

Song of Solomon Lesson 7

- The Bridegroom's Response -

If thou know not, O thou fairest among women, go thy way forth by the footsteps of the flock, and feed thy kids beside the shepherds' tents.

Song of Solomon 1:8

INTRODUCTION

She has been calling out to him, seeking after him, and longing for him. She desires to be near him.

Song of Solomon 1:7

Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest, where thou makest thy flock to rest at noon: for why should I be as one that turneth aside by the flocks of thy companions?

When God responds and begins to talk back to us, it is not always in the way that we expect to hear. Sometimes He speaks to us in a corrective manner and a rebuke instead of in blessing.

I. A Corrective Admonition – “If Thou Know Not”

John 14:9

Jesus saith unto him, **Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me,** Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

A. A Rebuke

The Lord rebukes us to help us. Usually His rebukes are not stinging, but mild. He is rebuking her because she should have known, she has been with him, and spoken with him. She is more thrilled with Him than the wine, but yet she says here, “Where are you? How can I find you?” Here in response to her request, he kindly rebukes her.

B. A Loving Rebuke

Hebrews 12:6

For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

He rebukes us because He loves us. He rebukes her here not to hurt her, but to help her.

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- The Bridegroom's Response -

C. An Informing Rebuke

Sometimes people rebuke us and we don't know why we are getting rebuked. But, he informs her that she should know, but is ignorant of the fact of where he is. She did not know because she had been slothful in her experience, but she **should have** known.

The Lord's correction gets us in line to receive His blessing! There is some obligation before we get the blessing.

II. A Complimentary Acclamation – "O Thou Fairest Among Women,"

Lest she faint, he has something nice to say to her. He loves her because there is much within her that he is pleased with even though there are things that he is not pleased with. We cannot overlook the finest little area because the Lord does not.

She has said to him, "I am black...like the tents of kedar." Yet, he says to her, "O Thou Fairest Among Women." How can he say this? The Lord can see our failures; is He pleased with our failures?

God sees us in the merits of His Son. The best we can do is not all that God expects.

A. Imputed Righteousness

He can say this because he has done something for her. When the glory of God is upon a person they are beautiful—beautiful character and life.

Imputed: *put down to your account*

If we are walking in the light according to His Word and are under His blood, He does not see our faults and failures, but He sees His Son. He sees us in Him not only as at the beginning, but as the completed product. Because she has accepted of His grace, He has put down to her account of His righteousness.

Matthew 3:17

And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom **I am well pleased**.

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- The Bridegroom's Response -

II Corinthians 5:21

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that **we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**

B. Imparted Righteousness

Is it enough to have His righteousness imputed to us? Is it enough to have His righteousness put down to our account and then we live any way we want to live?

THIS ACCOUNT IS GOOD **ONLY** AS I WALK IN THE LIGHT.

I John 1:7

But **if we walk in the light**, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

There is no problem that you have that Christ can't deliver you from, but you have to want to be delivered from it. We **can**, but we don't only because we **won't**. **We must appropriate the benefits of Calvary.**

"Flesh is flesh no matter whose bones it's stretched out on."

Others are not my problem, but my own flesh is my problem. God wants to get us beyond the place that not only is there a daily experience of the impartation of His righteousness, but so that we may arrive at the point of perfection. He sees her in a completed state: "*O thou fairest among women...*" (1:8)

III. A Commanding Advisement –
"Go Thy Way Forth by the Footsteps of the Flock"

She has been requesting some things from Him, and now He gives her some commanding advice.

I John 5:3

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

There are some things that the Lord is expecting from us. He has some commandments.

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A. Progression – “Go Thy Way Forth”

There is a break down in the Pentecostal church because they are not taught that they have to grow up. There is a certain amount of pain involved in growing up, but it is worth it! There might be some pain, but go ahead and grow up.

Romans 1:17

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from **faith to faith**: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

B. Obedience – “By the Footsteps of the Flock”

If you can't find your own way, follow the saints. Don't follow the sinner, the wishy-washy, the mediocre, or those that are half in and half out, but follow those that are in the flock!

Matthew 7:13-14

Enter ye in at the **strait gate**: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Because **strait is the gate**, and **narrow is the way**, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

She gives the impression of the thought, “Maybe there is a shortcut or loophole for me,” because of their exchange of affectionate terms. The answer to her question is, “No. Get in the path, and follow in the footsteps of the flock.” **There are no shortcuts to having God's best.**

I Corinthians 11:1

Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

John 14:15

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

IV. A Conclusive Assignment –
“Feed Thy Kids”

She is never to be neglectful of those that are around her even while she is taking care of her own. He is talking about little lambs, not goats. Let the goats feed the goats.

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A. Who is to Feed – We are to Feed Them

Everyone that has been saved has a responsibility to share their experience with others. If you neglect this responsibility you will suffer; if you fulfill the responsibility you will be happy. **There is nothing like sharing your experience with someone else.**

This is the best thing going:

The more you give away the more you have;
the more you try to keep the more you will lose.

Our salvation experience is multiplied in our giving of it. **Not just the preachers, but EVERY ONE of us have this responsibility.** You might not feed the 'flock', but you can at least feed the little fellas! They are just as important as the big ones because the little ones become big ones as you teach and train them.

B. Who is to be Fed – The Young Ones

The first thing the Lord said to Peter wasn't "Go out and evangelize the world," but was:

John 21:15

... Feed my lambs.

He wants us to start with the little fellas.

C. Where They are to be Fed – Beside the Shepherds' Tents

"Tents" (plural) is referring to the under shepherds and not the Great Shepherd.

We have to lead young ones; there is a lot of pasture out there that is not of the Lord. Lead them besides the shepherds' tents that are walking in God's pathway. Guide them in the truth, and to where they'll get truth.

If you know truth, then you have a responsibility to share that.

There are wolves in sheep's' clothing that the young ones need to be sheltered from. There are all kinds of false shepherds. How do you tell a wolf from a sheep? Not by what he says, but by his motive and action: he wants something for **himself**.

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CONCLUSION

John 3:30

He must increase, but I must decrease.

We need to get back to the simple plan and pattern of the Gospel. We need to live honestly, godly, and righteously.

You can't tell the difference. You can't even tell the difference between wheat and tares. You cannot always tell sheep from a wolf.

Matthew 13:29

But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

I Timothy 2:19

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, **The Lord knoweth them that are his.** And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

The Lord is going to make the separation. Let's make sure that we are feeding and leading others in the pastures where they will be fed truth. There is an awful lot of confusion and mixture today.

II Kings 4:40

So they poured out for the men to eat. And it came to pass, as they were eating of the pottage, that they cried out, and said, O thou man of God, there is **death in the pot.** And they could not eat thereof.

We need to have the pure, unadulterated Word of God—good, green grass, beside good, clear water. You lead others, and you lead yourself.

There are no shortcuts.