

Where Is Jesus to Be Found?

Song of Solomon 6:1-3; Psalm 111:1

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Jesus personally and individually calls you, His elect bride, away from family, friends, work, and even church to daily commune with Him in reading His Word, meditating upon it, memorizing it, obeying it, calling out to Him in prayer with faith and love, and hungering and thirsting for the sweet nearness of His presence. This Love Song certainly emphasizes this special love and communion that Jesus has with you personally.

But that is not the only aspect of your communion with Jesus Christ. There is also the assembly of the saints in which your heavenly husband comes each Lord's Day to walk among you, to feed you, to speak to you, to embrace you, to kiss you, and to gather from you the gracious gifts and sacrifices of your praise, honor, faith, love, repentance, and renewed obedience (Psalm 111:1). To ignore your communion with the Lord Jesus and His communion with you every resurrection day (every Lord's Day) would be to lock Jesus out of aspects of your communion with Him and His communion with you: offering praise to Him; the prayer of the shepherd (on behalf of the Chief Shepherd) over the sheep; the authoritative preaching of Jesus Christ through His minister; the uplifted hands of the Lord Jesus over you in blessing you; and the covenant seals of His love for you. There is no place that you ought to desire to be, more than in the assembly of the saints, communing as one together with your glorious Savior (Psalm 84:10). Jesus has promised to be where His ordinances are faithfully administered in order to commune with you. He is here. Is that why you have come today? I pray so.

The main points from our text are: (1) The Question (Song 6:1); (2) The Answer (Song 6:2); (3) The Ground of Confidence (Song 6:3).

I. The Question: Where Is Jesus to Be Found (Song 6:1)?

A. Back in Song 5:8, the bride had charged the daughters of Jerusalem (professing believers) to help her seek for the Lord Jesus that she might enjoy that nearness of communion that was previously hers. The daughters of Jerusalem are overcome by the earnest desire expressed by the elect bride to be so near the Lord Jesus, and so they ask in effect (Song 5:9), "What makes your beloved so special that you ask us to help you seek for Him in prayer?" The bride can hardly contain herself in describing how glorious Jesus is in all of His beauty and what makes Him infinitely greater than any other lover (Song 5:10-16).

B. The bride's description of the perfections of Jesus are so glorious and unlike any other lover that the daughters of Jerusalem are so overwhelmed that they want to know where Jesus can be found—they want that nearness of communion with Jesus as well (Song 6:1).

1. This portion of the Song of Solomon makes it clear that this Love Song is not based upon an actual, literal marriage relationship; for here the daughters of Jerusalem want to find the bride's husband and enjoy the same close relationship and communion with Him that the bride has described. In an actual marriage this would neither be a good or holy desire on the part of the daughters of Jerusalem to ask it nor for the bride to comply with it. Thus, this makes clear this is a spiritual marriage, that is in view, and not a literal, physical marriage that is in view.

2. The daughters of Jerusalem are professing Christians that do not enjoy a nearness and closeness of fellowship with the Lord Jesus. They profess faith in the Lord Jesus. They attend public worship in the city of God (daughters of Jerusalem). They occasionally read their Bibles and pray over meals. They love their families and provide for them.

a. However, they do not have a clear understanding of the glory of Jesus nor do they enjoy or delight in spending time with Him to behold His beauty in God's Word. However, the bride has

challenged them by her description of Jesus. They are convicted that they have not truly pursued Jesus with all of their heart, though they have professed Him. They have made excuses why they could not pursue Him, find Him, and delight in Him (Luke 9:59-62). The issue here is not that you should dishonor parents and family, but rather whose call upon your life is greater: father, mother, children, husband, wife, or Jesus Christ? These were just excuses. They did not follow Jesus. Many profess they want to follow Jesus, but few truly do so in love and obedience.

b. The real test of faith and love is not your theological knowledge, nor your profession of faith, nor how long have you been a Christian, nor what office you hold in the church, but what are you willing to give up and sacrifice in order to follow Jesus Christ (consider Abraham who was willing to give up his son Isaac, or consider Jesus who gave up Himself). Whose call is greatest upon your life? Take the test. What are you not willing to give up in order to walk in faith, love, and obedience to Jesus Christ? What truth will you not embrace or practice because it is not pleasing to you or popular in most churches? The daughters of Jerusalem have now been challenged to pursue Jesus Christ above all other people and things, and they express their desire in their question to join the bride in pursuing that nearness of communion with Jesus. What about you? Are you chasing after Jesus to be near Him?

3. What made the words of the bride in describing Jesus so persuasive to the daughters of Jerusalem? The description was both theologically and practically faithful according to the Word of truth. Dear ones, our testimony for Jesus Christ must not be one or the other, but must be both to be effective. We must both study God's Word and the written testimony of the faithful throughout history, and we must beautify that written truth by living it out in the fruit. The daughters of Jerusalem both heard the truth and saw the truth of the bride in pursuing Jesus and that testimony changed the way they looked upon Jesus.

II. The Answer: Within the Assembly of His Saints (Song 6:2).

A. The Lord Jesus was to be found in the "garden" (singular, the Universal Church, Song 5:1) and the "gardens" (plural, Particular Churches within the Universal Church). Yes, He is found in the privacy of your prayer closet, but here is also the place the bride makes clear where Jesus is to be found by those who are pursuing Him: in His Church where His ordinances (which are His face) are faithfully taught and administered according to the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government according to His Word (and faithful Subordinate Standards).

1. The flower beds in Christ's garden are full of sweet-smelling spices that fill the garden with such a delightful fragrance to Jesus. That which Jesus finds so delightful in His Church are the very truths and graces that He has died to purchase for His Church and which are taught and practiced by her.

a. He does not delight in churches that fall away from Christ as their first love (Ephesus—Revelation 2:4); churches that are lukewarm in their zeal for Him and His truth (Laodecia—Revelation 3:16); churches that permitted corrupt doctrine and worship (Pergamos—Revelation 2:15); churches that did not discipline those violating God's commandments (Thyatira—Revelation 2:20). He does delight in the spices of truth on the part of churches that are persecuted for the sake of His truth and remain faithful until death (Smyrna—Revelation 2:10); and churches though small with little strength hold fast to Christ's truth and grace (Philadelphia—Revelation 3:8).

b. The church where Jesus feeds His people and gathers from His lilies (the individual Christians, Song 2:2) His worship is one that is not declining from the scriptural and historical testimony the church has reached by way of its faithful forefathers and subordinate standards and has not moved those faithful landmarks that reveal the reformation and sanctification attained by that church. To the contrary Jesus delights to feed in that church that loves Him supremely, the brethren, the truth, and holiness of life and is standing firm for the least truth that has been passed down to it from Christ's Word through its faithful forefathers.

2. How is it that the bride now knows where to find Jesus (Song 6:2), whereas earlier she did not (Song 5:8)? It reveals how often our focus can be on only one aspect of communion with Christ (whether private or public) rather than on both aspects of communion. When that happens we are likely to miss that full and near communion with Jesus. She had sought earlier in Song 5:7 for her beloved in the city of God (but among watchmen that were false teachers and abused her with false teaching), but He was not to be found there. But He is found in that church where the spices of His truth and grace are alive in His ordinances.

B. Dear ones, if Jesus will be found is in His Church that delights in His truth and grace, we must then come each Lord's Day with great anticipation ready to commune with Him in all of His ordinances.

1. We must begin preparation in our hearts and with our children to chase Jesus days before the Lord's Day (and the day before). If there is more anticipation and excitement in preparing for a promotion at work or a football game or a vacation than in preparing to meet Jesus on the Lord's Day, you should be examining your heart. Why? Have you left your first love and become lukewarm. In such a state, how can you truly desire to spend all eternity with Christ in communion and not on earth?

2. We must endeavor to arrive early to take our children to the restroom, to get a drink, and to settle down so that we are quieting our hearts before Him and meditating on Jesus as worship begins. Dear ones, what is your need? Jesus is here to meet it. His sovereign and everlasting arms of love are fully extended to you. Come to Him with joy.

III. The Ground of Confidence: I Am His and He Is Mine (Song 6:3).

A. This is the essence of the marital covenant. I belong to Him and He belongs to me (Genesis 2:24). The bride may have been spiritually lazy and careless for a time in her Christian life and suffered the loss of nearness with the Lord Jesus, but now through her own testimony of the glory of Jesus (Song 5:10-16), she has been strengthened so that once again she affirms that her assurance of Christ's presence with her does not rest upon how she feels from day to day, but rests upon the firmness of that marital covenant that Jesus has made with her—this is faith not presumption. The marital covenant is first stated in Song 2:16 (reversed).

1. **"I am my beloved's."** You are His and all that you have is His (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). It is only because you are His that He becomes yours. You are not partially His—all of you belongs to Him. You are His at all times—in the midst of hardships, heartbreaks, pain and sorrow, joy and gladness, gains and losses of family and friendships. Your dreams, your time, your talents, your family, your possessions are His. He will not forget you, lose you, or abandon you because you are His. That is why you cannot live your life for yourself. What is His is yours and what is yours is His forever. That's a marital covenant.

2. **"My beloved is mine."** He is yours and all that He has is yours. "I am His" is the cause. "He is mine" is the result. This possession of Jesus is by faith alone. He is not partially yours—all of Jesus is yours. He is not only yours when you walk in loving obedience—He is yours even when you fall and stumble. He is not only yours here upon earth—He is yours for all eternity. Everything on earth is lent to you for a season, except Him. He is yours for all eternity.

B. Where is Jesus, dear ones? "He feedeth among the lilies" (Song 6:3). He is in His garden feeding and delighting in you His lilies as you come each Lord's Day (His resurrection day) prepared as a bride for her husband to enjoy a foretaste of that eternal communion to come. Why do you leave worship on the Lord's Day with little or no renewed faith, love, and obedience? It is because you did not prepare and expect to meet the Lord Jesus in the assembly of the saints, for He has promised to be here in the faithful administration of His ordinances (Matthew 28:19-20). He is here. Where are you? Do you care? If not, you are in need of being spiritually awakened from your slumber or made alive. An unbeliever will not care at all. A true believer will rejoice (Psalm 122:1).

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