



6/4/26

Yes, you probably went through this passage a few days ago. Somehow I missed it. But I'm glad that it's never too late to study God's word and I can still learn something from Him. It's just another reminder that He's perfect and I'm not. 🙏

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Song of Songs 2:1-11

I want to look at this passage in two ways. First, I want to see it through the lens of my marriage with Tim. But second and more importantly, I want to see it through the lens of Jesus as my bridegroom and me as His bride. I don't want to forget that I'm preparing for an eternal marriage as a member of the body of Christ, His bride... Tim is my rehearsal husband.

Vs. 1 ~ "She" says, "I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys." I had to look this up because I know so little about flowers. A rose of Sharon and a lily of the valley are both pretty, but common flowers. So she was not lifting herself up in pride, but seeing herself with humility.

In my marriage, that means I need to be humble toward Tim, not thinking he owes me anything or that I'm entitled to push him around.

As the bride of Christ, I vastly pale in comparison to HIS beauty. I am blessed to be called His own, and I pray that I will never take this betrothal for granted. He makes me beautiful, but I pray that my beauty will be a gentle and quiet spirit that points to Him.

Vs. 2 ~ "He" speaks, "As a lily among brambles, so is my love among the young women."

In my marriage with Tim, I pray that I will not concern myself with how other people see my appearance. I pray that the only human eyes I will look to please are my husband's. I'm thankful that, even with my wrinkles and my gray hair, he still finds me beautiful.

In my relationship with the Lord, this verse overwhelms me. I KNOW that I am plain before Him... and yet He calls me beautiful as a lily among the brambles... thorns. He says, "You may be a lily, but you're a lily among thorns. You're still beautiful." He says this not just about me, but about His BRIDE... the church. In God's eyes, WE are beautiful to Him!!! I pray that I will not MISS that!

Psalm 37:23 says something that blows me away about Him. I think the NLT captures its meaning so clearly... "The LORD directs the steps of the godly (those devoted to Him, His bride). He delights in every detail of their lives." O Lord, please help me to remember that You are not an angry, disapproving groom. You DELIGHT in Your bride... even though we're just a plain flower. You call us beautiful.

Vs. 3 ~ "As an apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved among the young men. With great delight I sat in his shadow, and his fruit was sweet to my taste."

This is a verse I have prayed for in my marriage to Tim. My prayer is that I will ALWAYS see him as an apple tree among the regular green trees of the forest. In other words, I will regard him with high respect as a gift from the Lord. I pray that I will delight in him and listen to what he has to say.

Before Tim became a pastor, I had a music ministry, doing concerts and leading worship for retreats. He ran my sound. At church, he was known as Jonna's husband. When we were called to come to Peoria to serve this church, I knew I would no longer have that ministry to the degree I had it before. I would love to say that I didn't struggle with that. God used that move to expose the selfishness of my heart and to release that desire of making a name for myself rather than lifting His name high. I praise God for what He's accomplished through Tim. I gladly sit in his shadow and learn from him as he points me to the Lord and the fruit of walking with Jesus.

As the bride of Christ, I pray with all my heart that I will never see any human, not even my "rehearsal husband" as more important, more exalted than Him! The more I delight in Him, the more delight I find in Him. His fruit is so sweet to my taste... the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control. The most beautiful thing is, He doesn't just teach me about this fruit. He embodies it. This is who He is to me!

Vs. 4 ~ "He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love."

In my marriage, my husband married me. We had a wedding and reception where he declared his love for me publicly. Today, I pray that I will honor our marriage in such a way that I make it easy for him to declare his love for me... I pray I will live Proverbs 31:12, that I will "do him good and not harm all the days of my life." There have been too many days that I have done him harm and not good. I praise God that Tim has never given up on our marriage, even with all the conflict we had. I pray, Lord, let today and every day for the rest of my life be a day I do him good as I worship YOU. Doing good to my husband comes from a heart of worship for

YOU.

As the bride of Christ, I LOVE this. You are preparing for me a day when I will enjoy the marriage supper of the Lamb. Your banner over me IS love. Jesus, You proved that by paying a dowry no other could have paid. It cost You the shedding of Your blood. Only You were worthy to do that.

I think of the passage in Revelation 5:1-5 when John wept because it appeared that no one was worthy to open the scroll UNTIL one of the elders said, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that He can open the scroll and its seven seals." In the same way, no one's blood was worthy to cover my sin UNTIL Jesus, the Lamb of God, my groom, sacrificed Himself for me and rose again from the dead. And now He is preparing a place for me. Praise His name!!!

Vs. 5-7 ~ "She" continues, "Sustain me with raisins; refresh me with apples, for I am sick with love. His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me! I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or the does of the field, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases."

In my marriage to Tim, let the years only deepen my love for him. I have a unique, intimate relationship with him that no one else gets to experience. His left hand under my head, his right hand holding me. The time came for love to be awakened in us. Let it never be quenched. O Lord, marriage does not have to become mundane!!! Please protect our marriage and help us to continue to be INTENTIONAL about pursuing a tender, affectionate relationship with each other.

As the bride of Christ, this passage reminds me of Psalm 139:5 speaking to the Lord who has searched me and known me... "You hem me in behind and before and lay Your hand on me." This is so beautiful!!! The Lord holds me tenderly, affectionately. He lays His hand on me with gentle love. What is more beautiful than a tender touch from Him who my soul loves? And He delights to love me!!! O Lord, You have awakened my love for You by Your sacrificial, tender, unconditional, affectionate love for me. Let my love for You never be mundane. Let me never say, "My relationship with God is good enough." There is always more to discover about You, always more to love. Let me be INTENTIONAL about pursuing You. I KNOW that You are INTENTIONALLY pursuing me. Praise Your name!

Vs. 8-11 ~ "The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes, leaping over the mountains, bounding over the hills. 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. My beloved speaks and says to me: 'Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away, for behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone.' I believe this is the call of the groom to come and get his bride.

In my marriage, let me listen for the voice of my husband and never place other voices or distractions as higher priority than him. He probably doesn't leap over walls like he used to as

we age. But let me see him still as my strong warrior and friend. I'm so thankful that he called me his "love" 32 years ago and declared his commitment to love me until death do us part. I pray that I will never take another day with him for granted.

As the bride of Christ, this is my HOPE! Someday, Jesus will come for me, His bride. He will come for His church, His bride. He will say, "Arise, my love, my beautiful one." He makes me beautiful, without blemish or spot or wrinkle... He makes me holy. He will say, "Come away with Me. The winter is past, the rain is over and gone." The brokenness of this world is done!!! And He will take me home to live with Him forever!!! As John said at the end of Revelation, in Revelation 22:20, "Amen! Come Lord Jesus!" Let that be the hope I find all my delight and inexpressible joy in... I am a bride of the King of kings!!! This is my time of betrothal. O Lord, while You prepare a place for me, I pray that I will not stop preparing my heart for You. How do I do that? Delight in You. Worship You. Serve You. Keep my eyes on You. Amen.

I love my husband. I'm so thankful for the life we have. I pray that we "will live in such harmony in accord with our groom, Jesus, that together with one voice, Tim and I will glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 15:5-6). All for Your glory, O Lord!