

## ***Song of Solomon 2:1-3***

I. Song 2:1-3 The Rose of Sharon - living as Christ's inheritance

***(Song 2:1-3) "I am the rose of Sharon, The lily of the valleys." 2 "Like a lily among the thorns, So is my darling among the young women." 3 "Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest, So is my beloved among the young men. In his shade I took great delight and sat down, And his fruit was sweet to my taste."***

- a. Over the next two sessions, we will examine seven confessions of faith spoken by the Bride and affirmed by the Bridegroom. These confessions can enlighten the eyes of our hearts and help us to live as the inheritance of Christ.

***(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..."***

- b. When we worship, or when we are tempted, we can begin to confess or sing these truths to the Lord. This week, we will examine the first four confessions of the Bride.
  - i. I am the rose of Sharon. (v1a)
  - ii. I am the lily of the valleys, among the thorns. (v1b-2)
  - iii. Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved among the young men. (v3a)
  - iv. In his shade I took great delight and sat down, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. (v3b)

***(Song 2:1-3) "I am the rose of Sharon, The lily of the valleys." 2 "Like a lily among the thorns, So is my darling among the young women."***

- c. Most scholars agree that the maiden is speaking in verse 1, referring to herself as the rose of Sharon, the lily of the valleys. Sharon was a coastal plain between the central mountains of Israel and the Mediterranean Sea. It is referred to as "Lod" in the old testament as well as today. It was an area know for its flowers and fertile ground. The rose of Sharon, in a literal sense, is not what we would think of as a rose. It most likely refers to a saffron crocus as in Isaiah 35 (the only other use of the word). Saffron is a spice harvested from the crimson red ribbons that protrude from the flower. It has remained as one of the most costly substances throughout history and is used in fragrance, seasoning, dye, and medicine.
- d. Being the rose refers to our great value to Christ as His inheritance. We are the great prize of all the ages that Jesus awaits. The affections of the human heart are the most precious possession to God. Jesus died to redeem and in turn, possess our affections. We were created and redeemed to love Jesus with all of our heart, which is to live as His inheritance from the Father.

- e. The word for Sharon can be translated to mean “His song”. The picture here would be that we are the rose, or the theme, of His song. He sings songs of which we are the central theme and muse, the darling rose of His heart.
- f. Throughout scripture, the lily refers to purity. As the rose refers to our beauty and value to Christ, the lily refers to the purity of our obedience to Him. Valleys are often symbols of low and dark places (Ps. 23). Being a lily of the valleys refers to our obedience and purity in the midst of the dark valley of this fallen world.
- g. Jesus affirms this identity and sees her as “a lily among thorns”. Thorns, like the valley, refer to the curse of sin at work in the world. The thorns also refer to the other “young women” Jesus is comparing us to. Some translations use the word thistles for this purpose. Many people are not working out their salvation and pursuing Jesus with the intention of pure obedience. The weak yes (willing spirit) in our hearts is what makes Jesus see us as a beautiful lily among thorns. Though the curse of sin (Gen. 3:18) surrounds us, we walk in pure obedience to Christ (Rom 6). Jesus endured a crown of thorns from those who were to accept Him as King to pursue this lily.
- h. Our love and obedience arises like the fragrance of flowers that intoxicates Jesus’ heart. We are the only prize Jesus longs for; the joy set before Him for which he endured suffering. We have been created and redeemed to fully love Jesus as the rose and fully obey Jesus as the lily. As we walk out our lives as His inheritance, we bring joy and pleasure to God. Love for God and obedience to His voice cannot be separated.

*(John 14:21) “The one who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me...”*

- i. Our calling as believers is to walk out life as His inheritance. This is marked by sincere and pure devotion to Him. Our success is not primarily knit to what we do with our hands, but what we pursue with our hearts. Our value is found within our intimacy with Christ, not our accomplishments for Him. As His rose and lily, I am loved by God and a lover of God. Therefore, I am successful.

*(2 Corinthians 11:2-3) “For I[Paul] am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. 3 But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his trickery, your minds will be led astray from sincere and pure devotion to Christ.”*

*(Revelation 2:2-4) “I know your deeds and your labor... and you have perseverance and have endured on account of My name, and have not become weary. 4 But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.”*

II. Song 2:3 Only Jesus can satisfy

***(Song 2:3) “Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest, So is my beloved among the young men. In his shade I took great delight and sat down, And his fruit was sweet to my taste.”***

- a. The Bride declares that Jesus is the only tree that bears fruit that can satisfy and refresh her. In verse 5, she declares that the apples from the Bridegroom refresh her heart. Jesus is the only one who can satisfy the human heart. When we receive revelation of Jesus as our primary source of refreshing (apple tree), then we will seek Him with all our heart. *All sin is misplaced desire.* Jesus is more than a savior, healer, provider, but is also the apple tree that satisfies.
- b. As a tree among the young men, Jesus stands taller and provides more fruit that is sweet to taste. There are many great men and women in the body of Christ who we can learn from, but none can lead us the way that Jesus can. In Daniel 4, King Nebuchadnezzar is referred to as a great tree. Similarly, the return of Christ is compared to one who comes to chop down the trees that have exalted themselves above Him.

***(Isaiah 2:12-13) “For the Lord of armies will have a day of reckoning Against everyone who is arrogant and haughty, And against everyone who is lifted up, That he may be brought low. 13 And it will be against all the cedars of Lebanon that are lofty and lifted up, Against all the oaks of Bashan,”***

***(Song 2:3b) “In his shade I took great delight and sat down, And his fruit was sweet to my taste.”***

- c. The Bride submits her soul to His authority and sits in His shadow. The shadow refers to His grace that shields us from the scorching heat of this fallen world. The death of Jesus on the cross(tree) cast a grace-shadow over our lives, protecting us from all condemnation and freeing us from the dominion of sin.
- d. Like Mary of Bethany who sat at Jesus’ feet, we must sit and experience His refreshing shade. Some of the greatest pleasures imaginable will take place as we sit in His presence and feed on His words. The Word brings delight to our souls and is sweet to all who will continually feast on Jesus in spirit and truth. This is the “one thing” and “the good part” that we can choose day by day that will refresh us.

***(Luke 10:39-42) “Mary, who was also seated at the Lord’s feet, and was listening to His word....41 But the Lord answered... 42 but only one thing is necessary; for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”***

- e. As believers, we should gain a vision to meditate on God’s word in the scriptures (Read, write, sing, say, pray, play). Our inheritance is to experience the sweet refreshing of the Word of God. There is a sweetness that is within reach of every believer. We will never experience the delight and refreshing of Jesus as the apple tree without sitting in His shade as a lifestyle and feeding on His Word as a daily devotion. As you feed on His fruits, the fruit of His character will begin to grown within you (Gal. 5:22-23).

***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 can you live your life as the inheritance of Christ?
- 3) Have you ever experienced the delight and refreshing found in meditating on the written word of God?