

“THE SACRED INVITATION”

Text: *“I sleep but my heart waketh; it is the voice of my beloved that knocketh saying, open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled.”* (Song of Solomon 5:2)

Subject: “The Voice That Calls Your name Today.”

Introduction

1. The Song of Solomon was written by Solomon in the tenth century B.C.
2. Solomon wrote 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs according to I Kings 4:32.
“And Solomon spoke three thousand proverbs; and his songs were a thousand and five.”
3. The Bible gives us the best that he wrote #1, and #2 we have the ones that the Spirit of God wants us to have.
4. The Song of Solomon is both poetical and practical:
 - ◆ It describes both the love of King Solomon for a peasant girl and the love of Christ for His church.
 - ◆ It reveals the sacredness of married love between a husband and a wife.
 - ◆ But most of all, it's a **picture of communion between Christ and individual believers.**

(What's the purpose of this five-part song?)

1. To deepen the union between Jesus and His people.
2. To unite our hearts with the heart of Jesus.
3. To increase God's anointing upon your life and His church.
4. To call us closer and teach us how to live in the presence of God.

The Song of Solomon is five little songs of power.

1. “The remedy of an unsatisfied life.” (1:1- 2:7)
2. “The restoring of broken communion.” (2:8 – 3:5)
3. “The joy of closeness to Jesus.” (3:6 - 5:12)
4. “The call to a sleeping bride.” (5:12 – 6:10)
5. “The Lord's delight in His one and only.” (You and me) (6:11 – 8:14)

Fact: Eight chapters of what God is after in communion with us.

Fact: Eight chapters of what God desires at all times.

Fact: Eight chapters of what God is calling for to leave you satisfied, fulfilled and full of contentment.

(Hear The Beckoning Of God)

In Chapter 1:4 – *“Draw me and we will run after thee.”*

In Chapter 2:10 – *“Rise up my love, my fair one and come away.”*

In Chapter 3:2 – *“I will rise now and seek Him whom my soul loveth.”*

In Chapter 4:16 – *“Let my beloved come into his garden.”*

In chapter 5:2 – *“I sleep, but my heart waketh; it is the voice of my beloved saying, open to me my sister.”*

In Chapter 6:13 - *“Return, return, O Shulamite, return, return.”*

In Chapter 7:10 – *“I am my beloveds and his desire is toward me.”*

In Chapter 8:7 – *“Many waters cannot quench love; neither can the floods drown it.”*

Question: Why does the Lord want intimate fellowship with me?

Question: What can keep me from closeness to Jesus?

Question: Why does the Lord seem to be withdrawn at times?

Question: What's the danger of slow obedience to God's calling?

"I hear, I hear, I hear the Lord calling your name."

I. The Desire Of the Bridegroom (V. 2)

"I sleep but my heart waketh." (Why?) "It is the voice of my beloved that knocketh saying; open to me my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled, for my head is filled with dew and my locks with the drops of the night."

Question: Why did the bride awaken?

Answer: Because Jesus cries out, **"Open to me my sister."**

Question: What is it a picture of?

Answer: It's a picture of the desire of Jesus (the Bridegroom) towards you (his bride).

1. Jesus desires to be admitted.
2. Jesus desires entrance and an open door.
3. Jesus desires a hearty welcome with open arms.
4. Jesus desires a glad reception on our part.
5. Jesus desires that we receive Him without reservation.
6. Jesus desires that we accept His advances towards us.
7. Jesus desires that we answer his plea of communion.

"Open to Me my sister."

- In Chapter 4:16 – The Lord was invited to come close
- In chapter 5:1 – The Lord came close as requested.
- In chapter 5:2 – The believer has fallen asleep and barred the door. (Revealing that Christ's return was not eagerly expected.)

Question: What's the meaning of verse 2 (that the bride had fallen asleep and closed the door)?

Answer: The meaning is twofold:

1. That it's possible to close the door to Jesus by slipping into an inattentive state.
2. That Jesus is resolved to come close even to those who are inattentive, unaware, unsuspecting and undeserving.

Question: How do we know that Jesus wants to reveal Himself, share Himself and pour out His Spirit in our lives?

Answer: Because of what it cost Him:

(V. 2b) *"For my head is filled with dew, and my locks with the drops of the night."*

(What does it all mean?)

- It refers to the heart of Jesus, the great Shepherd who is busy in the night seasons (even while the bride has crawled into bed to sleep).
- It refers to Jesus out searching at nighttime (in the dark) to find the one sheep who has wandered away.
- It refers to the painstaking effort of the Lord to restore (at great cost) anyone who is in need to have sins forgiven.

- It refers to his suffering, the garden, the praying, the betrayal, the arrest, the spitting, the crown of thorns, the cross and the blood spilled to win your heart.
- It's a powerful plea that reveals the heart of God (his desire) to come into the sinner's heart and the believer's world.

(It's a voice we hear today in v. 2)
"Open to me, open to me, open to me."

II. The Disappointment Of The Bridegroom (v. 3)

Question: What did Solomon's bride (the Lord's church) say when the Bridegroom came calling and knocking"?

Answer: Solomon's bride said what many say today:

(V. 3) *"I have put off my coat, how shall I put it on? I have washed my feet, how shall I defile them?"*

(In other words, she made excuses.)

- She heard his knock,
- She heard his voice,
- She saw his hand on the door,
- But she didn't yield to the call of her bridegroom.

(Why was the Lord disappointed?)

1. The bride didn't quickly respond to the king's call.
2. The bride has forgotten what Christ did for her.
3. The bride failed to stir herself to action.
4. The bride wasn't willing to deny herself and get up.
5. The bride put her comfort before Christ's interests.
6. The bride lost sight of eternity for a moment.
7. The bride thought we could make it without Jesus.
8. The bride was half asleep to spiritual things.
9. The bride became careless in the journey.
10. The bride was unaware that Jesus wanted to draw her close to His heart.

Why was Jesus so Disappointed?

- Because to give no heed when the Lord appeals to you, or to sleep on and ignore His calling, is to **despise and grieve the Holy Spirit**.
- Also, to resist the calling and the dealing of the Lord **is to tempt the departure of Jesus**.

(Does Jesus ever quit on us?)

(v. 4) *"My beloved put in his hand by the hole of the door."*

- This refers to the custom in this day.
- When a man was in love with a woman, he would go to her home and leave (not a card, but a fragrance).
- The doors were made with an opening to reach in and remove the bar unless it was locked and barred.
- When there was no response from the bride, the bridegroom placed myrrh on the inside handle of the door.

- When she came to the door the fragrance was transmitted to her fingers. (v. 5)
- She received a blessing (but forfeited seeing the blesser and giver of the gifts.)

In other words,

- In v. 5, she knew he had been there, but she grieved him **by her hesitation** to open the door.

Oh, what a lesson!

1. We never need settle for a second hand experience.
 2. We never need to stop at the goose bumps, emotions, and feelings. (v. 4) *“My bowels were moved for him.”*
 3. *We never need to forget that **obedience** is far better than **hesitation** when God comes to visit us (and rings the door-bell).*
- Goose bumps, feelings and emotions are okay,
 - But feelings are **secondary to prompt obedience!**

In other words,

We don't want just the myrrh, we want the myrrh giver!!!

III. The Disappearance Of The Bridegroom (v. 6)

Question: What happened when the bride finally opened the door in v. 6?

Answer: *“I opened to my beloved; but my beloved had withdrawn himself and was gone, my soul failed when he spake, I sought him, but I could not find him, I called him, but he gave me no answer.”*

What had happened?

1. Fellowship with Jesus had been broken
2. Delay resulted in disappointment.
3. Indulgence to the flesh bears bitter consequences.
4. Disobedience on our part places distance between us and Jesus.

There was a divine withdraw, why?

- To teach us the pain of neglecting His invitation.
- To help us appreciate him all the more.
- To make us more careful in the future.
- To see exactly how much we really love Him.

Question: What was the result of spiritual neglect on the part of the bride?

Answer: (v. 7) *“She was smitten, wounded and hurt by those who were to protect her.”*

In other words,

- It may be costly and painful to pursue God with all your heart.
- It may be difficult for some of you to seek first God's Kingdom.
- You might through much tribulation enter into the Kingdom of God.
- You might be betrayed, abused, rejected, put down, let down and pressed down.

But there is amazing news.

IV. The Delight Of The Bridegroom (v. 8)

Question: How did the bride respond to her pain, hurt and failure?

Answer: She did what God still wants us to do today.

(She sings to the daughters of Jerusalem in v. 8)

“I charge you, if you find my beloved, tell him that I am sick of love.” (Or)

1. Tell him how much I miss him.
2. Tell him how much I love him.
3. Tell him how much I’m looking for him.
4. Tell him how much I yearn for his presence.

In other words,

- The fragrance has worn off.
- The myrrh and frankincense don’t mean much anymore.
- She cannot be satisfied until she finds Jesus for herself.

In other words,

- She blew it in verse 3 with all of her excuses.
- She failed and let down the Lord before.
- She neglected to respond when the Lord previously called.

But a change now occurs:

- She’s not going to get bitter over her mistreatments.
- She’s not going to sour and stew in her own juice.
- She’s not going to remain distant from her one true love.

Instead,

- She **returns with all of her heart,**
- She knows that the Lord **will forgive,**
- She believes in the God **of a second chance,**
- She testifies to us all, that when we return to God, **God responds to us!**

It’s a **“sacred invitation”** (and I hear the Lord calling your name!)

Amen!
Bill Kirk