

Song of Solomon 2:4-5

I. Song 2:4-7 Living as Christ's inheritance - The Divine Embrace

(Song 2:4-7) "He has brought me to his banquet hall, And his banner over me is love. 5 Refresh me with raisin cakes, Sustain me with apples, Because I am lovesick. 6 His left hand is under my head, And his right hand embraces me. 7 Swear to me, you daughters of Jerusalem, By the gazelles or by the does of the field, That you will not disturb or awaken my love Until she pleases."

- a. In these last two sessions, we have been examining 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. As we long to seek after God with all that we are, we can declare these truth and know that we are declaring the glorious riches that the Father has deposited in us to make us worthy of His Son. This week, we will examine the last three 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)
 - v. **He brought me to His banquet hall and His banner over me is love. (v4)**
 - vi. **I am lovesick. (v5)**
 - vii. **His left hand is under my head and His right hand embraces me. (v6)**

II. Song 2:4 The banner of love - Jesus' loving leadership

(Song 2:4) "He has brought me to his banquet hall[house of wine], And his banner over me is love.

- a. We are called to sit at the banqueting table and feast on the Word and Promises of God. We will ultimately participate in this celebratory feast in the fullness at the marriage supper of the Lamb. We will gather to celebrate God's love for us and rejoice in our eternal identity as His bride. The literal Hebrew of his banquet hall translates to mean his "house of wine". We can partake of the marriage wine now and become inebriated with His love for us.

(Revelation 19:7) “Let’s rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has prepared herself.”

- b. The banner over our lives gives identity and purpose to who we are under the wise, loving, and powerful leadership of Christ. The banner of love declares that the ultimate goal of Jesus is to bring us to full maturity. *“His bride has prepared herself.”* As we continue to pursue Jesus, He is leading us into the fullness of the revelation of His love for us. He will continue to draw us back to His house of wine to drink deeply of His love. This is the first priority of His leadership in our lives: to know His love. Even in our disobedience, the Lord will find ways to put up walls and open doors to direct our way back to His banquet hall.
- c. Jesus will manifest the love-banner of His leadership in three primary ways:
 - i. His lovingkindness or mercy
 - In the context of failure, the banner over our life is confidence in His mercy, not the fear of being rejected by God. *“His banner over me is love, even in my failure.”*

(Hebrews 4:16) “Therefore let’s approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace for help at the time of our need.”

ii. His goodness

- Even in negative circumstances, the banner over our life is that He works everything for our good. *“His banner over me is love, He does not neglect me.”*

(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.”

iii. His pleasures

- As we drink of the wine of God’s love, we are intoxicated by His presence instead of seeking the false comfort of sin. *“His banner over me is love, He satisfies me.”*

(Psalm 16:11) “In Your presence is fullness of joy”

III. Song 2:5 The lovesick Bride - crying out for encounter with God

(Song 2:5) “Refresh me with raisin cakes, Sustain me with apples, Because I am lovesick.”

- a. The experience in the house of wine leaves the Bride lovesick; she has an insatiable desire to go deeper and experience more of God. She cries out to be refreshed and sustained with more of His presence and His word. The raisins/grapes are symbolic of the fruit or wine of the Spirit. Jesus is the apple tree whose apples are words of life (John 6:68). Through the ministry of the Holy Spirit and encounters with the Word of God, we are refreshed and sustained. The Hebrew word

for “sustained” means “to lean on” or “to take hold of and cling to”. The Bride is learning to lean on her beloved and take hold of everything He has for her. She is longing to be strengthened so that she can experience more of His love.

(Ephesians 3:16-19) “that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner self, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled to all the fullness of God.”

- b. We are called to live a life in *lovesickness: the deep and painful feeling of longing for more of Jesus*. As we continue to feel love for God, we will develop spiritual hunger pains that will not be satisfied with anything less than persevering in our pursuit of more. Desperate hunger pains prove we have been touched by God.

(Matthew 5:4,6) “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted... 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.”

IV. Song 2:6 The Divine Embrace

(Song 2:6) “His left hand is under my head, And his right hand embraces me.”

- a. The Bride receives revelation of the twofold embrace of God. The left hand refers to the activity of the Lord that we are unaware of. It is under our head, meaning that we cannot see what it is doing. The Lord does many things for us that we do not see. He withholds and releases many things to bless, provide, and protect us. He even ministers to us in our sleep.
- b. The right hand of God symbolizes His visible and discernible activity in our lives. The King is standing in front of the Bride to embrace her. She can see and feel the manifest presence of God that tenderizes her heart. At His right hand are pleasures forevermore (Psalm 16:11), His right hand is full of righteousness (Psalm 48:10), and His right hand gains victory and accomplishes salvation (Ps. 98:1).

V. Song 2:7 The Bride is protected in her season of lovesickness

(Song 2:7) “Swear to me, you daughters of Jerusalem, By the gazelles or by the does of the field, That you will not disturb or awaken my love Until she pleases.”

- a. The Holy Spirit ordains strategic seasons in the life of every believer. Many are quick to run in ministry with the Lord, but neglect seasons of being drawn away (Song 1:4). Like Martha who was troubled that her sister was not working, but sitting at the feet of Jesus, many in the Church will attempt to “disturb or awaken” those who are in a season of lovesickness. It is imperative that we honor the seasons the Lord has ordained for each of our lives. The agenda for the Bride in this passage was to feed on the raisin cakes and apples and drink of the wine of God’s love. In

the secret pursuit of the presence, we gain revelation knowledge of how Jesus sees us. There is great necessity in dedicating seasons of our lives to go deep in God and in His Word.

- b. The daughters of Jerusalem are believers who lack discernment of the diverse ministry of the Spirit and His divine seasons. The Lord charges them not to disrupt the devotion of others by their opinions and judgments. Jesus will awaken us when the seasons change when it is time (Song 2:8). Many spiritual leaders will counsel believers increase in ministry activity, therefore seeking God less.
- c. “By the gazelles or the does” refers to the importance of gentleness in relating to young believers in this season. A gazelle or doe can be easily startled. In the same way, many believers are easily distracted from the Word. This can cause our love for God to fade.

(Revelation 2:4-5) “But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Therefore, remember from where you have fallen, and repent, and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and I will remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.”

- d. Three times Jesus embraces the Bride and speaks, “Do not disturb or awaken my love Until she pleases.” (2:7; 3:5; 8:4). The displays that we are never to graduate from seasons of seeking God and studying His Word. However, in the third reference, He does not say “by the gazelles or by the does” because she is no longer immature and easily tossed to and fro by life’s circumstances (Ephesians 4:14).

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) From the sevenfold confession, what is the most challenging for you to believe? How do you plan to seek the Lord in receiving revelation of this confession in your own life? Pray Ephesians 1:18 in this context.
- 3) How can we continue to live a life of lovesickness before the Lord? Have you become disturbed or awakened from your first love?