

South of Mt. Zion

A Lesson Presented to

The Old Union Baptist Ministers' School

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By

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Scripture Lesson: Song of Solomon 4:12-16

4:12 *A garden inclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed.*

4:13 *Thy plants are an orchard of pomegranates, with pleasant fruits; camphire, with spikenard,*

4:14 *Spikenard and saffron; calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense; myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices:*

4:15 *A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon.*

4:16 *Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits.*

I. The Garden of the Human Heart.

1. The heart is a little garden, but in the hands of the divine Husbandman has great potential. A heart that has been changed can produce fruits acceptable and pleasing to God.
2. Seeds from the nurseries of heaven can produce in a well-prepared heart. The seeds of faith, love, hope, patience, meekness, courage, uprightness, etc. must be put in soil prepared by the Holy Spirit.
3. To be acceptable to the King, the garden must bud, and blossom, and yield her fruit.
4. The garden must be well drained. Excess carnal confidence must be drained away or the heart is a plant-killing bog. When malaria infested swamps were drained, they became what is today some of the most productive land in what is now the country of Israel.
5. Constant hoeing, raking, and digging is required. The human heart must be constantly attended. Psalm 139:23, 24
139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:
139:24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.
6. The child of God can enjoy a little heaven within their own heart. God wants to commune with His children.
7. Jesus bought this garden with his own precious blood; He claims it as His own.
8. The keys must not be given to anyone else. The heart and its holy fruit He claims as His.
*Pro 23:26 My son, give me **thine heart**, and let **thine** eyes observe my ways.*

II. The Lord's Church as His Garden.

Our garden and yet the King's Garden.

1. Separation is implied. It is well fenced with sovereign power. God Himself is "a wall of fire" about it. It is strongly enclosed, well secured from those without that would destroy it. Members must be separate from the world; they should not be conformed to the world, but transformed by the renewing of their minds. Men can't be in the world and in His garden.

2. It is a place of order. A master gardener arranges according to tints and hues. Every member has their place. A church is not a load of bricks, but a house; a palace built for God; a temple in which He manifests Himself. It is well planted with heavenly cultivars.
3. It is well pruned. Christ is the vine, the principal plant from which all others receive their life and nourishment. John 15:1, 2
 15:1 *I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.*
 15:2 *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*
4. It is well weeded. The world is full of tares and thistles, but they do not belong in the King's Garden.
5. It is a place of beauty. The world holds no real beauty, but the King's Garden displays holiness, love, zeal, prayerfulness, etc. The King deserves better than this world can offer. Everything earthy is displeasing.
5. It is a place of growth (not a rock garden). Christians are not to remain babes and children; but, are to grow in grace and knowledge; to produce fruit. Every requirement for rapid growth is available.
6. It is place of retirement. It should be place where Jesus can manifest Himself to us, as He does not do in the world.
7. It is a noble place. It is the King's Garden. A few members gathered together in His Name are greater than the greatest councils of men.
8. It is a place of labor. Some plant, some water, some harvest, there is a place for everyone. But, it is God alone that gives the increase.

III. **Location, Location, Location.**

Neh 3:15 But the gate of the fountain repaired Shallun the son of Colhozeh, the ruler of part of Mizpah; he built it, and covered it, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof, and the wall of the pool of Siloah by the king's garden, and unto the stairs that go down from the city of David.

Of all the places in Israel, why was the King's Garden put where it was?

1. It was close to the dump. It was to the east of the Dung Gate, where the refuge of Jerusalem was taken. God chose to put his church in the sinful world.
2. It was close, but down from, the king's house. He is omnipresent, but occasionally manifests Himself, and enjoys His fruits (the ones He sent from heaven).
3. It was on the south slope, to provide maximum sunlight. The Lord's church is placed in the favor of God. Agriculture land in mountainous or hilly country is often valued by its orientation to the sun.
4. It was below Mt. Zion. There sacrifices were made to God.

IV. The Blood Shed on Mt. Zion.

Lev 4:15 And the elders of the congregation shall lay their hands upon the head of the bullock before the LORD: and the bullock shall be killed before the LORD.

Lev 4:16 And the priest that is anointed shall bring of the bullock's blood to the tabernacle of the congregation:

Lev 4:17 And the priest shall dip his finger in some of the blood, and sprinkle it seven times before the LORD, even before the veil.

Lev 4:18 And he shall put some of the blood upon the horns of the altar which is before the LORD, that is in the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall pour out all the blood at the bottom of the altar of the burnt offering, which is at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

1. The blood of sprinkling was for---

A. Preservation—Israel was preserved by the Pascal Lamb;

B. Confirmation—of the covenant between God and man;

C. Purification—the defiled had to be purified by blood;

D. Sanctification—E.g., Aaron and his sons;

Lev 8:23 And he slew it; and Moses took of the blood of it, and put it upon the tip of Aaron's right ear, and upon the thumb of his right hand, and upon the great toe of his right foot.

E. Acceptance and Access—All approaches to God by sinful man must be by blood.

Heb 9:7 But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:

2. Every part of acceptable worship is through the blood:

Leviticus 4:15-18.

3. Notice that the priest was directed to "pour out all the blood at the bottom of the altar of the burnt offering."

Great amounts of blood was shed when the Kingdom of God prospered and the people followed God. II Chronicles records that 22,000 cattle and 120,000 sheep and goats were sacrificed during the dedication of the Temple. Great amounts of water would also be required to maintain, especially the brazen altar, where "all the blood" was poured.

4. Where did the blood and water go? Left to natural occurrence, it would go down hill. It may have been channeled to a garden "South of Mt. Zion."

It must be by the blood of Christ that men are saved, but, it also serves to make men fruitful in the work of God.

Heb 9:13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

Heb 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

V. The Prayer of a Fruitful Church.

4:16 Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits.

1. What are "the spices thereof?"

- A. Faith—nothing out of heaven is sweeter; which trusts and clings, believes and hopes. To the Lord, it is fragrant—he never delighted in the blood of bulls and goats, but does delight in faith.
- B. Love—to God, to the brotherhood, and to lost men (because he first loved us). It is pleasing to God to see love growing where there was hate.
- C. Other graces—hope, meekness, courage, uprightness, patience, etc. All have their own sweet fragrance. All are pleasing to God.
- D. These spices are delightful to God and healthful to man. Faith is a purifier—it kills that which is evil. God's spices are preserving to the world. A man of faith and love in a church sweetens all his brethren.
- E. Sometimes these sweet odors lie quiet and still.

2. What is needed is that those sweet odors would be diffused.

- A. Saints should leave a sweet odor in the world.
- B. The best quickener is the Holy Spirit.
- C. He may diffuse the odors with a pleasant south wind or the trials of a harsh north wind.
- D. When graces are not diffused abroad, it is time to pray.

VI. The Answer to Prayer—The King Feasting in His Garden.

Son 5:1 *I am come into **my** garden, **my** sister, **my** spouse: I have gathered **my** myrrh with **my** spice; I have eaten **my** honeycomb with **my** honey; I have drunk **my** wine with **my** milk: eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved.*

- 1. The voice of the master declares He has **come**. What a blessing—not an angel, but the Lord Himself has come "down." When He does not come the garden languishes. Each word He speaks is full of meaning.
- 2. He is delighted with the **offerings** of his people. He claims the garden and its fruits as His own. "What is man that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him."
- 3. Christ is delighted with His people's **love**.
- 4. His **joy** is fulfilled when his people's **joy** is full.
- 5. He extends and invitation: "Eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved."