

## ***Song of Solomon 6:5c-7***

***(Song 6:5c-9) “Your hair is like a flock of goats That have descended from Gilead. 6 Your teeth are like a flock of ewes That have come up from their watering place, All of which bear twins, And not one among them has lost her young. 7 Your temples are like a slice of a pomegranate Behind your veil.”***

I. Review: Jesus breaks the silence

***(Song 5:6-8) “I opened to my beloved, But my beloved had turned away and had gone! ... I searched for him but I did not find him; I called him but he did not answer me. 7 The watchmen ... struck me and wounded me; ...[and] took my shawl away from me. 8 ...daughters of Jerusalem,...tell him: For I am lovesick.”***

- a. Jesus asks the Bride to open her heart to Him; *a call to greater intimacy*. She respond in full obedience, but He immediately withdraws His manifest presence: the first test of devoted love. As she searches for Him, her undignified pursuit provokes the anger and abuse of her spiritual leaders who remove her ministry covering: the second test. At the beginning of the Song, she asked Jesus, “*draw me away*” (in intimacy) “*let us run together*” (in ministry). Even though these desires are tested and temporarily withheld, her response is full devotion: “*I am lovesick... [He] is dazzling [and] wholly desirable...this is my beloved and this is my friend.*”

***(Song 6:4) “You are as beautiful as Tirzah, my darling, As lovely as Jerusalem, As awesome as an army with banners.Turn your eyes away from me, For they have confused[conquered; overcome] me;”***

- b. Jesus breaks the silence and reveals that He was deeply moved and overcome by her steady gaze of love during her season of testing. He begins to affirm the maturity of her love by repeating the descriptions He prophesied over her in Chapter 4. Then, they were seeds and her weak glance had captured His heart. Now, the seeds are fruit that He eats and her weak glance has become an immovable gaze of love. She has conquered Him with her mature devotion.

II. Song 6:5b Jesus describes the maturity of the Bride

***(Song 6:5c) “Your hair is like a flock of goats That have descended from Gilead.”***

- a. Jesus describes the maturity of the bride by highlighting three aspects of her character represented by her hair, her teeth, and her temples. These are the same descriptions that He prophesied over her as budding virtues in Song 4:1-3, now mature and present within her heart. These descriptions are almost identical with few changes signifying that the north winds produced mature beauty within the garden of her heart.

***(Romans 8:28) “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”***

- b. ***Hair*** represents dedication and devotion to God. The hair of the Nazarite symbolized consecration to God. They would not cut their hair to represent their vow of dedication (Numbers 6). Hair also represents the beauty of submission to God’s authority (1 Cor. 11).

- c. **Goats** represent majesty and stateliness in a victorious walk. The stateliness of her devotion is the result of being well fed (on Scripture). **Gilead** was an abundant hill country where sacrificial lambs were grazed. She was well fed on the love of God and the Word of God. Each strand of our hair represents a sacrifice of devotion to Him. Just as He knows every hair on our head, He sees every sacrifices we make throughout a lifetime. The word *Mount* is removed from Song 4 indicating the overcoming of obstacles in connecting with and feeding on God’s Word.

*(Proverbs 30:29-31) “There are three things which are stately in their march, Even four which are stately when they walk: 30 The lion, which is mighty among animals And does not retreat from anything, 31 The strutting rooster or the male goat, And a king when his army is with him.”*

III. Song 6:6 The abundance of God’s Word in her heart

*(Song 6:6) “Your teeth are like a flock of ewes That have come up from their watering place, All of which bear twins, And not one among them has lost her young.”*

- a. **Teeth** represent the Bride’s ability to chew the solid food of God’s Word. An infant, in contrast, must be fed milk produced from someone else’s life in God. The **watering place** is sitting before God and allowing Him to wash us and renew us with His Word. As we eat the scroll through biblical meditation and time alone with God, our teeth are like sheep that came up from the washing and drinking.

*(Hebrews 5:12-14) “...you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the actual words of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unacquainted with the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to distinguish between good and evil.”*

*(1 Corinthians 3:1-3) “I, brothers and sisters, could not speak to you as spiritual people, but only as fleshly[human], as to infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to consume it. But even now you are not yet able, 3 for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like ordinary people?”*

*(Ephesians 5:26) “Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 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.”*

*(Psalm 1:2-3) “his delight is in the Law of the Lord, And on His Law he meditates day and night. 3 He will be like a tree planted by streams of water,”*

- b. In Song 4, her teeth were “newly shorn sheep” which referred to the maiden’s choice to lean on God’s grace, and not her own strength or self-righteousness (See session from Dec. 9, 2022). In this passage, this word is replace by the word “Rachel”, which means “*ewes*” and is also the name of Jacob’s wife. I believe this connects to verses 8-9 in that God desires relationship with us more than any of His creation. In the same way that Jacob labored for 14 years to marry Rachel, we are Christ’s ‘Rachel’ that He endured the cross for and purchased from the Father.
- c. Every ewe *bearing twins* and not losing their young represents a double portion of fruitfulness in the Bride’s ministry. By hearing His Word and gazing upon Him in her season of difficulty, the Bride has a mature ministry to others that is entirely fruitful and never wasteful.

*(John 15:7-8) “7 If you remain in Me, and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.”*

*(1 Timothy 4:6, 11-16) “...you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the good doctrine...11 Prescribe and teach these things. 12 Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe. 13 Until I come, give your attention to the public reading, to exhortation, and teaching. 14 Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was granted to you through words of prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. 15 Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all. 16 Pay close attention to yourself and to the teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”*

#### IV. Song 6:7 Godly emotions

*(Song 6:7) “Your temples are like a slice of a pomegranate Behind your veil.”*

- a. *Temples* or cheeks/countenance refer to emotions in the Song. A sliced pomegranate symbolizes the sweetness of our godly emotions to God. Another way to describe blushing, the red pomegranate displays the sensitivity of the Bride to shameful things. Prostitutes do not blush in response to sinful living.
- b. The *veil* is her hidden life in God. The things we do behind the scenes and when no one is looking. Living a veiled life is living in a way that only God has full access to the sweetest words and emotions we have to give. She is living before an audience of One and not for the approval of others; she has a godly modesty. 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). Our emotions are precious in our worship to God.