

Song of Solomon 5:6 – 16

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~ I can only thank God that the job He has given me in this Spiritual Safari is *NOT* to persuade you of my theology. My directive is *NOT* to convince you that my interpretation of Scripture is the only correct interpretation, and my job is *NOT* to coax you into following me, or subscribing to some organization I have an interest in. No, friends, my only job as your safari guide is to influence and facilitate the study of the Word of God – which means sincerely, systematically, in an educated manner — properly, correctly and completely — after praying for wisdom, judgment and spiritual discernment. Providing a competent study is where my responsibility ends — and your responsibility begins. If you can and will study to show yourself approved, you'll never leave this safari. If you can't, or won't — then you'll never begin with us. I hope many will begin right here.

You may not agree with me on any number of issues; but if I have led you to read the Bible, and if you will meditate on Scripture in prayer to Christ our Holy High Priest – then my job will have been a one hundred percent success! Interestingly, even if you choose to ignore this Bible teaching of the entire Word of God in sound doctrine presented to the entire world, my job is still a success. See, my responsibility ends when I publish these reports; irrespective of who avails themselves of them, or not. And that's where your responsibility to learn something begins. So, I cannot fail either way – but – *you* can fail God by simply refusing to study His Word. See how that works?

The Song of Solomon is a love story between a shepherd and a Shulamite girl from the hill country of Ephraim. Now that she has been brought back to the palace, she is highly impressed by the furnishings, the amenities, the table, and the food — and the throne of King Solomon. She's never seen these things before. If you haven't read our previous reports from this song, I suggest you go back and do so now. In our last report, we saw how she had become somewhat complacent in the palace; she didn't even want to get out of bed to open the door because she might get her feet dirty. As

we learned, this is a picture of the modern day church that doesn't typically get very far from their building. In fact, most church members rarely even get out from under the shadow of the steeple of their church. Of course, they have no testimony anyways, so, it's all perfectly meaningless. They may move out to the front porch steps – but it's usually too hot there and, as a result, they remain confined to the sanctuary; all the while having lost fellowship with God. When we get out of the will of God for our lives, we lose fellowship with Him – it cannot be otherwise. When we refuse to go where He wants us to go, and do what He wants us to do, then the Holy Spirit cannot work in our lives and our spiritual walk comes to a standstill....

6 (Church) - I opened to my beloved; but my beloved had withdrawn himself, and was gone: my soul failed when he spake: I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer.

~ There are vast multitudes of Christians who have made two tragic mistakes in their lives. One, they have grieved the Spirit of God with sin they refuse to confess. Two, they have quenched the Spirit of God by deliberately stepping out of His will for their lives in disobedience. When this happens, you will *NOT* lose your salvation, friends; make no mistake about that; because many shall be saved, so as by fire — but — you will lose *THE JOY* of salvation. My estimation is that most Christians are unhappy in their relationship with the Lord. We can never lose the Holy Spirit in us – but we can, in fact, reach a place where He cannot and will not use us as His witness. Many very well-meaning, sincere men have been set aside from the plan and purpose of God for these reasons. This is serious business. Falling away begins with unconfessed sins. Paul instructs us to “....grieve not the Holy Spirit whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

See, there has to be a reality to all of this Christian business in our lives; a reality that produces something for Christ Jesus. I just happen to know many professing believers who do not have *any* reality pertaining to the things of God in their day-to-day existence. I believe I can actually discern who is in or out of the will of God. In fact, there's no question in my mind about who's who. When an individual does whatever they want to do, yet refuses to study the Bible — and then they declare they are in the will of

God, I know immediately that person is *NOT* in the will of God. Those people are in their *OWN* will — and missing out on something very special — and that something is the sweet fellowship we can have with Christ — but *ONLY* in the Bible....

7 (Church) - The watchmen that went about the city found me, they smote me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took away my veil from me.

~ It wasn't safe on the streets of Jerusalem three thousand years ago – and it isn't safe on the streets there today. It isn't safe on the streets of Orlando, Florida, either. We haven't come far in three millennia. Man seems to be going in circles throughout the ages. Well, I doubt many people realize how powerless we are when we attempt to go out on our own, and do whatever we want to do in the name of the Lord. There seems to be an overabundance of enthusiasm worked up for witnessing — and I understand that witnessing is somewhat neglected — but there are certain people who ought not to be witnessing! Oh, yes, I mean that. Some people are so abjectly Biblically illiterate and have absolutely no knowledge of the Word of God, that they do more harm to the cause of Christ than good every time they speak. Frankly, the atheist knows more about the Bible than most Christians do; and when those Christians attempt to witness, they get tied in knots and thrown overboard. These Christians get in over their head and ensure the unsaved man grows even more contemptuous and opposed to God!

Jesus didn't encounter anyone more hostile than the Samaritan woman at the well. She was utterly defiant; but Jesus said to her, *"give Me to drink."* One cannot take much more of a lowly place than that, my friends. Finally, Jesus turned the situation around and she ended up asking for water from Him; but Jesus never offered it until she asked. See, before we serve up Living Water, God must create a thirst in the individual for it. That can only happen when the lost world sees something in us worth considering. The Word of God is going to have to be real and evident in our lives before anyone is going to accept anything we say or do for them. I think we need to be very careful and conscious about that dynamic.

There is a very definite opposition today to the Word of God — in all aspects of society. If you claim Thor or the Flying Spaghetti Monster as your god, people won't argue with you. People don't get excited about Julius Caesar or Pontius Pilate, either. No one cares if they were saints or demons. However, the moment you mention the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, believe me, the human family starts choosing up sides in a hurry; and they will argue until they turn blue in the face, and fall over dead. Pilate thought he had washed his hands of Jesus; until the crowd started shouting, "*....crucify Him.*" Apparently, Pilate missed a spot.

Pilate had a decision to make – and a decision was forced. Pilate thought he was the judge and Jesus the prisoner – but Pilate couldn't have been more mistaken. The atheist claims they don't allow religion to rule their lives, but they rail against God *constantly* — and their lives and minds are utterly consumed with proving what they do not believe exists in the first place. They are wholly blinded to their true condition; and getting the Lord into their heart so He can heal their blindness is a daunting and difficult task. It isn't for beginners, to be sure; because Jesus is the most controversial Person – and the Word of God is the most controversial topic – that mankind has ever known.

Further, many competent Bible teachers and preachers find themselves totally abandoned by their congregation or church board who should be backing them one hundred percent. Instead, they support "*missionaries*" that never produce a single testimony of value for Christ. Trust me; I see it *ALL* the time. Typically, sound doctrine taught properly and with authority is just too strong for the average church. Sound teachers are rarely, if ever, invited or allowed to bring a message. I have found the worst opposition to correct and complete Bible teaching comes from those who should be supporting, promoting, furthering, and literally protecting it. But, they don't. That is *EXACTLY* what this section of Scripture is talking about, my beloved....

8 (Church) - I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if ye find my beloved, that ye tell him, that I am sick of love.

9 (Daughters of Jerusalem) - What is thy beloved more than another beloved, O thou fairest among women? what is thy beloved more than another beloved, that thou dost so charge us?

~ The Shulamite girl was missing her shepherd. She loved him, and was searching after him. Her feelings and emotions are making her physically ill. The fragrance of the garden is gone; the myrrh and frankincense don't mean anything to her anymore. All of those beautiful flowers and magnificent amenities have withered, wilted, faded — or have become obsolete. That brings about an antiphone in verses eight and nine. It's equal to an opera! Everyone around the Shulamite girl is skeptical of her intentions. The daughters of Jerusalem ask the same things the world is asking today: who is this Jesus Person anyways? What makes you think Jesus was different from anyone else? There have been many great religious leaders throughout the centuries; how can we be sure Jesus was and is Who He claimed to be? The main tragedy of the hour is that the church is not in a position to answer those questions for a lost and dying world. Most doctrine in today's churches absolutely denies the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. The world wants Jesus to just be another man, because they want to bring Him down to their level — so they can crucify Him afresh.

In the anthologies of religion, there have been Mohammed, Buddha, Gandhi, and others; but when the early church began, according to Tertullian, the biggest problem was that the church would rather die than have Jesus spoken of on the same human plane as a heathen god in the Roman Empire. They refused to even place a pinch of incense before an image of a Roman emperor or ruler. They just weren't going to do it. The reason was, and is, because our Beloved Christ is different in every possible perspective imaginable. Now, just as the daughters of Jerusalem thought they had cooled this Shulamite girl down, many people think they have cooled me off, too. Well, I have news for you: if you think I am somehow going to tone this safari down, you are as woefully mistaken as you can be....

10 (Church) - My beloved is white and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand.

11 (Church) - His head is as the most fine gold, his locks are bushy, and black as a raven.

12 (Church) - His eyes are as the eyes of doves by the rivers of waters, washed with milk, and fitly set.

13 (Church) - His cheeks are as a bed of spices, as sweet flowers: his lips like lilies, dropping sweet smelling myrrh.

14 (Church) - His hands are as gold rings set with the beryl: his belly is as bright ivory overlaid with sapphires.

15 (Church) - His legs are as pillars of marble, set upon sockets of fine gold: his countenance is as Lebanon, excellent as the cedars.

16 (Church) - His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.

~ The detailed and minute description given by the Shulamite girl means she knew her shepherd. If you are going to witness for Christ today, then you're going to have to know Him, too. Not only that – but you'll necessarily need to be capable of waxing eloquent concerning Him and on His behalf. Of course, I'm not referring to speaking ex-cathedra picked up in a sterile seminary. No, I mean eloquent in Spirit and in truth; emphasis on *TRUTH*; and with an enthusiasm that displays a genuine change has taken place in our heart and life. We're going to have to have a love and zeal for the Person of Christ; or we're just playing church. That's the challenge the Song of Solomon brings us. All other worldly greatness has been marred by littleness. All other worldly wisdom has been flawed by foolishness. All worldly goodness has been tainted by imperfection. The Lord Jesus Christ and the Word of God is the *only* thing this world knows anything about that is just, right, wise, true, perfect and lovely. Is Jesus those things to you? ~

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