

Song of Solomon 1:5-6

I. Song 1:5 Dark, Yet Lovely to God

(Song 1:5-6a) “I am black and beautiful, You daughters of Jerusalem, Like the tents of Kedar, Like the curtains of Solomon. Do not stare at me because I am dark, For the sun has tanned me.”

- a. The maiden confesses a two-fold truth: she has lived in sin and compromise and has become darkened in her heart; yet, she is also beautiful to God. This is the beginning of her spiritual journey to holy passion for God: a spiritual crisis. This crisis happens in the life of every believer. We become intimately aware of the weakness of our flesh as we continue to struggle against sin as genuine believers. The second half of the confession reveals how we can move forward with hope in the middle of failure: we are lovely in the eyes of God.
 - i. Throughout the song, the Bride will teach the “daughters of Jerusalem” the principles of growing in holy passion for Jesus. The daughters are symbolic of immature, yet sincere believers. They too will begin their journey toward holy passion as they learn from the journey of the Bride in the Song.
- b. As new believers, we become suddenly aware of our sin. The Holy Spirit convicts us of both our sinfulness and our righteousness before God. The more the light of the Holy Spirit shines on us, the more aware we become of our weak limitations.

(John 16:8) “...when He comes, will convict the world regarding sin, and righteousness, and judgment”

- c. It is essential for our spiritual maturity that we know our beauty to God as we become increasingly aware of our sinfulness. When understood together, we will grow in confidence and gratitude in our relationship with Christ.
 - i. As God shines His light in our hearts, we are to walk in the fullness of the revelation that it shows us. He does not show every aspect of our dark hearts to us at once, but when He does, we can have confidence that He loves us and sees us as beautiful even in areas of darkness. God does not reveal darkness in our hearts to us to condemn us, but rather to walk with us in the loving process of sanctification.
 - ii. Our most sincere efforts to love and obey God are inherently flawed and fragile. As we long to obey Jesus out of sincere love for Him, we should not fear that we will be disqualified from our calling because of weakness.

II. Song 1:5 Tents of Kedar & Curtains of Solomon

(Song 1:5-6) “...Like the tents of Kedar, Like the curtains of Solomon.”

- a. The maiden compares herself to two type of fabric. The tents of Kedar were made from blackened skins from wild goats. This is analogous for the weakness and dark appearance of our flesh. The curtains of Solomon were the white curtains in the holy place of Solomon’s temple. They speak of the inward work of grace in the the life of the believer. These curtains were hidden from the world and only seen by the priests who could go into the holy place. As the temple of the Holy Spirit, we are beautiful to our Faithful High Priest when He enters into the holy place of our hearts.

(1 Corinthians 6:19) “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?”

(Hebrews 2:17) “Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brothers so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”

- b. The maiden is confessing that outwardly, she appears dark and blemished, unclean, but inwardly, she is beautiful like the curtains hanging in the holy place of Solomon’s temple. The tents of Kedar can be compared to the weakness of our flesh to resist sin while the curtains of Solomon can be compared to the willingness in our spirit to live for God.

(2 Corinthians 4:16) “Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer person is decaying, yet our inner person is being renewed day by day.”

(Matthew 26:41) “Keep watching and praying, so that you do not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

III. Song 1:6 The Sun Has Tanned Me

(Song 1:6) “... Do not stare at me because I am dark, For the sun has tanned me.”

- a. When Solomon speaks of life under the sun in Ecclesiastes, he is referring to living in this natural world. Here as well, the maiden says that the sun has tanned her skin. She is referring to the impact of being born under the sun, or the natural weakness of and propensity toward sin. Natural life has impacted her and darkened her outward appearance, just as it has with every person born into sin through Adam.
- b. She asks the people not to stare at her and condemn her. She is overwhelmed with the darkness of her heart. She admits to her weak limitations and her past failures. “Yes, I am dark in heart. I have sinned greatly. Don’t stare at me in shame.” This is the perspective we must take not only for ourselves in moments of failure, but also with others when they stumble. Yes, they have sinned. Yes, they have compromised. Yet, they are lovely to God and He is moved by their love, no matter how weak and frail it is.

IV. Three Areas of Our Beauty Before God

(1 Samuel 16:7) “...God does not see as man sees, since man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

- a. **We have received the gift of righteousness.** We are lovely before God because we have received the same righteousness that is in Christ or the same beautiful garments that Jesus possesses. We are made lovely through grace because of what Jesus did on the cross, not because of what we do.

(2 Corinthians 5:17-21) “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ ...God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself... He made Him who knew no sin to be sin in our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

- b. **We have a willing spirit.** When we are born again, God puts a “yes” in our hearts to Him. We agree to change our behavior before the change actually occurs. The yes in our spirit is beautiful to God even before the way we live aligns with that yes. Each movement in our heart toward him is work of the Holy Spirit in us. We call this a “willing spirit.”

(Psalm 51:12) “Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And sustain me with a willing spirit.”

(Matthew 26:41) “Keep watching and praying, so that you do not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

- c. **Our eternal destiny as the Bride of Christ.** God sees us through the lens of who we will be in eternity. When He looks at us, He delights both in who we are now, but also in who we will be as He can see both simultaneously. It is His joy to lead us from the new birth into our our eternal destiny as His co-heir.

Questions for Discussion:

- 1) Have you received the revelation that you are lovely to God even in your weakness? If so, when did you first realize this?
- 2) What was one point of tonights session that was profound to you? How will you live differently as a result?
- 3) Have you ever seen the darkness or weakness in someone else, but received revelation of their beauty before God by the Holy Spirit? Describe what happened.