

- I. **Please turn with me to *Song of Solomon 5:10-16* and let's read it together**
 - a. **Song of Solomon is a very unique/special book found in the Old Testament**
 - i. It is a short story, or song, of a young Shulamite girl and her Beloved and the great love they share for one another
 - ii. It is a beautiful love story describing the devotion, passion, and excitement between two lovers – very romantic...
 - b. **As you read the book, you will find that the two lovers were completely obsessed with and devoted to one another**
 - i. The young Shulamite had eyes only for her Beloved and her Beloved had eyes only for her
 - ii. She declared with passion, "*I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine*" Cf. **Song of Solomon 6:3a**
 - c. **Now, many bible commentators see this love story found in Song of Solomon as a beautiful illustration of Christ's love for His church**
 - i. In **Ephesians 5:25**, the apostle Paul declares, "*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her*"
 - ii. Therefore, in Song of Solomon, we find a beautiful picture of Christ's relationship with His church – "*He is our Beloved & we are His Bride*"
 - iii. As our Beloved, He only has eyes for us, He only has thoughts for us, He only has desires for us, He only has wants for us
 - iv. And He is looking for that same love and devotion from us...
 - d. **In Revelation 2:4, our Beloved said with great concern to the church in Ephesus, 'Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love'**
 - i. Sadly, the church in Ephesus were drifting away from their first love – slowly, their love for the Beloved was growing cold and dull...
 - ii. Their eyes begin to gaze somewhere else, their thoughts begin to ponder on someone else, and their desires begin to grow for something else
 - iii. What once was a healthy, beautiful, loving relationship, was turning into a dangerous routine (i.e. religion)
 - iv. And the Beloved took notice and declared, "*Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love*"
 - e. **And just like the church in Ephesus, many Christians are drifting away from their first love (*i.e. leaving their first love*)**
 - i. What once was a loving, exciting, passionate relationship, has slowly turned into a dry, dull, impersonal religion
 - ii. Their love for the Beloved has grown cold – they are no longer excited about Jesus, but are simply going through the motions
 - iii. Little by little, the Beloved is becoming a stranger to His Bride...
 - f. **Yet, here in Song of Solomon, we read of a Bride who is passionate and excited about her Beloved**

- i. She has one desire, and one alone, it is her Beloved, and Him alone...
 - ii. To hear from Him, she would pay any price; to receive a touch from Him, she would travel any distance; to spend a moment in His presence, she would cancel any appointment
 - iii. The love for her Beloved had no limits, no boundaries, and no equal – She belonged to her Beloved and He belonged to her...
- g. And here, in Chapter 5:10-16, we find the young bride opening up her heart and giving a glorious description of her Beloved
 - i. With passionate words, she begins to describe her Beloved to her friends, and tells them why she has such a great love for Him
 - ii. Her Beloved is so special, so unique, and so beautiful, she cannot help but be desperately in love with Him – ***“He is Irresistible!”***
- h. And this morning, I want to take the time and examine this wonderful description of the “Beloved”
 - i. As we study this section of Scripture, we remind ourselves of the beauty, glory, and uniqueness of our Beloved, Jesus Christ
 - ii. And this morning, as we meditate upon Him, my desire is that we would fall more deeply in love with Him...
 - iii. Many of us need to return to our first love, and this is the way to do it!
- i. Now, in her description, the young bride shares with us “three” things about her Beloved:

II. 1st – “The Purity of the Beloved”

- a. In verse 10a, the young bride declared, “My beloved is *white* and *ruddy*...”
 - i. The first thing the young bride describes is the *Purity* of her Beloved
 - ii. The purity of her Beloved stood out, he was pure, holy, set apart, and above reproach in her eyes (*white is symbol for purity*)
 - iii. However, in a far greater way, our Beloved, the Lord Jesus, is pure, holy, set apart, and above reproach in all His ways – ***“The Holy One of Israel”***
 - iv. He only did those things which pleased the Father...
- b. Now, Jesus’ purity and perfection is clearly seen in His temptation
 - i. In the wilderness, Satan came to Jesus after he had been without food for forty days and nights, and Satan began to tempt the Savior...
 - ii. ***First***, Satan declared, ***“If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread”***
 - iii. Yet, in spite of His hunger, in spite of His fleshly cravings, the Holy One of Israel responded, ***“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeded from the mouth of God”***
 - iv. ***Secondly***, Satan took Jesus to the highest peak of the temple and declared, ***“If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down”***
 - v. Yet, in spite of the temptation to receive praise from man, the Holy One of Israel responded, ***“You shall not tempt the Lord your God”***

- vi. **Thirdly**, Satan took Jesus to a high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and declared, “*All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me*”
- vii. Yet, in spite of the temptation to take the easy way out, in spite of the temptation to forego the Cross, the Holy One of Israel responded, “*You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve*”
- c. These temptations, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, have caused millions of people to sin over the course of history
 - i. However, they did not stand a chance before the Savior, our Beloved, His burning holiness made sin impossible
- d. The young bride declared, “My beloved is white and ruddy” – so is ours...

III.2nd – “**The Position of the Beloved**”

- a. In verse 10b, the young bride continues by declaring, “...Chief among ten thousand”
 - i. The second thing the young bride describes is the *Position* of her Beloved – He is the “**Chief among ten thousand**”
 - ii. As I read this description, immediately, I began to think about David and his battle against Goliath
 - iii. After David killed Goliath, the army of Israel gained courage and began to pursue the Philistines (their enemies)
 - iv. When the army returned from their pursuit, the people sang a new song, “**Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands**” Cf. 1 Sam. 18:7
 - v. In the people’s eyes, David was the “**Chief among ten thousand**”
- b. Yet, One would come, from the line of David, who would be even greater than David himself – the Lord Jesus Christ
 - i. Our Beloved is chiefest amongst them all! He has no equal, no counterpart, and no comparison – He is in a league of His own...
 - ii. He is the greatest of all eternity, the greatest that has ever been, the greatest that is, and the greatest that will ever be
- c. In the book of Revelation, the apostle John begins to describe to us Heaven
 - i. He describes the throne of God, the rainbow around the throne, the twenty-four elders sitting near the throne, the sea of glass before the throne, the four-living Creatures in the midst of the throne, etc.
 - ii. Yet, in the midst of all this, the apostle John tells us that he heard the voice of many angels, the living creatures, and the elders, the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, “**Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessings!**” Cf. Revelation 5:11-12
- d. Our Beloved is the chief among “ten thousand times ten thousand”

- i. For all of eternity, He will be chief, but today, at this very moment, He wants to be chief in your life...

IV. **3rd – “The Person of the Beloved”**

a. The third thing the young bride describes is the Person of her Beloved

- i. In *verses 11-16*, the young Shulamite begins to describe in detail the Person of her Beloved (*she knew him very well*)
- ii. She talks about his head, his locks, his eyes, his cheeks, his lips, his hands, his belly, his legs, his countenance, and his mouth...
- iii. Now, through this detailed description, we are reminded of our Beloved – the Lord Jesus Christ
- iv. Let’s take a look at a few things we see about the Person of Christ through this description:

b. First, His “Sovereignty” (vs. 11a)

- i. In **verse 11a**, the young bride declares, “*His head is like the finest gold...*”
- ii. Therefore, the first thing we see concerning the Person of Christ is His sovereignty and royalty (*Gold is a symbol of sovereignty & royalty*)
- iii. Jesus Christ is every inch a King, in fact, according to the Scriptures, He is the “*King of Kings and Lord of Lords*” Cf. **Revelation 19:16**
- iv. And one day, very soon, He is going to return to earth and set up His Kingdom and rule with a scepter of righteousness

c. Second, His “Strength” (vs. 11b)

- i. In **verse 11b**, the young bride declares, “*...His locks are wavy, and black as a raven*”
- ii. Long, bushy, black hair was a symbol of strength and force – it speaks of a person who is in the prime of their life...
- iii. A good example is found in Samson; Samson’s strength was found in his hair, the moment he cut his hair, he was as weak as a kitten
- iv. Therefore, the second thing we see concerning the Person of Christ is His strength and power
- v. Our Beloved is powerful and strong – He is the “*Mighty One of Israel*” who is able to do the impossible (*He is Mighty to Save*)...

d. Third, His “Sight” (Vs. 12)

- i. In **verse 12**, the young bride declares, “*His eyes are like doves by the rivers of waters, washed with milk, and fitly set*”
- ii. Therefore, the third thing we see concerning the Person of Christ is His sight and eyes
- iii. What can we say about the eyes of our Beloved? With those eyes, He witnessed the creation of the world, the creation of Adam from dust, the testing of Father Abraham, the obedience of Moses, the courage of Joshua, the faithfulness of Jeremiah, the loyalty of Hosea

- iv. With those eyes, He saw the needs of the multitudes, the betrayal of Judas, the fury of the Roman Soldiers, the pain of Mary, the back of His Father, the birth of His church, the consummation of the ages
- v. Even this morning, those eyes look down upon us from heaven's glory and they see us gathering in His name, and they fill up with joy...
- e. Fourth, His "Sayings" (Vs. 13b)
 - i. In **verse 13b**, the young bride declares, "...*His lips are lilies, dripping liquid myrrh*"
 - ii. Therefore, the fourth thing we see concerning the Person of Christ is His sayings and words
 - iii. The most wonderful sayings and words ever spoken came from the lips of the Lord Jesus Christ
 - iv. Our Beloved spoke words of comfort, words of encouragement, words of wisdom, words of correction, words of instruction, and words of life
 - v. Peter said right when he said to our Beloved, "*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life*" Cf. **John 6:68**
- f. Fifth, His "Stand" (Vs. 15a)
 - i. In **verse 15a**, the young bride declares, "*His legs are pillars of marble set on bases of fine gold...*"
 - ii. Therefore, the fifth thing we see concerning the Person of Christ is His stand and stability (*Pillars of Marble speaks of stability/sturdiness*)
 - iii. The Lord Jesus was not afraid to take a stand for God – He was stable, sturdy, and steady in His convictions (immovable)
 - iv. He took a stand for God at the age of twelve in the temple, He took a stand for God during His temptation, He took a stand for God when He cleansed the temple, He took a stand for God before Annas, Caiaphas, the Sanhedrin, Herod, and Pilate
 - v. His legs were pillars of marble – stable, sturdy, and steady, learn from His example, and don't be so easily moved...
- g. Sixth, His "Splendor" (Vs. 15b)
 - i. In **verse 15b**, the young bride declares, "...*His countenance is like Lebanon, excellent as the cedars*"
 - ii. The final thing we see concerning the Person of Christ is His splendor and majesty
 - iii. The cedars of Lebanon were known around the world for their matchless beauty, majesty, and splendor
 - iv. In the same, our Beloved's countenance is filled with matchless beauty, majesty, and splendor...
 - v. I can only imagine how it's going to be when I see Him face to face...

V. Therefore, we read a beautiful description of our "Beloved"

- a. His purity, His position, and His person

- i. This is my Beloved, and I am His and He is mine – “***May God grant each of us a greater love for His Son, Jesus Christ!***”
- ii. Its time that we return to our first love...Amen.