

"The Progression Of Holy Passion"

Session Fifteen:

Song of Songs 6:8-13

I) Jesus Declares The Bride To Be Among The Favorite Of Church History (SOS 6:8-9)

A) **Song of Songs 6:8-9** *"There are sixty queens and eighty concubines, and virgins without number. My dove, My perfect one, is the only one, the only one of her mother, the favorite of her who bore her. The daughters saw her and called her blessed, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her."*

- 1) It's here that Jesus is continuing to praise the bride from **Song of Songs 6:4-7** where He said *"O my love...your beautiful, lovely...victorious...you've conquered My heart...I love your dedication...your ability to eat the word...and your happy heart."* In the above verse Jesus is continuing to praise the bride.
- 2) Solomon is praising the bride by describing the other women that he has around him. He is saying that his bride, his perfect one far surpasses the many others that he has around him.

B) *"My dove, my perfect one, is the only one, the only one of her mother, the favorite of her who bore her..."*

- 1) *"My dove..."* = He is once again declaring His bride to be single-minded, devoted and pure.
- 2) *"...My perfect one, is the only one..."* = He is declaring her not to be "perfect" but moving forward in maturity. It's not that she's attained perfection, but that she's reaching for maturity.

(i) **Ephesians 4:13-15** *"...till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children...but speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the Head—Christ..."*

- 3) The goal of Jesus' heart is that He would have a bride on the earth that would be equally yoked with Him in love, understanding that she has an inheritance in Him (1st Commandment) and that He has an inheritance in her (2nd Commandment).
- 4) *"The only one of her mother, the favorite of her who bore her..."* = We understand from other passages and specifically this one, that her mother is the Church or the person (vehicle, or instrument) that gave her life.
- 5) Solomon is saying that there are many people who love him and even at different degrees but his bride, or his dove, his perfect one is the favorite of her mother.
- 6) When it comes to the Kingdom of God and being in relationship with Jesus, we get out of it what we put into it.

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- 7) All of us have been given a measure of grace and what we do with that measure is up to us in partnership with the Holy Spirit. God has invited everyone to go deep and to love Him in the way that He has loved us, but few respond to His invitation.
- (i) **1st Corinthians 15:10** *"But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."*
- 8) There are many Christians in the body of Christ but there are few that strive to love God in the way that He has loved them.
- (i) **Philippians 3:12-13** *"Not that I have already attained, or am perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus laid hold of me."*
- 9) Though Church history is filled with millions of Christians it only has some that stand out among the many as our favorites.
- (i) Watchman Nee's commentary on the "Song of Songs" touched me deeply, but it wasn't published until after he died in prison under persecution for the Gospels sake. Nee thought it better to die for Jesus in mainland China than go somewhere and be free.
- 10) The bride is no longer being praised only by Solomon, but also the others around her because of the way she has pressed in and worked through the many hardships that have come her way. She maturing and it's beautiful.

II) The Bride Is Praised For Her Maturing Glory (SOS 6:10)

- A) **Song of Songs 6:10** *Who is she who looks forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, awesome as an army with banners?*
- B) *"Who is she who looks forth as the morning.."* = It's here that the bride is receiving the fruit of her decision to *"follow Jesus until the DAY breaks and the SHADOWS flee away (SOS 4:6)."*
- 1) The shadows aren't totally gone, but she's starting to break forth with the light of day.
- (i) **Proverbs 4:18** *"But the path of the just is like the shining of the sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day."*
- C) *"...fair as the moon..."* = She's reflecting the subtle, hidden, indwelling Christ that's much different than the sun (**Col. 1:27**). The moon has a much different purpose than the sun, for it shines at night and it's a reflection of the Sun. It has no light of its own (**Gen. 1:14-16**).
- D) *"...awesome as an army with banners."* = It's here that she is summed up by not only living a nearly shadow-less life and reflecting the inward Christ but she's also victorious over her enemies.

III) The Brides Sudden Growth In The Second Commandment (SOS 6:11-12)

- A) **Song of Songs 6:11-12** *I went down to the garden of nuts to see the verdure of the valley, to see whether the vine had budded. Before I was even aware, my soul had made me as the chariots of my noble people.*
- B) *"I went to the garden of nuts to see the verdure of the valley, to see whether the vine had budded..."*
- 1) Throughout the entire Song the garden of God is mentioned 9 times. The first 3 times are in reference to her garden (**SOS 4:12,15,16**) and the last 6 references are speaking about His garden (**SOS 4:16;5:1;6:2,11:7:12;8:13**).
 - 2) It's here that the bride has gone down into the garden of God to serve others in the 2nd Commandment.
 - 3) She was going down with the purpose of seeing if the vine had budded and to help it come to fruition.
 - 4) This is speaking about the immature Church as the garden of God still in seed (nut) form and it's just starting to bud or break forth with real external fruit.
 - 5) She's now serving other's in the way that God had served her. Do you remember from **Song of Songs 2:15** that she said her vineyard was just starting to bud, and in **Song of Songs 4:1-5** where God addressed the 8 budding virtues within the bride that weren't external yet, just internal?
 - 6) She is only able to care for others in this patient way, because she has first been served by God in a patient way.
- C) *"Before I was even aware of it, my soul had made me like as the chariots of my noble people."*
- 1) It's here that the 2nd Commandment (service to others) is being worked out through the life of the bride in a real, powerful and fruitful way.
 - 2) Her soul has been transformed in such a way that she is now moved towards people from the inside out.
 - 3) Because the bride has put the 1st commandment in first place (being drawn away with God) she is now walking out the 2nd commandment in a powerful and fruitful way.
 - 4) In Hebrew culture and Old Testament time period there was several ways to travel, with a chariot being among the best and smoothest.

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- 5) She's likening the transformation of her soul towards people in the 2nd commandment like moving swiftly, stately and smoothly in a chariot.
- 6) Her soul has been transformed through the 1st commandment to do the 2nd commandment.
 - (i) **Colossians 3:1-4** *"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory."*
- 7) Many people are worried that if we give ourselves to the 1st commandment in a real way, that the 2nd commandment won't get done. But it's clear that we do the 2nd commandment through the 1st commandment.

IV) Two Different Responses To The Bride From The Church (SOS 6:13)

- A) **Song of Songs 6:13** *"Return, return, O Shulamite; Return, return, that we may look upon you! What would you see in the Shulamite—as it were the dance of two camps?"*

- 1) The daughters first speak up and ask the Shulamite (bride) to stay so that they can continue learning from her. But she is committed to partnering with Jesus in serving His many gardens which means she must move on with Him.
 - (i) Many were sad to see Jesus move on to other people and the same was true with Paul (**Jn. 16:5-7; Acts 20:37-38**).
- 2) The second response is from the watchmen who struck her and wounded her. They have a response of sarcasm and disdain for the wholehearted way that the bride has searched out Jesus.
- 3) There will always be a dance of two camps in the body of Christ. Those that desire wholeheartedness before God and those that don't. Your life of wholehearted devotion to Christ, will always encourage some and challenge others.