

THE SONG OF SOLOMON SESSION 4

Review: Last week we went through chapter 3, where the Shulamite recalls a dream she had about her shepherd that prompted her to go look for him in the night. When she finds her beloved, she embraces him and brings him to her mother's house to meet her family. Solomon then returns to Jerusalem in a great royal parade and astonishes the crowd that is blown away by his majesty.

The beloved Shepherd has followed the court and comes to Jerusalem because the Shulamite is still somewhat captive in Solomon's pavilions. They speak briefly to each other in this passage.

The Shepherd speaks:

Song of Solomon 4:1-5 Behold, thou *art* fair, my love; behold, thou *art* fair; thou *hast* doves' eyes within thy locks: thy hair *is* as a flock of goats, that appear from mount Gilead. Thy teeth *are* like a flock of sheep *that are even* shorn, which came up from the washing; whereof every one bear twins, and none *is* barren among them. Thy lips *are* like a thread of scarlet, and thy speech *is* comely: thy temples *are* like a piece of a pomegranate within thy locks. Thy neck *is* like the tower of David builded for an armoury, whereon there hang a thousand bucklers, all shields of mighty men. Thy two breasts *are* like two young roes that are twins, which feed among the lilies. *This description seems strange to us because it is poetically symbolic and not physically descriptive.*

- **Dove's eyes** – A dove's eyes symbolizes undistracted devotion. A dove has a wide-angle view but a single focal point, meaning they see one thing at a time. Often used in romantic or spiritual contexts to describe someone whose attention is solely on their beloved or God.
- **Hair as a flock of goats that appear from mount Gilead** – Metaphorically describes her beautiful dark flowing hair. Gilead was known for its lush pastures and prized black goats, whose movements down the hill were a striking sight.
- **Teeth like a flock of sheep that are shorn** – Describes perfectly aligned, white and uniform teeth. Each tooth paired like a ewe with its twin after washing, meaning none are missing.
- **Lips like a thread of scarlet, and thy speech is comely** – Describing her beautiful red lips and pleasant speech.
- **Temples like a piece of pomegranate within thy locks** – Describing her cheeks that are rosy much like the color of a sliced piece of pomegranate.

- **Neck like the tower of David built for an armory** – Describes her neck as strong and stable, possessing dignity and grace, beauty and valor, and protection. “Whereon there hang a thousand bucklers, all shields of mighty men” is possibly a reference to her wearing a necklace of coins showing her betrothal. As soon as the assent of the bride’s parents was obtained, the suitor gave his bride a betrothal gift. The bride-to-be wore the betrothal gift like a woman would wear an engagement ring today. The betrothal coins were worn either on her veil or as a necklace and acted as a protection against other would-be suitors.
- **Two breasts as two young roes, which feed among the lilies** – Roes are young deer. He describes her beauty and grace as well as her nourishment and comfort.

The Shulamite speaks:

Song of Solomon 4:6 Until the day break, and the shadows flee away, I will get me to the mountain of myrrh, and to the hill of frankincense. *She is longing for the day that she will be free from Solomon’s court and be united forever with her beloved. The mountain of myrrh and the hill of frankincense are spiritual references to Calvary where Christ died for his bride and his high priest office right now. Myrrh and frankincense were both gifts given to him as a young child by the wise men that were prophetic to his purposes. The church longs for a new day to break where we go up and are united with Jesus forever!*

The Shepherd speaks:

Song of Solomon 4:8 Come with me from Lebanon, my spouse, with me from Lebanon: look from the top of Amana, from the top of Shenir and Hermon, from the lions' dens, from the mountains of the leopards. *He speaks to her of the peaks to be climbed by faith. He wanted her to plant her feet on higher ground despite her current restrictions.* This is what is meant by **Colossians 3:1-2** If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. *The lions’ den and the leopards are predators! There is a lot down here to seek our harm. The way to overcome this is by fixing your eyes on heaven, not earth.*

Song of Solomon 4:9-10 Thou hast ravished my heart, my sister, my spouse; thou hast ravished my heart with one of thine eyes, with one chain of thy neck. How fair is thy love, my sister, my spouse! how much better is thy love than wine! and the smell of thine ointments than all spices! *He speaks of being overwhelmed by her love and how it surpasses anything that can thrill the senses. He calls her “sister” here not because she is his sister, but that there is a purity to their relationship. They haven’t transgressed any law of God.*

Song of Solomon 4:11-15 Thy lips, O my spouse, drop as the honeycomb: honey and milk are under thy tongue; and the smell of thy garments is like the smell of Lebanon. A garden

inclosed *is* my sister, *my* spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed. Thy plants *are* an orchard of pomegranates, with pleasant fruits; camphire, with spikenard, Spikenard and saffron; calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense; myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices: A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon.

- **Honey and milk are under thy tongue** – Her speech and presence are sweet and delightful. Her words are nourishing like milk. Honey and milk represent wisdom and grace too.
- **Garments that smell like Lebanon** – Lebanon was known for its cedar trees which are very fragrant.
- **A garden enclosed, a spring shut up, and a fountain sealed** – Metaphors for purity, exclusivity, and a protected sacred inner life. They symbolize virginity, marital fidelity or the believer's special relationship with Christ meaning its guarded from the outside world and reserved only for one special person.
- **Plants, orchard of pomegranates, and pleasant fruits** – Symbolizes her fruitfulness as person. That she produces beautiful things like honesty, gentleness, faithfulness, compassion etc. The point is she is as beautiful on the inside as he is on the outside. Spiritually, this speaks of the church's spiritual richness, purity, and the abundance of God's grace and the fruit of the Spirit being produced through us and pleasing to Christ.
- **All the chief spices** – Camphire, spikenard, saffron, calamus and cinnamon are costly spices that highlight the value and delightful quality of the beloved's character and presence.
- **A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon** – These portray an inexhaustible, pure, and refreshing source of life and joy. Moving or flowing waters in scripture is typical of the Holy Spirit. He is the sustainer of the life of the church - **John 4:13-14** Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. *Christ is the well and the Holy Spirit is the living water.*

The Shulamite speaks:

Song of Solomon 4:16 Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, *that* the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits. *She declares that all that she is and all that she has is for his pleasure!*

