

## ***Session 6 Challenging the Comfort Zone (Song 2:8-17)***

### ***Additional Study Materials***

#### **ANSWERS TO THE FILL-IN THE BLANKS FOR THIS SESSION**

The Bride spent much time **SITTING** before the King, experiencing delight in His presence (2:3)

The King called the Bride to a **DEEPER PARTNERSHIP** with Him.

The Bride saw Jesus as the **LORD OF ALL NATIONS** who has easily conquered all the mountains.

The King called her to a **NEW SEASON** in the Spirit for her life.

Mountains often speak of **OBSTACLES**.

When Jesus stands, He is **READY FOR ACTION**.

He called her to arise from her **COMFORT AND SECURITY** to come away with Him to conquer the mountains (of this fallen world).

This refers to embracing difficult areas of obedience and **MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS** that challenge our sense of security and comfort.

The foundational issue before her is whether or not she believes that Jesus' **LEADERSHIP IS GOOD**.

The King points to the prophetic signs of a soon coming **FRUITFULNESS** (2:11-13).

It is a **DIFFICULT TIME**, when few things grow outwardly.

He appealed to four signs to prove that the **HARVEST** was not far away.

He affirmed her **SINCERITY**.

***Cleft of the rock:*** This speaks of the work of **THE CROSS**.

***Secret places of the cliff:*** This speaks of Jesus' **RESURRECTION**.

Jesus wants to see our face and hear our voice in **WORSHIP AND PRAYER** as we cry for help (2:14).

The foxes in the vineyard of our heart speak of our **SMALL COMPROMISES** that include fear, sinful attitudes, words, and the misuse of time and money.

Her vineyard throughout the Song refers to her **HEART AND SPIRITUAL LIFE**.

She **REFUSED** the King's command to arise to join Him on the mountains (2:13).

### ***Additional Notes***

**I. JESUS REVEALS HIMSELF TO HER AS THE SOVEREIGN KING (2:8-9)**

- A. The Bride receives a new revelation of Jesus as the sovereign King. She sees Jesus as a gazelle or a young stag who leapt victoriously on the mountains (big obstacles) and hills (little obstacles). A gazelle or young stag (deer) can easily ascend a mountain with boundless energy.
- <sup>8</sup>***The voice of my Beloved! Behold, He comes leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills. <sup>9</sup>My Beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag [adult male deer]. (Song 2:8-9a)***
- B. ***The voice of my Beloved:*** Each time the Bride speaks to Jesus, she calls Him *my Beloved*. When she spoke about the King to others she referred to Him as *the One she loves*.
1. Each time the King spoke to the Bride in the Song, He called her *My love*, referencing His affection, or *fair one*, referencing her beauty.
  2. The name *My love* is used 22 times, and *Beloved* is also used 22 times in the Song.
- C. ***Mountains:*** Mountains in Scripture may also speak of governments. Jesus is the king over all earthly, demonic, and heavenly authority. He triumphed over all demonic powers (Eph. 1:22).
- D. ***Leaping as a gazelle:*** The King was moving like a gazelle, effortlessly leaping over mountains. At the end of the Song, she again refers to the King as a gazelle or a young stag (8:14).
- E. The King stood behind a *wall of protection*, looking into the house in which the Bride sits undisturbed.
- <sup>9</sup>***He stands behind our wall; He is looking through the windows, gazing through the lattice. (Song 2:9b)***
1. ***Looking:*** the King looked at her through the windows with the intention of wooing her with His gaze to draw her forth into a deeper relationship with Himself.
- F. Notice the seven verbs used in Song 2:8-10 to describe the process King uses to call us to mature partnership—He is coming, leaping, skipping, standing, looking, gazing and speaking.

**II. CALLED OUT OF THE COMFORT ZONE TO DEEP PARTNERSHIP WITH JESUS**

- A. The foundational issue before her is whether or not she believes that Jesus' leadership is good.
1. The Spirit calls us to walk in all the light that He gives us in each season of our spiritual life. This results in us enjoying a deeper relationship with God.
  2. We are to honor the Spirit's leadership in the small decisions of daily choices—in what we say, look at, how much time we give to feed our heart, and how we spend money, etc.

- B. She must “arise” if she is to experience deeper partnership and intimacy with Jesus. We can go to heaven with “comfort-zone Christianity,” but we will not go deeper in God. We were created to live in the high places with Jesus in deep partnership as His Bride.
- C. Going to the mountain does not always result in her life circumstance improving. Some wrongly conclude that their life circumstances will always improve in each season if they obey the Lord.
- D. Jesus points His people to the past and the present as He awakens faith in their heart to prepare for a soon-coming harvest.
  - 1. Flowers appearing on the vine signify that the harvest of grapes will soon follow. The voice of the turtledove was heard at the harvest time, and fig tree puts forth green figs just before the mature figs. The fragrance of the young tender grapes indicates the harvest.
- E. The signs of the harvest and other signs of the times are to have this same impact on the Church. Jesus encouraged the apostles by pointing out that the harvest was ready. Within three years, the Jerusalem revival began followed by the revivals in the book of Acts.

<sup>35</sup>***Lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! (Jn. 4:35)***

  - 1. It is clear that the “flowers of revival” are budding across the nations.
  - 2. Therefore, she must trust and obey Him now, even as several of the apostles gave up the safety of their fishing business.
- F. ***The time of singing has come:*** The time of singing associated with the harvest has begun. The greatest revival in history is around the corner. The singing has begun as houses of prayer are rising up worldwide and as days of worship (Global Day of Prayer, TheCall, etc.) gather multitudes to stadiums to sing.

### **III. CONFIDENCE IN GOD BECAUSE OF THE CROSS OF JESUS (2:14)**

- A. The King reveals His tender affection for the Bride even as she struggled through her fears.

<sup>14</sup>***O My dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the cliff, let Me see your face, let Me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely. (Song 2:14)***
- B. ***My dove:*** He called her *My dove*, instead of a snake or wolf, so that she would have confidence in His love.
- C. ***Cleft of the rock:*** This speaks of the finished work of the cross and the ***secret places of the cliff*** speak of His resurrection. We are to stand with confidence before God in our weakness as we present ourselves to God, trusting in Jesus’ death and resurrection.
  - 1. Jesus was the spiritual Rock in Moses’ day, and is the Rock on which the Church is built.

<sup>4</sup>***They drank of that spiritual Rock...and that Rock was Christ... (1 Cor. 10:4)***

***<sup>18</sup>On this rock I will build My Church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail... (Mt. 16:18)***

- D. Jesus wants us to worship Him and not draw back from Him in times of weakness as we stand in the cleft of the rock and in the secret place of the cliff. We stand confident in grace as we ask for help. Paul referred to this when he called us to see ourselves as “alive to God” (Rom. 6:11).
- E. We see an illustration of the truth when Jesus told Peter to pray to overcome temptation when near the garden of Gethsemane. Jesus had just prophesied that Peter would deny Him. He saw Peter’s willing or sincere spirit. Thus, Peter’s prayer for help was sweet to God.  
***<sup>34</sup>Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times... <sup>41</sup>Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing [sincere], but the flesh is weak. (Mt. 26:34, 41)***
- F. The Lord enjoys a responsive heart. He sees her hesitation to obey Him because of her weakness. Jesus sees the sincere desire to obey of His people who are immature. He knows that their love will mature in time as the Bride’s did in Song 4-8.

#### **IV. PRAYING FOR DELIVERANCE FROM SMALL COMPROMISES (2:15)**

- A. It is the little areas or the *little foxes* that prevent us from going deep our walk with Jesus.  
***<sup>15</sup>Catch us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vines, for our vines have tender grapes. (Song 2:15)***
- B. The Bride sincerely longs to grow deep in her relationship with the King. She cried out for Him to sustain and refresh her because she was lovesick (2:5). Her spiritual crisis includes her fear in going to the mountains of full obedience (2:10) and yielding to small compromises (2:15).
- C. ***Little foxes***: Foxes are cunning animals that will destroy a vineyard under cover of the night. They are not bold like lions that attack in the day. They are small, fast, crafty, and hard to catch.
  - 1. The *little foxes* in the vineyard of our heart speak of our small compromises that include fear, sinful thoughts, attitudes, words, and the small, yet continual, misuse of time and money. This is not referring to rebellion or to defiance of God’s authority, but to her fear “to arise” (2:13).
  - 2. We want our vineyard or life to be full of mature fruit. The issues of unwholesome speech, unclean thoughts, and selfish attitudes that neglect humility are the *little foxes* that destroy our intimacy with God.
- D. ***Spoil the vine***: Her vineyard throughout the Song refers to her heart. We want more in our walk with God than merely to avoid scandalous sin.
- E. ***Tender grapes***: these speak of budding fruitfulness (godly character) in her life. The foxes seek to destroy her fruitfulness.

#### **V. CONFIDENCE IN GOD’S LOVE WHILE STRUGGLING WITH COMPROMISE (2:16)**

- A. She lets the King hear her voice in worship and prayer, even though she is stumbling.  
<sup>16</sup>*My Beloved is mine, and I am His. He feeds his flock among the lilies. (Song 2:16)*
- B. *My Beloved*: She still sees the King as *her Beloved* or the One she loves.
- C. *Is mine*: She had confidence that her Beloved *is hers* or belongs to her—that His heart was open to her. He had not abandoned her. Even in our weakness, Jesus is accessible to us. Though we struggle, we do not lose access to His presence or favor. Our face does not cease to be beautiful to God, nor does our voice cease to be lovely to Him in worship.
- D. *Feeds*: The Bride asked where the King feeds His people (1:7). He feeds them in context to relating to the body of Christ (1:8-12; 2:4). Now He adds that He feeds them among the lilies, or in the place of her obedience and purity. Lilies speak of purity (2:1-2; 5:3, 13; 6:2-3).
- E. *The lilies*: Earlier she said that she was “the lily of the valley” (2:1). Here the *lilies* are in the plural. Our spiritual safety is found in close relationship with other believers who pursue purity.  
<sup>33</sup>*Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.”* <sup>34</sup>*Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some [in the congregation] do not have the knowledge of God. (1 Cor. 15:33-34)*

## VI. HER PAINFUL COMPROMISE (2:17)

- A. In verse 17, she refused the King’s command to arise to join Him on the mountains (2:13). She told Him to *turn* and go without her until the day breaks to give her new light. With sadness she acknowledged that He must go without her to the mountains as the gazelle or young stag of verse 8. She refused to obey because of fear. She was responding in her immaturity, not rebellion.  
<sup>17</sup>*Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away, turn, my Beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag upon the mountains of Bether. (Song 2:17)*
- B. *Turn*: Jesus turns and goes for a season. Jesus honors our voluntary decision to draw back. Our relationship with Jesus is based on voluntary love.
- C. *Shadows flee*: She acknowledged the dark shadows in her heart. These are areas of her life that are not fully in the light.
- D. *Bether*: the word *Bether* in the Hebrew means *separation*. Some Bible translations use the word *separation* instead of *Bether*. She acknowledged that there would be a separation if she refused the King and He went to the mountains without her. She understands that her compromise will lead to her vineyard being destroyed and to separation in her intimacy with God. In the very next verse, He separates from her until she repents and cries out in obedience (3:1-2).
- E. *Until the day breaks*: The daybreak comes in the morning when new light is present. It is the time when the dark shadows or the gray areas in her life are gone. Later in the Song she obeys by rising up to go with the King to the mountains (4:6). He answered her prayer by catching this “fox of fear” in her life (2:15).  
<sup>6</sup>*...I will go my way to the mountain of myrrh and to the hill of frankincense. (Song 4:6)*

- F. The Holy Spirit continues to increase the light that He gives us, and He holds us responsible to respond to it. He withdraws His presence if we neglect to respond, in order to get our attention.

## VII. FOUR KEY STATEMENTS OF PROGRESSION

- A. The King leads His people through a process of maturity as seen in the four verses that mention the truth related her spiritual inheritance and identity in the *Beloved being hers* and her sense of belonging to her Beloved or in *being His*. In Song 1:14; 2:16, 6:3, and 7:10, she used this similar language, but changed the order to express her desire for Jesus' inheritance in her. Four times she redefines her experience in her journey from being preoccupied with herself to being preoccupied with God. We see a progression in going from being self-centered to God-centered.

- B. In the beginning stages, *her own* enjoyment of Jesus is her only focus. She spoke about what the King was *to her* without awareness of what she was to Him. Her initial focus is *only* on her own spiritual benefit—that she is loved and has an inheritance in Him. She has little regard for His inheritance in her. This is acceptable to God in the beginning stages of our growth in grace.

<sup>14</sup>*My Beloved is to me... (1:14)*

- C. Her next statement focuses on her inheritance (He is mine) and His inheritance (I am His). She adds a new dimension of His inheritance and ownership of her life. However, it is still her *secondary* concern at this stage.

<sup>16</sup>*My Beloved is mine, and I am His. (2:16)*

- D. In her third statement she used the same words as in Song 2:16, yet she changes the order. She says, "I am His, and He is mine. In other words, His inheritance is first; hers is now second.

<sup>3</sup>*I am my Beloved's and He is mine. (6:3)*

- E. Her fourth and final statement is different. She makes the point *that she belongs to Him and that what He desires is her primary focus*. His concerns are what she cares about most.

<sup>10</sup>*I am My Beloved's and His desire is toward me. (7:10)*

- F. The more we mature spiritually, the more we walk conscious of His inheritance as we enjoy the fullness of our inheritance. Both are dependent on walking more in the Holy Spirit's leadership.