

Song of Solomon 5:11-16

(Song 5:11-16) “His head is like gold, pure gold; His locks are like clusters of dates And black as a raven. 12 His eyes are like doves Beside streams of water, Bathed in milk, And perched in their setting. 13 His cheeks are like a bed of balsam, Banks of herbal spices; His lips are lilies Dripping with drops of myrrh. 14 His hands are rods of gold Set with topaz; His abdomen is panels of ivory Covered with sapphires. 15 His thighs are pillars of alabaster Set on pedestals of pure gold; His appearance is like Lebanon, Choice as the cedars. 16 His mouth is full of sweetness. And he is wholly desirable. This is my beloved and this is my friend, You daughters of Jerusalem.”

I. Review: The Daughters of Jerusalem question the Bride about Her Beloved

(Song 5:9) “What kind of beloved is your beloved, O most beautiful among women? What kind of beloved is your beloved, That you make us swear in this way?”

- a. The Daughters see the Bride respond to the twofold test with humble devotion to Jesus as she makes them swear to tell Jesus that she is lovesick. This response causes them to view her as the most beautiful among women. More than her wisdom or abilities, these immature believers are provoked by her love for Jesus.
- b. The Bride responds to their question with a proclamation and a 10-fold description of the beauty and excellence of Jesus. She calls Him **“dazzling and reddish”**: the transfigured Christ poured into human flesh; fully God, fully man. She declares Him to be infinitely greater than any other God or man; He is **Outstanding among ten thousand**.

II. Song 5:11a The Excellence of His Leadership

(Song 5:11a) “His head is like gold, pure gold;”

- a. The **Head** symbolizes Christ’s sovereign Headship over all creation. Gold symbolizes His divine nature and quality. Being pure gold means that His leadership is without blemish and is of the highest degree of quality and excellence. The higher the quality of gold, the less likely to tarnish over time. Being pure gold means that His leadership will never fade in brilliance and it will last the test of time. His leadership is perfect.

(Colossians 2:10) “...He is the head over every ruler and authority;”

(Ephesians 1:20-21) “Christ,...seated...at His[The Father] right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.”

(Isaiah 9:7) “There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore.”

III. Song 5:11b The Beauty of His Devotion

(Song 5:11b) “His locks are like clusters of dates And black as a raven.”

- a. The **Hair**[locks] symbolizes His dedication to God and His people. The Nazarite’s would vow not to cut their hair because it was an outward sign of the inward dedication to God. His locks being wavy and full like clusters of dates and black as a raven speak to His youth and vigor as a young man. It contrasts to an old man whose thin and graying hair has lost its vitality. He pursues us with youthful zeal and the power of an indestructible life. Hair can also signify the beauty of submission to God that shows forth one’s glory and dedication to God’s authority. The devotion and consecration of Christ to God and His people is eternally vigorous and will not wear out or fade (1 Cor. 11:5-15).

(Hebrews 13:8) “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, and forever.”

(Hebrews 7:16) “who has become a priest not on the basis of a law of physical requirement, but according to the power of an indestructible life.”

IV. Song 5:12 The Excellence of His Omniscience

(Song 5:12) “His eyes are like doves Beside streams of water, Bathed in milk, And perched in their setting.”

- a. The **Eyes** symbolize His ability to see and know all things. Being like doves, His vision is single and pure, keen and loyal (see teachings on Song 1:15 and 4:1). Streams of water are calm and cleansing; His vision is undistorted by sin, lies, and shame. His vision is clean as He gazes with divine insight and interprets knowledge through the cleanness of His heart. Milk is for nourishing the youthful; He sees the sincerity of our hearts, even when we are immature and nurtures us with what he sees. He sees and responds to every decision we make in secret. He does not misinterpret our deeds. *Living in His gaze releases us from the need to be seen or understood by others.*
- b. Eyes that are perched in their setting are without deformity, like a jewel set in a piece of jewelry. His eyes do not protrude nor are they sunken; they are set perfectly. This signifies the perfection of His discernment. He has perfect knowledge. He discerns both the negative and positive qualities of our hearts and sees the “yes” in our hearts even when we stumble.

(Hebrews 4:13-15) “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him to whom we must answer. 14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let’s hold firmly to our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things just as we are, yet without sin.”

(Proverbs 15:3) “The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.”

(1 Corinthians 4:5) “...wait until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of human hearts; and then praise will come to each person from God.”

(Revelation 2:18-23) “...The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire... says this: 19 ‘I know your deeds, and your love and faith, and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first. ... 23 ...and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts...”

V. Song 5:13a The Beauty of His Emotions

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

- a. The **Cheeks** reveal His emotions, His passions, His pleasures. The emotions of a person are expressed in their cheeks. They enable us to discern if someone is joyful, sad, angry, etc. The emotional life of Jesus is like a bed of balsam[oils] and banks of herbal spices. They are diverse and extravagant in fragrance and uses. His affection toward us is like a costly oil or perfume that can intoxicate us. His emotions are like a diverse garden that we can spend hours enjoying and experiencing for ourselves. The word for banks also means “tower” or “elevated”. When we enter the affections of Jesus, it becomes a tower of protection that elevates us to His perspective of ourselves and others. Paul prayed that we would have strength to comprehend and experience the affections of Christ in a way that surpasses knowledge.

(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 ...you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend ... 19 and ...know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge...”

VI. Song 5:13b The Excellence of His Speech

(Song 5:13b) “His lips are lilies Dripping with drops of myrrh.”

- a. The **Lips** symbolize His words that are sweet and pure like lilies. They are dripping with myrrh, which speaks of the grace upon the words and commands of Jesus to overcome even to the point of death. Myrrh is the grace upon His Word that enables us to embrace the cross and seek to lose our lives (see teaching on Song 5:2-5). As He speaks to us, He liberates us from the selfish desires of our natural man and pours love into us to the same degree that He loves us.

(Isaiah 50:4a) “The Lord God has given Me[Jesus] the tongue of disciples, So that I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word.”

(Psalm 45:2) “You are the most handsome of the sons of mankind; Grace is poured upon Your lips; Therefore God has blessed You forever.”

(Luke 4:22) “And all the people were speaking well of Him, and admiring the gracious words which were coming from His lips...”

(John 6:63) “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh provides no benefit; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit, and are life.”

(John 6:68) “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.”

(John 7:46) “Never has a man spoken in this way!”

(John 17:26) “I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

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) Which attribute of Jesus are you inspired to meditate on this week? Why?