

## Song of Solomon 2:3-17

As we looked at the first chapter of the Song of Solomon you will remember how it depicts the beauty of the relationship between the *Beloved* and the *Loved One*, the Church and the Lord Jesus Christ. In the pictorial language of this Old Testament book we saw the depth of love one for the other.

We centred our thoughts around:

THE HAPPINESS SHE ENJOYS, - that special intimate closeness she shares with none other;

THE HOPE SHE EMBRACES, - when the Lord Jesus will return for her;

THE HEAVINESS SHE ENCOUNTERS, - when a certain complacency threatened her relationship with her Loved One;

THE HELPER SHE ENTREATS, - she brought her failings to her Beloved, and she was restored to the joy of her salvation.

At the beginning of ch.2 her concentration remains firmly fixed upon the One she loves. She describes Him,

3 As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons.

Do you see what she is saying? ... He is different! He has no equal. There is no-one with whom she can compare Him. Note the language.

Now remember that this woman is beautiful, - she could have had the pick 'of the bunch'! Men would have been gathering around her like "the trees of the wood", but her heart was taken up with only One!

Why did you choose to become a Christian? You could have chosen an empty, vain type of churchianity and religiosity. You could have chosen any amount of cults and religions around you, - just like "the trees of the forest". Why did you choose for Christ? ... because one day you came to realise that He loves you, He gave Himself on the cross of Calvary for you, and that no-one else - or nothing else - can give you what He could give you. ... And why was that? Why is He different? Why is He so special?

As we proceed through this chapter you will see that there is an “echo conversation”. What I mean is this: the Bride echoes the words and thoughts that were first of all spoken by the Bridegroom. You will see what I mean as we look at this chapter.

First of all, she highlights how special is ...

**HIS COMPANIONSHIP**            **I sat down under his shadow with great delight, v.3**

- \* Here you find a woman whose whole life is dominated by one person, - she has only one man very much on her mind.
- \* ... it is significant that it is a woman we are reading about here.
- \* You see, it was the custom in the Old Testament for the woman to be at the total ‘beck and call’ of her husband.
- \* ... the moment she became married her life was totally dominated by her husband.
- \* Sometimes the marriage possessed the important ingredient of *love*; sometimes it didn’t.
- \* Just to show you how ridiculous marriage could become: remember that Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines; Men, do you know what the Bible says?  
I Kgs. 11:3 ... and his wives turned away his heart.
- \* But there is no doubt that this bride was totally infatuated, besotted and in love with her Bridegroom, and she described it,  
I sat down under his shadow with great delight, v.3
- \* Was her love reciprocated? Was it only a one-way relationship?
- \* No, the apostle John declared,  
We love Him because He first love us.
- \* Yes, the Lord Jesus Christ, through the work of the Holy Spirit, demonstrated His love to us individually and privately.
- \* ... and we discover here this “echo conversation”, because she calls out,  
3 As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.
- \* In tenderness the Bridegroom replies,  
14 O my dove, that art in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the stairs, let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice; for sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely.
- \* He delights in hearing how much she loves Him.

- \* He sees her, - Christ sees the Church, - hiding and resting in Him just as the little dove takes cover in the cleft of the rock during the storm.
- \* He enjoys the fact that she depends so much on Him.
- \* Our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, revels in the love of His people,
  - \* ... the pleasure He takes when we take refuge in Him,
  - \* ... the joy that we run to Him and not an other,
  - \* ... the gladness that He satisfies completely and that none other takes her attention.
- \* Do you “delight to sit in His shade”? Are those the extra-special moments when you seek His company through His Word and through fellowship with Him?  
I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.

**His Companionship** was so special to her, but it is also so important to note that this was not a one-way relationship because, to her *alone*, He demonstrated ...

### **HIS COMMITMENT**

**He brought me to the banqueting house, v.4**

- \* You can remember back to your first boyfriend or your first girlfriend in primary school:
  - \* you used to ‘go out’ with them, - and that meant holding hands as you lined up to go into the classroom, or sharing a bit of your biscuit with them, -
  - \* *there was ‘real love’ between the two of you!*
- \* The relationship here is two-way, - you are not chasing after a ‘no-hoper’
- \* ... when the Bible says “He brought me to the banqueting house” it means that He has shared His time, His presence and His love.
- \* There at the head of the table would be the Bridegroom, ... and at His side the woman He loves, - the Bride.
- \* That is what makes a Christian, - someone who has been ‘won over’ by the love of Christ,
- \* ... someone who is willing to live for Him 24 hours of the day.
- \* “He brought me ...”, - that means I have been willing to follow,
- \* “... to the banqueting house”, - He has brought me into the place where no other has the right to bring me.

- \* And then He echoes across very important advice,  
15 Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.
- \* You see, the foxes were a threat to the vineyard (cf. 1:6); the cunning little creatures ran all over the place knocking down the young vines and doing damage,
- \* And the Bridegroom is telling the Bride to watch out for the foxes, - even “the little foxes”!
- \* There is no room for carelessness and complacency! ... they can spoil that which has been carefully planted and seeded and watered,  
“Keep out anything that would mar and destroy our relationship.”
- \* Yes, He has taken me to the banqueting house.

### **His Companionship, His Commitment, and ...**

#### **HIS COMPASSION**

his banner over me was love, v.4

- \* Obviously, *love* is the central theme of the Song of Solomon.
- \* But it is love that is only shared between the Bridegroom and the Bride, - no-one else; there is no hint of adultery or unfaithfulness.
- \* If you were to go to Ibrox you would see a banner in blue material, and on that banner would be written *Rangers*.
- \* If you were to go to Parkhead you would see a banner in green material, and on that banner would be written *Celtic*.
- \* ... and these banners are waved proudly from side-to-side identifying the allegiance of either one supporters club or the other.
- \* There is a banner flying over the ‘born again’ church of the Lord Jesus Christ and it declares His love for His people.
- \* In the Old Testament each of the tribes marched their way up the hill to the temple in Jerusalem and they would be holding the banner that identified them as belonging to one particular tribe.
- \* And the banner of God’s love is spread out over His people,
- \* - you are under His banner; you have been saved by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, you have been redeemed, and in the language of God, ...  
His banner over me is love
- \* And what is the echo of the voice of the Bride? ...  
v.14 let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice; for sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely.

- \* Just imagine the Bride as she is walking along singing as she approaches the Bridegroom,
- \* Imagine too the Saviour as He looks into the face of His Beloved,
- \* We are looking forward to seeing Him, ... and how too He is looking forward to presenting His Bride before His Father in Heaven; here is how Paul put it,
  - Eph. 5:25-27 Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; ... That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

*And that leads us very gently into our final point ...*

### **HIS COMING**

Behold, He cometh, v.8

- \* She is looking out for Him, ... over the mountains and hills.
- \* She's excited because she knows He is coming for her.
- \* More than anything else she wants to be there, ... with Him!
- \* It's in the first chapter, and here we have it again, - she knows He will return and claim her.
- \* ... and then she sees Him ... she gets a glimpse of Him, ...
  - v.9 Behold, he standeth behind our wall, he looketh forth at the windows, showing himself through the lattice.
- \* It's not a clear picture yet, *but she knows He is there!*
- \* She knows that His coming is near, - He is coming back for her!
- \* He has given her the promise that where He is she will be also,
  - Jn. 14:2,3 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 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. [note "you" and "me", personal]
- \* ... And He says to her the very words she longs to hear,
  - vv.10-13 My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land; The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.
- \* Not only is she **taken up with Him** [*i.e. emotionally*], she looks forward to being **taken up to Him** [*i.e. eternally*].

**Conclusion.** It's a lovely picture, isn't it? It tells us about the love the Bridegroom has for His bride, - the love the Lord Jesus has for His Church. It tells us of the meeting 'in the air' when we shall be forever with the Lord, ...

When the saved of earth shall gather  
Over on the other shore,  
And the roll is called up yonder, - *I'll be there!*

Will you be there? As we have studied this chapter today has there been a warmth in your heart that excites you? This is you, - if you are saved, - that will meet the Lord Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom. Are you presentable, ... like a bride who can barely wait for her Loved One?

What if I haven't made any sense this morning? What if you think that this is only a sappy story with no meaning to it? ... and you can't see what I am on about? *This is a love story*, - it's about the greatest encounter of love that you are ever likely to encounter. It is about the love of the Lord Jesus Christ and how He desires for you to love Him. He gave His life in order to demonstrate His love. What more can He do? Ask Him into your heart this morning and He will change your life and then you can read this *Song of Solomon* as it was meant to be read.

Believer, *He's in love with you!* He loves you more than all the riches of heaven, - that was why He left them. Do you love Him so much that everything else is as nothing beside Him?

May God bless His Word to each of us this morning.