

## *The Song of the Father (Ps 45) part 5*

*10 Listen, O daughter, consider and incline your ear; forget your own people also, and your fathers house;  
11 So the King will greatly desire your beauty; Because He is Your Lord, worship Him. (Ps 45:10-11)*

### I. LISTEN, CONSIDER AND INCLINE

*10 Listen, O daughter, consider and incline your ear... (Ps 45:10)*

- A. We are told three ways to posture our heart in attentiveness. Listen, consider and incline your ear.
- B. The One speaking is the kindest, wisest, most encouraging, and most accurately seeing man. In Psalm 45, we have had nine verses with the Father speaking of His love and adoration of the Son. Now we are told to listen to Him.

*8 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of trial in the wilderness.” Hebrews 3:8*

### II. ARENAS IN LIFE THAT HINDER OUR ABILITY TO LISTEN AND HEAR

- A. **Shame/Condemnation:** We don’t want to listen to the Lord because we think He will talk to us like we talk to ourselves. We are hindered in hearing the voice of Jesus because we give ear to other voices. Shame is listening to the voice of the accuser. We only have so much bandwidth or capacity to listen. The question is what are we listening to? We are aware of our weaknesses, shortcomings, and failures. Often we don’t think we are beautiful and our insecurities open doors to listen to the accuser. Unfortunately we end up projecting our own insecurities and the voice of the accuser onto the Lord.
- B. **Business:** It takes a slowing down to listen. In our business we can go days or weeks without slowing down enough to ask Him what He is thinking. We must be intentional to listen and business can rob moments of hearing His voice and hearing His words. We are much more like Martha than we care to admit. We are far too easily distracted with many things.
- C. **Fear:** Anxiety of what He will say and require of us can keep our hearts from leaning into what He wants to say. We think, “I know what He is going to say next”... “*forget your own house*” and I fear I will fail at responding to His invitation. We often step into accusing God of being a “harsh task master.” If we see Him as harsh, why would we want to hear what He has to say?

*14 Then he who had received the one talent came and said, “Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 And I was afraid...” (Mt 25:14-15)*

### III. PRACTICAL WAYS WE CAN POSTURE OUR HEARTS TO LISTEN

- A. **Know who is talking:** When we remind ourselves who is talking, we want to listen. Shame begins to lose its hold. He is the Wonderful Counselor. Overseer of our soul. He knows our frame our strengths and weaknesses. Grace is poured upon His lips. His burden is easy, His yoke is light. This is the one who began a good work in us, and He is able to complete it.
- B. **Repent for listening to the accuser:** When we find ourselves actively “not listening” we can repent and realign. Simple, but powerful phrases can do a lot. We must not listen to the accuser and replace the lie with the truth. Simple prayers, I like to pray are, “I want to have ears to hear You” “I’m sorry for accusing you of being too harsh” “I am here to listen” and “I love when you speak to me.”
- C. **Give Him space to speak:** We must be intention to make space for Him to speak. We can find ourselves running at a pace that is much too fast and busy for a listening heart. Busy in body and in mind. We see that Martha was “worried and bothered by many things” and Mary chose the “thing that was needed” Even in the midst of serving others and doing good things, we must make space for the one thing that is needed.

*40 ... Martha was distracted with much serving... (Luke 10:40)*

- D. Three practical things I do to slow myself down:
1. I love a small prayer book called “*Every Moment Holy*,”
  2. I set a 7 minute timer where I pause and pray through a fellowship prayer
  3. 90 seconds prayers are one of my favorite powerful alignment tools.

### IV. THE FRUIT OF WHEN WE LISTEN

- A. **We hear the words that give life:** As we give ear to the God of the earth, we are filled with vision and hope for the future. We see more accurately as His words change everything.

*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words that give life that last forever. (Jn 6:68)*

- B. **We are equipped to stand against Satan’s accusations:** Listening to Jesus speak is our weapon to fight darts of doubt and despair. Hearing and receiving the words of Jesus is one way we can put on the armor of God. There is profound safety for us in “hearing” his voice.

*Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place... (Eph 6:14)*

## **V. THE CALL TO WHOLE HEARTEDNESS**

*“forget your own people also, and your fathers house...” (Ps 45:10)*

- A. The instruction given is to forget your own people and your father’s house. This is a big invitation requiring a radical response. He is asking for whole heartedness. To “*count as loss*” means to deliberately consider something worthless compared to something far greater. For Paul, knowing Christ surpasses any worldly success, religious merit, or personal accomplishment.

*But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ. (Phil 3:7-8)*

- B. His definition of a wholehearted response is defined by the reach not just the perfect attainment.

## **VI. THE KING WILL GREATLY DESIRE YOUR BEAUTY**

- A. As He is giving the invitation to “forget her own people” the Father quickly declares “*the king greatly desires your beauty*.” This is why she is being asked to forsake all. Jesus will empower us to respond to this call by affirming our beauty over and over as we are growing in maturity. This truth is so amazing and yet it is easy to overlook and miss it.
- B. He uses the phrase “*greatly desires*” Why? To say the king will desire your beauty is not sufficient to express His desire... we need the revelation of the king who “*GREATLY DESIRES*”.
- C. We see this affirmation all throughout the Song of Songs. We see the heart of the King who “*greatly desires*” His bride in each of the 8 chapters of this book. Over and over the King declares His love and her beauty while she is growing in maturity.

## **VII. THE KINGS EXPRESSED DESIRE AND AFFIRMATION OF HER BEAUTY SEEN IN THE SONG OF SONGS**

- A. *The new immature believer:* We see how Jesus encourages and affirms the new and immature believer even in weakness. Here the Bride experiences her first spiritual crisis and her first confession of faith. The bride says in Song of Songs “I am dark (dark of heart with sinful desires) but I am lovely (covered in the work of the cross and have sincere intentions to obey Jesus.) Here we see “the counseling Shepherd” who compassionately teaches the way forward in our weakness. We can hear Jesus saying back to us, “You are dark, but lovely. I see you covered in the work of my son and I see your willing spirit even more than you do.”

*“Dark but lovely” Song of Songs 1:5*

- B. This truth is shown in the story when Jesus comes to Peter after he denied Jesus three times. As Jesus asked Peter three times, “Do you love me” Peter answering “You know that I love you” was revealing to Peter how much Peter loved Jesus even in his weakness.

*Jesus said, “Simon...do you love Me more than theses? He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”...He said to him again a second time, “Simon...do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes Lord; You know that I love You.”...He said to him the third time, “Simon...do you love Me? “Peter ...said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” (John 21:15-17)*

- C. **His way of affirmation while giving invitation:** In chapter 2, the Bride is asked to arise and go up the mountain. This is a scary, unknown event for her. In the middle of the invitation, Jesus says to her, “*Let me see your face (your adoring worship) and let me hear your voice (prayer for help)*. Her voice in prayer is sweet to Jesus, instead of repulsive as the spirit of religion suggest. Our prayers are “sweet” to the Lord even in our wrestling and growing.

*Let me see you face let me hear your voice for your voice is sweet and your face is lovely. (SOS 2:14)*

- D. **His way of affirmation while we return and repent:** In chapter 4, we see how Jesus responds after a season of comprises and repentance. The first words He says to her are “*You are fair (beautiful), my love, behold you are fair (beautiful). You have doves eyes (spiritual eyes of discernment and wisdom. Steady like a dove)*.” Jesus reminds us of the way He sees us. Washed in the blood of His son and with a sincere reach for God. The Lord cherishes us by affirming our willing spirit. He esteems our longing for victory. He doesn’t define us by our external struggle. We typically define our lives by our spiritual struggles. He sees more than just our failures.

*Behold you are fair, my love, behold you are fair. You have doves eyes (SOS 4:1)*

- E. **His overflowing heart as she grows in partnership and faith:** After a season of trial and persecution (Song of Songs chapter 5) the bride grows in love. Even though the presence of the bridegroom has left for a time, she is filled with great affection and love for Him. She goes on to tell others how beautiful Jesus is and how worthy He is of our love. It is after this season, Jesus breaks the silence and gives this declaration. He says, “*Oh my love, you are as beautiful as Tirzah, lovely as Jerusalem, awesome as an army with banners.*” He praises her and lets her know how He feels about her in the midst of the trials. We can be sure, as we go through testing and trials, our love for Jesus is a very precious and costly gift we can give to Him. He is overwhelmed by our weak, but growing love.

*O my love, you are as beautiful as Tirzah, lovely as Jerusalem, awesome as an army with banners. (5) Turn your eyes away from me, for they have over come me.” Song of Songs 6:4-5*