mountains (obstacles; governments). He calls her out of comfort to go to the mountains with Him in a new level of partnership. Out of fear and immaturity, the maiden tells Him to turn away and go to the mountain without her (Song 2:8-17).
- ii.** The manifest presence of God is removed out of loving discipline; she sought the Lord but “did not find Him” or did not experience Him like she did before. Jesus is not angry, but lifts His presence out of His jealous desire for a deeper level of partnership. This loving discipline leads the maiden to cling to the leadership of Jesus when she finds Him and “never let Him go” (Song 3:1-5).
- iii.** Jesus is revealed as the Safe Savior and King of Glory who can keep her from stumbling and enable her to walk in 30, 60, 100 fold obedience. She discovers that she can crown Jesus with her love. As we choose love for Him over comfort over and over, we crown Him with the “wedding crown” that makes Him glad (Song 3:6-11).

### **II. Song 4:1-5 The maiden’s cherished heart and its budding virtues**

***(Song 4:1-5) “How beautiful you are, my darling... 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.** Jesus calls the maiden beautiful while she is still maturing in faith and obedience. He identifies and prophesies eight budding virtues that He sees in her heart toward Him. He does not define her by the fear in her heart or the lack of discipline in her life. Even in her weakness, Jesus has chosen to equip her with affirmations that nourish and cherish her into maturity.

***(Ephesians 5:26-29) “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... that she would be holy and blameless... 29 or no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes... the church”***

- b. This passage identifies eight character traits that God has identified and is cultivating in the Bride. The symbolism of each attribute is substantiated through biblical reference. These eight virtues are reflections of the Lord's beauty imparted to us and they make Jesus glad as we love Him in these ways (Song 3:11). We will cover these attributes over two sessions.
  - i. Eyes like doves: Single-minded devotion and revelation
  - ii. Hair like goats: Dedication 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
  
- c. God's primary method of sanctification is causing believers to feel loved and cherished by Him. He removes the stain of sin and its shame by washing us with His words of affection. When we feel loved and affirmed, we become confident and bold in our love for Him. The Holy Spirit continues to reveal the cherishing ministry of Jesus.
  
- d. Jesus does not define our lives by our struggles or weaknesses. He defines us by the seeds of virtues in our heart when we set our heart toward Him. He does not define us only by what we attain, but rather what we set our hearts to. He sees the willing spirit and the yes in our hearts (Matt 26:41) and defines us by our longing to love and obey Him.
  
- e. Jesus equips us against Satan's accusations by affirming the seeds of our love and obedience that He sees in our heart. When God sees a budding virtue, He actually sees it as fully developed fruit. He sees the end of our journey with clarity. This should give us confidence that we truly will walk in the fullness of the glory God has for us. *God is seeing more than just potential; He sees the end of our sanctification and prophesies to it with rejoicing.*
  - i. In Gideon, God saw seeds of faith and courage that he was not walking in or operating in fully. He called him a "valiant warrior" while he was hiding and threshing wheat in a winepress. Just hearing the Lord's affirmation and command gave him the boldness to tear down the altar of Baal with his father's bulls and cut down the Asherah (Judges 6).
  - ii. Jesus calls Simon the immovable rock and changes his name to Peter before he denied him three times in compromise. What God spoke over him did not change when he stumbled, but stayed true and carried him through to the end. The same man who denied Christ and was afraid to embrace Gentiles for the sake of his reputation would later die for his faith in crucifixion (Matt 16, Galatians 2, John 21).
  
- f. Many spend excessive emotional energy in fighting condemnation and the accusations of the enemy. Others focus on measuring their attainment of maturity and how much they have accomplished. A preoccupation with our failures and successes prevents us from effectively walking with the Lord; we either becoming prideful and criticize others or we feel condemned and tend to quit and stumble in sinful habits.

- g. *Our criticism of others is directly proportional to the pride we have in our own accomplishments. In the same way, our sinful habits are often due to our obsession with failure and shame. Instead, our primary focus should be on God's beauty, His affections toward us, and in setting our heart to fully love Him through obedience and believing His Word. He sees our budding virtues of dedication and greatness and will bring us to full maturity and victory.*

***(Philippians 2:13) "for it is God who is at work in you, both to desire and to work for His good pleasure."***

III. Song 4:1 Beautiful to God even in our weakness

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

- a. Immediately following a season of loving discipline, Jesus affirms the beauty of the maiden to Him. He emphasizes the importance of this revelation by repeating it twice. We are changed by the revelation that we are beautiful to God even in seasons of weakness and immaturity and that we are loved with affection. This theme repeats throughout the Song (Song 1:8, 15, 16; 2:10, 13, 14; 4:1, 7, 10; 6:4, 10; 7:1).
- i. The word **"behold"** infers that a spirit of revelation is available to us to see even our own beauty. As we look into Jesus' eyes of fire, we actually see His emotions toward us and are convicted of our own beauty and righteousness.
- b. Up to this point, the maiden only said yes to arise to go to the city (Song 3:2) and will say yes to the mountain in verse 6. She will not fully walk out her commitment until Song 5-8. All she has is a yes, yet the Lord values her yes, knowing that she will mature in time. Three actions of Christ will work together in bringing us to the full commitment to obey in verse 6
- i. Divine and loving discipline (Song 3:1-2).
- ii. Fresh revelation of Jesus (Song 3:6-11)
- iii. Fresh revelation of ourselves in Jesus' eyes (Song 4:1-5).

IV. Song 4:1 Eyes like doves

***(Song 4:1) "Your eyes are like doves behind your veil"***

- a. Eyes speak of spiritual insight and understanding. Seeing was Paul's first priority for the churches he was discipling. As we perceive Jesus and ourselves clearly, we walk in wholehearted love and obedience as His rose and lily. When we see differently, we feel differently as His truth sets us free.

***(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,"***

***(2 Corinthians 3:18) "But we all, with unveiled faces, looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit."***

- b. Doves symbolize purity and loyalty. Doves mate only once in a lifetime are known for their loyalty. A dove's binocular vision allows them to only see one thing at a time with not peripheral vision; this speaks of single-mindedness. We fix our eyes on Jesus instead of the distractions of lusts, failure, or success.
- c. Hiding behind the veil symbolizes humility and the secret life in God. She is not sharing with others everything that the Lord reveals to her. It is important that we stay humble when we receive revelation from God. We shouldn't cast our pearls of divine insight to all, but should keep most of what we receive hidden behind the veil of intimacy.

***(1 Corinthians 8:1-3) "...Knowledge makes one conceited[puffs up], but love edifies people. 2 If anyone thinks that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know; 3 but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him."***

V. Song 4:1 Hair like goats

***(Song 4:1) "Your hair is like a flock of goats That have descended from Mount Gilead."***

- a. The maiden's hair is symbolic of her dedication and devotion to God. The hair of the Nazirite was an outward sign of inward consecration or dedication and anyone who took a Nazirite vow was not permitted to cut their hair (Numbers 6). When Samson cut his hair and broke this vow of dedication, he lost his power. Hair also speaks of the beauty of submission to God. Paul spoke of a woman's hair as showing forth her glory and dedication to God's authority (1 Corinthians 11).
- b. The goat also represents majesty and stateliness in a victorious walk. This comes from godly wisdom and dignity instead of zealous pride and self attention. The goats on Mount Gilead were abundantly fed. Her stately hair (dedication) is the result of being well fed (on Scripture). She was well fed on the love of God and the Word of God. Gilead was also where sacrificial lambs were grazed and fed.

***(Proverbs 30:29-31) "There are three things which are stately in their march, Even four which are stately when they walk: ...the male goat, And a king when his army is with him."***

VI. Song 4:6 The Shulamite responds with loving to commitment to Jesus

***(Song 4:6) "Until the cool of the day When the shadows flee, I will go my way to the mountain of myrrh And to the hill of frankincense."***

- a. In response to God's revealing of her eight budding virtues, the maiden finally commits to leave the comfort zone and go to the mountains. She commits to walk in all of God's will for her life without fear. God loves to hear us say ***"I will go"***.
- b. ***"I will go my way"*** implies a personalized, tailor-made journey that God calls each of us to. Our path to the mountain of myrrh include difficulties unique to God's purpose in each individual life.

- c. ***“Until the cool of the day When the shadows flee”*** She will continue to go to the mountains until all compromise is gone. The shadows are areas of weakness or compromise, like the little foxes (Song 2:15). The cool of the day is the morning light, a new season of victory, after struggling through the night. This is both the day of eternity and the multiple victories when we walk in greater light on the earth.
- d. The mountains are obstacles that hinder her obedience. (Song 2). Myrrh is a costly burial spice that symbolizes Christ’s death on the cross. She has meditated on His sacrifice often and is now ready to embrace the mountain of costly obedience herself. The cross of Christ is the burial spice of our flesh and the fragrance to our spirit. It is a mountain because it is a large, difficult obstacle. Jesus ascended this mountain on Golgatha. Now we must take up our cross of self-denial, and follow Him there.

***(Luke 9:23-24) “And He was saying to them all, “If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me. 24 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, this is the one who will save it.”***

- e. The hill of frankincense symbolizes prayer. She saw the incense of Jesus’ intercession in the previous chapter as He arose from the wilderness of this world. We ascend the hill of frankincense to receive strength for the mountain of myrrh. Jesus told Peter to watch and pray in order to receive strength to face temptation. The mountain of myrrh (costly obedience) can only be ascended by living on the hill of frankincense (a lifestyle of prayer).

***(Matthew 26:40-41) “...He said to Peter, “So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour? 41 Keep watching and praying, so that you do not come into temptation”***

***(Psalm 141:2) “May my prayer be counted as incense before You;”***

***(Revelation 5:8) “...golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.”***

- f. Our prayer life empowers our heart to embrace the cross in self-denial. The same measure to which we ascend the hill of daily prayer is the measure to which we will obey when it is difficult and costly to do so. Thankfully, the hill of frankincense is smaller than the mountain of myrrh! The impact of our prayer life far exceeds the importance of our efforts on the mountains. Because of God’s grace and kindness, we get much more than we deserve as fruit from our prayer life.

### ***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) Can you identify the hills of frankincense(prayer & fasting) that God is calling you to?
- 3) Can you identify the mountains of myrrh(costly obedience) that God is equipping you for?