

"The Progression Of Holy Passion"

Session Six:

Song of Songs 2:1-7

I) Introduction

- A) In the previous session we looked at the brides shame and rejection (**1:6**), her cry to be restored the One she loved (**1:7**), His feelings toward her in her place of brokenness (**1:8-11**), her revelation of His sacrifice (**1:12-14**) and the fresh, intimate interchange between them both (**1:15-17**).
- B) In session six we are going to look at the brides personal revelation of herself, her personal revelation of Him, the love that He has for her and the love that she has for Him. The first half of Song of Songs chapter two is what I refer to as the "Divine Romance."

II) The Brides Personal Revelation Of Herself (2:1-2)

- A) **Song of Songs 2:1-2** *"I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys. Like a lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters."*
 - 1) The divine interchange at the close of Chapter one is what led to the brides personal revelation of herself in Christ. She sees herself as being beautiful both to God and among fallen humanity.
 - 2) The rose and the lily here are both describing the bride. She is both a rose and a lily. The rose represents love and the lily represents purity. She is seeing that her love for Jesus and her purity in Him make her lovely.
 - 3) Personal revelation of our beauty in Christ is the foundation that must be internally laid if we are going to grow in our revelation of God. If you feel dirty you live dirty and if you feel clean you live clean.
 - (i) **Luke 12:27-28** *"Consider the lilies, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith."*
 - 4) Just like the bride, we too must receive a **personal** revelation of our beauty and worth to God among things around us that are fallen. Without this we will live at a distance. Most of us have no problem seeing Jesus' beauty but couldn't imagine ourselves as beautiful.
- B) *"... the lily of the valleys. Like a lily among thorns..."*

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- 1) The valleys speak of those things that are dark and the thorns speak of those things that are sinful and separated from Christ (**Psalm 23; Gen. 3:17-18; Heb 6:8**).

III) The Brides Personal Revelation Of Jesus' Beauty (2:3a)

- A) Song of Songs 2:3a *"Like an apple tree among the tress of the woods, so is my Beloved among the sons."*

- 1) It's not only a personal revelation of her beauty that the bride sees, but a personal revelation of His beauty among the many other things of life in this age. He is like an apple tree among the other tress of the woods.
- 2) In the Eastern landscape men and women would walk all day, along the waters and cities, passing tall cedars and the oaks of their region without seeing any trees that possessed edible fruit. Finding an apple tree among many other trees was like a meal from heaven.
 - (i) **Mark 11:12-14** *"Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany He was hungry. And seeing from afar a fig having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. In response Jesus said to it, let no one eat fruit from you ever again."*
- 3) Our hearts become awakened in love when we see the two fold reality of our beauty before God and His beauty among every other thing. It's takes this twofold reality to make our hearts alive in Christ.
 - (i) Our beauty-His beauty=confidence in ourselves but arrogance towards God
 - (ii) His beauty-our beauty=humility towards Christ but no confidence in ourselves
 - (iii) Our beauty+His beauty=humility towards Christ and confidence in ourselves

IV) The Brides Rest In The Shade Of The Cross (2:3b,c)

- A) Song of Songs 2:3b,c *"I sat down in His shade with great delight and His fruit was sweet to my taste."*

- 1) The bride is being pictured as sitting underneath the shade of God or the finished work of the Cross. It's here in His shade that the bride finds a place of rest and delight in the heart of her Beloved.
- 2) The kind of shade that you and I need cannot come from ourselves. It can only come from Christ. It's only in the finished work of the Cross that we find true rest for our weary souls.
- 3) Many of us relate to God based on what kind of day were having. If it's a good day, then we have confidence before Him, but if it's a bad day then we have shame before Him.

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- 4) When we live like this, we are trying to do for ourselves what only the cross can do. It's only through Jesus' cross that I can find the rest that my soul longs for.
 - (i) **Romans 6:13** *"And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead and your members as instruments of righteousness to God."*
- 5) When I rest in the finished work of the Cross (His shade) I can come before Him on my good days and my bad days with the same amount of confidence, as one who is alive from the dead.
 - (i) **Luke 10:38-42** *"...and Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving...And Jesus answered and said to her, Martha, Martha you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."*
- 6) Often in the Church there is much activity but little life being produced within us and those that we lead. Running hard doesn't mean we're growing in love.
- 7) You will never go deep in God and experience the revelation of His heart on the run. You must make time for Him. You must sit before Him in order to experience the delight of being with Him.
- 8) Many of us say that God is boring, dull and disconnected from our lives. While our Bible's are covered in dust, sitting on shelves as we were moving at sprint car paces through life hoping that by chance our hearts will become alive in Christ. It's a pipe dream.
- 9) Our delight in Christ comes as we sit underneath His shade tree and eat His pleasant fruit.

V) Jesus' Banner Of Love Over The Bride And Her Lovesickness (2:4-5)

A) **Song of Songs 2:4-5** *"He brought me to the banqueting house, and His banner over me was love. Sustain me with cakes of raisins, refresh me with apples, for I am lovesick."*

- 1) The bride has been taken into the house of wine, the banqueting house or the house of celebration. He has taken her into His house of wine and He is refreshing her with His wine of celebration and flying a banner of love over her.
 - (i) We didn't chose God but He chose us (**John 15:16**). Our love for Him is always a response of His love towards us. We love Him because He first loved us (**1st John 4:19**).

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- (ii) Of the many house's He could take her into, it's the house of abundance that He has chosen (**John 20:17** *"...I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to my God and your God."*)
 - (iii) And in the creative genius of God, He could have flown many banners over her, but He has chosen to fly a banner of love.
- 2) It's important that we keep in context that the bride is still immature and struggling with great weakness, but it's in this current state that He is flying a banner of love over her.
- (i) **Luke 15:20** *"And he arose and came to his father. But when he was **still a great way off**, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him."*
- 3) Many of us think that when we finally have all things together and receive freedom from our struggles God will love us. Most of us struggle to see a God who **enjoys us** in the **process** of freedom not only when we receive it.
- 4) Beloved, right now, today, in the process of being saved, God has brought you into the banqueting house, given all things to you and is flying a banner of love over you! Right now, today, not tomorrow or next year, but today.
- 5) Have you seen your beauty before God? Have you seen His beauty as being totally other than everything else around? Do you feel loved in the process of growing in Christ, even while you're still struggling with sin?
- 6) Take yourself out of probation, enjoy the love of God, repent of sin and present yourself to Christ as one who is alive from dead. Shame, guilt and condemnation aren't helping you grow in Christ, they're holding you back!