

"The Progression Of Holy Passion"

Session Eighteen: Song of Songs 8:1-7

I) Introduction

- A) Last week we looked at the brides affection based obedience (**SOS 7:9b-10**), their partnership in powerful and fruitful ministry (**SOS 7:11-12**) and we seen how the bride was enjoying the fruits of her labors as she was laying them up for Jesus (**SOS 7:13**).

II) The Brides Partnership With Jesus And Humility In Her Ministry (SOS 8:1-2)

- A) **Song of Songs 8:1-2** *"Oh, that you were like my brother, who nursed at my mother's breasts! If I should find you outside, I would kiss you; I would not be despised. I would lead you into the house of my mother, she who use to instruct me. I would cause you to drink of spiced wine, of the juice of my pomegranate."*
- B) *"Oh, that you were like my brother, who nursed at my mother's breasts! If I should find you outside, I would kiss you; I would not be despised..."*
- 1) It's here in the language of the bride's day that she is expressing her passion to show Jesus affection in public not only in private. During this time it was improper for one to show affection to someone of another sex, if it wasn't your immediate family.
 - (i) *"Oh, that You were like my brother...if I should find you outside, I would kiss you; I would not be despised..."*
 - 2) The bride is longing to love Jesus in public, in the same way that she has loved Him in private.
 - (i) **Acts 4:29** *"Now, Lord look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word."* New Testament boldness isn't a personality trait; it's a spiritual quality that only comes through the Holy Spirit.
 - 3) It's also here that the bride is expressing her passion to kiss Jesus with her words of intimacy. This is very different from **Song of Songs 1:2** where the bride said to Jesus *"Kiss me with the kisses of Your mouth (word)."*
 - 4) Receiving love from Jesus causes us to give love to Jesus. Many don't give love to Jesus, because they don't see or hear His great love for them.
- C) *"...I would lead you into the house of my mother, she who use to instruct me. I would cause you to drink of spiced wine, of the juice of my pomegranate."*
- 1) In great humility the bride is now leading Jesus back into the Church (mother) to share Him with those that first helped her in her journey of loving God.

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- (i) I owe so much of my experience in the Gospel to others. I also work hard to thank those that have impacted me, provoked me and challenged me by periodically calling them and telling them thanks.

III) The Unseen And Seen Activity Of God In The Brides Life (SOS 8:3-4)

- A) **Song of Songs 8:3-4** *"His left hand is under my head, and His right hand embraces me. I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, do not stir up nor awaken love until it pleases."*
- B) *"His left hand is under my head, and His right hand embraces me..."*
- 1) The bride is speaking about the unseen and seen activity of God in her life. His left hand being under her head speaks of the activity of God in her life that she can't see. And His right hand embracing her is the activity of God in her life that she can see.
 - 2) It's important that we thank God for His activity in our lives that we see and that which we don't see. I have learned to tell the Holy Spirit regularly how grateful I am of all the things He does in my life that I never see.
- C) *"...I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, do not stir up nor awaken love until it pleases."*
- 1) For the third time within the Song, the bride admonishes the daughters to make sure they are ready to satisfy Jesus' love when it becomes awakened within them.

IV) The Ascension Of The Bride From The Wilderness (8:5)

- A) **Song of Songs 8:5** *"Who is this coming up from the wilderness, leaning upon her Beloved? I awakened you under the apple tree. There your mother brought you forth; there she who bore you brought you forth."*
- 1) In this verse two people are speaking. I believe that it's first the daughters that say *"Who is this coming up from the wilderness, leaning upon her Beloved?"* and then it's Jesus who says *"I awakened you under the apple tree. There your mother brought you forth; there she who bore you brought you forth."*
- B) *"Who is this coming up from the wilderness, leaning upon her Beloved?"*
- 1) This is what I like to call a loving and leaning heart. The bride now has a heart that's empowered in love (demonstrating the works of the Kingdom) but she's still pictured as leaning (resting, humility, confession of her weakness) upon her Beloved Jesus.
 - 2) She has power in both private and public ministry, but she fully understands that she is not God. This is the goal of our Christian life. That we have power but that His power doesn't stop us from leaning into Jesus even harder still.

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- 3) The Church at the end of this age will be a victorious bride who will ascend from this wilderness called "life in this fallen age." It will be a loving (victorious) bride who is fully leaning (dependant) upon Jesus.
 - 4) Beloved, the bride is only able to ascend the wilderness because she first seen Jesus ascend;
 - (i) **Song of Songs 3:6-7** *"Who is this coming out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all the merchants fragrant powders? Behold, its Solomon..."*
 - (ii) **Revelation 1:17-18** *"When I saw Him, I fell as a dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me; do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of death."*
 - 5) The daughter's can't recognize who it is that's ascending. They can't tell if it's one person or two! The bride has become one with her Beloved!
- C) *"...I awakened you under the apple tree. There your mother brought you forth; there she who bore you brought you forth."*
- 1) Jesus enters into the conversation and reminds her that it was Him who awakened her under the apple tree.
 - (i) **Song of Songs 2:1-3** *"...like a lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters. Like an apple tree among the trees of the woods, so is My beloved among the sons."*
 - 2) It was here, under the apple that the bride seen her unique beauty among the thorns and His unique beauty as an apple tree among the trees of the woods.
 - 3) We become awakened when we see the combination of both our beauty and His beauty.
1. *"...There your mother brought you forth..."* The Churches goal is to awaken people to both their unique beauty and His unique beauty. Those two revelations alone awaken the heart.

V) The Fiery Seal And The Price Of Love (SOS 8:6-7)

- A) **Song of Songs 8:6-7** *"Set Me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel as the grave; its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame. Many waters cannot quench love, nor can floods drown it. If a man would give for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly despised."*
- B) *"Set Me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm..."*

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- 1) Jesus is calling out to the bride and asking to be the seal upon her heart (**1st Commandment**) and her arm (**2nd Commandment**). The heart is about her passion for Jesus and her arm is about her service to others. He wants to be central in both her love and in her service.
 - (i) **Revelation 2:1-5** *"I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, but found them to be liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. Nevertheless you have left your first love...Repent or else I will put out your lamp stand (ministry)..."*
 - (a) They had works, labors, patience, hated evil, good doctrine, perseverance and hadn't become weary (Service/Arm) but they lost their first love (Heart/Jesus).
 - 2) The seal is a wax seal that came from kings when they were sealing secure documents to be transported in the hands of others. The kings would either wear this ring on their finger or on a chain that hung around their neck (near their heart).
 - 3) Jesus doesn't only seal our hearts with wax (Holy Spirit) but He also has the ring (power) to enforce the implications of the wax seal. Jesus isn't just a hopeless romantic, He's a King who can in-force the implications of His love (**Eph. 1:13**).
- C) *"...for love is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel as the grave; its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame. Many waters cannot quench love, nor can floods drown it..."*
- 1) Jesus' love is stronger than death, more cruel than the grave. Of the multiplied billions that have lived all but three are in the grave, Enoch, Elijah and Jesus. This is a massive statement to the strength of God's love (**Rom. 8:37-39**).
 - (i) God is not like a fire, He is a fire. *7 lamps burning before Him, a sea of glass mingled with fire, His eyes like flames of fire, His face shining like the sun, Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit and fire, the seraphim or cherubim who are before Him night and day are literally called the burning ones, He leads His people with a pillar of fire, He speaks through burning bushes, He makes His ministers a flame of fire and He Himself is like a refiners fire.*
- D) *If a man would give for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly despised."*
- 1) We often praise the sacrifices of men in the Church who leave lives of ambition and success to follow Jesus as something noteworthy. Were measuring apples with watermelons. We aren't giving up anything in this age that's worth what we are receiving in the age to come (**Phil. 3:8**).