

“My Beloved is Knocking” (Song 5:1–8)
GCC Morning worship, 10/3/21

Summary: Christ comes to his church, the church rebuffs his overtures of love, realizes her error, seeks him but does not find him, is disciplined, but Christ leaves a map of myrrh to the means of grace in order to find him again.

- I. **The Church Sometimes Rebuffs Christ’s Overtures of Love (5:1–2)**
 - A. *Jesus will often bring conviction to us or an opportunity to seek his face and we, out of slothfulness and sin refuse to respond so he “withdraws”*
 - B. Why do we rebuff his overtures of love?
 1. The time of his coming is **inconvenient (5:2)**
 2. She’s just too **comfortable** in her present state to be *inconvenienced (5:3)*
 - C. Sometimes we are disciplined by the law but it is so that we might learn faithfulness (5:7)
 1. The law comes in and chastises us
 - a. “watchmen” of Ezekiel 3:17–21
 - b. The Lord disciplines the one he loves and chastises every son he receives (Heb 12:6, 7)
- II. **A Parallel Picture in Revelation 3:20**
 - A. This text has typically been presented presents as an **evangelistic** text to the world
 1. It may be evangelistic but it is not addressed to the world, it is addressed to the church.
 2. Not evangelistic as much as it is sanctifying the church.
 - B. Parallel between Song 5:3 and Rev 3:17
 1. Inconvenience
 - a. Song 5:3—I have disrobed, IOW, I’m naked in bed
 - b. Rev 3:17—You think that you are fine but you are naked.
IOW, your nakedness is convenience and comfort to you but it is the very reason why you need to get up and go to Jesus when he calls.
 3. Self-righteousness and self-sufficiency
 - a. Song 5:3 (I had bathed my feet, how could I soil them=self righteousness) and Rev 3:17 (“I need nothing”)
- III. **Christ Withdraws but Leaves a Map of Myrrh to the Means of Grace (5:4–6a)**
 - A. He accepts her doublemindedness and leaves a blessing (myrrh) behind)v. 5)
 - B. **Follow the scent of myrrh in the means of Grace!**
- IV. **Seek the Lord while he may be found**
 - A. **Application to Second Horizon**
 1. **Listen when wisdom calls (Prov 1:28–31)**
 2. Maintain a theology of the cross as you seek him through the Means of Grace
 - B. **Application to First Horizon:** The incompleteness of our marriages points toward the completeness we WILL experience in the New Heavens/New Earth
 - C. The Good news of the Gospel is that Christ has the Key to the Door (Rev 3:7, 8)

Questions for Application and Discussion

1. What spiritual experience of the Christian does the poetic description in Song 5:1–8 depict?
2. For what two reasons does the church rebuff Christ's overtures of love? (hint: see 5:2, 3)
3. What does 5:7 describe and why should we take it that way?
4. How is the knocking of the beloved in Song 5 similar to the knocking of Christ in Rev 3:20?
5. Is Revelation 3:20 talking to unbelievers or the church? In what way could it be speaking of unbelievers?
6. How do Song 5:3 and Rev 3:17 both show that the church thinks that she is self-sufficient and self-righteous and therefore does not need what Christ is offering?
7. What does Christ leave on the doorknob that reminds her of his presence and promises?
 - a. How does the myrrh of Christ lead us to the means of grace?
8. What may happen if we turn a deaf ear to the call of wisdom (Prov 1:28–31)?
9. Why should we not expect perfect heavenly experiences even when we sit under the means of grace?
10. Read Rev 3:7, 8. Why is it good news that Christ holds the key to the door and not we?