

Song of Solomon 6:1-3

(Song 6:1-3) “Where has your beloved gone, O most beautiful among women? Where has your beloved turned, That we may seek him with you?” 2 “My beloved has gone down to his garden, To the beds of balsam, To pasture his flock in the gardens And gather lilies. 3 I am my beloved’s and my beloved is mine, He who pastures his flock among the lilies.”

I. Review: The Bride describes Her Beloved

(Song 5:16) “he is wholly desirable[all desires]. This is my beloved and this is my friend, You daughters of Jerusalem.”

- a. The Bride gave a 10-fold description of the beauty and excellence of Jesus. She declares to the daughters of Jerusalem that He fulfills every desire of the human heart. They saw her response to the ultimate test of her devotion to Jesus and are captivated by her response. She isn’t mad at Jesus for her circumstances, but is declaring His beauty as one who truly knows Him as His closest friend and companion. His glory was infinitely greater than the pain of her testing.

II. Song 6:1 The Daughters stirred with spiritual hunger

(Song 6:1) “Where has your beloved gone, O most beautiful among women? Where has your beloved turned, That we may seek him with you?”

- a. ***Where has your beloved gone?*** The daughters were so spiritually provoked by the Bride’s descriptions of Jesus that they are now desperate to seek this one alongside her. This question is reminiscent of the Bride’s question in ***Song 1:7 “Where do you pasture your flock?”*** In time, these ones will also become the mature Bride who tells others about Jesus, her beloved friend. Before, they asked “who is your beloved?” And now they ask “where is your beloved?” When others see Jesus through our description of Him, they will be gripped with holy desire to search for Him with all their heart. His beauty is unveiled through our testimony of His glory.
- b. ***O most beautiful among women*** - This is the name that Jesus gave the Bride in the first chapter when she was a veiled woman neglecting her garden, asking Jesus where she could be fed. She was abused by her brothers and responded in hunger. Jesus saw this simple response and prophesied what would be her public title in the future as she stepped into her mature role as His bride. He saw her then the way the daughters see her now. She once again responds to abuse from spiritual leaders, this time before all, and is named Most Beautiful.
 - i. There are names that Jesus gives us that thrust us into the fullness of our identity and calling. When Gideon was hiding from the Midianites in a winepress to covertly thresh wheat, God appears and calls him ***“Valiant Warrior” (Judges 6:12)***. He would later lead God’s people in war. When David was a young boy, shepherding sheep, God called Him ***“King” (1 Sam. 16:1)***. When Abram was childless and old, God called Him ***“Father of a multitude of nations” (Gen. 17:5)***.

(Song 1:8a) “If you yourself do not know, Most beautiful among women...”

(Joel 3:10) “Beat your plowshares into swords, And your pruning hooks into spears; Let the weak man say, “I am a warrior.””

(Romans 4:17) “God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that do not [yet] exist.”

- c. In the same way that the light of the knowledge of the glory of God is seen in the face of Jesus (**2 Cor. 4:6**), we also reflect the face of Christ through our transformation from glory to glory as we behold Him. Our ministry (**2 Cor. 4:1**) is most effective when we reflect and declare the character and nature of Christ. We do this through our daily walk, the way we react to difficult circumstances, and our response to the persecution of others. As we endure trials and hardship, the veil over the hearts of others becomes more transparent to the beauty of Jesus.

(2 Corinthians 3:15-4:1) “But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their hearts; 16 but whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ...18 But we all, with unveiled faces, looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory... 1 ...we have this ministry...”

- d. *That we may seek him with you* - They are asking for the Bride to disciple them into the same intimacy with Jesus that she has. Right now, Jesus is only her beloved, not theirs. Her life has preached His gospel of love to them so that they have faith to seek after Him alongside her. Just as Jesus directed the Shulamite on the trail of the flock to the shepherd tents, the Daughters have found a shepherd for themselves to learn from and follow to pasture. Soon, they too will cry out for the kisses of His Word.

(Song 1:8b) “Go out on the trail of the flock, And pasture your young goats By the tents of the shepherds.”

III. Song 6:2-3 The Church - Christ's garden

(Song 6:2-3) “My beloved has gone down to his garden, To the beds of balsam, To pasture his flock in the gardens And gather lilies. 3 I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine, He who pastures his flock among the lilies.”

- a. *My beloved has gone down to his garden.* The garden in the Song symbolizes the heart of a believer seeking after Jesus. This is where He longs to dwell. The Bride has realized now that she carries her beloved in her heart. She will confirm this in verse 3 by declaring that He belongs to her. He literally lives within her. She has not felt His manifest presence in so long, but as she has meditated on His attributes during the dark night of the soul, she has heard His voice from within. The garden is also a picture of the corporate gathering of the saints. When we struggle to find God's presence, we can attend a prayer meeting or a church service and always find Him among His people.

- b. **To the beds of balsam** - Beds is plural to signify each group of believers. Balsam oils or spices signify manifestations of grace in a believer or groups of believers. God tells us not to forsake the assembly, but to prioritize the encouragement of one another. The Holy Spirit manifests Himself to and through each person uniquely so that we need each other to see a full picture of Him. Each “bed of balsam” in the garden has a rich fragrance of Christ that He delights in. Just as His cheeks are a bed of balsam, various gardens of His church reflect different aspects of His personality.

(Hebrews 10:25) “not abandoning our own meeting together, as is the habit of some people, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

(Song 5:13a) “His cheeks are like a bed of balsam, Banks of herbal spices;”

- c. **To pasture his flock in the gardens** - The daughters name for her reminds her of His admonition in Song 1:8 and she gives them the same advice. She teaches them where they can find Jesus and grow in intimacy with Him. He loves to feed us with the fruit of many gardens. We will be fed by His fruit through the hearts and inner lives of other believers constantly. Jesus is always in, among, and building His Church. Jesus dwells in His garden to gather and feed His people. His garden is the global Church, comprised of smaller gardens which are local assemblies.

(Matthew 16:18) “...I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”

- d. **And gather lilies** - Jesus loves to go where there is purity. Each act of holiness in dedication to Him is a lily that He gathers and puts on display. He is the one who walks in the midst of the lamp stands and looks for those with clean hands and pure hearts to delight in. He holds them in His hand. **He pastures His flock among the lilies.** He is always faithful to place us around pure-hearted believers that we can learn and glean from.

(Revelation 1:13-20) “and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, ... 16 In His right hand He held seven stars, ... 20 ... the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.”

(Psalm 24:3-4) “Who may ascend onto the hill of the Lord? And who may stand in His holy place? 4 One who has clean hands and a pure heart...”

- e. **I am my beloved’s and my beloved is mine** - She ends her message to the daughters with a statement of wholehearted love. She is *fully* His just as He was always fully hers. She is truly living as His inheritance and is unwavering in her devotion to Him. The more we meditate on His character, the more we will fully give ourselves over to Him. The north winds have taken their fully effect on her heart and His voice will soon come to lavish affection on her and declare her victorious.

(2 Corinthians 6:16) “...For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, “I will dwell among them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”