

Sermon Notes

Song of Songs 4:12-5:1

“A Garden Spring of Living Water”

A Sermon Meditation Series on the Song of Songs

February 2, 2020

Introduction

- 1) The usual warning as we read through this greatest of all songs:
 - a) We are reading the Song of Songs (SoS) as an allegory.
 - i) The only book in the Bible we read in a non-literal fashion.
 - ii) It is not an earthly love poem(s) between two unmarried lovers.
 - iii) But an allegory showing the love between the man who is Christ, the Bridegroom and the woman who is the Church, the Bride.
 - b) The SoS requires maturity.
 - i) Not to take its earthy language and images in a juvenile fashion.
 - ii) Since the SoS invites freedom in how one meditates and muses on this greatest of Songs it requires one to have a solid biblical theology.

Literal Reading of Song of Songs 5:1-2

- 1) In SoS 4:12-15 the man describes the woman as being like a garden and a spring.
 - a) He says of her, “*You are a garden spring, a well of fresh water, and streams flowing from Lebanon.*” - SoS 4:15
 - b) Lebanon was known in the ancient world as a place of beauty and natural freshness. Its high mountains with its melting snow would provide living water for the valley below. Ps 72:16; 92:12; 104:16;
SoS 3:9; 4:8,11,15; 5:15; 7:4;
2Kgs 19:23; Is 37:24;
Jer 18:14; Ezek 31:15-16
 - c) Yet back in verse 12 he described her as a “*locked*” garden and “*sealed up*” spring. SoS 4:12;
Prov 5:15-20
 - d) Her garden and her water are not for everyone.
- 2) She then responds, “*Awake, O north wind, and come, wind of the south; make my garden breathe out fragrance, let its spices be wafted abroad. May my beloved come into his garden and eat its choice fruits!*” - SoS 4:16
 - a) Her response is passionate, positive and all encompassing.
 - b) She invokes the north and south winds, which are symbolic of the totality and power of creation, to make her garden and spring open up to the man. Prov 25:23; Is 43:6;
Ps 78:26; 89:12; Eccl 1:6;
Ezek 21:4; Zech 9:14; 14:4
 - c) She desires that he enter into the garden and eat the choicest fruits.
 - d) Note, she calls the garden “his garden.”
- 3) His reply is beautiful and powerful: “*I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride; I have gathered my myrrh along with my balsam. I have eaten my honeycomb and my honey; I have drunk my wine and my milk.*” - SoS 5:1a
 - a) He declares that he has come into the garden and affirms the garden is “His.”
 - b) He calls her his “sister” and “bride” which are ancient terms of affection. [Not that she is literally his sister or maybe even his bride (again in the simple literal sense.)] SoS 4:9-10,12; 5:1;
Is 49:18; 61:10; 62:5;
Jer 2:32
 - c) He fully enjoys the fruit of the garden spring.
 - i) Not just the myrrh but also the balsam (the tree from which myrrh comes).
 - ii) Not just the honey but also the honeycomb.
 - iii) Not just wine (the drink of revelry) but also milk. Remember, “milk & honey” are biblical symbolic of the best (i.e. the Promised Land is described as flowing with “milk and honey.”) Ex 3:8,17; 13:5; 33:3;
Num 13:27; 14:8; 16:13-14;
2Sam 13:28; Esth 1:10;
Eccles 10:19; SoS 4:10; Joel 3:18
- 4) The chorus of maidens respond in joy and celebration, encouraging the lovers to: “*Eat, friends; Drink and imbibe (or “become drunk”) deeply, O lovers.*” - SoS 5:1b

Allegorical Reading of Song of Songs 4:12-5:1

- 1) God has great love of us, His people, because we are, by His grace, a garden and a spring.
 - a) *"You are a garden spring, a well of fresh (literally "living") water,"* – SoS 4:15
 - b) Last week we talked about how God's people go from the Garden of Eden to being a Kingdom (the church, the City of God, Zion, etc.) to paradise and finally the new heavens and new earth in the new Jerusalem when we return to the Tree of Life.
 - Gen 2:9; 3:22,24;
 - Ps 46:4; 87:3;
 - Luke 23:43; 2Cor 12:4;
 - Heb 12:22-23; Rev 2:7; 3:12;
 - Rev 21:2,10; 22:2,14,19
 - c) This week let us focus on how we are *"living water."*
- 2) The fountain of life-giving waters is with God.
And it is a great evil to reject this water.
 - Ps 36:9
 - Jer 2:13; 17:13
- 3) This water pours forth especially from . . .
 - a) The mouth of the righteous. Prov 10:11
 - b) Understanding and those who teach wisdom. Prov 16:22; 13:14
 - c) It sounds simple but this is a rare thing and only by God's grace.
 - d) Because righteousness, understanding and wisdom only come from the fear of the Lord. Prov 1:7; 14:27
 - i) Few desire to be reproved by God and learn humility. Prov 15:32-33
 - ii) That is why biblical preaching is so important. 2Tim 4:1-5
 - e) Because the garden of living water is not for those who refuse to repent. Matt 12:32
- 3) In the Old Testament, there are prophecies that this living water will expand beyond Israel to all nations. Ezek 47:1-12;
 - a) Like the woman (God's people) invoking all of creation (north & south winds). SoS 4:16
 - b) With Christ's Kingdom (already here & yet to come) this is fulfilled.
 - i) We who have gathered here today at the Lord's Table are part of this fulfillment.
 - ii) *"And they will come from east and west and from north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God."* – Luke 13:29
- 4) Living water only comes from Christ and is given now in His Gospel, as we read in John's Gospel.
 - a) In John 4:7-38 about the Samaritan woman at the well.
 - i) The Lord Jesus speaks of real spiritual water that gives eternal life. John 4:13-14
 - ii) Which is about Him, as Christ answers, *"I who speak to you am He."* John 4:26b
 - b) John 7:37-38 directly states that it is from faith that living waters will flow. John 7:38
- 5) Yet what is this *"living water"*?
 - a) Back to SoS 4:16b, the woman desires the Bridegroom come into His garden to eat & drink.
 - b) This is faith, believing, desiring, trusting in God's Word.
(who is Christ as taught in Scripture).
 - c) This Word sanctifies us and makes us all together beautiful in God's sight. Eph 5:26
 - d) Because real faith will produce fruit: Hope, love and all graces. 1Cor 13:13; Gal 5:22-25
 - e) Living water produces enduring faith that produces good works. Heb 10:22-25
- 6) For the King, at the consummation of the age, will bring forth His perfect Kingdom where His bride will forever drink of living water. Rev 7:16-17;
21:2,6-9; 22:1-2,17
- 7) Remember SoS 5:1, the King has come into His garden, He has tasted and drunk from it (her).
 - a) We (believers) have been declared justified and holy. 1Cor 1:30; 6:11
 - b) Because the victory has been won: Christ has been crucified, raised and now reigns.
 - c) Thus our works, done in faith, are sanctified and all together pleasing to Him. 1Pet 2:9-10
- 8) We, the bride of Christ, are fed this grace at His Supper.
 - a) Let us hear the Choir of Maidens (angels?) as they beckon us to *"Eat, friends; drink and imbibe deeply, O lovers."* – Rev 5:1a
 - b) To imbibe deeply in Christ's grace.
 - c) Because the Marriage Supper of the Lamb is before us! Rev 19:7-9