

Song of Solomon 4-6 – 24 August 2023

“Love That Restores Us”

Introduction

- *There are 4 layers by which to interpret this book
 - *The glory of wedded love
 - *God’s love for His wife Israel
 - *Christ’s love for His bride the church
 - *Christ’s love for the individual – for you
- *Don’t leave this book primarily being the wiser for it, but primarily being deeper in love with Jesus
- *If in chapters 1-3 we saw a “Love that draws us”, then in chapters 4-6 we see a “Love that restores us”
- *We’ll see in chap 5 today missteps by the bride
- *So these chapters bring us thru the process from perfect relationship (at salvation) to a restored relationship (one that’s been thru troubles to be reunited)

Today we’ll see 4 stages in that relationship cycle toward restoration with our loving King Jesus

1st Stage: Enjoying the perfection of the garden (Chap 4:1-5:1)

Read Chap 4:1-2 (He speaks)

1. Remember 'fair' isn't so-so but wonderful
2. So the hair is black as goats and teeth are white as sheep, great we have that in the right order

Read Vs 3-5

1. Lips...good, temple?
2. Guys don't use the content here but the intent

Read Vs 6-7

1. Myrrh & incense used in both wedding & burials
2. Thinking of our relationship w/ Christ, we certainly see the hill of Calvary on which Jesus offered Himself
3. "All fair, no spot": This's the way Jesus sees us
 - a. Read Rom 4:17: 'Not, as though they were'
 - b. Read Jud 24 – 'He will present us faultless'
 - c. Rev 19:8 – 'To her was granted white linen'

Read Vs 8-9

1. It's the call to go higher, further, where there may even be lions
 - a. Mt Hermon being the highest point in Israel
2. By just one look, you steal my heart

Read Vs 10

1. There is a wonderful filling of the soul in a loving relationship
2. Jesus Himself is filled in a relationship w/ us

Read Vs 11

1. To be near you is of great desire
2. Jesus longs to be with us, to go thru life with us

Read Vs 12-15

1. Chaste, pure and dedicating herself to Him
2. The Lord always compares our relationship as a garden not a factory
 - a. Doing has to be born out of love
 - b. A garden naturally produces life

Read Vs 16 (She speaks)

1. She enjoins him to come & enjoy her pleasures
2. You'll notice that she's now talking less and less, while He's talking more and more

Read Chap 5:1 (He speaks)

1. Notice the word 'my' all thru the verse
 - a. He's taking ownership, responsibility
 - b. She should feel secure in his protection
2. She called to him in vs 16 to come & He does
 - a. Read John 6:37: All that come...not cast out
 - b. Her call to Him never goes unanswered

2nd Stage: Times of indifference (Chap 5:2-8)

Read Chap 5:2 (She speaks)

1. Even in the night, he's knocking, inviting her to be with Him

Read Vs 3

1. She can't get up early to spend the time w/ Him

2. This isn't done from ignorance of who He is, but from indifference
3. Can get so busy w/ work, that we forsake Him

Read Vs 4

1. The key hole could hold flowers or notes
2. Sees Him wanting to come in & longs for Him
3. God's love for us compels us toward Him
 - a. This has nothing to do w/ Theology, but is of communion

Read Vs 5-6

1. So He left this myrrh for her
2. Even Jesus has reaction when He takes a loving advance toward His bride & finds indifference
3. We're all growing in grace, but let's be sensitive to the Lord calling us near for each day
 - a. He wants to be "with us" - Emmanuel

Read Vs 7

1. She's suffering the consequences of not coming to Him in time

2. When you say, “I can’t find the Lord”, first ask, ‘is it b/c of sin or indifference in my life?’
3. Now look, people will treat us much harsher than the Lord will – they smote her

Read Vs 8

1. If you find Him, tell Him my heart is broken for my loss

3rd Stage: Remembering how Jesus is better than all the rest (Chap 5:9-16)

Read Chap 5:9 (Daughters speak)

1. In a world filled with sex, drugs and rock-n-roll, Jesus is more than these
 - a. Ephesian church from Rev 2:2-5 – Great working church that’s left their first love
 - b. Prodigal Son returns b/c he remembered that his father was wonderful
2. Among man’s religions, Jesus is more than them

Read Vs 10 (She speaks)

1. ‘White & ruddy’ – gleaming yet earthy
2. Not Buddha, Mohammad or Krisna, or any others that succumb to death, but J.C. of Nazareth

Read Vs 11-12

1. His bearing is royal, his hair is full, not falling out, and his eyes are of peace

Read Vs 13

1. He allowed this face to be beaten by men

Read Vs 14-15

1. ‘His countenance’ – the way He looks at me
2. How would you describe Jesus? (S.M. Lockridge)

Read Vs 16

1. Everything of Him is wonderful w/o lacking
2. What a wonderful thing that we have a “love” (chosen) but also “friendship” (willing)
 - a. John 15: No longer call you servants, but friends

4th Stage: Beautiful rejoining (Chap 6:1-13)

Read Chap 6:1 (Daughters speak)

1. Well, if he's all that, we want to seek him too!
2. Our love of Christ should attract others to Him

Read Vs 2-3 (She speaks)

1. She now rests in how He's where he should be, doing His work
2. 'Among lilies'- Remember SoS 2:1-2, she saw self as common, but he saw her as a lily among thorns
3. She has the security He's not going to leave her

Read Vs 4 (He speaks)

1. There's no rebuke from Him that she didn't answer the door earlier – but he's ready to resume
2. He's so different than we would be

Read Vs 5-7

1. Why's he repeating this? For her benefit
 - a. We easily forget or are unbelieving
 - b. This is still how he see us; this is still....

Read Vs 8-9

1. After all this, he still sees her as the undefiled chosen one

Read Vs 10

1. This marvel of taking the sinful, imperfect human and making them fair and clean
 - a. Paul said to Tim (I Tim 3:16) “great is the mystery of godliness”
 - b. Even the angels desire to look into these things (I Pet 1:12)

Read Vs 11-12 (She speaks)

1. She responds by going home to the place that she knows he’ll be at
2. Garden of nuts – unknown, but clearly the place of the first ripening items of the garden
3. Chariots of Amminadib – unknown, but clearly a remark of excitement

Read Vs 13 (Daughters speak)

1. Now the women, who last requested (in 6:10) to go look for him also, was to see here again after she’s been reunited with him

2. They see her now as dancing
 - a. Company of 2 armies is reference to Gen 32
– earthly & spiritual strength

Conclusion

So, what's been than love? Love restored. The lover that would chase down the sinner & redeem them

1. **We begin w/ such enjoyment in the perfection of the garden of God**
2. **Then times of sin or indifference sweep in**
3. **The only path back is to remember just how good Jesus is, remember our first love**
4. **Then we experience the beauty & joy of restored love...much deeper than ever before**