

Song of Solomon 4:11-15

(Song 4:11-15) “Your lips drip honey, my bride; Honey and milk are under your tongue, And the fragrance of your garments is like the fragrance of Lebanon. 12 A locked garden is my sister, my bride, A locked spring, a sealed fountain. 13 Your branches are an orchard of pomegranates With delicious fruits, henna with nard plants, 14 Nard and saffron, spice reed and cinnamon, With all the trees of frankincense, Myrrh, and aloes, along with all the finest balsam oils. 15 You are a garden spring, A well of fresh water, And flowing streams from Lebanon.”

I. Song 4:11 Jesus’ love for our redeemed words and deeds

(Song 4:11) “Your lips drip honey, my bride; Honey and milk are under your tongue, And the fragrance of your garments is like the fragrance of Lebanon.”

- a. ***Lips*** in the Song refer to our words spoken (Song 4:3). Our words dripping honey refers to the sweetness of our speech in worship and prayer before Him and the blessing of others with words that nourish and sustain them. The lips like a scarlet thread bring redemption and are sweet like honey to Jesus. The production of honey is not a short process, but is the digestive product of many bees. In the same way, the production of our words takes much time hiding the Word of God in our hearts. This type of speech is a characteristic of the ***bride*** and is identified by Jesus in that way. He notices *every word* that come from the lips of the bride.

(Proverbs 16:24) “Pleasant words are a honeycomb, Sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.”

- i. ***Honey and milk*** are symbols of the promised land and the Word of God and are both foods that can be given to infants. The mouth that speaks what is edifying is an important scriptural theme for us to grow in. ***Under your tongue*** refers to the secret thoughts of our heart. The lips dripping the same honey that is under the tongue implies that the speech of our mouth matches the thoughts of our heart. This type of sincerity is delightful to Jesus. The Bride speaks that which is edifying because it is actually what she thinks.

(1 Peter 2:2) “...like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word”

(Isaiah 7:14-15) “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and she will name Him Immanuel. 15 He will eat curds and honey...”

(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.”

(Colossians 4:6) “Your speech must always be with grace...”

(Matthew 12:34) “the mouth speaks from that which fills the heart.”

- b. **Garments** in scripture refer to the deeds or actions of a person. Deeds in obedience to God are a sweet smelling aroma to God. Lebanon was known for the pleasant fragrances and as a source for fragrant spices. That which we spend our time and money on is important to God. We move His heart with delight when we choose to buy white garments from Him through our giving and serving out of obedience to His voice. When we put on Christ's righteousness, His life covers us in His fragrance.

(Revelation 19:7-8) "...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 3:18) "I advise you to buy from Me...white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed"

(Philippians 4:18) "But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God."

II. Song 4:12 The extravagant devotion of the bride

(Song 4:12) "A locked garden is my sister, my bride, A locked spring, a sealed fountain."

- a. The **locked garden** is the private paradise for Jesus. Most gardens are used for growing food, but this garden exists solely to provide a place of rest and pleasure to the King. Just as God walked with Adam in Eden, He wants to walk in the Spirit with us in the garden of our hearts. To be locked or sealed for God is to shut ourselves off from sinful compromise. In shutting ourselves off from the world's defilement, we are a clean source of water to Jesus, unpolluted by the animals of worldly pleasure. Springs of water were extremely rare in Israel and would be used as water sources for gardens. By keeping our hearts and thoughts pure, we become a fountain of water producing a fragrant garden for Him to rest in. This garden is secret and set apart for Him alone; it is not a public field to feed others.

(1 Corinthians 3:7-9) "So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth....9... you are God's field[cultivated land], God's building."

(Numbers 19:15) "every open container, which has no cover tied down on it, will be unclean."

(Isaiah 58:11) "...you will be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water whose waters do not fail."

III. Song 4:13-14 The fruitfulness of the Bride

(Song 4:13-14) "Your branches are an orchard of pomegranates With delicious fruits, henna with nard plants, 14 Nard and saffron, spice reed and cinnamon, With all the trees of frankincense, Myrrh, and aloes, along with all the finest balsam oils."

- a. The Bride is compared to an orchard with sweet and pleasant fruits, fragrant plants, many trees, and costly balsam oils. This speaks of the abundance and fruitfulness of her life before God and her ministry to Him and others. Fruit is symbolic of godliness and vibrancy in heart and the various graces in her ministry to others.

(Galatians 5:22) “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

(Ephesians 5:8-10) “you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 as you try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.”

(Colossians 1:5-6) “...the gospel 6 which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth;”

- b. **Pomegranates with delicious fruits** are sweet and refer to our pleasant impact on those around us. Pomegranates must be broken open before they can be eaten. The open pomegranate speaks of our emotions before God (Song 4:3).
- c. **Henna and nard plants** speak of the precious and costly work of the Spirit in our lives. The word for Henna can mean “to forgive” or “ransom” (See notes from 1:14). In Jewish tradition, the bride’s hands and feet were stained with red henna dye before her wedding. Our works (hands) and walk (feet) exude the forgiveness of Christ.
- d. **Nard and saffron, spice reed and cinnamon** refer to the diversity of gifts and graces deposited in us and demonstrated in our ministry. Nard was poured out by Mary at the feet of Jesus (see notes from 1:12). Saffron can also be translated “light” and refers to the light of Christ shining in every area of our lives. Spice reed (calamus) can also mean “upright” and refers to walking in a manner worthy of the Lord. Cinnamon was used in the anointing oil of the priests of the tabernacle and symbolizes holiness before God.
- e. **Trees of frankincense** speak of the ministry of intercession while **myrrh and aloes** refer to embracing the cross and dying to oneself. Myrrh is harvested by piercing the bark of a tree. Aloes are used in healing balms. **The finest balsam oils** are the graces imparted to others through our ministry.

IV. Song 4:15 The ministry of the Holy Spirit at work in the Bride

(Song 4:15) “You are a garden spring, A well of fresh[running] water, And flowing streams from Lebanon.”

- a. There are three sources of water listed here which are symbolic of three ways the Holy Spirit works within us. The **garden spring** is the indwelling Spirit and His ministry. The **well** is our stored history with God that we can draw from. The **flowing stream** is the Spirit coming down upon us from high places.

(Psalm 1:3) “He will be like a tree planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season, And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.”

(John 4:14) “but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never be thirsty; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up to eternal life.”

(John 7:38) “The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’”

- b. Fountains are hidden sources of water from below the surface. This inward supply can be a source to an entire garden or multiple gardens.

(Colossians 1:27) “...Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

- c. Wells are a storage place for water that can be drawn on in times of need or in dry seasons. By storing up a history with God, we can draw from our past experiences and testimonies for ourselves and for others.
- d. Streams are above ground and an outward, energetic flow of water. This outward source is flowing from the high mountains of Lebanon or the high places of promise where we have every spiritual blessing in heavenly places. The Spirit can come upon us from the high places in our time of need.

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 are you keeping your heart sealed from the world and set apart for God?