

Studies in the Song of Solomon (1-9-20)

LONGING FOR THE BRIDEGROOM

(Song 1:1-6)

***Song 1:2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth—
For your love is better than wine.***

Let Him Kiss Me with the kisses of his mouth (1:2)

- The Song opens right away with the Shulamite longing for his kisses. There is longing, mystery.
- Many have taken the kisses as being that of His Word. It's an intimate, personal, individual exchange. It awakens our heart. The kiss changes everything. It awakens something in us.
 - These kisses are the touch from God that awakens us.
 - They are the kisses of His Word
 - They are the things that come with God's grace: His peace, forgiveness, mercy, purpose, acceptance...
 - We long for the most intimate kisses of the heart of God. Our hearts are filled with longing to know this God who loves us so deeply.
- Asking for the kisses of God is the beginning of the process of being rooted and grounded in His love (Eph. 3:16-17). It's the longing of our heart. It's the forming of our identity in Christ.

For your love is better than wine (1:2)

- She says that his love is more intoxicating, pleasurable, and valuable to her than wine.
- The love of God that we experience is more precious to us than the pleasures and riches of this world.

***Song 1:3 Because of the fragrance of your good ointments,
Your name is ointment poured forth; Therefore the virgins love you.***

Fragrance of your good ointments (1:3)

- She compares his name to fragrant oil that is poured out.
- The name summarizes the person's character, their abilities, their heart.
- The names of God remind us of who He is: Father, Savior, Prince of Peace, Healer, Deliverer, King, the God who provides (Jehovah Jireh: "The Lord Will Provide")

Therefore the virgins love you (1:3)

- These are the other young unmarried women in Israel. In vs. 5, she refers to these "daughters of Jerusalem."
- The Shulamite often interacts with this "chorus" of voices throughout this Song. They have an appreciation and love for the King, but don't have the close personal relationship that the Shulamite has.

Draw Me away (1:4)

- This summarizes the longing of the Shulamite. She wants the Beloved to take her to himself. She wants to be whisked away to be with him.
- This is the life vision of every Christian. One measure of spiritual health is our longing to see Jesus and to be with Him. (Titus 2:13)

We will run after you (1:4)

- Either this is the Shulamite wanting to run with the Beloved, or the Shulamite is expressing the general desire of the young maidens, she wants to run with the Beloved.
 - She is not yet mature in her love. This is what she wants. She is drawn away by the Beloved, but when He invites her to come with him leaping over the mountains of worldly problems, trials and obstacles, she refuses. She isn't ready yet. She likes the bridal chamber.
- We long to be with the Lord and to run with Him. The Father desires a Bride for His Son. This is what Holy Spirit is doing. He is getting us ready for a wedding. This is where all of history is heading, to this great wedding of Jesus, the Lamb of God who paid the penalty for our sins. We have become the children of God and the Bride of Christ.

Rev. 19:7-8 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

I am dark, but lovely (Song 1:5-6)

- She is aware of the color of her skin. She is dark from working out in the sun. Her brothers made her take care of their vineyards and her own vineyard has gone neglected.
 - She is insecure. More than that, she is immature in her love
- We are aware of our immaturity. Our love will mature in this journey.
- Her vineyard is not ready to give to the Beloved yet. She gives the excuse of her brothers. This could be the needs around us that shout at us. These are the issues that we continue to face in our life. These are the people who are closest to us - our family, our loved ones. Their demands, whether spoken or unspoken, whether intentional, or unintentional - we are unable to tend to our own vineyard. We haven't learned to pursue God through these.
 - Now that time has come for us to be drawn away and run with the Beloved, we become aware that there are things that hold us back.
 - It can be our own insecurities or immaturity that keeps us from being able to follow Jesus. It can be the difficult circumstances in our lives that we don't know how to move on from. They feel overwhelming.
- Whatever the reason, we all have these. We all feel dark. It's how we are perceived by ourselves, by others, and how we think God sees us.
- It's the paradox of grace. We feel the desire for more of Him, yet we are dark. Yet we are lovely to Him.
 - How we navigate this tension determines how we will move forward in spiritual maturity and love for God.
 - If we don't understand this paradox, then we will be stuck on this roller coaster and find ourselves back to the same spot in our hearts over and over again.
 - If we understand how God leads us to navigate this, we will find that God delights in us even in our weakness. He honestly enjoys us even in our immaturity. He actually delights in mercy and not judgment.
- Her experiencing this dark, immaturity will be seen in the rest of this Song.
It's not just insecurity, it's immaturity. She wants to be drawn away and to run with Him. When He calls, she does not, she cannot, she will not go. But her love will mature...
- It's into this setting that that Beloved's voice will break in later in this chapter:

Song 1:15 Behold, you are fair, my love!

Behold, you are fair! You have dove's eyes.