

Some Christians love Christ more than other Christians:

Remember the story of Martha and Mary... There were things that needed to be done, and Martha was going to make sure they got done. But for Mary, what needed to be done, WHAT WAS NEEDFUL, and that was FOR HER, to sit at the feet of Christ.

How often do we pass up our Bibles sitting there on our nightstands or our kitchen tables while we get to what needs to be done? Those who love Christ MORE will still get to most, in not all their responsibilities, but first, they will make sure that Christ gets what's FIRST from their hearts!

There are always things that we don't get to in our day, things that are on OUR LIST... MAKE SURE it's not Christ who gets cast aside.

Those who truly love Christ may neglect other responsibilities and earthly needs, but they will not neglect sitting at the feet of Christ.

Luke 10:38 says: Martha received Christ into HER HOUSE, BUT she neglected the privilege of sitting in Christ's presence.

As we return to the Song of Solomon, one thing is unmistakable, the bride was completely captured/captivated/fixed upon the bridegroom; she was carried along by His love for her. The more she loved Him, the more He expressed His love IN KIND to her. Song 1:15-2:7
Don't you want to be one of those Christians who loves Christ more?

I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys.

Understand that the "rose" here, was not a literal rose, but a beautiful bulbous flower that grew on the plain of Sharon, probably a common wildflower. And, as we know, God beautifully adorns the common wildflowers of the plain!

Sharon means level place or plain; Sharon is about a 50 mile stretch along the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea. It was a beautiful and fertile plain with valleys, probably full of these wildflowers and lilies in Solomon's day.

The "Lily" is a white flower of the field. Both flowers were said to have grown in that region and in the plain of Sharon.

The BRIDE, I believe spoke of herself when she said: I am a beautifully adorned wildflower of the plain, I WAS adorned by the bridegroom, like the church in the world, and as Christ declares of her beauty:

Song 1:15: "Behold, thou art fair my love; behold, thou art fair; thou hast doves' eyes". Isaiah 35:1-2

The prophet wrote about how the wilderness and desert (of this world) should blossom under the gospel, (it will bud, sprout, send out shoots, and flourish) and the desert and wilderness shall rejoice when it shall blossom abundantly!

THIS ROSE, (this "Chabitsaleth") rejoicing and blossoming abundantly under the blessings of the gospel, in the fertile ground of Carmel, and upon the plains of Sharon, IS THE CHURCH of the Lord Jesus Christ flourishing in the world!

Enter the bridegroom: Song 2:2: "As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters"

This is how Christ beholds/see His church in the world, (as a beautiful lily who is surrounded by thorns and briars), she is exposed to many troubles, afflictions, and hardships in the world; she is distressed, persecuted, and attacked by enemies from without/within; she is vexed by the filthy conversations of the wicked, who surround her and afflict her from every direction.

Ezekiel 2:4-7, Matthew 10:23, 2 Corinthians 12:7

The Lord Jesus after He chose His (12) apostles and instructed them, He told them, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves; as "a lilies among thorns", Song 2:2, "SO IS MY LOVE among the daughters".

Although His bride (His lily) is surrounded, and at times engulfed by the wicked, yet she never ceases to be His lily and His love! Never forget this child of God, amid every trial, every distress, and every worldly affliction, you will never be separated from the love of Christ: Romans 8:32-39

The bride responds in (V4), "so is my beloved among the sons"

Song 2:3: "As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons"

The apple tree is no common tree, and "My Beloved" is no common love; there are many other trees in the world, but there are none like "My Beloved" saith "The Bride"! Song 5:9-16

The church is as a lily AMONG thorns, SHE IS Christ's one true love AMONG the common daughters of this world... And Christ, to the church is like "One" fruitful apple tree AMONG the many other common trees of the forest and woods, which bear no sweet fruit, and which cannot satisfy.

The bride likens coming into the presence of her well-beloved bridegroom like finding "a single flourishing apple tree" which is full of fruit in the middle of a vast and dense forest, amid the trees of the woods; NONE of the trees of the woods can satisfy her hunger or provide her with refreshment and a place of rest like the apple tree.

In the apple tree, the bride hath found a wonderful place of rest, refuge, and refreshment in the wilderness of this world! This is the church who hath found a place of rest in the Person and Presence of Christ!

So is my beloved AMONG the sons of this world, the sons of this world can provide no comfort or help or salvation or deliverance from the dangers and perils of this world or the next..

"I sat down under His shadow with great delight, and His fruit was sweet to my taste"

Do you love Christ like this... And if you do, do you seek for protection and refuge under His shadow because you trust His love to you?

Many great men of the earth, nations and kings were said to provide protection and refuge for their people, "under their shadows", ultimately, they failed. Kings of Assyria, Nebuchadnezzar, Josiah. It is better to trust the LORD, than to put confidence in princes who are but men.

But THUS it is written of our Great King!

Psalm 36:5-8, 63:1-7, Isaiah 25:1-5