

Withdrawal of the Groom

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 5:1-8 Preached on 6-13-99

The Song of Solomon is a story of romance and love. It portrays the intimate relationship of the Bride to her Groom. (Christ loved the church and gave himself for it (Eph. 5:25) and we should love him because he first loved us (1 John 4:19)) The love that is magnified here is so glorious, Holy, and pure that it cannot be broken. (Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? (Romans 8:35)) It is so intense that it will never fade away, but rather burn forever like a glowing ember. There is no power in heaven, nor on earth that can sever the love of the Groom and his lovely Bride. They are prepared to live together and to die together. It is the story of Christ and his Church.

Explain the text.

Why does the Groom withdraw?

John 12:36 While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them.

Isaiah 59:1,2 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

I. To Increase Our Faith: V-6

Note: She did not tarry long in his absence, but immediately sets forth to find him. (She Sought Him)
(Where is the Lord God of Elijah)

- 1.Tree
- 2.Throne
- 3.Temple
- 4.Tempest

- A. Seek him in the privacy of your heart:
Deuteronomy 4:29 But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.
- B. Seek him in the pages of the Bible: **John 5:39**
Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.
- C. Seek him in the preaching of the Word:
Titus 1:1-3 Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;

(She Summoned Him)

- A. Summons by prayer: V-6 (She called him) **Isaiah 55:6** Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: **Psalms 32:6** For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.
- B. Summons him in perils: V-7 **Note:** Is he not worth hazarding our lives for? **Illus.** Paul when returning to Jerusalem. **Acts 20:22-24** And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, (Illus. Dr. Sighthler "I'll Go, I'll Go")

II. To Bless Us With Hope:

Note: (Read 3:1-5) If she found him once there was hope of finding him again. **Hebrews 6:11** And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:

Hebrews 6:19 Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast,

Men who lose hope are miserable.

Lovers faint away if they have not the sight of the object of their love.

III. To Prove Our Love: V-8 (I am sick of love)

- A. What is love: It is an Holy fire kindled in the affections whereby a Christian is carried out strongly after God as the Supreme Good!
- B. It is the harlot's love to love the portion more than the person: Hypocrites love God because he gives them corn and wine: We must love God for himself, for those shining perfections which are in him.
- C. We may give the creature the milk of our love, but God must have the cream.
- D. Love is an industrious thing, it sets its head studying for God, hands working, feet running in the ways of his commandments.

Signs of Love

- 1. We cannot find contentment in anything without him. (Lovers grieve together)
- 2. We labour to render him lovely to others.
- 3. We are willing to do and to suffer for him.
- 4. He who loves God, hates that which separates them: "Sin"
- 5. He who loves God weeps bitterly over his absence.

Been There, Done That

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch 5:1 Preached on 12-31-00 A.M.

As we begin our study of chapter five we find here in verse one Christ's response to the churches invitation. In verse sixteen of the last chapter she has invited him into his garden that he might indulge himself in the precious fruit.

1. Please notice how quickly he responds to her request:
2. Please notice the endearing expressions of relation:
 - a. Sister:
 1. Blood
 2. Birth
 - b. Spouse
 1. Betrothal
3. Please notice also his purpose for coming:
 - a. To gather the fruit: (What if we are barren)
 - b. To eat:
 - c. To drink: (To find satisfaction in his people)
4. Please notice how gracious Christ is by inviting his friends and loved ones to feed, feast, and delight themselves on the graces of his own Spirit.

I. Christ's Presence In His Garden: ("I am come into my garden") (What will be the conduct of his disciples when he comes)

- A. Christ was present in the garden with Adam and Adam hid himself: **Genesis 3:8** And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.
(The dew of the night at Gethsemane)

- B. Christ was present with the disciples in the garden and they were found sleeping. **Matthew 26:39, 40** And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?

II. Christ's Pleasure in the Garden: (Satisfaction) The Offerings of the Saints: 1. Prayers 2. Praises

A. I have gathered my myrrh with my spice:

1. Myrrh being bitter may refer to the prayers of the saints:
 - a. A life of repentance: (sin)
 - b. A life of sufferings:
 - c. A life of afflictions:
2. Spices being sweet may refer to the praises of the saints: **Psalms 72:15** (The Psalm of the King) And he shall live, and to him shall be given of the gold of Sheba: prayer also shall be made for him continually; and daily shall he be praised. "He inhales our prayers and inhabits our praises" **Revelation 8:2-6**
3. He may gather both in our offering of thanksgiving: **Psalm 50:14** Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High: **Psalm 100:4** Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

B. I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey:

1. Honey is made by one, and enjoyed by another; it takes a great deal of labor to produce; and it is naturally sweet.
 - a. This may refer to those three greatest spiritual graces:
 1. Faith
 2. Hope
 3. Love

I Thessalonians 1:3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

Note: Nothing satisfies the Lord more greatly than an assembly of believers where these graces are active.

- C. I have drunk my wine with my milk:
 1. Wine cheers the heart and milk nourishes the body with strength:
 - a. Nothing revives and refreshes the soul of man like the Gospel of the Grace of God.
 - b. Nothing strengthens mans soul like the Gospel of the Grace of God.

Read **Isaiah 55:1-3** Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

III. Christ's People in the Garden:

A. They are called friends and beloved:

1. In **James 2:23** Abraham is called the friend of God
2. In **John 15:15** the disciples are called a friend of God
3. The word beloved is a word of endearment used of man to address his wife
4. We are invited to feast with him:
ABUNDANTLY!

Sleeping I's

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 5:2 Preached on 01-14-01 P.M.

In the previous verses the church has been in Christ's spiritual banqueting house. They have enjoyed very close communion. But now the church is found asleep. Beware of mountain top experiences. It is ever so easy, after we have been very near to the Lord, to become relaxed, and fall asleep in his presence. (Illus. The disciples in the upper room and then in the garden.) (Illus. Taken from the Jordan of enjoyment to the wilderness of temptation)

Please notice the church states "I sleep, but my heart waketh". She is not so fast asleep that she cannot hear and distinguish the voice of Christ. She is much like the five wise virgins in **Matthew 25**. They slumbered and slept, but were still able to hear the midnight cry.

There is no explanation given as to what brought the church to this condition.

1. Possibly worldly cares.
2. Carelessness and lukewarmness: Illus. The church of Laodicea
3. Lack of spiritual exercise: (prayer, worship, study)

The Lord begins to speak and to knock desiring entrance back into fellowship, but the text indicates that she doesn't desire to be awakened. Like a child she becomes irritated and peevish.

Proverbs 6:9-11 How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

I. The Imperfections of the Saints: (I Sleep)

1. (Illus. The spirit of James and John in **Luke 9:54** when the Samaritan would not receive Christ)
2. (Illus. Paul and Barnabas in **Acts 15** arguing over the ministry of Mark)

A. We dream while asleep:

1. No realities:

B. The dangers while asleep:

1. Falling into temptation: (When Jesus found Peter James and John asleep) **Matthew 26:41** Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.
2. Failing to detect our enemy: Illus. The tares and wheat: **Matthew 13:25** But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.
3. Forgetting about thieves and robbers: Note- Sleeping Christians can be robbed of spiritual virtues

- C. The darkness while asleep: (as a rule it is dark while men are sleeping) **Romans 13:11-13** And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; (when we can be seen) not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

II The Inward Workings of the Spirit: (“but my heart waketh”) (We cannot drift so far from Christ that grace can’t reach us: his hand by the hole in the door)

- A. There were stirrings of affection: (She was not past feeling) **Ephesians 4:19** Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.
- B. She could still hear his voice: **John 10:27** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:
- C. She was able to recognize and acknowledge her sin

III. The Immaculate Love of the Saviour:

- A. His word beckons her: (open to me)
 - 1. It's like a hammer: (It knocks like a hammer)
- B. His willingness blesses her: (My sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled)
 - 1. He is willing to love even though she is asleep and complacent.

Conclusion

- 1. Dew
 - 2. Drops
- } His sufferings on her behalf

Excuses

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 5:3 Preached on 01-21-01

In the verses prior to the text we find the bride in near and dear communion with her heavenly bridegroom. But suddenly, after reaching the pinnacle of Christian fellowship, the church finds itself on the bed of ease, and living in a sleepy and sluggish frame of spirit.

In verse two, the Lord recognizing that grace is still being exercised in her heart, ---- for her heart was yet awake, desires an entrance once again into the chambers of communion.

But the church had slipped into a carnal, secure, and lazy frame of spirit, she was contented with the bare performance of external duties, without having her soul affected with, or her faith concerned about Christ, or his righteousness.

She therefore begins to make excuses why she cannot exert herself and grant him fellowship as she had done in the past. I find several people throughout the scripture who made flimsy excuses why they could not inconvenience themselves to serve Christ.

1. The call of Moses: **Exodus 3:10,11** Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt. And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?
 - a. He considered himself to be a (1) coward:
 - b. He felt inadequate in (2) speech and (3) power:

1. God gave him a shepherd's rod: (power)
 2. God gave him a sanctified heart:
 3. God gave him a schooled tongue: **Exodus 4:12** Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.
2. The call of Gideon: **Judges 6:12-16** (Read) And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour. And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites. And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee? And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house. And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.
3. The call of the Great Supper: **Luke 14:16-24** (V-18 And they all with one consent began to make excuse.)
- a. The first had bought a piece of ground:
(Had to see it)
 - b. The second had bought five yoke of oxen:
(Had to prove them)

- c. The third had married a wife: (Had to obey her) Ha Ha Ha

I. The Excuses of the Bride:

A. I have put off my coat: how shall I put it on:

1. Her coat represents the righteousness of Christ and to put it off:
 - a. To remove our cost is to rest from the work we have been engaged in:
 - b. Removing her coat and resting in bed when there is yet work to be done reveals her neglect of duty: (Illus. The disciples in **John 21** going fishing)
 - c. She had failed to be watchful for the enemies invasion: (Illus. **Nehemiah 4:23** So neither I, nor my brethren, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard which followed me, none of us put off our clothes, saving that every one put them off for washing.

B. I have washed my feet, how shall I defile them:
Ephesians 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Observations

1. She had grown weary in well doing: **Galatians 6:9**
And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.
2. She felt he had made an unreasonable request:
Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren,

by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

3. She found herself safe and free from troubled, persecutions and afflictions: **II Timothy 3:12** Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.
4. She valued her worldly interests, pleasures and profits before the blessings of the grace of Christ: **Hebrews 11:26** (Moses) Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.
5. She preferred worldly ease to Christ's company.
6. She sought more on her own things than on the things, which were Christ's.
7. She was guilty of ingratitude.
8. She sinned against light.

More Grace

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 5:4 Preached on 01-28-01 A.M.

I'm thankful that our Lord gives more grace. He not only bestows saving grace to sinners, but as his children, he gives more grace. He does not bless us with all of his grace in one experience. But, he continues to pour out his grace upon his believing children, through their entire earthly pilgrimage.

James said in chapter four and verse six, "But he giveth more grace", and that's exactly what I see in the text before us today.

The church and Christ have been consumed with one another's love. They have delighted themselves with Holy Communion in the garden. Christ has eaten his pleasant fruits, his myrrh and spice have been gathered, he has tasted his honey with his honeycomb and drunk his wine with his milk. But suddenly he finds his bride asleep. She readily confesses her sleepy state, but refuses to rise to the Lord's beckoning. He speaks and knocks, but her coat has been removed and her feet washed, she therefore chooses the bed of comfort and ease over the presence of her beloved.

Now our Lord would have been justified in departing from her at this point, but "he gives more grace". He very lovingly and very tenderly puts in his hand by the hole of the door, and her bowels were moved for him.

The external knocking had not troubled her emotions. But when grace entered the heart she was stirred in her most inner being and moved to open the door.

He had called her in the external ministry of the word, and had knocked in a providential way; He had given her comforting words and used persuasive arguments and yet there was no response, but when he

places his mighty hand of grace into the sleeping heart she is moved.

A. His Hand: (His hand of Grace)

1. Puts it in the hole of the door:

- a. Represents the greatness of his love: (His second effort)
- b. Represents his faithfulness to her: **Lamentations 3:22,23** It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.
- c. Represents his power: He spoke, knocked, and then put grace into exercise.

B. Her Heart: (The door)

1. Was straitened (but not shut up): (He could only enter through the hole in the door)

C. The Hole:

D. Her Help: (Her bowels were moved – FOR HIM)

I. Christ Gives More Grace To Sleeping Sinners: (Illus. The Philippian jailor in **Acts 16**)

- A. There was worship: (Paul and Silas prayed and sang)
- B. There was the warrant: (The earthquake)
- C. There was the witness: (Paul – believe on the Lord Jesus)

II. Christ Gives More Grace To Slumbering Saints:
(Text)

- A. When they have lost their joy: (she was separated from Christ) **Psalms 16:11** Thou wilt show me the

path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Psalm 51:12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

John 15:11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

- B. When their affections are chilled: (She had refused to answer)
- C. When we follow him afar off as Peter did:
- D. When we serve our interests rather than his: (The early disciples gone fishing in **John 21**)

III. Christ Gives More Grace To The Suffering: (Illus. Jeremiah) (Mother)

IV. Christ Gives More Grace When We Shun Sin: (Illus. Joseph and Potipher's wife)

The Effects of a Gracious Hand

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 5:5 Preached on 02-04-01 A.M.

I find in our text today one of the most beautiful pictures in all the word of God. The Holy Spirit has revealed in this one simple verse the response and the results of a human heart that has been moved and opened (Lydia in **Acts 16**) by the Grace of God. And might I say that the effects of his Gracious Hand are basically the same in both the believer and the unbeliever.

The Bride is here locked up in her own heart. The external voice and knocking did not seem to move her heart at all. But, when Christ's powerful hand of Grace moved through the hole by the lock she was quickly stirred and promptly arose to open to her beloved.

In her actions I see!

I. Her Earnest Repentance: (I rose to open to my beloved)

- A. She brought forth fruits meet for repentance: (Illus.) John the Baptist; **Matthew 3:7,8** But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:
 - 1. She turned from the temporal to lay hold upon the eternal: (That is Repentance)

- B. Godly sorrow was worked in her heart: (Illus.) Paul in **II Corinthians 7:9,10** Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to

salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. (Sorry for her attitude toward Christ)

We Will Repent When

- C. She realized she had wronged Christ:
 - 1. She was at ease in Zion:
 - 2. She was withdrawn from his service:
- D. She discovered her great need of him:
- E. She saw her life cut off from him: (A door between)
- F. She understood his love and desires toward her:

II. Her Exercise Of Faith: (Her hands and fingers were put upon the lock)

Note: If the door is her heart, then that which has it locked must be unbelief.

Note: If the lock is unbelief then the handles must be: Faith

- A. She expected to see him: **Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
- B. She apparently caught a glimpse of his glory as he withdrew himself (v-6) because in v-10 she begins to describe his beauty:
- C. Her unbelief being overcome, faith now prompts her to seek him. (V-6 I sought him)
- D. Her faith causes her to follow him:

III. Her Experience With Grace: (The sweet smelling myrrh (grace) that dropped from her finger upon the handles of the lock was not hers, but what had been left there by Christ)

Handfuls of Purpose

- A. He had gathered his myrrh in v-1 and left it in the lock-hole that he might draw and allure her heart

to him: **Hosea 2:14-16** Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her. And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt. And it shall be at that day, saith the LORD, that thou shalt call me Ishi; and shalt call me no more Baali.

B. His grace was left in abundance: (It dropped from her hands and fingers upon the lock)

John 1:14 says he was “full of grace and truth”.

Romans 5:17 speaks of the “abundance of grace”.

C. His grace was left to soften her hard heart:

Ephesians 2:8 “For by grace (Myrrh) are ye saved through faith” (Handles of the lock)

Conclusion

Would you arise or repent today and by faith open the door of your heart that you might receive him.

Disappointments at the Door

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 5:6 Preached on 02-11-01

We find in this verse the fourth and final effect of Christ's efficacious Grace upon his Bride. As a result of his putting his hand by the hole of the door she was first:

1. Moved in her bowels for him: (Her spirit was stirred) not fleshly
2. She then arose to open to her beloved:
(Repented)
Repent:
 1. She realized she had wronged Christ.
 2. She discovered her great need of him.
 3. She saw her great need of him (the door)
 4. She understood his love and desire toward him
3. The third thing was her hands and fingers dropped with sweet smelling myrrh: (Grace that had been left by him on the handles of the lock to serve as handfuls of purpose.)
4. The final effect in this verse is she opened to him: By her opening to him is to be understood her exercise of faith, by which her heart was enlarged and delighted to receive him: Faith is the eye, the ear, the mouth, and the hand of the soul: Faith's eye being opened sees the beauties and glories of Christ's person, and beholds wondrous things in his Gospel. It's ear being open to discipline, listens to what Christ promises and commands; it's mouth being opened praises him for his glorious love: and its hand being opened, receives and embraces him, opens the door, and lets him in

Now as faith opened the door, she was met with great surprise. Her beloved had withdrawn himself,

and was gone. She was so shocked, that the Bible says; “her soul fails her”. She became like the Queen of Sheba after seeing all of Solomon’s Glory; there was no more spirit left in her. She could not believe that her beloved would beckon her so and then depart prior to her opening the door.

“We are apt to complain of the disappointments of our haps and schemes, but disappointments often prove blessings, and save us from calamity or ruin.”
ANON.

I. Disappointed In His Sudden Departure: (She had expected to find him at the door.)

- A. Even in his absence she is better off than she was in her prior condition: (Her spiritual Graces are no in exercise)
 - 1. Her faith is being increased: (you’ve come this far, come a little farther) **II Corinthians 10:15** Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men's labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly,
 - a. She seeks him: (Her immediate surroundings)
 - b. She calls him: (This signifies greater faith: she is now depending more upon him than herself)
 - c. She employs others to assist in her search:
 - (1) The watchmen of the city:
 - (2) The Daughters of Jerusalem: (There’s going to be some battles in this war you cannot win on your own; you’ll need the prayer’s of others)

2. Her love is being enflamed: (v-8) “I am sick of love)
3. Her hope was heightened: (There had been another time in her life (3:1-5) that she had sought him and found him)

II. Disappointed In Her Sinful Disposition: (Her attitude was not right)

- A. Her delay in answering him: (Delays can be costly) **James 1:19** Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:
- B. Her duties toward him: (She was on the bed of ease rather than fulfilling her spiritual obligation)
 1. Her duties in the field:
 2. Her duties in fellowship:
 3. Her duties in the family:
- C. Her darkness about her: (Her ignorance to Christ’s will and ways)

III. Disappointments In Her Selfish Disrespect:

- A. Ignored the sacrifice he had made: V-2,3
 1. He had journeyed through the night:
 2. He had paid a great price just to be with her:
 3. He had deserted his own comforts just to be with her:

The Price of Losing Jesus

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 5:7 Preached on 02-18-01 A.M.

In the previous chapter we found Christ and his beloved church in a place of delightful communion. But as we begin chapter Five the Bride's spiritual desires have deteriorated, she is asleep, but her heart waketh.

Our Lord is a very loving and patient husband. He immediately sets forth to awaken her by speaking kindly, and knocking with a gentle touch upon the door of her heart. But she refuses to respond to the master's effort of **restoring the fellowship they used to enjoy.** Not until his hand of Grace is placed by the hole in the door is her soul stirred for him. When Grace is applied like drops of sweet smelling myrrh she very responsively arises to open to her beloved.

Unfortunately when the door is opened she finds that her beloved had withdrawn himself and was gone. She seeks but doesn't find, she calls but no answer. Her faith is now in exercise, her love inflamed as she goes about the city in search of her Lord.

1. The City is the house of God: you will find him where you lost him. (Illus. The Psalmist in **Psalm 73:17** until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.)

Here is where the story changes drastically. In her search for her beloved she is found by the watchmen of the city, and the keepers of the walls, who shamefully entreat her. She is smitten, wounded, and even robbed of her bridle veil. How devastated she was; but there is a price to pay in refusing the Lord's call to fellowship. The troubles she is now encountering is a form of **chastisement** and **correction!**

I. Bewildered In Spirit: (She searched, and called, and then fell in to the hands of those who apparently abused her tender conditions.)

- A. Her pathway was unclear: (She doesn't seem to be following any set course) **Hebrews 12:1** Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus **Luke 3:4** Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. **Isaiah 2:3** And we will walk in his paths.
- B. Her perception was dull: **Job 23:8-10** Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him: But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.
- C. Her peace was shaken: (Having a hard time understanding what was developing in her life) **Philippians 4:7** And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

II. Battered In Soul: (By the watchmen) (This is the second time they have found her in broken fellowship)

- A. They smote her:
- B. They wounded her:
- C. Her veil was taken away:

1. She was stricken: (As the Lord in **Isaiah 53:4**) Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. (For her correction and the benefit of others)
2. She was scared: (Wounds leave scars)
Illus. The death of Taylor and Agnes
3. She was disgraced: (The loss of her veil)
 - a. A Symbol of modesty
 - b. A status for bride hood: (She appeared to be no more than a religious hypocrite)

III. Broken In Heart:

- A. Separated from her beloved:
- B. Sick of Love:

Christ's Constraining Love

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 5:8 Preached on 02-25-01 A.M.

Paul wrote in II Corinthians 5:14, "For the Love of Christ constraineth us". (This includes all the redeemed) The word constrains means to compel, or to urge with irresistible power. It is the love of Christ, that provides that irresistible power in the heart of his bride, and compels her to forget her interests in all others, and to make Christ the pre-eminent subject and being of her life.

Her charge to the daughters of Jerusalem was, "if ye find my beloved, that ye tell him, that I am sick of love".

She had met with great **disappointments** in verse six. Opening the door she discovered that her beloved had withdrawn himself and was gone. She sought him, but did not find him. She called, but he did not answer. But her disappointments did not hinder her search. Being driven by her deep love for the Saviour she presses on into the city hoping to find help from the watchmen, and the keepers of the wall. But her efforts are only met with more **disappointments**.

The watchmen smite her, and wound her; the keepers of the wall disgrace her by removing her veil. Still she pursues her beloved, and charges the daughters of Jerusalem, "if ye find my beloved, that ye tell him that I am sick of love".

Please notice that she does not seem concerned at all about the way others have treated her. Neither does she mention the things she has suffered. She does ask not Christ to avenge her of the mistreatment. Only tell him, "that I am sick of love".

There is a great sense of humility in the request she makes for help. These daughters of Jerusalem do not appear to have as great an interest nor as intimate relationship with Christ as she does. Neither are they on

the same spiritual plateau as she, but yet she seeks them for help.

SHE IS SICK OF LOVE!

I. She Is Resolved To Find Him: (Why?)

A. Love sickness:

1. Sinners need to find him
2. Saints need to find him

1. The Cause: (The bride has been love sick before in chapter two and verse five she had been brought into his banqueting house and her spirit weakened because of his overwhelming love. But we find here a different case, she is lovesick because of...

a. The absence of Christ: Illus. Mary Magdalene John 20 (**John 20:13** paraphrase) "He's gone and I can't find him"

1. Her broken heart: ("why weepest thou")

b. The assurance of Christ's love for her: (The proof of his love is found in the handfuls of grace deposited upon the handles of the lock) (**She finally realizes he loves her and their separated**) **Love Sick**

1. The Love of God was shed abroad in our heart at conversion: Romans 5:5
2. The Love of God shines forth from Calvary:
3. The Love of God is seen in his chastisement:
4. The Love of God is manifest in our changed life: **Galatians 2:20** I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: **and the life which I now live in the flesh** I live by the faith of the Son of God, **who loved me**, and gave himself for me.

- c. Her memories of past blessings:
 - 1. The kisses of his mouth: 1:2
 - 2. Their banquet of love: 2:4
 - 3. Their ride together in his chariot of love: 3:10
 - 4. Their stroll through the garden: 4:16

2. The Cure:

- a. Her panting heart: **Psalm 42:1** As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: (She wanted the kernel not the hull)
- b. Her peaceful spirit: (There can be no peace for those whose fellowship with Christ is broken)
- c. His pardoning grace:
 - 1. She had sinned against him:
 - 2. She denied him access to her, which he rightfully deserved.

The Attitude of Young Converts

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 5:9 Preached on 03-04-01

In her search for Christ the bride has been roughly handled, and abused by the watchmen of the city and keepers of the wall. She had been smitten and wounded, then stripped of her bridal veil.

Having found no help from these, she now turns to the daughters of Jerusalem, hoping to awaken their slumbering hearts; that they might join her in making diligent search for her beloved.

At this point let me ask a question. Who are these daughters of Jerusalem? Both John Gill and Durham believe they are young converts who have yet to attain the spiritual height of the bride. The bride's plea in verse eight almost sounds like that of a pastor, as he yearns in his heart for the power and presence of Christ. I charge you church, in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is set to judge both the quick and the dead, that you join in the search for my beloved; and if you find him before I do, that ye tell him, "I am sick of love".

Here in verse 9 these daughters of Jerusalem ask the same question twice. "What is thy beloved more than another beloved?" They seem to show an interest in the bride and her present condition, and see a desire to know more about her beloved.

I. The Compassion of the Daughters of Jerusalem:

Luke 10:30 (They seem to have the same attitude as the good Samaritan) **Def:** Compassion – A mixed passion, compounded of love and sorrow.

A. They were touched by her afflictions: (If Christ is touched by ours, should we not be by others)

Hebrews 4:15 "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities."

- B. They were being tested in their personal love (desires) for Christ:
- C. They were thoughtful of those who were in Christ before them: (We should esteem highly, and respect greatly those who are older in Christ)
I Timothy 5:1,2 Rebuke not an elder, but entreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.

II. The Concern of These Daughters of Jerusalem:

(What is thy beloved more than another beloved)

Note: This is an inquiry. They wanted to know more about him, and about his love for her, even in her present treatment.

- 1. He had withdrawn himself from her:
- 2. He had refused to answer her call:
- 3. He had allowed her to be abused by the watchmen of the city: yet her love for him was so intense, that she was sick of love.
 - A. Possibly they had in view their future trials and testings: (The bride was here experiencing what they would in the near future)
 - B. They may have wondered at the bride's love for him while under his resentments: (He had resented her treatment of him, being turned away from her heart and her love)
Isaiah 54:7,8 For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer. **Note:** The book closes with the bride and groom in the happy state of communion:
 - C. They may have seen a knowledge of him, in her, that they did not possess: Illus. Paul (A

very mature Christian) **Philippians 3:10**
“That I may know him”

III. The Comparison That Was Made By These Daughters of Jerusalem: (What is thy beloved more than another beloved)

Note: What makes him so special? What does he have, that someone else doesn't? (Below is the comparison)

- A. Pleasures of the world: There are pleasures in sin for a season, but the reproach of Christ is greater riches.
- B. The lusts of the flesh: **I John 2:17** And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. (1) Lust leaves you empty, but my beloved satisfies.
- C. The praise and applause of men: The applause of men will soon vanish away, but the rewards of Christ are eternal.
- D. Family relations: He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.
 1. Their love may soon disappear, but he loveth his own unto the end.
- E. Self-love: **II Timothy 3:2** For men shall be lovers of their own selves.
 1. Self is an empty vessel that cannot return such love as Christ gives to his sheep.
 1. He's better than the prophets in his teachings:
 2. He's better than the angels in his message:
 3. He's better than Moses in his servitude:
 4. He's better than Aaron as high priest, in the intercession he makes.
 5. He's better than Joshua in the rest he offers.

The First Glimpse of His Glory

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 5:10 Preached on 03-11-01

In this verse and those following, until the close of the chapter, we find the bride's response to the question put forth by the daughters of Jerusalem; "What is thy beloved more than another beloved." This is truly Holy Ground. For it is the bride's estimation of Christ. It's what she sees in him that makes his worth supersede all others.

As a child of God we should be ready to give every man a reason for the hope that lies within us. Why we are willing to give up everything and all others, that we may win Christ. What is it that makes him the chiefest among ten thousand, and altogether lovely?

Christ is indeed the most glorious person in all the universe, and I believe it would only be natural to begin her description of him at the place where she caught her first glimpse of that glory; at the cross.

She sees him first as...

I. The Captain of Her Salvation: Acts 4:11,12 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. **Neither is there salvation in any other:** for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Matthew 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for **he** shall save his people from their sins.

As the Captain of our Salvation we see him as...

- A. The Lamb of God: She says he is white and ruddy.
 - 1. The substitutionary Lamb of God: **Isaiah 1:18** Come now, and let us reason

together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as **scarlet**, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like **crimson**, they shall be as wool.

- a. Our sins upon him: (White-his purity) (Ruddy-our sin)

2. The Slain Lamb of God: **Revelation 5:6**

And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

- a. Provides redemption: **Revelation 5:9** And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

Def: Redeem – To go to the market; to purchase

1. Redemptions person: (The Lamb) **John 1:29** Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.
2. Redemptions power: (The Blood) **Revelation 5:9 Read above**
I Peter 1:18,19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Colossians 1:14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

3. Redemptions purpose: **Revelation 5:10**
And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

II. The Conqueror of Our Enemies: (The chiefest among ten thousand) **Romans 8:37** Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

A. By establishing his standard: (Chiefest) Standard bearer

1. Sin is conquered by love: **Proverbs 10:12**
Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins. (To cover for clothing or secrecy) Illus. Adam
 - a. In love he covers our sin, in our love for him, we abstain from sin:

2. Satan is conquered by God's word: **Matthew 4**

3. Society is conquered by faith: **I John 5:4** For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

B. By his great achievements: Illus. David's mighty men **II Samuel 23**

1. Christ slew death, hell, and the grave, and by his grace & power he defends the ground he has taken.

My Beloved is the Golden Beloved

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 5:11 Preached on 03-18-01

The church continuing her response to the question of the daughters of Jerusalem now moves to a more particular commendation of Christ. **She describes his head as being of most fine gold, and his locks are black and bushy.** There are two Hebrew words, which signify gold. One means to be fine and shining, the other strong and solid. (**He is strong and outshines them all.**)

Both these words are used in the term, “most fine gold” and they set forth Christ’s excellent glory, riches and durability. **“He is more to be desired than gold, yea much fine gold.”**

Some believe that this head of gold represents the Godhead!

Colossians 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

I Corinthians 11:3 And the head of Christ is God.

But the bride is looking at Christ, not as being the Godhead, but as his relationship stands towards the church. He is here, her bridegroom, as he stands and awaits her arrival, that the marriage may be consummated.

He is viewed here as man and mediator, **the head of the church.**

I. His Preeminence: Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Def: Preeminence – First in rank or influence

A. Pre-eminent in his resurrection:

I Corinthians 15:20,23 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man

came also the resurrection **of (not from)** the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

- B. Pre-eminent in his rest: **Hebrews 1:3** Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;
 - 1. Earthly priests found no place to rest while ministering in the Holy of Holies.
 - 2. He upholds all things, while he himself sets and rests.
- C. Pre-eminent in his return: (Illus. His return in glory in **Revelations 19:14** And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

II. His Power: (Most fine Gold) (Gold is the most precious of all metals. It here denotes the power he possesses as a result of his riches and wealth)

Romans 2:4 He is rich in goodness:

Romans 11:23 He is rich in wisdom:

Ephesians 1:7 He is rich in grace:

Ephesians 1:8 He is rich in glory:

Ephesians 3:8 Riches are unsearchable:

Revelations 5:12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

A. Power to save:

B. Power to keep: **I Peter 1:5** Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

C. Power to deliver: **II Timothy 4:17,18**

Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might

be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom:

III. His Purity: (Most fine gold)

- A. His Word is pure: **Psalm 19:8** The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. “More to be desired are they than Gold, yea, much fine Gold.”
- B. His wisdom is pure: **James 3:17** But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

IV. His Perfections: (His locks are bushy, and black as a raven)

Note: In Revelations 1:14 “His head and his hair were white like wool, as white as snow”, signifying his as the ancient of days, but here in Song of Solomon 5:11 they are black and bushy. These set forth his beauty strength, power, and might. (**He is perfected in his present state of being**)

- 1. He is the flower that is always in bloom.
- 2. He is the sun that never sets.
- 3. He is the fountain that never runs dry.
- A. He is the river of water of life proceeding from the throne:
- B. He is the tree in the midst of the street that is always fruitful:
- C. He is the light of the city, that is always shining:

My Heavenly Father Watches Over Me

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 5:12 Preached on 3-25-01 A.M.

In this verse the church continues to describe Christ's beauty and his distinguishing character, whereby the daughters of Jerusalem might know him from all others. According to **Matthew 24:24** in the last days, "There shall arise false Christ's, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." It would behove us all to diligently study and learn the true character and identity of Christ.

The bride here has made eye contact, and there appears to be nothing that she should be ashamed of. Her eyes are not cast down, nor turned aside, but she is able to look directly into the Lord's face and describe the beauty of his eyes.

His eyes are said to be like, "doves eyes by the rivers of water, washed with milk and fitly set."

In **Revelation 1:14** and **2:18** His eyes are said to be as a flame of fire. **They are set for judgment.** But here in Song of Solomon they are said to **be doves eyes.** (They are gentle, innocent.) **They are the eyes of Salvation,** (by the rivers of water). **They are undefiled** (washed with milk). What he sees is true, **and like a precious stone** in the foil of a ring, (they are fitly set). They are sharp-sighted, they can see all persons, and all places, at one view. They miss absolutely nothing. **His eyes represent the omniscience of Christ.**

Proverbs 15:3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

Hebrews 4:13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. (You can't cover anything up, nor close him out!)

Psalm 34:15 The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

Psalm 66:7 He ruleth by his power for ever; his eyes behold the nations: let not the rebellious exalt themselves.

Psalm 101:6 Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.

Psalm 139:16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect;

I. He Sees His People: (We are the apple of his eye)

A. Their sorrows: Illus. Moses and the bush **Exodus 3:7** And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, (for I know there sorrows) (Plural)

1. From oppression: (Be under pressure or too overburden) (The enemies hand being heavy upon us!) **Exodus 3:9** Illus. Paul while in Asia: **II Corinthians 1:8-10** For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us.
2. From offsprings: (Illus. Esau's marriage to two Hittite women) **Genesis 26:35** Which were a grief of mind unto Isaac and to Rebekah.
3. From old age: Illus. Rick Martin (My Sickness)

B. Their situations: Illus. Peter in **Acts 12 Note:** He was bound and kept in prison and was to be executed on Easter day.

1. He was seen: A light shined in the prison. V-7
2. He was smitten: He smote Peter on the side: V-7
3. He was spoken to: And raised him up saying, arise up quietly. V-7
4. He was set free: And his chain fell off from his hands. V-7
 - a. God stirred the church to pray for him:

C. Their sins: Illus. Achan in **Joshua 6, 7** (Brief story) **7:10** And the LORD said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face? Israel hath sinned.

1. They could not stand before their enemies:
2. They found the sin in the household: V18, 21
3. He had troubled all Israel: V-25
4. When the sin was judged the Lord's anger turned:
He sees

D. The secrets of the heart: **Romans 2:16** In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

1. Illus. Ananias and Sapphira Acts 5:
 - a. Lied about money:

E. Their Salvation: Illus. Jesus and Nathanael John 1 "Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith to him, behold an Israelite indeed in whom is no guile! Nathanael saith unto him, whence knowest thou me?"

The Lord's Tender Mercies

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 5:13 Preached on 4-1-01 A.M.

In this verse we find the brides fourth and fifth description of the Lord's beauty. His cheeks are said to be as a bed of spices, as sweet flowers, and his lips, like lilies, dropping sweet smelling myrrh.

There are several applications that could be made as to what Christ's cheeks represent.

1. The tables of stone that were given to Moses:
2. The Old and New Testaments, with reference to God's Law and Grace:
3. The cheeks being the seat of modesty, bashfulness, and blushing may in tend to be the humility of Christ:
4. If we understand the "bed of spices" to mean the hair or Christ's face, then his cheeks represent his humility or his manliness;
5. But, the word cheek, here, means to be soft, and the cheeks being a place of tenderness and affection: I believe the true meaning here to be, "The tender mercies of our Lord towards his people".

Isaiah 53:2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: (It is the Lord's very nature to be tender)

Psalms 145:9 The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.

Psalms 103:2-5 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things;

I. The Lord is Tender Toward his People:

A. When guilty sinners: Illus. The thief on the cross

1. He was condemned to die: **Luke 23:40**
(Turn here)
2. He was guilty of his crime: **v-41**
3. He repented of his sin: **v-42**
4. He found tender mercy and was pardoned: **v-43** And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

a. Illus. Woman in adultery: **John 8:1-11** (Turn here)

1. Jesus stooped down in his birth: v-6
2. He lifted himself up (on the cross) v-7
3. He stooped down again (when he died) v-8
4. He lifted himself up again (when he arose) v-10

V-10,11 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

B. When guilty of sin: Illus. David **Psalms 51:1** Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. **II Samuel 12:13** And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

C. When they are grieved in heart:

1. Illus. Mary and Martha **John 11** (Turn Here)
V-33-36 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled, And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see. Jesus wept. Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him!

2. Illus. Job **James 5:11** Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.
 - a. Lost relatives
 - b. Lost riches
 - c. Lost rewards

D. When they are growing in Spirit: (The Lord is concerned with our spiritual growth)

1. Those who were close to the Lord, at times appeared to be lacking in spiritual knowledge: Illus. Thomas and Phillip in **John 14** (Turn here)
 - a. Thomas lacked knowledge concerning
 1. His departure: (The cross) v-5
Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?
 2. His Destination: (How can we know the way) (Read v1-6)

 - b. Phillip lacked knowledge concerning
 1. His deity: v-8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. V-9

The Lord's Gracious Teaching

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 5:13 Preached on 4-1-01 P.M.

In the morning hour we looked at the cheeks of Christ as referring to his love, affection, and tender mercy he bestows upon his people. Tonight I want to mention some things about his lips, which I believe refers that which Christ taught: so in this verse we see both his tenderness and his teachings.

I. His Lips Are Said To Be Like Lilies:

A. White lilies for their:

1. Purity: **1 Peter 2:22** Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:
Psalm 12:7 The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.
Psalm 19:8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.
2. Righteousness: **Luke 20:21** And they asked him, saying, Master, we know that thou sayest and teachest rightly, neither acceptest thou the person of any, but teachest the way of God truly: (White, robes linen)

- #### B. Pink lilies for their blessedness (Sweetness) **John 7:46** The officers answered, Never man spake like this man. (They had gone out to entrap him in his speech) Illus. In the synagogue at Nazareth in **Luke 4:22** And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?

1. No more blessed words were ever spoken than: **Matthew 11:28** Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

John 8:11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

Luke 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

II. His Lips Are Said To Be Like Lilies, Dropping Sweet Smelling Myrrh:

- A. They are gentle: (Dropping) Like a soft summer rain
- B. They are consistent: Never dry, and never like a flood, but always dropping.
- C. They are continuous: Christ is always teaching us something: **Matthew 28:18-20** (v-20 teaching)
 1. Life
 2. Death
 3. Holiness
 4. Faith
 5. Patience

Message

I. He Taught With Authority: Illus. Sermon on the Mount **Matthew 7:28,29** And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

- A. Authority to convict: (Illus.) Woman in adultery **John 8:9** And they which heard it, (Cast the first stone) being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last:

- B. Authority to convert: (Illus.) The man healed of the palsy in **Mark 2:10** But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.

- C. Authority to calm our storms: (Illus.) The storm in **Mark 4:39** (The Lord was asleep on a pillow) And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

II. His Teaching Is Absolute: (Completion in itself)

- A. Teaches us to pray: **Luke 11:1** And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.
 - 1. Persistently: **Luke 18:1** And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;
 - 2. Privately: **Matthew 14:23** And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.
 - 3. Powerfully: **James 5:16** The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

B. Teaches us to live Holy: **Titus 2:11,12** For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

C. Teaches us sobriety: **Titus 2:2** That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. V-4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

III. His Teaching Is Apprehending: Philippians 3:12

Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

1. My heart
2. My life

The Perfect Work of Christ

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 5:14 Preached on 4-15-01 A.M.

I want us to keep in mind, that these verses reveal to us the brides estimation of Christ. The question was asked of her, "what is thy beloved more than another beloved?" She begins in verse ten by describing him to be the captain of her salvation, and then continues to describe in a more particular fashion.

Here in verse fourteen his hands are said to be as Gold rings, set with the beryl. Because of the Gold and the beryl stone we might say that his hands are....

I. Precious: (Gold and Beryl)

- A. With them he blessed the little children: **Mark 10:14-16** But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.
- B. With them he brought life to the widows son: **Luke 7:14,15** And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.
- C. With them he bled for our sins: **Psalm 22:16** For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.

II. Powerful:

- A. He holds the saints securely: **John 10:29** My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.
- B. He hides the saints secretly: **Exodus 33:21-23** And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cliff of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by:
- C. He holds the souls of all men: **Job 12:10** In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.

Note: The hands of God denote that which he works with, and the ring having neither a place of beginning nor end refers to its eternity or completeness.

That which God puts his hand to he finishes, and does so in a perfect fashion.

III. Perfect Work of Redemption: **Philippians 1:6** Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

- A. His method, or means, is perfect: **Romans 8:29** For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (As perfect as he is we shall be)
 - 1. Trials conform us: **James 1:2-4** My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

- a. Patience: (Waiting on God) (On his coming)
- b. Perfect: (Maturity)
- c. Profit: (Entire and wanting nothing)
The finished product

Bodily
annoyance
or
disability

- 2. Thorns (Skeleton) conform us: **II Corinthians 12:7-9** And **lest I should be exalted above measure** through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, **lest I should be exalted above measure**. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee**: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, **that the power of Christ may rest upon me**.
 - a. Pride: (Lest I should be exalted above measure) Done twice
 - b. Power:
 - c. Presence: (My grace denotes his presence: **Exodus 33**)
- 3. Truth conforms us: **John 17:17** Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.
 - a. Purifies:

B. His marriage is perfect: (Those rings may refer to the marriage ring)

Christ and His Abundant Life (Part I)

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 5:14b Preached on 4-22-01

The church, in her continuing effort, to describe the beauty and the majesty of the Lord says, “His belly is as bright ivory overlaid with sapphires.” Rather than preach on the ivory and sapphires in particular I would like to speak for a while on the interpretation of the verse as a whole.

The word belly, as it is used here, means the – “**seat of generation.**” It is that which produces life, and I believe that agrees with what the Lord said about the believer in **John 7:37,38** “In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his **belly** shall flow rivers of living water.”

The second word to notice is **ivory** and then **sapphires**. Both of these are very costly, thus denoting wealth in abundance. So we find in this verse the abundant life that flows from the heart of the Lord Jesus.

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Def: Abundantly – Beyond measure; more than necessary.

[The abundant life is found in]

1. Answered prayers:
 - A. Paul prayed in **Acts 27:21** and found peace in the storm
 1. They labored just to stay afloat: (This is were we are, no abundant life, but a constant struggle just to stay afloat.

2. He received great assurance from the Lord. (22) 22-25
 3. Blessed with the Lord's presence: v-23
 4. The Lord's will was revealed: v-24
 5. Paul's faith was renewed: v-25
- B. The church prayed in **Acts 12:5** and the prison doors were opened for Peter:
1. They prayed without ceasing: v-5 (This agrees with the scripture in **I Thessalonians 5:17** Pray without ceasing.
 - a. Peter was released: (Men would be today also, both the saved and the lost)
- C. The importune friend in **Luke 11:5** prayed and his need was met:
1. His need was urgent: v-5 (It was midnight)
 2. He was empty in himself: v-6
 3. he refusee to fall short: v- 8-10
 4. The Lord delights to answer and bless us: v- 11-13

Christ and His Abundant Life (Part II)

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 5:14b Preached on 4-29-01 P.M.

In last weeks message I said that Christ's belly represents his seat of generation. It is that virtue of him that gives life. The ivory and sapphire refer to his wealth, riches and majestic glory. When you combine Christ's and riches you have an abundant life. **Jesus said in John 10:10 "I am come that you might have life and that more abundantly."** The life he offers to fallen sinners is beyond measure.

Last Sunday I preached on that abundant life in regards to answered prayer. No Christian life is lived to the fullest whose prayer life is weak and empty.

May I say today that we also find this glorious life in:

I. Abundant Power: Ephesians 3:20,21 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

A. This power is associated with prayer: Ask) No power without prayer

B. The prayer is connected to meditation: Ask or think) **Psalm 39:3** My heart was hot within me, while I was musing the fire burned:

C. This power is working in us: (It is active and alive)
Note: This abundant power in which we have access to is the person of the Holy Spirit who indwells us.

1. This power enables us: **I Timothy 1:12** And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry.

a. Enables us to walk with God:

1. Walk changed: **Romans 6:4**

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Def: Newness – Renewal

2. Walk circumspectly: **Ephesians**

5:15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

a. Watchful on all sides:

b. Examining carefully all circumstance that may affect:

3. Walk correctly: **II**

Thessalonians 3:11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. (**Unarranged**)

b. Enables us to witness for God:

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

c. Enables us to wait for his coming: **I**

Thessalonians 1:9,10 For they

themselves show of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

2. This power equips us: **Ephesians 6:10,11** Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in **the power of his might**. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (**The armour is**)

Note: This armour is in the power of his might.

- a. Priceless:
 - b. Provided: (God's armour)
 - c. Proven: (Illus. David) Equips us to stand.
3. This power endues us: **Luke 24:49** But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.

Def: Endue – In the sense of sinking into a garment: to invest.

Christ and His Abundant Life (Part III)

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 5:14b Preached on 5-6-01 A.M.

Over the past two weeks we've been comparing this verse to the abundant life that Christ gives to those he redeems. In **John 10:10** he said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." The Christian life, for those who have a real spiritual appetite, is beyond measure.

I begin this series by saying that this life begins with "**answered prayer**"; Last week we used the thought of "**abundant power**". This week I want to emphasize that **abiding joy** that comes from knowing Christ.

I. Abiding Joy: (Joy is defined in Strongs as; Cheerfulness, or calm delight. It could be said to be that inner peace that sustains us in trouble, or it could be a sudden outbreak of praise, when the Spirit overwhelms our heart with thoughts of Christ.)

- A. Joy is found in God's promises: **John 15:11** These things have I spoken unto you, **that my joy might remain in you**, and that your joy might be full. **John 1:4** And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.
- B. Joy is obtained in Godly prayer: **John 16:24** **Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name:** ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.
- C. Joy can be lost: Illus. David's sin – **Psalms 51:12** Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.
- D. Our joy is lasting: (Interrupted, but never destroyed) **John 16:22** And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

What May We Joy In?

1. **Joy in Salvation: I Peter 4:13** But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.
 - a. Joy in the cross: Christ's sufferings
 - b. Joy in our conforming: Partakers of Christ's sufferings
 - c. Joy in the consummation: When his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy –
Jump for Joy

2. **Joy in Serving: Hebrews 13:17** Obey them that have the **rule** over you, and **submit** yourselves: for they **watch** for your souls, as they that must **give account**, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.
 - a. Harmony in the brotherhood
 - b. Harmony produces happiness

3. **Joy For Strength: Nehemiah 8:10** Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.
Def: Strength – A fortified place, or defence.
 - a. Discouragement is joy's greatest enemy.
 - b. Nehemiah and his people had overcome great opposition in rebuilding the wall.

- 4. Joy in Singing: (And shouting) Ezra 3:11,12** And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy:

- a. Joy in accomplishments: Because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.

Note: The earlier Temple built by Solomon was much more glorious than this one, but the younger who had never seen it yet rejoiced over the lesser accomplishment.

5. Joy in the Savior: I Peter 1:8 Whom having not seen, (**Peter had seen him**) ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, **yet believing**, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

Christ and His Abundant Life (Part IV)

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 5:14b Preached on 5-13-01 A.M.

In recent weeks I've been trying to preach on Christ, and his abundant life. His belly here in verse fourteen being that, "seat of generation", and the sapphires his riches. So we find here that rich life, or as Jesus called it in **John 10:10** an abundant life.

The abundant life Christ offers sinners is found in answered prayers, abundant power, abiding joy; and this morning I want to look at our "abounding hope".

- I. Abounding Hope: Romans 15:13** Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.
- A. The consolation of our faith is joy and peace:
 - B. The condition of our hope is determined by the degree of our joy and peace: (that ye may abound in hope) Note: No joy, no hope, no peace, no hope: The virtue of hope is vital to our christian life. It is one of three greatest products of our salvation. **I Corinthians 13:13** And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. (Vital to our life)
 - C. This hope flows from a fountain within us: (The power of the Holy Ghost) (That power that worketh in us)
 - D. Def: Hope – To anticipate (usually with pleasure) (expectation or confidence)

- E. Hope is the faith in the blessings and accomplishments of God in our life that cannot be seen. **Romans 8:24,25** For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

Message

- I. **Hope in the Church: (IFBC)** Illus. The weeping of the old and the shouting of the young at the building of the temple foundation!
- A. Going forward spiritually: (Illus. Paul's prayer for Ephesus) **Ephesians 1:17,18** That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe. **Colossians 1:10,11** That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness.
1. Our attitude toward God: Patience
 2. Our attitude toward man: Long suffering
 3. Our attitude toward self: Joyful
- B. Growing numerically: Illus. The early church **Acts 2:46,47** And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord

added to the church daily such as should be saved.

- C. Giving sacrificially: **II Corinthians 12:15** And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.

II. The Conversion of Sinners: Isaiah 45:22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. **Note:** The ends: To the uttermost part (Not one sinner can get to far from God) **James 5:7** Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

- A. Pray for them:
- B. Patiently win them: (One at a time)
- C. Pay a price to see them saved:

III. Our Children Being Saved:

- A. Train them right: **Proverbs 22:6** Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

- 1. Obedience, manners, courtesy, responsibility, respect for the property of others.

- B. Teach them the word: **Psalms 78:5 (Read)** For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:

- 1. V-7 that they might set their hope in God
- 2. Forget not his works
- 3. Keep his commandments

- C. Have tears of love

IV. Christ and His Appearing: Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

- A. Strengthens us
- B. Stabilizes us
- C. Settles us

Jesus Will Carry You Through

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 5:15 Preached on 5-20-01 A.M.

As the bride continues her particular description of our heavenly bridegroom, she now draws our attention to his legs. They are said to be like “Pillars of marble set in sockets of gold”. The Hebrew word that is used here for marble means, -- white, or fine twined linen. When we take the statement in its completion; what we have is a picture of our great High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ, as he stands throughout all eternity, to support and bear up his people in their infirmities.

When we are weak and weary and our feeble knees hang down, and our legs begin to buckle; he is yet strong and able to carry us through. When the wiles of the Devil make our standing difficult, thank God he stands with us and for us and in his strength defends us from all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Jude 24,25 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen.

II Timothy 2:1 “Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.”

Psalms 27:1 “The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”

Psalms 73:26 “My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.”

Please notice his legs are said to be like pillars. The word pillars means to stand; a column; or a platform. They are supports. That which holds something else up.

I. The Lord Supports His People: The number of our legs being two, leads me to believe that there are two primary pillars that support God's people: I realize he has many virtues that we rely upon, but it may be possible that they can be gathered into two main categories.

John 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

1. Grace: The kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man:
 2. Truth: **John 8:32** And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.
 - a. Being set free from the power and the penalty of sin, and God's love set upon us, we have been girded with strength and supported sufficiently that we shall never fall.
- A. He supports us in our marriage:
1. He will solidify our marriage: (To make solid) **Matthew 19:4-6** And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.
 2. He will sweeten our marriage: (Illus. The marriage at Cana) **John 2:3** And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

- a. Wine a type of joy: (They had none in the marriage)
 - b. Jesus gave them the wine:
 - c. He kept the best until last: (marriage gets better down the road)
 3. He can save a marriage: (Just when you think it's over)
- B. He supports us in our mournings: (Sorrow) **I Peter 5:7** Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.
1. Forsaken by those we love: (Illus. Hagar & Ishmael) **Genesis 21:16** And she sat over against him, and lift up her voice, and wept. **Genesis 21:19** And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water;
 2. Family members are bound by Satan: (Illus. The Syrophenician woman) **Matthew 15:22** And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.
 - a. She confessed that only a crumb would be sufficient. **Matthew 15:28** Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt.
 3. Fail in our spiritual life: Illus. Peter --- He denied the Lord, and in **Luke 22:62** he wept bitterly: But in **Luke 22:32** the Lord said "But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not".

- C. He supports us in our moping:
(When we have lost spirit)
1. When withdrawn from others: Illus. Elijah
I Kings 19 – in 19:3 he left his servant.
II Kings 19:4 But he himself went a day's
journey into the wilderness, and came and
sat down under a juniper tree: and he
requested for himself that he might die;
 - a. God touched him: v-5,7 (Touched
him twice)
 - b. Provided bread (warm off the coals)
and water:

 2. When whimpering about God's will: Illus.
Jonah in **Jonah 4:3** Therefore now, O
LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from
me; for it is better for me to die than to live.
 - a. God prepared a gourd:

Have You Seen Jesus Lately

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 5:15 Preached on 5-20-01 P.M.

The church now turns to the next particular in her most vivid description of the Lord. His countenance is said to be as Lebanon, excellent as the cedars. By his countenance, she does not mean his look by which he beholds others, such as a smile or frown; But that by which he is visible to, and beheld by others, and by which he recommends himself to them; as his grand and majestic form, his tall stature (like the cedars of Lebanon), his graceful deportment and stately walk.

Scores of people, in the scriptures saw the Lord, especially during his earthly ministry. But, they saw him in various perspectives. (**John 12:21** "Sir, we would see Jesus". Most people hear about something before they have a desire to see it.) Some saw him as a good man, others as a prophet. Nicodemus saw him as a teacher and master; some because he cast out devils associated him with Beelzebub the prince of the devils. (Have you seen him lately)

I hope that we can see him first of all as...

I. I Saw Him As the Lover of My Soul: (No one ever cared for me like Jesus)

- A. (Illus. Samson) I was caught in sin: **Ephesians 2:2,3** Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, **fulfilling** the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

But God!

Who is rich in mercy for his great loved, wherewith he loved us!

B. I was crippled on both feet: Illus. The pool of Bethesda **John 5**.

1. Multitude waiting for the moving of the water.
2. Certain man had an infirmity thirty-eight years.
3. When Jesus saw him lie, he said, "Wilt thou be made whole?"
4. The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool.
5. I could not come to him, but he came to me.
6. V-8 Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.

C. I was captured by Satan: **Luke 13:11** "And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, **and could in no wise lift up herself.**" **V-12** "Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity." **V-16** "ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?"

II. John Saw Him as the Lamb of God: John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

A. As lamb he shed his blood in atonement: **Leviticus 17:11** For the life of the flesh is in the blood: **and I have given it** (it was his to give) **to you upon the altar** to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

- B. As lamb he sacrifices his life: Not just in death, but as he lives, he lives for us.

III. Isaiah Saw Him High and Lifted Up: Isaiah 6:1 In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

- A. He saw him enthroned: (To invest with sovereign authority)
- B. He saw him encircled: (With glory) (His train filled the temple) (v-3) and the whole earth is filled with his glory

IV. Mary Saw Him as the Lily of the Valley: Illus. Mary in John 20 (She came to the sepulchre)

- A. Bewildered in her spirit: (Confused) **John 20:2**
Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.
- B. Broken in her heart: **John 20:11** But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre,
- C. Bereaved of her love: (Deprived) **John 20:15**
Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.
- D. Blessed by his presence: v-16 “Mary”

The Lord's Sweet Mouth

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 5:16 Preached on 5-22-01 Tues.

We now come to the final in the churches description or estimation of our Lord. His mouth is said to be most sweet, and that he is altogether lovely. In his loveliness we are not to believe that she means that outward physical appearance that attracts men and women to one another. Isaiah says in chapter fifty-three and verse two; "For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him."

What is meant by his loveliness is those glorious virtues, which he possesses. After she makes a careful examination, she simply sums up the matter by saying, "He is altogether lovely."

But in the message tonight I want to look at a few scriptures and preach for a little while on what is meant by the sweetness of his mouth.

I. The Kind Words of the Gospel: (Read I Corinthians 15:1-4) "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."

- A. The invitation it offers: Illus. Noah **Genesis 7:1**
"And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation."

- B. The immortality it provides: **II Timothy 1:8-10** Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.” Def: Immortality – Unending existence, incorruptibility.

- C. The inheritance it promises: **I Peter 1:4** “To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,”

II. The Knowledge That Flows From His Lips:

- A. The advice he offers: **I Timothy 4:16** “Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.”
 - 1. Take care of your own spiritual life: (Pry, read worship, etc.)

- B. The afflictions he promises us: **I Peter 4:1** “Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;”

- C. The admonition he provides: **Hebrews 4:1** “Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.”

- D. The affection he shows us: **Revelation 1:5** “Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father;”

III. The Fire They Kindle in Our Heart: (His mouth and kisses)

- A. For revival: **Job 41:21** “His breath kindleth coals, and a flame goeth out of his mouth”

IV. The Kisses of Grace He Bestows on His People:

- A. When he reveals his glory: Illus. The mountain of transfiguration: **Luke 9:27-36**

1. It was a mountain: A high and lofty place:
2. It was manifest while they were praying:

- a. **9:27** “And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening.”

- B. When he reveals his purpose: Illus. John on Patmos **Revelation 1:1** “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:”

Loving Jesus Through the Hard Times

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 5:16 Preached on 5-27-01 A.M.

I want to preach this morning on, "Loving Jesus through the hard times". Anyone can love him while living on the mountain, but it takes special grace to love someone when, within your heart you feel unloved by them. (**Illus. Husband and wife relationship**)

Scores of people love the Lord while the sun is shining, but when the dark clouds begin to gather overhead their love begins to wane and fade away. When the sailing is smooth our hearts remain kindled with a warm flame, but so often in the tempest our faith begins to falter, and our hearts grow cold. But true faith in Christ keeps our hearts glowing with love for him even during the most difficult times of our life.

Jeremiah 12:5 reads, "If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? And if in the land of peace, wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?"

In this verse the bride exposes her personal interest in Christ, not just what she sees in him to be but what he actually is to her. "He is still her beloved, and her friend." Even after passing through some of the most troublesome days of her life.

1. He had withdrawn himself from her.
2. She had sought him, and failed to find him.
 - a. To increase our faith
 - b. To bless us with hope
 - c. To prove our love
3. She had called in prayer, but he refused to answer.

4. She had been shamefully wounded by the watchmen of the city, and deprived of her bridal veil, yet she called him her beloved and friend.

By the term beloved we understand that:

1. She still preferred him above all others: **Exodus 20:2,3** "I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me."
2. Her love and affection for him was yet a flame: **Matthew 22:37** "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."
3. Although severely tried her faith in him was still strong: **I Peter 1:7** "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:"

The Application

I. She Experienced a Sense of Desertion:

- A. She felt forsaken: Illus. (David) The Lord: **Psalm 22:1-6** "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent. But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel. Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them. They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded. But I am a worm, and no man;"

- B. She felt help had failed: But he is a present help in trouble; the Lord was working. (“Why art thou so far from helping me?”)

II. She Experienced a Sense of Dejection: (Lowness of spirit, occasioned by grief or misfortune)

- A. She had tried and failed
- B. Like Hagar, she felt like no one wanted her: “But God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water.” **Isaiah 53:3** “He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”
- C. She felt disesteemed: (**Slighted and disliked**)

III. She Experienced a Sense of Desperation and Determination: (In chapter six and verse two she is able to tell the daughters of Jerusalem exactly where he is)

- A. She found him:
- B. She made it through the trial: **Matthew 24:13** “But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.” (Illus. Jacob’s wrestling)

Jesus, A Friend of Sinners

Outline and notes in the Song of Solomon Ch. 5:16 Preached on 5-27-01 P.M.

I want to preach tonight on Jesus, a friend of sinners. **In Luke 15:1,2 the Bible says**, “Then drew near unto him all the Publicans and sinners for to hear him, and the Pharisees and scribes murmured, this man receiveth sinners and eateth with them.” (**The sheep, silver, son**)

1. To receive means to accept: We have been accepted in the beloved.
2. To eateth: He fellowships with

In **Luke 7:34** the Bible says, “The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners!”

Def: Friend – (1) One who is attached to another by affection; (2) To seek to promote the happiness and prosperity of another; (3) One reconciled after enmity.

- A. Jesus has proven himself to be friendly: **Proverbs 18:24** “A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.”
- B. Jesus remains our friend in spite of our faults and failures: **Proverbs 17:17** “A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”
- C. Jesus as our friend, provides a very intimate relationship; even revealing the secrets of his heart: **John 15:15** “Henceforth I call you not

servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.”

- D. Jesus, as our friend never listens to rumors or lies concerning us: **Proverbs 16:28** “A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.”
- E. Jesus as our friend never gives us bad counsel: Illus Amnon and his friend Jonadab (and Amnon had a friend)
- F. Jesus as our friend will never betray us as Judas did him: **Psalms 41:9** “Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.” **Luke 22:48** “But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?”

I. Jesus Was Our Friend When We Were His Enemies: Colossians 1:21 “And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight:” (Illus. Joseph and his brothers)

- A. Rejected by his brethren: (**His dream; the sheaves**)
- B. Removed to a foreign land:
- C. Revealed himself to his brethren on their 2nd visit:
- D. Requited them good for their evil:

II. Jesus Was Our Friend When We Were Empty: Illus. Bartimaeus Mark 10:46-52

- A. Had nothing to offer Jesus: (**He was a beggar**)
 - 1. He was a beggar:
 - 2. He was born in darkness: (**When Jesus comes**)

- B. Held a cup in his hand looking for a free gift: (**Jesus filled his spiritual cup**) (**My cup runneth over**) **V-49** “And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee. And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus.”
 - 1. He was called:
 - 2. He was comforted:
 - 3. He cast away his old garment:
 - 4. He came to Jesus:

III. Jesus Is Our Friend When We Are Erring: (Going astray)

- A. Illus. The disciples in **John 21**
 - 1. Laboring in self will: (**Cast the net on the right side of the ship**)
 - 2. Left their first love; (**Lovest thou me more than these**)
 - 3. Letting the flesh control their decisions: