

Hello. /We will begin the 20<sup>th</sup> lecture on Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon. /Our message today starts with chapter 8. /The title of chapter 8 is “Victory.”

/First, people of the flesh do not understand the godly lifestyle. /Verses 1-4. /Second, the believer who comes up from the wilderness. /Verse 5. /Third, the power of love. /Verses 6-7.

/Fourth, protect the younger sister. /Verses 8-9. /Fifth, the rewards for those who work in the vineyard. /Verses 10-12. /Sixth, waiting in the garden for the Lord’s return. /Verses 13-14.

/Verse 1 says, / “Oh that you were like a brother to me who nursed at my mother’s breasts!” /If I found you outside, I would kiss you, and none would despise me.” /The Shulammite woman is talking in verses 1-4.

/When the woman says “you” in the verse, she is referring to Jesus. / “I” refers to the Shulammite woman. /She says, “Oh that you were like a brother to me.” /If the Shulammite woman had found Jesus outside and kissed him, no one would despise her.

/The people of the flesh do not understand the Shulammite woman’s burning faith. /They cannot understand why the Shulammite woman loves Jesus so dearly. /For this reason, the Shulammite woman is figuratively speaking.

/The reason she does this is people of the world naturally despise Jesus. /If we kiss Jesus in our lives, people of the world do not understand us, and they think it weird that we do this. /That is why the Shulammite woman finds the situation unfortunate, saying that it would be better if Jesus were her brother.

/John 15:19 says, / “If you were of the world, /the world would love you as its own; /but because you are not of the world, /but I chose you out of the world, /therefore the world hates you.”

/The Shulammite woman finds it unfortunate that the people of the world despise Jesus. /The people of the world hate Jesus. /When the woman shared a spiritual relationship with Jesus, the people of the world looked down on her. /The people of the flesh do not understand the people of the Spirit. 1 Corinthians 2:14.

/Verse 2 says, “I would lead you and bring into the house of my mother.” /Here, the Shulammite woman is saying “I.” / “You” refers to Jesus. / “The house of my mother” refers to the house where believers are born again. /This place is the world of truth and inspiration. 1 Corinthians 4:15.

/The Shulammite woman wants to enter God's spiritual realm and the realm of the word to learn from Jesus. /We believers must also enter the world of Jesus and learn from him.

/The second half of verse 2 says, "I would give you spiced wine to drink, the juice of my pomegranate." /When we learn from Jesus, /we give off a fragrance. /When we receive Jesus's grace, we give off a lovely fragrance.

/Jesus drinks the juice of the pomegranate when we treat the word of God like it is life and when we sacrifice ourselves in serving Jesus. /When we do these things, Jesus finds the juice to be sweet. /That is why the Shulammite woman says, "I would give you spiced wine to drink, the juice of my pomegranate."

/We give off a fragrance when we meet Jesus and learn from him, when we live in faith in Jesus. These are the things that we offer to Jesus. /We give off a pleasant aroma when we learn from Jesus.

/If we live in faith, we make pomegranate juice. /Then, we will be able to offer Jesus fragrant pomegranate juice. /However, the people of the flesh do not understand godly people, but they persecute them. /Thus when we enter the spiritual world, Jesus comforts us.

/Verse 3 says, "His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me!" /Jesus gives us his left hand as a pillow when we learn from Jesus and treat him with fragrant juice. /The left hand is the hand that offers peace.

/The verse also says that his right hand embraces us. /The right hand is the hand that gives power. /When we learn from the Lord, he comforts us and embraces us. /Wherever we go, Jesus is always holding on to us.

/He holds us with his powerful hand. /I hope you offer to the Lord beautiful pomegranate juice.

/Verse 4 says, "I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem." /The Shulammite woman is making a request. /She goes on to say, "That you stir up or awaken love until it pleases." /The Shulammite woman is asking that they do not tempt her when she is in the spiritual world.

/In the verse, "love" refers to Jesus. /The Shulammite woman does not want the people of the flesh to wake her up. /She is telling to not to tempt her when she is in the spiritual world.

/Believers of the flesh mock us holy believers who share a wonderful relationship with Jesus. /That is why the Shulammite woman requests that they do not “stir up or awaken love.”

/We must earnestly seek the Lord in the way the Shulammite woman does, always making an effort to meet the Lord.

/The second point: the believer who comes up from the wilderness.

/Verse 5.

/Verse 5 says, “Who is that coming up from the wilderness, leaning on her beloved?” /The people of Shunem are speaking in the first half of verse 5.

/Shunem is the Shulammite woman’s home town. /She has gone back to her home. /The Shunem people are saying, “Who is that coming up from the wilderness?” /The Shunem people see that the Shulammite woman is leaning on King Solomon as she comes up from the wilderness.

/The spiritual believer relies on Jesus as he passes through the wilderness. /In our walk of faith, we will pass through the wilderness. /In Song of Solomon 4:7, /the Shulammite woman followed Jesus and left her home of Shunem. /She left her home, Lebanon.

/Lebanon is the home of the Shulammite bride. /It is the region of Shunem.

/The believers of the flesh acknowledged the fact that the Shulammite woman has good faith. /There are people who drink alcohol and engage in debauchery. /But this person came to believe in Jesus and was saved. /This person turned away from debauchery and became a new person.

/The people of the village talk about this person. /They say, “The person of debauchery has become a new person!”

/In this way, the people of the Shulammite woman’s home town see the woman and are impressed by her faith. /Therefore we too must lean on the Lord and pass through the wilderness.

/Song of Solomon 3:6,7 say that /Solomon’s carriage passes through the wilderness. /The Lord’s church passes through the wilderness. /We believers pass through the wilderness. /The Shulammite woman relied on the Lord as she passed through the wilderness. /The people see her faith and are filled with admiration.

/The king speaks in the second half of verse 5. /He says, "Under the apple tree I awakened you. There your mother was in labor with you; there she who bore you was in labor." /In this way, the people of the Shulammite woman's home town complimented her.

/ "Your mother" in the verse refers to God's church and his pastors. /1 Corinthians 4:15 /Galatians 4:19. /Pastors must do their best to nurture one believer. /As I serve as a pastor, I see that some believers do not regularly come to church. /When this happens, I visit them and comfort them and encourage them.

/When I do this, the believer regains his strength and regularly attends church. /Then, later on, this believer becomes a deacon and an elder; he becomes a person who serves. /Therefore without the work of the church's pastors, God's kingdom cannot be built.

/Hebrews 13:17 says, "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you."

/1 Timothy 5:17. /The Lord compliments the Shulammite woman and her faith for relying on Jesus as she passes through the wilderness. /Because of the hard work of her mother, the Shulammite woman was able to grow in her faith. /In other words, she was able to grow due to the sacrifice of pastors. /Therefore, we must not forget the work of our pastors.

/The verse says, "Under the apple tree I awakened you." /Every believer is awakened in Jesus. /The Lord wakes those who have fallen into the world and those whose spirits are asleep.

/The Apostle Paul suffered the pains of childbirth for the church of Galatia. /What this means is that he suffered so much that it was comparable to the pains of childbirth. /He suffered great pains for the church of Galatia.

/The Shulammite woman was able to grow because of the sacrifice of pastors. /2 Timothy 3:14 says, "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it." /We must always remember our spiritual leaders who have nurtured our faith.

/The fourth point: the power of love. /Verses 6-7. /The Shulammite woman is speaking in verses 6-7. /Verse 6 says, "Set me as a seal upon

your heart, as a seal upon your arm." / "Your" in the verse refers to Jesus. /The Shulammite woman is saying "me" in the verse.

/The Shulammite woman asks Jesus to set her as a seal upon his heart.  
/She pleads to Jesus that he does not forget her but remembers her.  
/She is asking the Lord to remember her.

/Therefore we must desire to be remembered in the presence of the Lord. /But we do not do this. We want the people of the world to acknowledge us. /When they don't, our feelings get hurt.

/The verse also says, "As a seal upon your arm." /The Jewish people put their seals on a rope and carry it around their arms. /The Shulammite woman wants Jesus to carry her around his arms. /This displays the love of the Shulammite woman. /The true believer desires to never leave Jesus's arms.

/That is why Isaiah 49:14-16 say, "But Zion said, /"The LORD has forsaken me; /my Lord has forgotten me." / "Can a woman forget her nursing child, /that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? /Even these may forget, /yet I will not forget you. /Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; /your walls are continually before me."

/Our Lord does not forget us. /Our parents may forget us, but the Lord never forgets us. /This is the power of the love of Jesus Christ. /The Shulammite woman desires to be remembered like a seal in the presence of the Lord.

/Verse 6 says, "For love is strong as death." /Jesus's love is strong as death. /The Holy Jesus Christ died in our place. /His love is great, and it is beautiful.

/The Shulammite woman, who understands the Lord's great love, pleads to the Lord that he remember her. /Romans 8:35-37 say, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? /Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, /or famine, or nakedness, /or danger, or sword? /As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; /we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."

/Even death cannot separate us from the love of Christ. /No persecution can separate us from the love of Christ.

/In the middle section of verse 6, the Bible says, "Jealousy as fierce as the grave." /Jesus loves us so much that he is jealous of us. /It also says, "Its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the Lord."

/The Lord loves us in this way. /God's jealousy is as fierce as the grave, and its flashes of fire are the very flame of the Lord. /Therefore, God becomes jealous when believers turn away from his love and become one with the world and serve idols.

/When we abandon the love of the Lord, when we leave the Lord, the LORD's fire will be upon us. /Therefore we must never abandon the Lord's love.

/Verse 7 says, "Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it." /Water cannot put out the love of Jesus. /Water cannot stop God's love. /Floodwaters cannot drown this love.

/Isaiah 43:2-3 say, / "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; /and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; /when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, /and the flame shall not consume you. /For I am the LORD your God, /the Holy One of Israel, /your Savior. /I give Egypt as your ransom, /Cush and Seba in exchange for you."

/The Lord protects us as we pass through the waters. /He protects us as we walk through fire. /The Lord protected Shadrach Meshach, and Abednego when they went into the fire. /Neither fire nor water can separate us from the love of God.

/The second half of verse 7 says, "If a man offered for love all the wealth of his house, he would be utterly despised." /We cannot trade the Lord's love for anything in the world. /This love has given us life that is more valuable than anything on this earth.

/Therefore, if we attempt to trade this love for anything else, we will be despised. /We cannot exchange our love with the Lord for anything else.

/The fourth point: protect the younger sister. /Verses 8-9. /The brothers of the Shulammite woman are speaking in these verses.

/Verse 8 says, "We have a little sister, and she has no breasts." /The Shulammite woman remembers the words that her brothers said when she was young. / "Little sister" refers to the believer who is young in spirit. /It is saying that her faith is at a weak point.

/The verse says, "On the day when she is spoken for." /The Shulammite woman received a proposal. /However, she had not fully matured as a woman. /Believers who are young in spirit cannot share the spiritual word with others.

/Her brothers say, "What shall we do for our sister?" /They are looking for ways to help the believer who is young in spirit.

/Today, we must think of ways to help those who are young in their faith.

/Verse 9 says, "If she is a wall, we will build on her a battlement of silver." /The Shulammite woman had not completely matured physically. /That is why her brothers are saying they will build on her a battlement of silver.

/Verse 9 also says, "But if she is a door, we will enclose her with boards of cedar." /The young believer cannot fend off invaders who come from the outside. /Thus her brothers build on her a battlement so that she may see and discern her enemies as she grows in her faith.

/Believers who are young in faith have their doors wide open. /For this reason, anything can enter the young believer. /To make sure that thieves do not enter, we must enclose the young believer with firm boards.

/Those who are young in spirit do not have discernment, for they accept everyone. /It is easy for them to fall into cults or wrong ideologies. /Lions follow the zebra's children, and they consume them.

/In this way, the young believer is susceptible to the devil's attacks. /Because this is true, we must protect the young believers. /We must protect them from the devil's attacks. /We must protect them from the attacks of cults.

/2 John 1:10-11 say, "If anyone comes to you /and does not bring this teaching, /do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works."

/We must not engage in conversation with cults nor must we argue with them. /We do not avoid cults because we are afraid of them, but we avoid them because we want to obey the Bible's commands. /We must not enter the house of cults nor must we extend a greeting. /We must protect young believers so that they do not give in to the enemy.

/The fifth point: the rewards for those who work in the vineyard. /Verses 10-12. /God surely rewards us when we work in the vineyard. /Verse 10 says, "I was a wall, and my breasts were like towers."

/The Shulammite woman is speaking in verses 10-12. /She has matured and become like a sturdy wall. /In Jesus's eyes, the Shulammite woman appeared beautiful like one who has peace.

/Jesus is a bronze wall for those who protect their faith. /Jeremiah 1:18,19. /Proverbs 30:5 says, "Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him."

/Psalm 118:6 says, "The LORD is on my side; /I will not fear. /What can man do to me?" /Psalm 46:1,2.

/The second half of verse 10 reads, "Then I was in his eyes as one who finds peace." /Because the Shulammite woman was a sturdy wall that kept out the enemy, she was at peace. /The enemy could not enter. /Darkness and sin could not enter her. /That is why peace overflowed from her.

/Verse 11 says, "Solomon had a vineyard at Baal-hamon." /Baal-hamon is a place in the Shunem region. /At this place was Solomon's vineyard. /The "vineyard" symbolizes the church. /Baal-hamon symbolizes the world.

/The keepers in the verse are pastors and regular believers. /It means that the Lord has left his church to pastors and believers. /When the verse says "a thousand," it refers to a large number. /We must be faithful in serving the church and offer many things to the Lord. /We must completely give our bodies and hearts to be used for the Lord.

/Verse 12 says, "My vineyard, my very own, is before me; you, O Solomon, may have the thousand, and the keepers of the fruit two hundred."

/We are rewarded when we do well in doing the Lord's work. /If we are faithful in serving the church, Jesus makes us glorious, giving us strength, power, and spiritual gifts.

/The sixth point: waiting in the garden for the Lord's return. /Verses 13-14.

/Our ultimate purpose is Jesus Christ's second coming. /Verse 13 says, "O you who dwell in the gardens, with companions listening for your voice; let me hear it." /The king is speaking in verse 13.



/This means that the king wants other people to hear the Shulammite woman's spiritual voice and her words of truth.

/Verse 14 says, "Make haste, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices."

/The Shulammite woman is speaking in verse 14. /These are the words of a true believer waiting on the Lord's return. /Gazelles and stags are quick creatures. /The Shulammite woman is earnestly requesting that the Lord quickly return like the gazelle or the stag.

/Revelation 22:20 reads, "He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"

/The true believer prepares his faith as he hopes and waits for the Lord's return. /We must prepare oil like five wise virgins and daily wait for the Lord's coming.

/I hope that you receive a crown on the day of Jesus's second coming. / I bless all of you in the name of Jesus Christ.

/This concludes the 20<sup>th</sup> lecture on Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon. / Thank you for listening.