

# **“THE VINEYARD OF THE SOUL”**

(Keeping Our Gardens Free From Enemy Weeds)  
Song of Solomon 1:1-6

“Other vineyards have I kept, but mine own vineyard have I not kept.” (1:6)

## **Introduction**

1. The Song of Solomon is a love story between Solomon and a humble maiden.
2. The purpose of this Song is to illustrate Christ’s love for His church (calling us into deep oneness with Himself).
3. It is a picture of Christ wanting to deepen His Presence in our lives (and call us aside from everything trivial).
4. The sole purpose of God in this book is to enlarge our hearts in communion with Jesus.

## **Questions With Answers**

1. How can we increase the fellowship of Jesus within our own souls (vineyards)?
2. How does Jesus draw us deeper into intimate union with Himself?
3. What are the enemies of every vineyard?

## **A Sobering Text**

“Other vineyards have I kept, but mine own vineyard have I not kept.” (v. 6)

**Fact:** While the Shulamite girl was faithfully tending the vineyards of others, she neglected her own.

**Fact:** The pain of this revelation grieves her heart (she realizes something).

1. Her own garden became overgrown with weeds.
2. Her own fruit was being lost in the shuffle.
3. Her own neglect was costing her dearly.

## **After All...**

- ◆ What good is it, if I tend other vineyards and neglect my own soul?
- ◆ What good is it, if I “watch others”, but fail to remove the beams in my own eye?
- ◆ What good is it, if I serve, and serve, yet fail in my communion with Jesus?
- ◆ What good is it, if what I am doesn’t keep pace with what I do?

“But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection; lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.” (I Corinthians 9:27)

## **I. Fellowship In The Vineyard**

Three revelations that draw us into deeper union with Jesus:

### **1. Jesus is Attractive**

“Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth; for thy love is better than wine.” (v. 2)

“Let him (Jesus) kiss me” (means):

- ◆ Draw me into deeper union and greater intimacy

**Fact:** As the Shulamite girl is attracted to Solomon, so you and I are attracted to Jesus.

**Fact:** The “kiss” is the union of God’s Spirit with our spirit.

**Fact:** “Better than wine” means: wine only stirs for a moment (temporary) but God’s presence does what wine cannot (it enriches, purifies, sustains and changes us).

## 2. Jesus is Anointed

“Thy name is as ointment poured forth.” (v. 3)

“A bundle of myrrh is my well beloved unto me.” (v.13)

**Fact:** The Presence of God is a healing balm.

**Fact:** Ointment was (and is) used for healing.

**Fact:** Rubbed on, ointment penetrates; Jesus can get through every hang-up, excuse, and scar and heal by His power!

**Fact:** Jesus is a “bundle of myrrh” to the believer.

### Three Blessings of Myrrh

#### A. Myrrh was used in the anointing oil for Aaron the high priest

1. It was called the “oil of gladness”
2. So Jesus, restores His joy to those without it.

#### B. Myrrh was used for incense in the tabernacle

1. It represented God accepting the prayer and worship as the incense burned and ascended upward.
2. So Jesus, calls us into His embrace with open arms (He receives our prayer; we have an open door; He invites us to “come in”.)

#### C. Myrrh was used for embalming the dead

1. It was used to prevent corruption and decay
2. So Jesus, preserves us, keeps us, sustains us and gives us power over sin that would defile, corrupt and contaminate us.

## 3. Jesus is Accessible (V. 4)

“Draw me, we will run after thee; the king hath brought me into his (inner) chambers.”

1. You’ve “kissed me” (or united yourself with me).
2. Your “ointment” heals me and cures what sin has done to me.
3. But now I am invited to get from the outer court, into the inner court.

**Fact:** Jesus has paid the price for all to enter.

**Fact:** Jesus has invited us to draw closer.

**Fact:** Jesus has overcome every obstacle and barrier.

(v. 5) “I am black” (and)

(v. 6) “Look not upon me” is simply the bride giving excuse (it means):

1. We are conscious of our shortcomings and sinfulness.

But the King invites us in because of Calvary...

...I am invited into the Holy of Holies!

...I am invited into the very Presence of God!

...I am invited into intimate fellowship with God!

(What a fellowship, what a joy divine)

1. Jesus is attractive – “Let Him kiss me.”
2. Jesus is anointed – “With ointment poured forth.”

3. Jesus is accessible – “He hath brought me into His inner chamber.”

## II. Foes In The Vineyard (2:15)

“Take us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vines; for our vines have tender grapes.”

**Question:** What are the dangers that come to every vineyard?

**Question:** What can happen to the soul of any man or woman?

**Question:** What can happen to any piece of ground if neglected?

### The Answer

“I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; and lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down.” (Prov. 24: 30, 31)

**Fact:** Solomon went by a neglected vineyard and saw three things:

1. Thorns
2. Nettles
3. A broken wall

**Question:** What are these three things anyway?

**Question:** How are they the enemy of a vineyard?

#### 1. “Thorns”

A. Thorns are the weeds that spoil your vineyard.

B. Thorns are the weeds that ruin your garden

◆ These weeds start small and innocent.

(They are evil thoughts entertained, a bitter attitude, a questionable activity.)

◆ These weeds sap your strength.

(They drain you spiritually, physically and emotionally; they steal your joy.)

◆ These weeds hide the fruit.

(They will cover the precious wheat)

◆ These weeds spread if left unattended.

(They will multiply rapidly; weeds beget weeds like sheep beget sheep)

#### 2. “Nettles”

A. In Proverbs 24:31, the Hebrew word for “nettles” is HARUL which means: “wild bush”.

B. In Isaiah 34:13, the Hebrew word for “nettles” is GIMMOSH which means: “to sting”.

**Fact:** When you put the two together you get: “wild bush that stings”.

**Fact:** Nettles, then are anything and everything left unattended that runs wild and eventually stings the soul.

#### 3. “The Broken Wall”

A. The wall is the thing that protects the vineyard from outside intruders.

B. The wall for you and me is easily discerned.

1. It is the protection of a holy standard.

2. It is the protection of a Biblical conviction.

3. It is the protection of moral absolutes.

4. It is the safeguard of everything good in your soul.

- ◆ The “wall” is simply that wall of moral standard and conviction that will maintain the fear of God and a hate for sinful intrusions.
- ◆ If this wall is broken down, we become vulnerable to all kinds of enemy traps.

### Why is this wall so important?

“Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits.” (Song of Solomon 4:16)

**Fact:** This is the bride calling to the Bridegroom.

**Fact:** The Bridegroom (Jesus) comes to us to “eat His pleasant fruits”.

**Fact:** If the vineyard of our soul is full of weeds, how can the Beloved enjoy His pleasant fruits?

**Fact:** When He comes, we would be a disappointment to Him (and He would be grieved.)

### What’s the secret to killing all weeds?

1. See their seriousness – “A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.” (Galatians 5:9)
2. Identify them by name – “Weights and sins that so easily beset us.” (Heb 12:1)
3. Get going/choose to get rid of them today – “Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit.” (II Corinthians 7:1)
4. Stay out of other people’s gardens. (Why?) Because you cannot be weeding your own garden when next door searching for weeds!  
 “Examine himself” “Search me” Create in me” “Own eye” “Take heed unto thyself” (I Corinthians 11:28; Psalm 139:23; Psalm 51:10; Luke 6:41; I Timothy 4:16)

### III. Freedom In The Vineyard

**Question:** Is it that important to see every foe, every weed and every enemy of the vineyard destroyed?

**Answer:** Jesus said so in Matthew 5:29, 30:

“If your hand offends you, cut it off.”

“If your eye offends you, pluck it out.”

### In Other Words

Take every drastic measure possible to pull out the weeds that will destroy the vineyard.

**Question:** Can Jesus “get through” and destroy every power of sin that seeks to corrupt us?

**Answer:** Isaiah gives us a resounding “yes”. (Isaiah 27)

“In that day sing ye unto her, a vineyard of red wine.” (v. 2)

“I the Lord do keep it; I will water it every moment lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day.” (v. 3)

”Fury is not in me; who would set the briers and thorns against me in battle? I would go through them, I would burn them together.” (v. 4)

**Fact:** In Isaiah 26, Israel sings to the Lord (How the enemy has been brought down).

**Fact:** In Isaiah 27, the Lord sings about Israel (How He will be faithful to His vineyard).

In verse 2 – we are called a “vineyard”.

In verse 4 - briers and thorns are listed as enemies of a vineyard.

**Question:** What will Jesus do to every thorn and brier?

**Answer:** "I will go through them and burn them together." (v. 4)

### **In Other Words**

The Lord will destroy, conquer and burn up whatever keeps your vineyard from growing! (Repeat)

### **How is this possible?**

**Ask:** How can we live free from thorns and weeds?

### **God Reveals the answer.**

"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, hath made me free from the law of sin and death."  
(Romans 8:2)

"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh." (v. 3)

"That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (v. 4)

1. We are all capable of sin.
2. We are all alive in a corrupted body.
3. We all possess the stain of sin in nature.
4. But we've all been delivered from the law of sin that seeks to rule our members.

### **How are we free?**

1. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.
2. This new power which can rule over the old power!
3. This new law which now supersedes the old law bent towards sin.

### **Simple Illustrations**

- ◆ You can go fishing, throw your line in the water with a sinker on it, and the line is pulled down to the bottom. Put a cork or bobber on the same line and it will keep the line from sinking. Why? Because the one law supersedes the other law.
- ◆ You can weigh 150 lbs., not be able to swim and sink when you jump in the water. Yet, when you strap yourself to a 3 lb. flotation vest, you are lifted up by its power. The law of the vest overpowers and overrules the law of gravity that pulls you down. You're still in the water, but as long as you remain in the vest, you are raised by its power and ability. The law of the vest supersedes the law of gravity and weight.

### **Rejoice, Rejoice, Rejoice!**

Weights, temptations, enticements to sin – yes.

But a greater power now rules us, which allows us to keep our vineyards clean!!!

**Fact:** The law of sin leads to death!

**Fact:** But the law of the spirit frees us from (or overpowers) the former law!

"We walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (v. 4)

AMEN  
Bill Kirk