Session 2 – The kiss and her life vision – Songs 1:1-4

A. REVIEW SESSION 1

1. **Why are we studying the Song of Solomon?**

   a) We need to experience the heart of God in a deeper way because this progressive experience that draws us nearer to God, focuses and transforms our hearts and minds.

   b) Leaders throughout church history have encouraged people to read the Song and emphasised its value in drawing us closer to God's heart.

   c) The Song softens our hearts And empower our lives. By seeing and experiencing God's emotions, we are empowered to love God with all of our heart which in turn creates more hunger for God within us. To become more passionate for Jesus, we need to experience and understand how passionate He is for us!

   19 "We love because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19)

   d) The Song gives us insight into how God's people are to grow in passion for Jesus. It sets forth in a poetic way some key principles that we need to understand and equip us for what God is doing in the different seasons of our lives.

   e) The end-time church must be equipped with the revelation of God's love and beauty to walk in victory in the midst of emotional and sexual brokenness. The knowledge of how God feels about us heals our wounds; it fascinates us and when our hearts are fascinated, the seductions of society have far less power over us

   f) We need to learn how to walk steadfastly, confident in Jesus's love for us. We can't do this unless we understand Jesus's passion for us and we partner with Him to bring about deep relationship and His purposes..

2. **Five distinctives in the Song of Solomon**

   a) **God's emotions:** His emotions include love, affection, delight, and enjoyment in relating to His people. Seeing how God sees and feels about His people empowers us to love Him (1 Jn. 4:19).

   b) **God's beauty:** especially seen as our Bridegroom King (Ps. 27:4; 45:2; Isa. 4:2; 28:5; 33:17). Our beauty in

   c) **God's eyes:** The beauty that Jesus possesses is the very beauty that He imparts to His people in redemption.

   d) **First commandment**: God created His people to love Him wholeheartedly—with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength (Mk. 12:30)

   e) **Partnership:** The Song sets forth key principles that equip us to grow in partnership with Jesus.

   24 "Father, I desire that they…may be with Me where I am." (Jn. 17:24)

3. **The main characters in the Song**

a) **King Solomon:** The King is a picture of the triumphant Christ as the Bridegroom King who possesses all power, yet is filled with affection for His people.

b) **Shulamite maiden:** The Shulamite is a picture of the Bride of Christ - the church. She is introduced as a maiden who grows up to become the Bride who enjoys mature partnership with Jesus. The Bride in a "betrothed" position and is not a wife until the marriage supper of the lamb which is yet to come.

c) **Daughters of Jerusalem**: these speak of sincere yet spiritually immature believers. They look to the Shulamite for answers on how to grow close to the King. They are not an actual group that we can identify in history. They typify immature believers.

d) **The watchmen:** represent spiritual leadership. The watchmen were the keepers of the walls, who guarded the walls of the city to protect the people. Initially, the Bride seeks their help (3:3), but eventually they strike and wound her (5:7).

4. **The Storyline**

a) The first four chapters of the Song focus on the ***Bride's inheritance in Christ***. These chapters emphasise what we receive from Him. This inheritance from Him includes how He feels about us, how He loves us and woos us; how He views and desires us and what we seek in Him.

b) The last four chapters of the Song focus on ***Jesus' inheritance in the Bride –*** what He receives from us. These chapters emphasise what He seeks from His people. He wants us to love Him with all our heart and this should empower us to give ourselves fully back to Him. The focus of the book makes a dramatic shift in the middle (4:16-5:1).

B. THE LONGING FOR THE DIVINE KISS (1:2-3)

[2]Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine. [3] Your anointing oils are fragrant, your name is oil poured out; therefore the virgins love you.

1. "Let Him kiss me . . ." – this is the statement of desire in the heart of the Bride, the longing for deep and abiding intimacy with Jesus as the lover of her soul. We must distinguish between our intentions and desire to passionately seek intimacy with Jesus, and our attainment of spiritual maturity (see Philippians 3:12-16).

2. The "kisses of His mouth" or the "kisses of His Word." This refers to the touch of the Word of God upon the human heart, empowered by the Holy Spirit. It is the direct communication of the emotions and thoughts of God to the human spirit, soul, and mind through the Spirit of God.

3. The "divine kiss" is a metaphor of intimacy with Jesus. When His Word pierces through the emotional and theological barriers of our hearts, and touches us with the existential truth of His love, it is a kiss that is better than any other. This kiss is the exhilaration we were meant to enjoy, the reality of which a human kiss is merely a dim reflection.

4. The bondage of the church is about to be broken by a kiss of divine love. Divine romance will melt away the distance and fear that has hindered His bride for so long. We cry out to the Father, "Let Your Son kiss me with the kisses of His Word."

5. Receiving the "divine kiss" happens in several ways:

   a) **Personal meditation on the Word of God.** Devotional prayer using the Scriptures that speak of God's thoughts and emotions engages our hearts with His, and is the primary way to experience His kiss.

   b) **Personal revelation by the Holy Spirit.** When the Holy Spirit speaks to your heart about a passage of Scripture, or gives you a thought or insight, the effect is to awaken your heart in love for God.

   c) **The ministry of God's Word through others**. The Holy Spirit touches our hearts through the preaching, teaching, or writing ministry of other believers, drawing us into deeper personal communion with Him.

   d) **The ministry of spiritual gifts through the Body of Christ.** The mutual ministry of God's people is often how Jesus partners with His Bride to communicate His affections and care. Through the exercise of spiritual gifts we are built up in love by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C. THE BRIDE'S MOTIVATION – SUPERIOR PLEASURES

Your love is better than wine – Song Of Solomon 1:2

1. The human heart was created to enjoy deep pleasure (see Psalm 16:11; Psalm 36:8)

2. There are many different categories of pleasures (physical, emotional, and mental) that we can celebrate under the leadership of Jesus. God made us spiritually, physically, and emotionally hungry or needy. We yearn for pleasure because we are designed by God to be pleasure seekers.

3. God created the human spirit with longings that draw us to Him, with a "God-shaped vacuum" in our heart that can only be filled by God. We are made in His image; thus we have longings that reflect His glory and His personality, which is filled with pleasure and delight. Each longing has an element of delight, pain, and ache as it woos us deeper into God's presence.

4. In the book *7 Longings of the Human Heart by M. Bickle & D. Hiebert* these longings are identified as the longing for the *assurance that we are enjoyed by God*, the longing *to be fascinated*, the longing *to be beautiful,* the longing *to be great*, the longing *for intimacy without shame*, the longing *to be wholehearted and passionate,* and the longing *to make a lasting impact*. (book available as free download on mikebickle.org)

5. The basic temptation of life is to satisfy these pleasures by looking to sources other than the affections of God. Satan counterfeits the pleasures that God created so that he might draw us from God. We sin, believing it will give us pleasure that is superior to obeying God. The power of temptation rests on "deceptive lusts" which promise that sin will bring more satisfaction than living for God.

   Put off…the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts. (Eph. 4:22)

   …lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. (Heb. 3:13)

6. The greatest "pleasures" we can experience are spiritual, and come from encountering the presence of God. They fascinate our heart with beauty and exhilarate our heart with love. God does not call us to holiness so that He can test us by keeping us from a life of pleasure. Holiness is a call to experience forever the perfect pleasure of God's presence.

In Your presence is fullness of joy…at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Ps. 16:11)

7. The Bride develops the theme of the superior pleasures in God throughout the Song. The reward of love is the power to love fully. One who loves will always outwork the one who works only for pay. When workers become lovers, the way they view their work changes greatly.

I sat down in His shade with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. (Song 2:3)

8. God loves us in the same way that God loves God. The measure of the Father's love for Jesus is the measure of Jesus' love for us (Jn. 15:9). This is the ultimate statement of our worth.

"As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you." (Jn. 15:9)

9. The promise of the Holy Spirit is that the experience of His love is "better than wine," better than all other pleasures offered by any alternative source.

10. God's provision for His human Bride was given to them initially in the context of unhindered intimacy and communion. Satan disrupted that perfect scenario by convincing us to doubt God's trustworthiness, and to look sideways to created things for our identity and fulfillment. This is the "wine" of the world's system, and the Holy Spirit wants to awaken a longing in our heart for the true intoxication of the love of Jesus.

1 Peter 1:8 … whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

D. REVELATION-BASED DESIRE FOR GOD

Song of Solomon 1:3 Because of the fragrance of your good ointments, Your name is ointment poured forth; Therefore the virgins love you.

1. The Pleasing Fragrance of God. The fragrance of a rose comes from its internal qualities. In a similar way, the King's perfume in the Song speaks of His internal life, or what He thinks and feels. Jesus' perfume speaks of His thoughts and emotions. Thus the Bride enjoys the perfume of God's thoughts and affection. Paul spoke of the fragrance of Jesus; it is figurative for the knowledge of God

Now thanks be to God who always causes us to triumph in Christ and through us reveals the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. (2 Cor. 2:14)

2. His Name is like ointment (fragrant perfume) poured forth. The attributes of God as our Father and of Jesus as our Bridegroom King are revealed throughout the Scriptures through the declarations of His names. These names reveal His attributes expressed in His relationship with His people.

3. One of the best ways to learn to know someone is to consider the names that people call them. If someone moves into your street and you hear that his name is "Killer" you might not be too eager to go and knock on his door. However, if you find that someone is interested in you, in fact captivated by you, and you hear that this person has names like Healer, Wonderful Counsellor, Saviour, King of kings, Provider, Protector, Deliverer, Nurturer, Wisdom, Defender, Righteous King – you might want to respond to his initiatives! He sounds like someone worth knowing!

John 17:26 And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

Ephesians 1:17-18 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

4. No wonder the maidens love You! The "maidens" speak of sincere and true believers who are immature in their love. They are impacted by the fragrance of Jesus' Name, and are growing in their love for Him.

E. THE BRIDE'S TWO-FOLD LIFE VISION (1:4)

Song of Solomon 1:4 Draw me after You, and let us run together!

The call of God burning in our hearts is more than just a desire to "do something" for God. It is the uncontainable, unstoppable passionate longing to meet with the Lover of our soul and hear His heartbeat for our life. Here s the prayer of awakened desire: "Draw me into your heart and lead me out." The Shulamite is asking to be drawn away in sacred intimacy with the King – drawn out of her comfort zone, drawn away from sin and self, into the loving arms of her Beloved. (The Sacred Journey by Brian and Candice Simmons)

1. **Draw me after You**. The Bride is imploring the Holy Spirit to escort her into the chamber of intimate communion with Jesus. Nothing else can satisfy the deep yearning in her heart. She recognizes the need to be drawn by Him, and her confidence is that He will draw us into that place of intimacy.

2. **Let us run together.** This is the heart's cry for partnership in ministry with Jesus. Like the Shulamite, we are drawn into intimacy so that we can be His partners in the ministry of the Holy Spirit. This is the goal of the journey – intimate communion and shared authority with Jesus.

F. THE KING'S CHAMBERS – THE PLACE OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The king has brought me into his chambers.(Song 1:4)

1. Here is the immediate answer to the cry of the Bride – the King has already brought us into His chambers! The finished work of the cross of Christ has opened the way into the most Holy place, and we have full access into the presence of God.

Hebrews 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Hebrews 10:19-22 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

2. "Chamber experiences" are those times in which God communicates to us in a deeply personal way. In such times He highlights passages in His Word. (Sometimes He confirms them with prophetic dreams.) On these occasions, the Lord draws near to us by His Word to give us promises or new perspectives about our life and future with Him.

3. Two Purposes for "Chamber Experiences":

a) To develop our own personal history with God. This is the hidden life of the Bride, the secret place where fervency and love grows with no one watching. The Holy Spirit draws us here, escorting us into the chamber of the King.

b) To prepare us as the Bridal partner of Jesus. It is in the secret place that our character and heart is prepared for a life of running with Him in ministry. (*As a resource, see Bob Sorge, Secrets of the Secret Place, Oasis House.)*

G. THE BRIDE'S DECLARATION

1. The Bride declares to the daughters of Jerusalem, with resolution and faith, that together they would "be glad and rejoice in God and remember His love."

We will be glad and rejoice in You. We will remember Your love [affection] more than wine. (Song 1:4)

2. **Be glad and rejoice:** We are to be glad and rejoice in God and remember His love in three ways. First, we rejoice in His tender mercy, even in our weakness, as we refuse condemnation. Second, we remember how fascinating Jesus is as we resist temptation (inferior pleasures). Third, we rejoice in and remember His leadership over our lives in times of difficulty.

We also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom. 5:11)

3. **Remember Your love:** We are to intentionally engage our mind and heart to remember His love. Jesus has a plan to bring each of us to the place of feasting on His love at His table (2:4).

He brought me to the banqueting house, and His banner [leadership] over me was love. (Song 2:4)

4. This is the Bride's confession of faith through each season in life. In the face of difficulty, temptation, and mundaneness, she confesses that she will be glad in Jesus and remember His love. This confession is one way that we are to engage in spiritual warfare to resist the enemy's assault against our hearts (2 Cor. 10:4-5).

The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. (2 Cor. 10:4-5)

5. This faith confession in times of despair and testing is an expression of spiritual warfare as we declare that God is good and the devil is a liar. This confession of faith foreshadows the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. We will use these very words on the great Wedding Day.

Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. (Rev. 19:7)

6. When we remember Jesus' love for us, it awakens love in our heart for God (1 Jn. 4:19).

We love Him because He first loved us. (1 Jn. 4:19)

7. It is not enough to know about God's love. We are to remember, or regularly recall, His encouragement. By faith we remember and realign our heart with what God's Word says about His love.