

Hello. /We will begin the 15th lecture on Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon. /We will start with the third point of the first chapter. /A love that follows the tracks of the flock. /Verses 8-11. /Verses 8-11 are the words of the king.

/Verse 8 says “O most beautiful among women.” /The Shulammite woman went seeking for King Solomon in verse 7. /At this point, Jesus calls her “O most beautiful.” /In Jesus’s eyes, believers who seek after him are beautiful.

/I will teach you how to search for Jesus. /You can search for him by following the tracks of the flocks. /You will encounter Jesus when you walk the path of faith of old. /When we do this, we will be able to feed the young goats.

/The young goats represent stubborn and rebellious people. /However, we must feed these people. /There are several types of people in the church. /There are those who are gentle and humble. /There are those who are stubborn and proud. /Even so, we must lead these people and guide them.

/Verse 9 says, “My love.” /King Solomon says to the Shulammite woman, “My love.” /Why does Jesus call his believers his love? /If we look at verse 7, we see that the answer is the believer longed for the Lord.

/The believer went searching for Jesus. /Jesus delights in people who long for him and seek him. /That is why the verse says, “I compare you... to a mare among Pharaoh’s chariots.” /Pharaoh’s chariots are the horses that Pharaoh himself rides.

/These are great words. /Pharaoh’s horses are outstanding and brave. /We too must fight the good fight with courage. /Thus when Jesus sees believers who long for him, he sees them as outstanding and brave.

/We must make an effort to seek Jesus. /Verse 10 says, “Your cheeks are lovely with ornaments.” /Here, the verse is speaking of the Shulammite woman’s braided hair. /When women neatly braid their hair, they look beautiful.

/To Jesus, believers look beautiful in this way. /The “ornaments” in the verse represent obedience. /1 Corinthians 11:10. Because we are grateful for redemption in Jesus Christ, /we need to be obedient.

/We must humbly serve the Lord. /Then, Jesus will compliment us for our cheeks that are lovely with ornaments. /To what else does the verse compare someone who earnestly seeks Jesus? /In verse 10, the comparison is made to the “neck”.

/The verse reads, “Your neck with strings of jewels.” /Here, the neck symbolizes obedience. /Proverbs 1:8-9 say, / “Hear, my son, /your father’s instruction, /and forsake not your mother’s teaching, /for they are a graceful garland for your head /and pendants for your neck.”

/The person who hears and obeys his father's instruction has pendants for his neck.
/Believers who obey the word of God are beautiful in this way. /We believers must be obedient before the Lord.

/Jesus always answered "Yes" before God. /Jesus did not say "No". /He unconditionally answered with a "Yes" to God's commands. /He not once said "No".

/Therefore Jesus is always a "Yes". /When he came to this world, he did not come to accomplish his own will, but he came to fulfill the will of his Father. /2 Corinthians 1:19 says, / "For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, /whom we proclaimed among you, /Silvanus and Timothy /and I, was not Yes and No, /but in him it is always Yes."

/Our Jesus never said "No". /Because the Shulammite woman was obedient before the Lord, her neck was beautiful with strings of jewels.

/Verse 11 says, "We will make for you ornaments of gold, studded with silver." /King Solomon tells the Shulammite woman about "ornaments of gold." / "Gold" symbolizes faith. 1 Peter 1:7. / "Silver" symbolizes the deeds of faith.

/On top of our faith, we believers must do deeds of faith. /The Shulammite woman earnestly longed for King Solomon. /That is why when Jesus evaluates the woman, he says she is like Pharaoh's chariots.

/Fourth, a love with fragrance and life. /Verses 12-17.
/Verse 12 says, "While the king was on his couch, my nard gave forth its fragrance."
/Verses 12-14 are the words of the Shulammite woman.

/It says, "While the king was on his couch." /This means the king was sitting at his table during an enjoyable banquet. /A house of feasting is always fun. /Here, the king and the Shulammite woman are staring at each other across the table.

/They are enjoying themselves by eating and drinking. /When we eat food, our hearts find delight. /Do you know how to quickly come to peace after a fight? /By eating together, you can make up quickly after a fight.

/Our hearts become soft when we eat. /For this reason, Jesus portrays the place where love is exchanged as the place where there is eating. /The Shulammite woman sat at the king's table /and had a beautiful meal with the king.

/This represents the pleasurable life of a believer who spiritually eats and drinks with Jesus. /The believer eats and drinks with Jesus. /The verse here says, "My nard gave forth its fragrance." / "Nard" is a very expensive type of incense. /It is the most expensive oil. / The verse says that the nard was given forth. /When the believer sits together with Jesus in one place and experiences true joy, /he too gives forth nard.

/The nard gives forth its fragrance. /Mary poured her perfume for Jesus. /The fragrance filled the entire house. John 12:3. /When believers share a beautiful relationship with Jesus, they too give off a wonderful fragrance. /Such grace is shown when we are in a relationship with Jesus.

/Verse 13 says, “My beloved.” /Here, the Shulammite woman is saying “my.” /The recipient of her love is King Solomon. /The recipient is our Jesus. /The verse says, “My beloved is to me a sachet of myrrh.”

/The sachet of myrrh is like perfume that is sprayed by women. /In the past, people carried this myrrh around to give off a pleasing smell. /Thus whoever enjoyably eats and drinks with Jesus at the table gives off this fragrance.

/The thief in his heart has the desire to steal. /If someone has a heart of hatred, he only speaks words of hatred. /However, whoever has Jesus in their hearts gives off a pleasant fragrance.

/2 Corinthians 2:14-16 say that /we believers are the fragrance of Christ. /I hope you become believers who spread the fragrance of Christ.

/Verse 14 says, “My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blossoms in the vineyards of Engedi.” / “Engedi” is a region famous for its beautiful forests and its many vineyards. /Also, henna blossoms are a type of plant that grows in Palestine and Egypt.

/They grow to be about 3 meters tall. /They are a very large plant. /Here in the verse, the vineyards symbolize the church. /Isaiah 5:1-7. /Therefore, by saying that Jesus is like the henna blossoms of the vineyards of Engedi, it means that Jesus is the most outstanding one in the vineyards.

/Jesus is the head of the church. /A church is beautiful only when Jesus is present in the church, and a family is beautiful only when Jesus is present in the family. We must lift up Jesus and Jesus alone.

/The king is speaking in verse 15. /Verse 15 says, “Behold, you are beautiful, my love; behold, you are beautiful; your eyes are doves.” /Jesus is telling his believers that they are beautiful. /Jesus tells us that we are beautiful.

/The Shulammite woman, in her delight in seeing Jesus, calls Jesus a cluster of henna blossoms. /Jesus responds to her by saying, “Behold, you are beautiful, my love; behold, you are beautiful; your eyes are doves.”

/We must make sure Jesus compliments us in this way. /We believers must open our spiritual eyes and look towards Jesus. /A dove is a gentle, pure, and clean animal. /We need to have this kind of character.

/Verses 16-17 are the words of the Shulammite woman. /The woman is responding to Jesus.

/Verse 16 says, “Behold, you are beautiful, my beloved, truly delightful.” / “Delightful” here means that the heart is refreshed and pleased. /When we serve Jesus, our hearts are refreshed. /We are joyful and happy.

/Verse 16 continues to say, “Our couch is green.” /What this means is that Jesus and the Shulammite woman are in a relationship. /We live with Jesus and we rejoice with him. /The green color represents vitality.

/Verse 17 says, “The beams of our house are cedar; our rafters are pine.” /This is talking about the house in which believers live together with Jesus. /Cedar gives off a special fragrance that is pleasing to smell. /Cedar gets rid of bad smell.

/It is especially good at repelling bugs. /Pine trees are always green. /A heart that serves Jesus is always green. /When we serve Jesus in our lives, we have life and prosperity.

/The title of chapter 2 of Song of Solomon is “Suffering”. /First, the believer stands among thorns. /Verses 1-2. /Second, rejoice in the Lord in the midst of suffering. /Verses 3-7. /Third, the Lord of suffering will find you. /Verses 8-9.

/Fourth, God calls on his believers who are living in secret. /Verses 10-14. /Fifth, catch the foxes. /Verses 15-16. /Sixth, look forward to the Lord’s return. /Verse 17.

/First, the believer stands among thorns. /Verses 1-2.

/The Shulammite woman is speaking in verse 1. /It reads, “I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.”

/Sharon is a wide plain located South of Mount Carmel. /The rose of Sharon is a flower that is categorized as a rose. /The roses were in full bloom on the plains of Sharon. /The verse also says “a lily of the valleys.”

/Valleys are rough places. In these valleys, lilies have bloomed. /The roses of Sharon have bloomed in the wide plains. The verse is speaking of one particular rose of Sharon that has bloomed. /Also, a lily has bloomed in the valley.

/The flower is blooming in these rough, wide plains. The rose of Sharon symbolizes believers. /Sharon is referring to the world. /In this rough world, one rose has bloomed. / Also, a lily has bloomed in the hidden valley.

/The lily has bloomed in an unwelcoming place. This flower represents the godly believer. /It refers to those workers of Christ who have no name but quietly keep their faith and serve. Revelation 2:17.

/Therefore, though no one will acknowledge our work, we must become faithful believers who are like the rose of Sharon and the lily of the valleys.

/Verse 2 says, “As a lily among brambles, so is my love among the young women.” /The king is speaking in verse 2. /Here, the women represents us believers. /The one speaking in first person represents Jesus.

/We believers are like lilies among brambles. /This is referring to believers who keep their faith in this rough world. Matthew 10:16. /As we believers carry on with our lives on the earth, there are people who poke at us.

/Also, when the wind blows, lilies are pierced by thorns. /It is at this time that the lilies give off a stronger fragrance. /We believers give off a stronger fragrance of Christ during times of hardship. /Daniel gave off a stronger fragrance when he came out of the lion’s den. /When believers are martyred, they give off a stronger fragrance. Acts 7:59,60.

/Second, rejoice in the Lord in the midst of suffering. /Verses 3-7.

/Verse 3 says, “As an apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved among the young men.” /Verses 3-7 are the words of the Shulammite woman. /Jesus is like an apple tree among the trees of the forest.

/The forests symbolizes the many lives. 1 Peter 1:24. /Every life, no matter how famous and excellent, does not go beyond the forest. /Everyone is a corrupt sinner. /However, Jesus is both man and God.

/Jesus’s love is infinite. He is holy, and he is our Savior. Philippians 3:8. /Jesus is the one who gives us life.

/The apple tree offers cool shade. /In the shade, there is rest. /Also, the fruits of the tree are tasty, nutritious, and fragrant. /We receive comfort in Jesus, and we are satisfied when we eat the fruit of life that he gives us. /We have life through Jesus.

/Verse 4 says, “He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.” /Jesus guides us believers. /To where does he lead us? He leads us to the banqueting house.

/The verse says, “His banner over me was love.” /In the Jewish nation, there is a custom of raising a banner at the house when a man and woman get married. It tells people that there is a wedding happening. /The house is a fun, banqueting house.

/The world in which the believer feasts with Jesus is a world of love. /It is a place overflowing with love.

/Verse 5 says, “Sustain me with raisins.” /Raisins are dried grapes. /Spiritually speaking, these raisins symbolize spiritual food. /Raisins are a solid food. /In order for us to gain spiritual strength, we must eat solid food.

/We have to eat the food of the spirit. 1 Corinthians 3:1,2. /Spiritually, we need to stop eating milk. Hebrews 5:13,14. /Thus when we follow Jesus, we are walking down a path of suffering.

/The verse also says, “Refresh me with apples.” /When we have Jesus in our hearts, we are refreshed. /Then, our spirits are satisfied. /Furthermore, the verse reads, “For I am sick with love.”

/The Shulammitte woman loved Jesus so much that she was sick with love. /This is the believer’s first love, a burning love. /We too must long for the Lord like the Shulammitte woman.

/Verse 6 says, “His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me!” /The left hand is the hand of comfort. /The right hand is the hand of power. /Jesus comforts us with his left hand, and he holds us and protects us with his right hand. /The Lord is our rest and refuge.

/Verse 7 says, “I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or the does of the field.” /Here, the daughters of Jerusalem are the believers who are of the world. /They are believers who are of the flesh.

/Gazelles and does are easily surprised. /The believers who are of the world must not disturb us believers of the spirit as we share a beautiful relationship with Jesus.

/As we follow the Lord, we must not be tempted to follow the ways of the flesh like the daughters of Jerusalem. /That is why the verse continues by telling the daughters of Jerusalem to not stir up or awaken love.

/This is asking them to not lead us astray as we communicate with the Lord in our empty rooms. /The Shulammitte woman is firm in her decision to not be stirred up.

/Third, the Lord of suffering will find us. /Verses 8-9.

/Verses 8-9 are the words of the Shulammitte woman. /Verse 8 says, “The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes, leaping over the mountains, bounding over the hills.”

/The “voice of my beloved” refers to the voice of Jesus. /Jesus is running from the mountains. /He is bounding over the hills. /The mountains refer to suffering. /Jesus suffered greatly on the cross.

/Also, Jesus runs to his suffering believers and he rescues them. /In Acts 7:55, where Stephen is martyred, /Jesus stands up and helps Stephen. /Jesus sees us in our suffering, and he comes to help us stand up.

/Verse 9 says, “My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Behold, there he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, looking through the lattice.”

/Gazelles have quick feet. /Jesus swiftly comes to our help. /However, it says that the Lord stands behind our wall and gazes through the windows. /Right now, we cannot meet with Jesus because of the wall.

/The wall is a wall of sin. Isaiah 59:1-3. /It is a wall of incorrect thinking, incorrect knowledge, and incorrect ideas. Romans 10:2,3. /This wall also represents stubbornness. 1 Samuel 15:23

/The verse says that he is “gazing through the windows, looking through the lattice.” /This means that Jesus sometimes uses external factors to touch us and bring us to repentance. 5:4. /We need to break down the wall that stands between us and Jesus. /We need to repent of our sins.

/Fourth, God calls on his believers who are living in secret. /Verses 10-14. /The Shulammite woman is speaking in verses 10-14. /Verse 10 says, “My beloved speaks and says to me: “Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.”

/The Shulammite woman is applying the words spoken by Jesus. /She says, “My beloved speaks and says to me.” /She is saying that Jesus has spoken to her.

/Jesus is asking the woman on a date when he says, “Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.” /Believers! I hope you arise for Jesus when he asks you to go on a date. /Jesus wants you to rise up and walk with him.

/We must do our best to stand up and walk with Jesus when he tells us to rise up.

/This ends the 15th lecture on Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon. /Thank you.