

Preparing Our Hearts for the Return of Jesus

5-The Encounter That Leads To Urgency (2Pet: 1)

I. IF THERE IS NO URGENCY, IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE THERE HAS BEEN NO REALIZATION

¹²*Therefore, I will always remind you about these things....* ¹³*And it is only right that I should keep on reminding you as long as I live.* ¹⁴*For our Lord Jesus Christ has shown me that I must soon leave this earthly life,* ¹⁵*so I will work hard to make sure you always remember these things after I am gone.*

¹⁶*For we were not making up clever stories when we told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We saw his majestic splendor with our own eyes* ¹⁷*when he received honor and glory from God the Father. The voice from the majestic glory of God said to him, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."* ¹⁸*We ourselves heard that voice from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.*

¹⁹*Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place—until the Day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines in your hearts.* ²⁰*Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding,* ²¹*or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.*

As long as I live, work hard, always remember, greater confidence, Until the Day dawns, Christ the Morning Star shines in your heart

Peter speaks as a man at the end of His life understanding that his time is short wanting, urgently desiring for the people that hear his words to obey the Holy Spirit and fully handover their lives.

Songs 1 is a back and forth of our journey in life. This wanting Him, but never having the Proof we need/or want that leads us into that "moment"

Hudson Taylor (another 1800s mystic) answers this beautifully...

"Poor mistaken one! There is a love far stronger than your waiting, longing for satisfaction. The Bridegroom is waiting for you all the time; the conditions that prevent His approach are all of your own making. Take the right place before Him, and He will be most ready, most glad, to satisfy your deepest longings, to meet, supply your every need."

¹³*A sachet of myrrh is my lover, like a tied-up bundle of myrrh resting over my heart.* (Songs 1:13)

**** Myrrh is riddled all throughout Songs, and it points to the one thing we recognize about Jesus, and the one thing we despise.**

Jesus writes to Ephesus and tells them and points this out ; ***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, and have found them liars; ³and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. ⁴Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.*** (Rev 2:2-4)

Jesus tell them of all the good they have done, even the weariness aspect then Jesus drops the bomb. They forgot Him.

³***Think of all the hostility He endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up.*** ⁴***After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin.*** (Heb 12:3,4)

⁹***So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.*** (Gal 6:9)

Just like the church of Ephesus, we can see us and humanity in Songs.

The Beloved

²***Like a lily among thorns, So is my love among the daughters.***

The Shulamite

³***Like an apple tree among the trees of the woods, So is my beloved among the sons. I sat down in his shade with great delight, And his fruit was sweet to my taste.*** (Songs 2:2-3)

Jesus here recognizes our heart position and desires for us to leave that world, likewise we recognize Him and what He offers, yet what He asks is too much.

** we often barter with Jesus, we give up one thing yet hold on to another. Sometimes we consider and put misplaced value in a victory, while not realizing our bartering compromised hearts failed to see the shackle we missedi.e. we can't overcome our love for money and consider that a triumph into surrendering fully to Jesus while we still sleep around

There is a scene at the end of Chapter 2 in Songs of Solomon that creates a landscape that allows the heart that Jesus address in the Letters to the 7 churches to grow. And it's not a good heart.

In the NKJV there are titles to the hearts that fail to hear the call of Jesus. They call them the Loveless Heart, The Compromising Heart, The Corrupt heart, The Dead Heart, and the Lukewarm Heart.

all these hearts are described by a constant action we do in Songs 2

⁸***Ah, I hear my lover coming! He is leaping over the mountains, bounding over the hills.*** ⁹***My lover is like a swift gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he is behind the wall, looking through the window, peering into the room.*** (Songs 2:8,9)

How many times do we see the evidence of Holy Spirit ministering Jesus to us and it captivates us. Yet we only respond partially.

How many times have we seen scriptures like ²⁰***Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.*** (Rev 3:20)

I have wondered why is the Holy Spirit's conviction so stubborn that it continues to seek "something" from us even after we have "committed" our lives to Jesus.

I find our response to Jesus, to Holy Spirit is what else do you want. I cannot give you everything because I have never experienced you, in that way. In the way where you captivate me that blows my mind.

And Songs captures this:

¹⁰***My lover said to me, "Rise up, my darling! Come away with me, my fair one!"*** ¹¹***Look, the winter is past, and the rains are over and gone.*** ¹²***The flowers are springing up, the season of singing birds has come, and the cooing of turtledoves fills the air.*** ¹³***The fig trees are forming young fruit, and the fragrant grapevines are blossoming. Rise up, my darling! Come away with me, my fair one!"*** (v10-13)

This poetic language points to Jesus' victory over all the earth before He actually did it. This is prophetic forth telling in the bible of Jesus.

Our hearts response usually looks like this:

¹⁴***My dove is hiding behind the rocks, behind an outcrop on the cliff. Let me see your face; let me hear your voice. For your voice is pleasant, and your face is lovely.*** (v14)

If Jesus leaps over mountains, and we are hiding behind rocks, then rocks signifies those strongholds that Paul speaks of in 2Cor 10. Those rock walls that Satan builds with our permission to keep God out.

Do our hurts and shame of some of the stuff we have done or are currently partaking in, are those 'Rocks' hindering us from going to Jesus in full surrender.

This theme of hurts and shame is evident in the next verse.

¹⁵Catch all the foxes, those little foxes, before they ruin the vineyard of love, for the grapevines are blossoming! (v.15)

In the midst of His invitation our response to Him is usually the same;

¹⁶I know my lover is mine and I have everything in you, for we delight ourselves in each other. ¹⁷But until the day springs to life and the shifting shadows of fear disappear, turn around, my lover, and ascend to the holy mountains of separation without me. Until the new day fully dawns, run on ahead like the graceful gazelle and skip like the young stag over the mountains of separation. Go on ahead to the mountain of spices—I'll come away another time.

How can we expect to live like Peter, Paul and John with such confidence such a willingness to die if we do not allow Jesus to sweep us off our feet.

¹⁴For our Lord Jesus Christ has shown me that I must soon leave this earthly life, ¹⁵so I will work hard to make sure you always remember these things after I am gone.....¹⁹Because of that experience, we have even greater confidencefor their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place—until the Day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines in your hearts.

Peter points to the mount of Transfiguration as one of those moments, last week I pointed to his restoration on the shores of Galilee as the ultimate solidifying of his heart.

Songs talks about this moment in our lives, and while it speaks to it as a moment, for me it was a moment that has been playing out, it has never stopped.

¹Night after night I'm tossing and turning on my bed of travail. Why did I let him go from me? How my heart now aches for him, but he is nowhere to be found! ²So I must rise in search of him, looking throughout the city, seeking until I find him. Even if I have to roam through every street, nothing will keep me from my search. Where is he—my soul's true love? He is nowhere to be found. ³Then I encountered the overseers as they encircled the city. So I asked them, "Have you found him— my heart's true love?" ⁴Just as I moved past them, I encountered him. I found the one I adore! I caught him and fastened myself to him, refusing to be feeble in my heart again. Now I'll bring him back to the temple within where I was given new birth— into my innermost parts, the place of my conceiving. (Songs 3:1-4)

This message is a message is one for all of Christendom to hear, because this is a message to Christians asking have you had this experience yet!! Tell me about it.

You cannot nor will not forget this moment. And if you don't have one, don't make it up.. Please don't sit there in pride and fear making this up, like the version of us hiding behind the rock.

Ask Jesus, ask Holy Spirit that you want this...

!!!!This experience is intoxicating, it's the birthplace of urgency, of eyes to see the 2nd coming of Jesus as the most valuable things after receiving the heart to see that His second coming is the most valuable thing.!!!!

This urgency birthed out of that encounter is what makes you hungry to share Jesus because you know time is short.

Creating a superficial importance of His 2nd Coming makes you a studier of the events to come and to raise the alarm, sometimes with damaging effects;

Being someone who has the heart to see His coming as the most valuable is willing to die for that message and see people grow in the same humble heart.

There is a difference