

The Lily Among Thorns - 12/01/19

TEXT – Song of Solomon 2:2 *As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters.*

INTRO –Thorns and prickers

- a. A persistent or sharply painful feeling of sorrow or remorse.
- b. A small, sharp, local pain, such as that made by a needle or bee sting.

Thorns can serve as a means of trials and chastisement

A. They can bring men to salvation

Acts 2:37 *Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?*

Acts 9:5 *And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.*

B. They can be used as a means of humbling God's people

Numbers 33:55 *But if ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you; then it shall come to pass, that those which ye let remain of them shall be pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell.*

Joshua 23:13 *Know for a certainty that the LORD your God will no more drive out any of these nations from before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you.*

2 Corinthians 12:7 *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

Thorns are usually seen as a painful and worthless

Psalms 73:21 *Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins.*

Proverbs 22:5 *Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward: he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them.*

Genesis 3:18 *Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;*

Here we see thorns used as a comparison of beauty and dread

The young virgin maiden is brought to Solomon's harem against her will. She was brought up working in the fields and had a young man back home she longed to return to. She is called a lily among thorns. The others in the harem were not ugly or ignorant but way of comparison she stood out among them all.

I. The Relation of the Church To Christ

A. The church belongs to Christ

Acts 20:28 *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*

B. The church is subject to Christ

Eph 5:24 *Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.*

C. The church is the bride of Christ

Rev 19:7-9 *Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. 9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.*

D. The church is to love Christ – “He is altogether lovely”

Eph 5:25-29 *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:*

II. The Relation of Christ To the Church

A. He gave Himself for the church

Eph 5:25-29 . . . *as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; Christ picked her amid all the thorns*

B. He loves the church

Rom 5:8 *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

John 3:16-17 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*

C. He's perfecting the church – She is as the lily

Eph 5:26-27 *That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

Christ said, “Behold, I send you forth as sheep among wolves.”

D. He's returning for the church

1 Th 4:13-18 *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning*

III. The Relation of the Church To the World - Lily's among thorns

A. The church is to be separate from the world

1 Jn 2:15 *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

1 Jn 5:4-5 *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?*

John 17:15-19 *I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. 18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.*

B. The beauty of the church is in contrast to the world

As the lily among thorns,

Rev 19:7-9 *Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. 9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.*

Rev 21:2 *And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

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