

Session 10 Why do you love Him so, where is He? (5:9-6:3)

The Daughters of Jerusalem

9 Why is your lover better than all others, O woman of rare beauty?

What makes your lover so special that we must promise this?

The Shulamite

10 My lover is dark and dazzling, better than ten thousand others!

11 His head is finest gold, his wavy hair is black as a raven.

12 His eyes sparkle like doves beside springs of water;
they are set like jewels washed in milk.

13 His cheeks are like gardens of spices giving off fragrance.

His lips are like lilies, perfumed with myrrh.

14 His arms are like rounded bars of gold, set with beryl.

His body is like bright ivory, glowing with lapis lazuli.

15 His legs are like marble pillars set in sockets of finest gold.

His posture is stately, like the noble cedars of Lebanon.

16 His mouth is sweetness itself; he is desirable in every way.

Such, O women of Jerusalem, is my lover, my friend.

The Daughters of Jerusalem

6 :1 Where has your beloved gone, O fairest among women?

Where has your beloved turned aside, That we may seek him with you?

The Shulamite

2 My beloved has gone to his garden,

To the beds of spices,

To feed his flock in the gardens,

And to gather lilies.

3 I am my beloved's,

And my beloved is mine.

He feeds his flock among the lilies.

I. THE DAUGHTER'S FIRST QUESTION: WHY DO YOU LOVE HIM SO MUCH? (5:9)

A. The spiritually immature daughters asked the Bride questions throughout the Song. They see that she is lovesick for the King in the midst of her troubles, instead of being offended and depressed.

9What is your Beloved more than another beloved, O fairest [most beautiful] among women?

What is your Beloved more than another beloved, that you so charge us? (Song 5:9)

B. *What is your Beloved:* In essence, the daughters of Jerusalem asked the Bride, "Why do you love Him so much that you charge us to go find Him? He has abandoned you. He

took His presence away from you (5:6) and let the elders wound you as they took your ministry from you (5:7)."

They wanted to know why she was so loyal to Him. What did she know about Him that they don't know?

C. **Other beloveds:** The daughters had "other beloveds" that were more important to them than Jesus. The other loves in the lives of believers include people, ministry, money, leisure, pleasure, power, prominence, and comfort, etc. Many born-again people love these things more than Jesus.

II. THE MAJESTIC SPLENDOUR OF THE KING (5:10-16)

A. B. C. D. E. The Bride answered the daughters' question by proclaiming the King's beauty (5:10-16). This is one of the greatest statements of Jesus' beauty in the Scripture. The Bride's answer revealed her spirit of obedience and love for the King. She used metaphors of the human body together with agricultural images to convey ten attributes of the King's personality. Each attribute has two descriptions.

10My beloved is white [dazzling, NAS]...and chief among ten thousand.

11His head is like the

finest gold; His locks are wavy...

12His eyes are like doves...

13His cheeks are like a bed of spices...His lips are lilies...

14His hands are rods of gold...His body is carved ivory...

15His legs are pillars of marble...His countenance is like Lebanon...

16His mouth is most sweet, Yes, He is altogether lovely. This is my Beloved, and this is my friend... (Song 5:10-16)

The Bride started with a general statement of the King's beauty (5:10), then developed ten attributes (5:11-15) and ended with a summary statement (5:16).

1. *His head:* the Lord's sovereign leadership over all

2. *His locks:* the Lord's dedication to God and His Church

3. *His eyes:* the Lord's infinite knowledge, wisdom, understanding, discernment

4. *His cheeks:* the Lord's diverse emotional makeup

5. *His lips:* God's word

6. *His hands:* the Lord's divine activity

7. *His body:* the Lord's tender compassion

8. *His legs:* the Lord's walk and administration of His purposes

9. *His countenance:* God's impartation to His people

10. *His mouth:* Intimacy with God

11. *He is altogether lovely:* His comprehensive beauty

12. *He is my Beloved and my Friend*

As we become familiar with these truths, we will be able to speak them to Jesus to express our love;

to the devil when he accuses God to us;

to ourselves in time of temptation and discouragement;

to others who are in need of encouragement to trust and love Jesus.

She starts with a general statement about Jesus' beauty (5:10). In her difficulty, she refers to Jesus as her *Beloved* or as *the One she loves*.

NIV translates "white" as "radiant." His beauty is fascinating.

He is ruddy or red. This is a reference to His humanity. He understands our difficulty because He endured suffering as a Man (Heb. 2:11-17).

He is "chief" denoting His incomparable superiority.

My Beloved is white and ruddy, chief among ten thousand. (Song 5:10)

Altogether lovely: Her summary statement is that the King is altogether lovely. The One she loves is her friend. He is not only radiant in His majesty, but He humbled Himself to be our friend.

Yes, He is altogether lovely. This is my Beloved, and this is my friend... (Song 5:16)

III. THE DAUGHTER'S SECOND QUESTION: WHERE IS HE? (6:1)

A. The conversation that began between the Bride and the daughters in Song 5:8 continues here.

After the daughters saw the Bride's insight into the King (5:10-16), they concluded she knew so much more about Him than they did. They asked a second question, "Where is your Beloved that we may seek Him like you do?" That is, we want to know Him like you do and have what you have.

Where has your Beloved gone, O fairest among women? Where has your Beloved turned aside, that we may seek Him with you? (Song 6:1)

B. **Where:** The Bride's answer in Song 5:10-16 caused the daughters to change their question from

"What is He?" (5:9), to "Where can we find Him?" The Bride once asked the daughters to help her find the King (5:8), but now it is reversed as the daughters ask her to help them find the King (6:1).

C. The Bride's testing results in the lives of others being dramatically changed. We never know who is watching us as we love and trust Jesus in our difficulties. The Holy Spirit is raising up lovesick messengers who know Jesus in a way that will deeply impact others.

QUESTIONS FOR SMALL-GROUP DISCUSSION (e.g., FCF FRIENDSHIP GROUPS)

1. Identify one point that inspired or challenged you. Why? What will you do differently to apply it?
2. Identify one point that you want to impart to a younger believer. Why? How will you approach this?
3. Identify one point that you would like to gain more understanding of. How will you seek to gain it?