

Song of Solomon 1:9-11

I. Song 1:9-11 Jesus affirms the sincere heart

(Song 1:9-11) “To me, my darling, you are like My mare among the chariots of Pharaoh. Your cheeks are delightful with jewelry, Your neck with strings of beads. We will make for you jewelry of gold With beads of silver.”

- a. In these verses, Jesus compares the maiden to three things that affirm her sincere heart toward God. The sincere heart (or willing spirit, yes in our heart) is one of the ways that we are beautiful to God. ***(see March 11 Song 1:5-6 teaching P.3)*** This willing “yes” in our hearts is beautiful to God even before the way we live aligns with that yes.
- b. The first thing Jesus does is call her “***my darling***”. This word can literally mean “lover-friend”. Jesus views us as His friend and His lover as we touch the heart of God, even in our weakness. His tenderness unlocks the human heart and draws us into communion with Him. He previously gave her a threefold answer to her question “***where do you feed your flock***”. Now, He speaks a threefold affirmation and promise to her. These statements revolve around the way Jesus sees us and believes in us.

(Song 1:9-11) “To me, my darling, you are like My mare among the chariots of Pharaoh...”

- c. God sees her sincere and strong desire to follow Jesus in obedience and right living. Our resolve to walk uprightly is compared to one of Pharaoh’s mare’s (female horse) pulling his chariot. Throughout scripture, the horse is referred to as a symbol of strength and power ***(Job 39:19-25)***. Jesus compares her righteousness to the strength and power of a horse. He speaks to the ***gift of righteousness*** He placed in us as new believers and prophesies strength through grace in our walk with the Lord. As believers, we have the ability to “***reign in life***” through Christ.

(Romans 5:17) “For if by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.”

- i. At this time, Egypt had the most powerful and highly trained horses on Earth. Pharaoh would select the very best of these horses to pull his own chariot. Therefore, the mare pulling Pharaoh’s chariot would be the best horse among the greatest horses in the world. As the wealthiest man alive, Solomon would have purchased many of these horses from Egypt.
- ii. Pharaoh’s chariot is described by historians as being completely covered in gold so that when the sun shone on it, the light would blind his enemies. In the same way, our desire to follow Jesus is like a powerful and meek war-horse harnessed to His chariot, carrying His light into this world without stumbling or shying away in fear.

(Isaiah 63:13) “Who led them through the depths? Like the horse in the wilderness, they did not stumble;”

II. Song 1:10 Jesus affirms our will and emotions

(Song 1:1) “Your cheeks are delightful with jewelry, Your neck with strings of beads.”

- a. The cheeks, or countenance, throughout the Song symbolize our emotions. The cheeks reveal anger, joy, shame, and other emotions. When we look at someone’s cheeks, we can tell what kind of emotions they are experiencing internally. In this way, the emotions of a person are expressed through the cheeks.
 - i. Jewelry is created to beautify and draw attention to a certain feature of a person. Jesus is working as an artist to augment the beauty in our emotions toward Him. Though we often experience emotions that come from our old life, God sees our holy passion and fervency for Jesus growing. “Your emotions are beautiful to me, I am skillfully crafting a passionate yes for Jesus in you!” Our emotions were created to be fulfilled and directed to Jesus, not ignored or stifled. In fact, our loving emotions toward God move His heart.
- b. The neck throughout scripture symbolizes a person’s will or submission. The neck is what turns the head as it chooses to go right or left. When a king triumphed over an opposing nation, the conquering king would place his foot on the neck of the defeated king to symbolize his submission to a new ruler. Our submission to the divine authority of Jesus and our will to obey is beautiful to God.

(Acts 7:51) “You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did.”

- i. Strings of beads (jewels or pearls) symbolize royalty and authority. In submission of our will, we gain access to the King’s authority in heavenly places. This can also be translated to mean “chains of gold”. A prince would have worn a chain of gold with the king’s emblem on it when he was walking through the town. This spoke of his value as the king’s son, inherited authority from the king, and his allegiance to the king. The golden chain is our willful service in love to Jesus; our birthright as co-heirs with Christ. We are slaves to righteousness and are being sanctified from glory to glory.

(Ephesians 2:4-6) “But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our wrongdoings, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,”

(Romans 6:18) “and after being freed from sin, you became slaves to righteousness.”

(Matthew 16:24-25) “Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”

III. Song 1:11 The Lord's promise to finish what He began in us

(Song 1:11) "We will make for you jewelry of gold With beads of silver."

- a. Gold in the scriptures refers to divine character. The God-head speaks here saying that they will produce Christlike character in our lives. Jesus promises to finish the work of refining us like gold as we continue to seek after Him as slaves to righteousness. Beads of silver represent redemption. Authority to bring deliverance with others are the beads of silver placed on our pure-gold heart toward God.

(Malachi 3:1-4) "Behold, I am sending My messenger, and he will clear a way before Me. And the Lord, whom you are seeking, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the Lord of armies. "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire, and like launderer's soap. And He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the Lord offerings in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old, and as in former years."

- b. "We will make" is a promise from the Trinity to finish the work of grace in our lives. He will make us into those who fully choose divine character (gold) and are equipped to deliver others (silver). He promises full victory over dark areas of our hearts and with it, the authority to deliver others from similar areas of sin.

(Hebrews 12:1-2) "Therefore, since we also have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let's rid ourselves of every obstacle and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let's run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking only at Jesus, the [a]originator and perfecter of the faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

(Philippians 1:6) "For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work among you will complete it by the day of Christ Jesus."

- i. The Hebrew here is the same used in Genesis when God created the universe. The God-head that made man in their image is the same God-head that will make our character in their image.

(Genesis 1:26-27) "Then God said, "Let Us make mankind in Our image, according to Our likeness; ... So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

Questions for Discussion:

- 1) Have you ever considered that your will to obey God is beautiful to Him even before it bears fruit in your life? How does this truth change the way you view yourself, God, and others?
- 2) Have you ever considered that God created your emotions and is Himself, and emotional God? How does this truth change the way you view yourself, God, and others?
- 3) What was one point of tonights session that was profound to you? How will you live differently as a result?