

Hello. /We will begin the 16th lecture on Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon. /At our last lecture, we stopped at Song of Solomon 2:10. /Today, we will start with 2:10.

/Verses 10-14, God calls on his believers who are living in secret. /This is the fourth point.

/Verse 10 reads, “My beloved speaks and says to me.” /Here, the Shulammite woman is talking. / “My beloved” refers to Jesus Christ.

/Jesus says to the Shulammite woman, “Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.” Why does Jesus ask her to come with him? It is because winter has passed and the rains have stopped.

/Winter is a time without spiritual inspiration. /When it says that the rain is gone, the Bible is saying that the monsoon season is over. /Because it is now time to work, Jesus is asking her to come with him.

/On the surface of the earth, flowers have blossomed. /The time has come for birds to sing. /The voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. /The time has come for us to work. /Thus Jesus is asking us out on a date.

/He is telling us to come with him, /that spring, the season for working, /has come. /It is the season when the Holy Spirit’s voice and inspiration are available. Matthew 3:16. /When Jesus asks us to come along, we must follow the Lord.

/Verse 13 says, “The fig tree ripens its figs.” /Also, “the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance.” /Jesus again says to us, “Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.”

/The fig tree symbolizes Israel. /Jeremiah 24:2. /The figs have ripened on the fig tree. /The grape vines are giving off a fragrance. /After this happens, the vines start to bear fruit.

/Therefore, when our Lord talks about the fig tree and the vine, we can understand that he wants us to carry out our deeds of faith. /If we miss the timing to work, we will not be able to work again. 2 Corinthians 6:2. /If the fig tree loses its timing to bear fruit, it cannot bear fruit. Galatians 6:8.

/If the grape vine misses its timing to bear grapes, it cannot bear fruit. /I hope we follow Jesus when he calls out to us and says, “Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.”

/Verse 14 speaks of the place where we meet Jesus. /We meet him in the clefts of the rock. /It is very quiet in the clefts of the rock. /Jesus says he wants to meet us there.

/Why are the clefts such a secretive place? /The answer is it is a quiet place where we rely on the Lord alone. /It is a place where we encounter the Lord and communicate with him. /We believers can only receive God's power through prayer.

/Now, spring has come. /The flowers have blossomed. /It is a time when the Holy Spirit inspires. /I hope you rise up and go to the clefts of the rock, the secret place. /We must pray before God at this location.

/How does God view this believer? Verse 14 says, "Let me see your face." /The one who enters the clefts of the rock and communicates with the Lord in prayer will first have a beautiful face. /The voice that prays before the Lord is soft.

/That is why he says, "Let me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet, /and your face is lovely. /The believer's voice is the sweetest when he prays. /The Lord wants to hear this sweet voice.

/The person who prays has a beautiful face. /Moses, after praying on Mount Horeb, had a face that shined. /Because Moses prayed before God, God showed him grace, and by encountering God, Moses's face became bright.

/Jesus and his disciples prayed at the Mount of Transfiguration. /The disciples dozed off, but Jesus prayed. /At this mountain, Jesus was transfigured. /His face shined like the sun. /His clothes became white as light.

/When Jesus prayed at the Mount of Transfiguration, he transformed the world of darkness into a world of light. /Jesus hears a sweet voice when he hears the voice of someone who prays. /The face of the believer who prays changes and becomes beautiful.

/At the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed until His sweat became drops of blood. /With the power of prayer, Jesus carried the cross and saved us sinners. /Now, winter has passed and the rain has stopped.

/Jesus calls to us from the secret clefts of the rock. /I hope you go to the secret place and pray. /Then, our voices will become sweet. /Jesus will compliment us for having beautiful faces.

/Fifth, catch the little foxes. /Verses 15-16.

/The Shulammite woman is speaking in verses 15-16. /Verse 15 says, "Catch the foxes for us, the little foxes that spoil the vineyards, for our vineyards are in blossom."

/The vineyard symbolizes the church. /The "little foxes" symbolize man's sinful nature and greed. /The vineyards are in blossom, but if the foxes spoil the vineyards, there will be no fruit. /These little foxes enter and ruin the church and the believers.

/The one who can control the small things is a great person. /Proverbs 16:32 says, /
“Whoever is slow to anger /is better than the mighty, /and he who rules his spirit /than he
who takes a city.”

/Therefore we must be able to rule our spirit. /We must catch the little foxes that ruin our
vineyards. /The little foxes represent our greed. /They also represent our vigor. /They are
also things that turn us to the world. /It is liking the things that are rotten.

/The little foxes are the cults and evil ideologies that tear the church down. /To prevent
these things from entering, we must catch the foxes. /Our biggest enemy is ourselves.
/Therefore we must be able to reign over ourselves.

/Then, we will bear spiritual fruit. /If we do not do this, then later, the vineyard will fall
apart. /We must catch the small foxes that spoil the vineyard.

/Verse 16 says, “My beloved is mine.” /Here, the Shulammite woman is saying “my.”
/Her beloved is Jesus Christ. /The woman has Jesus in her heart. /Jesus also has the
woman in his heart. /To us believers, Jesus is Lord, and he is life. /We believers belong to
Jesus.

/What this means is we abide in Jesus and he abides in me, and we live and laugh
together. /The verse also says, “He grazes among the lilies.” /Our Lord feeds his flock
among the lilies.

/We give off a fragrance like the lily does. /Believers are like a lily among brambles.
/When the wind blows, we give off a stronger fragrance. /If a flower is left alone, the
fragrance is not carried far.

/However, if the wind is blowing, the flower moves around in the wind, and its fragrance
is carried far away. /Also, the lily is hurting when it is pierced by thorns, but when it is
pierced, it gives off an even stronger fragrance that is carried to people who are far away.

/When Jesus feeds his flock among the lilies, he is feeding and guiding his believers who
keep their faith.

/Sixth, look forward to the Lord’s return. /Verse 17.

/The Shulammite woman is talking in verse 17. /Verse 17 says, “Until the day breathes
and the shadows flee, turn, my beloved.” /Here, the Shulammite woman is talking in first
person when she says “my.” / “My beloved” refers to Jesus Christ.

/ “Until the day breathes and the shadows flee” refers to Jesus’s return and the end of
days. Matthew 24:3-22. /The mountains of Bether represent separation. /When the day
breathes and the shadows flee, the time has come for believers to say goodbye to the
world.

/Also, it is telling us to prepare for the Lord's coming. /There is a personal end to every person. /We must turn like a gazelle or a young stag towards the holy mountain. /Gazelles and stags have short front legs and long hind legs.

/Because of this body structure, they are better at climbing a mountain than they are descending it. /The gazelle and young stag are an analogy to believers who are climbing.

/Now, we will study Song of Solomon 3. /The title of chapter 3 is "A Lost Love." /A lost love. /First, seek the Lord. /Verses 1-5. /Second, the protection of the church in the wilderness. /Verses 6-10. /Third, boast in the Lord. /Verse 11.

/First, seek the Lord. /Verses 1-5. /The Shulammitte woman is speaking in these verses. /Verse 1 says, "On my bed by night I sought him whom my soul loves; I sought him, but found him not."

/Because the woman sought the Lord on her bed, she lost her first love. /She became complacent as she fell into world. /Proverbs 6:10-11 say, / "A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man."

/In Amos 6:4-6, /God blesses Israel, but they do not prepare for the ruin of Joseph. Rather, they become corrupt and commit sin. /The people lie down on fine beds, /and they feast on calves.

/They find pleasure in the songs of the world. /They poured oil on their bodies. /As they did so, they did not prepare for the ruin of Joseph. /We too may become complacent as we lie on our beds.

/We say that we are at comfort, that we are safe, and we do not prepare for the Lord's second coming. /The Shulammitte woman tried to discover Jesus as she lie on her bed, but she did not.

/Therefore we must get out of our beds. /Faith that remains on the bed is a paralyzed faith. /Our spiritual eyes are dark with this type of faith. /Our ears cannot hear with this faith.

/When the disciples were travelling to Emmaus, they did not realize that Jesus was by their side. /Because they abandoned Jesus and went to Emmaus, their spiritual eyes were covered. /In order to discover the Lord, we must now stand up.

/Verse 2 says, "I will rise now and go about the city, in the streets and in the squares; I will seek him whom my soul loves. I sought him, but found him not." /The Shulammitte woman gets up and looks for her groom.

/We too must get out of our beds. /It says that the woman went about the city looking for the Lord. /The city is crowded with people. /The Shulammite woman did not find Jesus in the city.

/Where must we go to meet Jesus? /We need to go to the secret clefts of the rock. /Seeing that the Shulammite woman went seeking after him, the Lord finds delight and sends watchmen.

/Verse 3 says, “The watchmen found me as they went about in the city.” /It is important that we stand up. /It is important that we search for the Lord. /That is why Jeremiah 29:13 says that we will find him when we seek him with all our heart.

/Thus we must get up and search for the Lord. /When we do this, God sends good pastors to us. /Dear believers who are taking this online course: through this online lecture, you have met a good leader and are listening to a good message.

/The watchmen in verse 3 are the pastors. /These watchmen who roam the city are the policemen and patrol officers of today. /They are the pastors who raise the Lord’s churches and do God’s work.

/The Shulammite woman asked the watchmen, “Have you seen him whom my soul loves?” /This is equivalent to believers asking pastors, “Have you seen Jesus?” /The pastors will then teach the believers. /That is why soon after the watchmen leave, the woman encounters Jesus.

/Verse 4 says, “Scarcely had I passed them when I found him whom my soul loves.” /Through the servant of God who properly guides her, the woman found Jesus. /Therefore it is important that we meet a good pastor.

/Verse 4 says, “I held him, and would not let him go until I had brought him into my mother’s house, and into the chamber of her who conceived me.” / “My mother’s house” refers to the place where we are born again through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

/ “The chamber of her who conceived me” symbolizes the word of God that has made us born again. /Therefore we must hold onto the Lord and never let go.

/Verse 5 reads, “I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or the does of the field.” /The daughters of Jerusalem here are the believers who are of the flesh. /They are those who walk along the wide path.

/Are there more people who walk on the wide road or are there more who walk on the narrow road? /If we look at the Bible, it says that there are more who walk on the wide road.

/There are few who walk on narrow road. /There are many who go on the wide road.
/Believers! Please choose the narrow road. /However, those who walk on the wide road
keep bothering those who walk on the narrow road.

/Those on the wide road disturb our faith.

/The Shulammite woman has resolved to not give in to the world's temptations. /That is
why she says, "I adjure you... that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases." /In this
way, the devil tries to stir us up and awaken us.

/Therefore we must not be on our beds, but we must go to the city. /We must encounter
Jesus through the right pastors.

/Second, the protection of the church in the wilderness. /Verses 6-10. /The daughters of
Jerusalem are speaking in these verses.

/Verse 6 says something is coming up "like columns of smoke." /The columns of smoke
are a sign. /In Jewish tradition, smoke is released at weddings.

/There is a wedding happening in the verse. /Here, the "columns of smoke" symbolize the
church. /All the people of the world are looking at the church.

/The verse says that the smoke is "perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all the
fragrant powders of a merchant."

/From the outside, the church may appear to be an insignificant column of smoke, but
inside, its fragrance fills the place. /To the eyes, smoke appears to be unimportant.
/However, fragrance fills the church on the inside.

/The verse also says, "What is that coming up from the wilderness." /The wilderness
represents the world. /The church passes by the wilderness. /The church passes through
the world. /It is passing through a desert. /Passing through the wilderness was Solomon's
litter.

/Verse 7 says, "Behold, it is the litter of Solomon!" /The litter is the couch on which
Solomon was carried. /Spiritually, Solomon symbolizes Jesus. /The litter is the church.
/The church passes through the wilderness. /Jesus is riding within the church.

/Therefore the church overflows with fragrance. /Jesus's church is a place overflowing in
fragrance. /There are those who protect and guard the church as it passes through. /They
are the sixty warriors.

/The sixty mighty men escort the Lord's church. They protect it. /The first characteristic
of these sixty mighty men is they carry swords. /Swords symbolize the word of God.

/Thus the holy believers who guard the church are those who hold firmly to the word of
God. /Only when they do so will they protect the Lord's church. /Ephesians 6:17 says, /

“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”
/A church today without the word is a rotten church. /The warriors who guard the church are firmly grasping the word of God.

/Second, the sixty mighty men are those who are experts of war. /They fight very well.
/This is a good fight. /It is not a battle of flesh and blood. /We are fighting against the devil’s forces.

/But it says that these men are experts in war. /They have much experience in battle.

/Only those who are used to fighting can protect the Lord’s church. /We need to practice fighting the good fight. /These believers do not fear the night. /They have faced numerous difficulties, so whatever trials and hardships may come, they carry on and protect the church.

/Verse 8 says, “Each with his sword at his thigh.” /This means that the believers have prepared themselves with the powerful word.

/Verse 9 says, “King Solomon made himself a carriage from the wood of Lebanon.” /The wood of Lebanon is Lebanon’s cedars. /Cedars have a pleasant smell to them. /Because it has a fragrance, insects do not invade the tree.

/We must build the church with this sturdy, good-quality tree. /Verse 10 says, “He made its posts of silver.” / “Silver” represents purity and righteous deeds.

/It also says, “Its back of gold.” /Gold symbolizes faith. /1 Peter 1:7. /That is why the church must be built on the foundation on faith. /We must build a church of faith with good deeds on top of the faith.

/The verse continues, “Its seat of purple.” /This symbolizes the believer’s service and sacrifice. /The church is built on believers’ service and sacrifice. /In this way, the church is made up of our sacrifice and service.

/Verse 10 also says, “Its interior was inlaid with love by the daughters of Jerusalem.”
/The daughters of Jerusalem have laid the interior. /Every member of the church must work together. /Every worker of the church must carry out his duty.

/In this way, the church workers and the ordinary believers must work together to create a church of beautiful harmony. /All of these wonderful ingredients come together to make the carriage. The carriage passes through the wilderness.

/Therefore, like the sixty mighty men, we must protect the Lord’s church. /We must be armed with the word of God. /Do not fear the night. /We must be believers who are accustomed to fighting the good fight.

/Third, boast in the Lord. /Verse 11. /The Shulammite woman is speaking in verse 11.

/Verse 11 says, “Go out, O daughters of Zion, and look upon King Solomon.” /The Shulammite woman is talking. /Here, she is making a request.

/She is telling the daughters of Zion to go out and look upon King Solomon. /The Shulammite woman is boasting in Jesus. /We must boast in the cross alone. /The boastings of the world are all meaningless.

/We should not boast in meaningless things, but we must boast in Jesus. /Galatians 6:14. /Paul only boasted in the cross. /Paul could have boasted in the flesh. /However, he treated the things of the world like they were garbage. /Here, the Shulammite woman is boasting in Jesus to the daughters of Zion. /Verse 11 reads, “On the day of the gladness of his heart.” /The day of gladness is the day of the resurrection of Jesus, who came in the flesh, was nailed to the cross, died, and rose again.

/The verse also says, “With the crown with which his mother crowned him on the day of his wedding.” /Jesus, who was born of his mother Mary and became human, wears this crown of victory on his head. Psalm 8:4.

/The Bible is talking about Jesus’s victory in his resurrection. /The Shulammite woman looked to Jesus who is to come in the future. /She also boasted in Jesus Christ. /I hope that we too boast in Jesus Christ.

/This ends the 16th lecture on Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon. /Thank you.