

Song of Solomon 5:9-10

(Song 5:9-16) “What kind of beloved is your beloved, O most beautiful among women? What kind of beloved is your beloved, That you make us swear in this way?” 10 “My beloved is dazzling and reddish, Outstanding among ten thousand. 11 His head is like gold, pure gold; His locks are like clusters of dates And black as a raven. 12 His eyes are like doves Beside streams of water, Bathed in milk, And perched in their setting. 13 His cheeks are like a bed of balsam, Banks of herbal spices; His lips are lilies Dripping with drops of myrrh. 14 His hands are rods of gold Set with topaz; His abdomen is panels of ivory Covered with sapphires. 15 His thighs are pillars of alabaster Set on pedestals of pure gold; His appearance is like Lebanon, Choice as the cedars. 16 His mouth is full of sweetness. And he is wholly desirable. This is my beloved and this is my friend, You daughters of Jerusalem.”

I. Review: The Bride’s cry for increased anointing to walk as the inheritance of Christ

(Song 4:16) “Awake, north wind, And come, wind of the south; Make my garden breathe out fragrance, May its balsam oils flow. May my beloved come into his garden And eat its delicious fruits!”

- a. The Bride prayed for both the north winds of trials & testing as well as the south winds of blessing and refreshing that would cause the fragrance of Christ and the fruit of the Holy Spirit to flow from her inner life. This is a prayer for God to do “whatever it takes” to make grace abundant in our lives and love to overflow from our hearts. She declares that “her garden” is now “his garden” and wants Him to remove every part that does not bring Him pleasure. She sees her life and ministry as *His* inheritance and is no longer preoccupied with *her* inheritance in Him.
- b. Jesus of Gethsemane, the Man of Sorrows comes and asks her to open her heart to new depths of intimacy with Him. She responds in full obedience, which is immediately tested in two ways:
 - i. Jesus withdraws His manifest presence from her (5:6) and allows spiritual leaders to mistreat her and remove her ministry platform/covering (5:7)
 - ii. This twofold test directly touches her life vision to be drawn away (experience God's love) and run together with Him (function in anointed ministry expression).
- c. Even in the face of this trial, she responds with deep love for Jesus and humility toward others (5:8). In the same way, our prayerful response of obedience, humility, and deep love when our deepest desires are threatened will align us with truth, strengthen our faith, and remind us that He is our great reward.

II. Song 5:9 The bride’s love witnesses to immature believers

(Song 5:9-16) “What kind of beloved is your beloved, O most beautiful among women? What kind of beloved is your beloved, That you make us swear in this way?”

- a. ***What kind of beloved is your beloved.*** The daughters of Jerusalem see the faithful response of love from the bride. Everything that she held dear was taken from her, yet she does not complain, does not give herself over to depression, and instead is lovesick and humble. Her love

for Jesus provokes them (not her wisdom, insight, or abilities) to ask her about Jesus. “What is it about Jesus that makes Him so much better than any other lover?” They are daughters because they are immature: they have other loves in their lives (people, money, influence, comfort, etc.) that are more important to them than Jesus. *Spiritual maturity is when Jesus becomes the preeminent lover of our soul; He takes the first place in our hearts.*

- b. They refer to her as the ***most beautiful among women*** after she was humiliated and beaten by the watchmen. This is because her lovesickness is what makes her beautiful. Instead of drawing back from her as the watchmen would have wanted (they removed her ministry platform), they draw near to her. They deeply respect and admire her purity and her devotion to Jesus. The watchmen saw a zealot who was dangerous, but the daughters saw a wholehearted lover of God. Many times, our response to hardship is our greatest witness of love for Jesus. Our passion for the Lord is the most powerful and effective element of any ministry. Let us live out our love for Christ during difficulty so that others may ask us who Jesus is.

(Matthew 16:15) “...who do you yourselves say that I am?”

(2 Corinthians 2:14-17) “But thanks be to God, who... through us reveals the fragrance of the knowledge of Him in every place. 15 For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing: 16 ...an aroma... 17 For we are not like the many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God.”

III. Song 5:10 The Bride describes the beauty of Jesus

(Song 5:10-16) “My beloved is dazzling and reddish, Outstanding among ten thousand. 11 His head is like gold, pure gold; His locks are like clusters of dates And black as a raven. 12 His eyes are like doves Beside streams of water, Bathed in milk, And perched in their setting. 13 His cheeks are like a bed of balsam, Banks of herbal spices; His lips are lilies Dripping with drops of myrrh. 14 His hands are rods of gold Set with topaz; His abdomen is panels of ivory Covered with sapphires. 15 His thighs are pillars of alabaster Set on pedestals of pure gold; His appearance is like Lebanon, Choice as the cedars. 16 His mouth is full of sweetness. And he is wholly desirable. This is my beloved and this is my friend, You daughters of Jerusalem.”

- a. The Bride responds to their question with a proclamation of the Beauty of Christ and expounds by describing 10 of His attributes by comparing them to parts of His body. Each of the 10 attributes have 2 descriptions which we will cover in depth over the next two sessions.
 - i. His head (leadership)
 - ii. His locks (dedication/devotion)
 - iii. His eyes (knowledge, wisdom, understanding, discernment)
 - iv. His cheeks (emotions)
 - v. His lips (Word)
 - vi. His hands (actions)
 - vii. His abdomen (compassion)
 - viii. His thighs (walking out/administration of His purpose)
 - ix. His appearance (impartation)
 - x. His mouth (intimacy)

IV. Song 5:10 The supremacy of Christ

(Song 5:10) “My beloved is dazzling and reddish, Outstanding among ten thousand.”

- a. *My beloved is...* she begins to respond to the immature daughters with a statement of her love for Jesus. In the middle of her difficulty, He is still her beloved. She is about to describe the virtues of supreme beauty that are carrying her through this season of testing. She has been meditating on His attributes, abiding in Him even without His manifest presence or protection. *Looking at the attributes of Jesus is our greatest strength in difficult seasons.*

(Hebrews 12:2) “looking only at Jesus, the originator and perfecter of the faith...”

- b. She describes him as *dazzling* which is the Hebrew word “tsach”. This word implies a glowing heat that is so hot that it seems white. This is the lightning of God; the Isaiah 18 “*dazzling heat*” of the Lord. It is the transfigured Christ in all His beauty and splendor. He shines brighter than any other light.

(Matthew 17:2) “And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.”

(1 Timothy 6:15-16) “...He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.”

- c. The word for *reddish*[*ruddy*] is the Hebrew word “adom” which is a reference to the humanity of Jesus. While He is dazzling and dwells in unapproachable light, He is also human and so familiar to us. He is both divine and human. He is the second Adam: the dazzling God poured into human flesh and is the most *outstanding among ten thousand*. This metaphor implies that He is incomparably superior to all other men, lovers, pleasures, gods, names, etc. The number ten thousand here is actually the cultural equivalent of infinity. He is infinitely great.

(Colossians 1:18) “He is also the head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.”

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) Have you ever been inspired by someone’s unshakable love for Jesus?
- 3) What kind of beloved is your beloved? (rephrase: Why do you love Jesus so much?)