

Hello. /We will begin the 17th lecture on Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon. /The message today is from chapter 4. /The title of the chapter is, “The Garden.”

/First, the beauty of the believer who keeps his faith. /Verses 1-6. /Second, rise up and come with me. /Verses 7-8. /Third, captivate the heart of the Lord. /Verse 9. /Fourth, living in love and truth. /Verses 10-11. /Fifth, living like a locked garden. /Verses 12-16.

/First, the beauty of the believer who keeps his faith. /Verses 1-6.

/How does the Lord view his believers who keep their faith? /Verse 1 says, “Behold, you are beautiful, my love, behold, you are beautiful!”

/In Jesus’s eyes, those who keep their faith appear to be the most beautiful. /What person is beautiful in the eyes of people? /They say those who have pretty faces and figures are beautiful. /Also, some women like men with a lot of money.

/However, our Jesus does not look at a person’s pretty face or their wealth, but he sees beauty in the one who keeps his faith. /That is why the king is speaking in verses 1-5. /Verses 1-5 are the king’s words.

/Then why did Jesus say that the Shulammite woman is beautiful? Verse 1 says, “Your eyes are doves behind your veil.” /The eyes of the Shulammite woman who stands behind her veil are beautiful.

/A veil is like a scarf that a woman wears on her head. /Her eyes that were seen through the veil are beautiful. /What does the veil symbolize? It symbolizes believers’ humility.

/Believers appear beautiful when we look at Jesus with humble eyes. /There is beauty in us when we humbly look to God and fear him with holy eyes. /What kind of person does God hate? God hates those who are proud.

/That is why 1 Peter 5:5 says that God shows his grace to those who are humble. /In this way, Jesus has called us beautiful. /What type of believer is beautiful? The verse says, “Your hair is like a flock of goats leaping down the slopes of Gilead.”

/The believers’ hair is beautiful. /The hair symbolizes obedience to authority. /1 Corinthians 11:10 says, / “That is why a wife ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, /because of the angels.”

/Women grow their hair as a symbol of obedience. /This symbolizes believers having a humble heart of obedience before God. /Thus when the Shulammite woman, in her faith, displays obedience before God, God calls her beautiful.

/The verse reads, "Like a flock of goats leaping down the slopes of Gilead." These goats usually have black hair. /The goats are lying down. /That is why the slopes of Gilead appear to be black. /This is a portrayal of the beauty of the Shulammite woman's humility and obedience.

/God delights when believers humbly lower themselves before God's sovereignty. /Romans 13:1 says that /the authorities have been placed by God. /God delights in us when we obey our authorities.

/Because this believer protects his faith, Jesus calls the believer beautiful. /Who else does Jesus find beautiful? Verse 2 tells us the answer.

/Verse 2 makes a comparison to teeth. /Verse 2 says, "Your teeth are like a flock of shorn ewes that have come up from the washing, all of which bear twins, and not one among them has lost its young." /Teeth are symbolized here. /Teeth are white. /Sheep are also white.

/Teeth are white and clean, much like the ewe that has had its hair cut. /The ewe has given birth to twins. /This is expressed as teeth. There are the upper teeth and the lower teeth. /The spiritual meaning of this is /those who eat the word of the Bible and chew on it are beautiful.

/To chew on the word of God means to listen to it, live according to it, and always meditate on it. /That is why Psalm 1:2 says that the one who is blessed meditates on God's law day and night.

/When we constantly chew on the word of God, God delights in us. /Therefore we must remember the things we have learned about the word of God as we pray. /If we look at cows, we can see that they have multiple stomachs. /They eat and eat, and they chew.

/Because the Shulammite woman chewed on the word of God, she became beautiful. /If we chew on God's word, we will be able to overcome hardship with the strength of the word.

/This is the third reason the Lord calls us beautiful. /The answer is in verse 3. /Here, the comparison is made to the lips. /Verse 3 says, "Your lips are like a scarlet thread." /Scarlet is a reddish color.

/The blood that Jesus shed for us is also red. /There is a spiritual meaning to this. We believers must express our gratitude of the grace of redemption with our lips. Hebrews 13:15. /We must also use our lips to spread the gospel. The lips that do this are beautiful lips.

/When we look at God through the veil with humble eyes, God finds us beautiful. /Also, God delights in believers' humility. /He delights in those believers who chew with their teeth.

/Finally, God finds delight when we spread the gospel of Jesus. /The Lord says to the Shulammite woman, "Behold, you are beautiful." Now, he makes the comparison to the cheeks. /Verse 3 says, "Your cheeks are like halves of a pomegranate behind your veil."

/The veil symbolizes the believer's humility. /If we split a pomegranate into two pieces, we can see the fruit that has grown inside. /The pomegranate is beautiful in its redness.

/This can be seen as the believer's face that overflows with the grace of the blood of Jesus. /That is why the believer's face must also display God's grace. /God does not delight in those who are frowning or making a sad face.

/We must make sure that our faces show that we have a heart that longs for and loves the Lord. /Verse 4 makes a comparison to the neck. /Verse 4 says, "Your neck is like the tower of David, built in rows of stone."

/Military weapons are important for soldiers. /A tower is a high place that is used to observe the enemy. /A thousand shields hung to this tower. /Also, the tower is called the tower of David. /David was the most courageous of all the kings.

/In this way, the Lord is delighted when the believer keeps his faith. The comparison is made to the neck. /The neck, in spiritual terms, symbolizes a faith that is not bending. /It is a sincere faith that does not bend its head to unrighteousness.

/The Shulammite woman did not bend her neck to the false truths or wrong ideas. /She is like the tower of David because she protects her faith. /Because the tower is covered by a thousand shields, the enemy cannot win.

/I hope you can become like the tower of David as you stand in your faith. /I hope you do not come to a place where you compromise or give in, but I hope that the Lord compliments you by calling you beautiful.

/The Lord calls those who protect their faith beautiful. Now, the comparison is made to a mother's milk. /The verse says, "Your two

breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle, that graze among the lilies." /A mother has two breasts.

/The breasts of the Shulammite woman symbolizes believers' faith and love. /1 Thessalonians 5:8. /The breasts also refer to the spiritual milk that believers feed to the young believers. /We must be people who share our milk. / "Milk" symbolizes the word of God. /1 Peter 2:1-2.

/1 Peter 2:2 says, / "Like newborn infants, /long for the pure spiritual milk, /that by it you may grow up into salvation." /Here, spiritual milk is the word of God.

/God delights in his believers who spread the spiritual word of God. /The pastor must first eat of the spiritual word. /Then, he can spread the spiritual word to the people of the church. /God sees these believers as beautiful.

/This believer is the believer who protects his faith. /For this reason, God delights in him. /Verse 6 is the Shulammite woman's reply. /How does she reply?

/In verse 6, she says, "Until the day breathes and the shadows flee." At this time, the evening sun is setting. /Spiritually speaking, it means that the time has come for Jesus's second coming. /The verse also says, "I will go away to the mountain of myrrh and the hill of frankincense."

/The mountain of myrrh symbolizes the martyrdom of believers. /The hill of frankincense symbolizes the fragrance that will arise from sacrifice and service. /Therefore we believers must carry the cross and follow the Lord.

/When we do this, we will overflow with the fragrance of Christ. /We must spread the fragrance of Christ through our sacrifice.

/Second, rise up and come with me. /Verses 7-8. /The king is talking in verses 7-15.

/To those who keep their faith, the Lord says, "Rise, come with me." /Verse 7 says, "You are altogether beautiful, my love; there is no flaw in you."

/Jesus sees us as altogether beautiful without any flaw. /We all have many sins and many flaws. However, because of Jesus's blood, our flaws are no more. /Because this is true, Jesus sees us as beautiful. /Also, because the Lord loves us so much, we appear to be flawless.

/Jesus is telling us to come with him. /If we want to follow the Lord, we must first visit Lebanon, the home of the bride. /Verse 8 says, "Come with me from Lebanon, my bride; come with me from Lebanon."

/The Shulammite woman's home is in Lebanon. /It is close to Shunem. /Shunem is a place located near Lebanon. /Spiritually speaking, it is our condition before we believe in Jesus. /It refers to us being in Egypt.

/To be with the Lord, we must throw away the person of the past. /Second, we must pass through Amana, Senir, and Hermon. /That is why it says in the second half of verse 8 that we need to pass through Amana.

/After passing through Lebanon, the second checkpoint is Amana. /"Amana" means "strong" or "firm." /To go with the Lord, we must pass through Amana. We must have a firm faith as we follow the Lord.

/We must have a firm faith as we leave our home and follow the Lord. /We must stand firmly in the faith of the resurrection. /1 Corinthians 15:58. /Paul encouraged the Church in Corinth to be strong and unwavering.

/The third place is Senir. /Senir means "armor." /The believer must wear the spiritual armor of God and follow the Lord. /Ephesians 6:13-17. /We must wear the full armor of God and be victorious when we fight the good fight.

/The Shulammite woman has gone with the Lord to the top of Mount Hermon. /It is the highest mountain in the Judean land. /It is a holy mountain where we encounter the Lord. /There are multiple obstacles when climbing this mountain.

/Verse 8 says that they look down from dens of lions and the mountains of leopards. /As we try to follow the Lord, we will encounter lions' dens and leopards' mountains. We may face scary situations and obstacles.

/The lions represent scary things. /Frightening trials may approach us. /Regardless, the believer must leave Lebanon and pass through the dens of lions. /With the Lord's power, we can defeat the lions and move forward.

/Third, captivate the heart of the Lord. /Verse 9. /Verse 9 says, "You have captivated my heart, my sister, my bride." /The Shulammite woman captivated the heart of Jesus. /The verse

continues, "You have captivated my heart with one glance of your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace."

/The Shulammite woman stared at Jesus with her eyes. /She looked at him with eyes of longing. /It is at this moment that Jesus's heart was captivated. /When we look at Jesus, his heart draws near to us.

/The verse says, "You have captivated my heart... with one jewel of your necklace." /This is talking about obedience. /When believers obey the Lord, his heart is captivated. /There are two ways we captivate the heart of the Lord.

/The first is by looking to the Lord with longing eyes. /Another way is by being obedient.

/Fourth, living in love and truth. /Verses 10-11. /Verse 10 says, "How beautiful is your love, my sister, my bride!" /The king is speaking here. /He says that her love is beautiful, that her love is sweeter than wine.

/He also says, "How much better is... the fragrance of your oils than any spice!" /The Shulammite woman's heart, which is completely leaning towards the Lord, is a beautiful fragrance. /When we believers love the Lord, when we are faithful in everything we do, we give off a wonderful fragrance. Matthew 26:6.

/Verse 11 says, "Your lips drip nectar, my bride." /Nectar symbolizes the word of God. /It symbolizes us believers longing for the word of God. /Psalm 19:10.

/The verse also says, "Honey and milk are under your tongue." /This is talking about the word of God that comes up from the spirit. /Finally, the verse reads, "The fragrance of your garments is like the fragrance of Lebanon." /Garments here symbolize the believer's righteous deeds. /Revelation 19:8.

/The believer's righteous deeds are as beautiful as the fragrance of the cedars of Lebanon. /Cedars come from Lebanon, and they give off a great fragrance. /For this reason, bugs do not live in cedars.

/Fifth, living like a locked garden. /Verses 12-16. Verse 12 says, "A garden locked is my sister, my bride, a spring locked, a fountain sealed." /The believer must live like a locked garden. /A locked garden is locked to keep people from entering.

/We believers must live like a locked garden. /If we keep our gates open to the world, we cannot share a deep relationship with Jesus. Proverbs 4:23. /Therefore we must enter the secret world. /Matthew 6:6. /The Lord awaits at the secret place.

/We must enter the Lord's secret world. /Also, the well is sealed. /This refers to us drinking the water of eternal life that the Lord gives us, and it refers to a world in which we live together with Jesus. John 4:14.

/The verse also talks about "a fountain sealed." /This refers to a lifestyle that is disconnected with the world. /In order for us to live in the garden with the Lord, we must cut our ties with the world. /Then we will be able to enter the world in which we can walk with the Lord.

/Verse 13 says, "Your shoots are an orchard of pomegranates with all choicest fruits, henna with nard." /The garden is filled with various fruit trees and fragrant flowers and incense.

/We need to bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit. /The one who plants what is holy will reap and gain what is holy. /Galatians 5:22,23. /Ephesians 5:9.

/Verse 15 says, "You are a garden fountain." /The garden fountain overflows. /The well overflows with water as well. /The verse also talks about "flowing streams from Lebanon." /Mount Hermon is located in Lebanon.

/The snow melts from Lebanon's mountains, and the water flows down. /The water is cold and clean. /Therefore, the believer who lives like a garden must not only bear beautiful fruit, but he must also overflow with water.

/The Shulammite woman is speaking in verse 16. /As she is living like a garden, she says, / "Awake, O north wind. /And come, O south wind! /Blow upon my garden, let its spices flow."

/The north wind is cold wind. /The south wind is warm wind. /The wind of the north is a wind of hardship. /The wind of the south is a wind of abundance and prosperity. /The Shulammite woman just wants any wind to blow. /She says, "Blow upon my garden, let its spices flow."

/Because the garden has various fruit trees and flowers, any type of wind will cause the fragrance to spread.

/The verse continues to say, "Let my beloved come to his garden, and eat its choicest fruits." /Jesus wants to enter the garden of the Shulammite woman and eat its choicest fruits.

/We too must bear the fruits of faith that are acceptable to Jesus. /Our character must become like Jesus's character, and we must give off a beautiful fragrance. /If we do this, Jesus will be delighted.

I will continue with Song of Solomon chapter 5. /The title of the chapter is "Search for the Lord."

/First, the Lord finds pleasure in the believer. /Verse 1. /Second, the Lord knocks on the door. /Verses 2-5. /Third, the state of the believer who searches for the Lord. /Verses 6-8. /Fourth, only those who receive know. /Verse 9. /Fifth, the Lord's beauty. /Verses 10-16.

/First, the Lord finds pleasure in the believer. Verse 1. /The king is talking here.

/The king says, "My sister, my bride." /When he says "my sister," he is talking about someone very close to him. /Brothers and sisters share a close relationship.

/The older brother loves his younger sister. /This represents a very close relationship. /Second, he says "my bride." /How intimate is the relationship between a husband and wife?

/The verse says, "I came to my garden." /Jesus has entered his garden. /The verse also says, "I gathered my myrrh with my spice." /Jesus gathered his myrrh and his spices. /The verse continues, "I ate my honeycomb with my honey."

/Honey symbolizes the word of God. Psalm 19:10. /The verse reads, "I drank my wine with my milk." /Wine symbolizes the grace of redemption. /Milk symbolizes the word of God.

/The verse says, "Eat, friends." /The friends here refer to the daughters of Jerusalem. /The grace and truth that is within the Shulammite woman begins to overflow. /Jesus first gathers her fragrance and beauty, and then the other believers gather the fragrance. /This concludes the 17th lecture on Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon. / Thank you.