

Make Haste, My Beloved

Song of Solomon 8:14

27 February 2022

11:00 AM (Halifax); 3:00 PM (Glenholme & Livestream)

Introduction:

Today, we come to the last verse in the Song of Songs.

- We have seen that this Song is about the greatest theme of all—the love of Christ and His church for each other.
 - That’s the reason it’s called the Song of Songs.
 - This mutual love is presented to us under the analogy of marriage.
- After this Song was written, this beautiful allegory became a recurring theme among prophets and apostles, and of the Lord Jesus Himself when He was among us.
 - As a result, anyone with even a slender acquaintance with the Bible knows that the church is called the bride of Christ.
 - Her disobedience is referred to as adultery to her Lord to whom she is betrothed, and her fidelity to Him classifies her as a chaste virgin, betrothed to Christ by the covenant gospel.
 - The New Testament speaks most often of her as a betrothed bride who has already made promises of fidelity, but who is being prepared for her wedding at the last day when He comes for her to bring her into His Father’s house.
 - In Ephesians 5:25-27, we are told that **Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.**
 - That is exactly what He is doing now.
 - He is preparing His bride to live with Him.
 - His bride has many members and He is gathering each one and bringing them to maturity through His wise and gracious work over the years.
 - In Revelation 21:2-3, John sees a vision of her on the last day: **Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.”**
 - In Rev. 21:9, John describes how the angel who completes the last of the plagues that fall on the rebellious of the earth (those who are not the bride), says to him, **“Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.”**
 - That is who the true believing church is—the bride, the Lamb’s wife.
 - She is a great city, as John goes on to say in verse 10: **And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God.**

Last week, we looked at the second to last verse in the Song of Solomon (8:13).

- In that verse, Christ speaks to us believers (the church) as His betrothed bride.
 - He addresses us there as “You who dwell in the gardens.”
 - As His betrothed bride, He has planted us in His garden that we might grow and mature in preparation for our marriage to Him—for living in His Father’s house.
 - He described how our companions (the other members of the body who make up the bride) listen for our voice...
 - They want to hear our prayers, our praises, our encouragements, our testimonies, our exhortation, even our rebukes as we edify one another and praise Jesus our husband.
 - Then He went on to say to us, “Let **Me** hear your voice.”
 - How encouraging it is to know that He loves to hear our praises and our prayers, our conversation about Him, our words of encouragement and such.
 - We have seen in the Song of Solomon how He finds our prayers and cries to Him to be irresistible.
 - When He had withdrawn from us for a time to humble us and we began to speak of our desire for His return, He tells us how He was overcome—how He could not continue to stay away.
 - Yes, our companions in the church want to hear our voice, but He also wants to hear our voice!
- In this, the last verse of the Song, we give Him what He wants.
 - We tell Him just what He wants to hear...
 - Truly, these few words sum up all our words to Him as His betrothed bride.
 - Today, we will focus on these words that give Him such delight.

Please give me your attention as I read them to you.

- Song of Solomon 8:14. I will actually begin reading at verse 13.
- This is God’s holy and infallible word.

Song of Solomon 8:13-14: You [fs] who dwell in the gardens, the companions listen for your [fs] voice—let me hear it! 14 Make haste [ms], my beloved [ms], and be [ms] like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices.

May the Lord add His blessing to the reading of His holy Word.

I. You can see that the Song ends with a request for Jesus to come to us.

- A. These words, “**Make haste, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices,**” are clearly our words to Him if we are betrothed to Him.
1. The verbs and the word beloved are in the masculine singular.
 - This is designated on the handout with the letters ms in brackets.
 - This shows that the man is the one being addressed here.
 2. These words are spoken by His betrothed bride.
 - They are not your words unless you are betrothed.

- You are betrothed to Him if you have answered yes to His request for marriage.
 - Betrothal is engagement to marry, but it is an engagement that includes covenant promises that are binding—it makes you married in a sense...
 - But the wedding does not occur until later—it is not until then that the bride moved in to live with her husband and share the marriage bed with Him.
 - In the gospel, Jesus calls all people everywhere to come to Him for salvation.
 - It is His proposal of marriage to us.
 - He says, “Come to me, and I will give you eternal life.
 - “I will pardon your sins through my saving work on the cross.
 - “I will baptise you with my Holy Spirit and will cleanse you and transform you to make you holy and pure.
 - “I will raise your body from the dead at the last day and make you immortal so you can live with me forever.
 - “You will be my wife and I will be your husband.”
 - It is a proposal for marriage, and all who hear it must answer yes or no.
 - It is very foolish to say “no,” because He is a great and generous prince.
 - He is a gracious loving husband who will love us better than anyone else ever could, and who will deal with us in such a way that we will grow to be wise and beautiful—altogether lovely even in His eyes.
 - He will bless us with the riches of His Father’s house and with all its comforts forever. He will deliver us and protect us from all enemies.
 - If you never accept His proposal, it will be a mistake that you will regret forever—beyond all that you can imagine, you will regret it.
 - You will be left to bear your own sins, without His offering on the cross, and you will feel the full weight of the wrong you have done. You will bear it forever in the place of outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.
 - You will receive justice for rebelling against God instead of experiencing deliverance through Jesus as your husband, paying the penalty for all your sin in His own person.
3. But when you are His betrothed bride, these words, **“Make haste, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices,”** are your words.
- a. We want Him to come to us to take us into His house forever.
 - We are eager for the wedding.
 - We are in this world of sin and death, this barren wilderness, and He has promised to bring us out that He might bring us into His house.
 - b. Yes, as His betrothed, there is a sense in which we have already been brought into His house—as we saw last week, we have been planted in His garden.
 - He is working in us—in His whole church—to make us complete.

- He is doing all that must be done in this world to gather and sanctify us, and when that work is finished, He will come and bring us all in to live with Him, but the wedding and our living with Him is still future.
 - c. With these words **“Make haste, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices,”** we are asking Him to hurry and bring us to this day.
 - He is in heaven, up there, and we are down here.
 - We want to be with Him where He is.
- B. Let’s look at the words of our request more closely.
1. First, we have the word translated “make haste.”
 - a. This word is used about 65 times and is almost always translated “flee” or something equivalent (as in running away).
 - Yet, in this one verse, almost every Bible translation translates it as Him coming to us rather than going away.
 - This fits the context because she is repeating what she said in 2:17 when they were apart and she asked Him to come quickly to her like a gazelle or a young stag.
 - b. It is used here to emphasise the speed—she wants Him to come with the speed and diligence of an army fleeing from its enemies.
 - We, the bride, want Him to come as fast as He can.
 - We want Him to come to us and to take us as His bride.
 - We can’t wait for the wedding when we will be brought to His glorious house to live with Him forever.
 2. Second, see how we address Him in our text. We say, **“Make haste, my beloved.”**
 - a. We call Him “my beloved” because we love Him.
 - He is the fairest of ten thousand.
 - He is upright and noble, gentle and gracious, full of mercy and grace.
 - He is also a mighty prince, a warrior, one filled with wisdom and with unstoppable power.
 - He is fairer than the sons of men—He is without equal, for He is the Son of God made flesh.
 - b. We also call Him “my beloved” because He is ours.
 - By His grace, we have come to our senses so that we have seen that He is the true God who ought to be loved and served with our whole being.
 - Those who do not know Him still believe the lie of Satan, that autonomy is the way to live...
 - Autonomy means self rule or self government where you are the one who decides what is right and what is wrong instead of God.
 - You try to find life in following your own passions and desires, your own wisdom, your own heart.

- Instead finding life by living for God your Maker, you try to find life by living for yourself—as if you are God.
 - In such a case, your beloved is your own heart and other people—you have nothing higher than what is created to serve...
 - Even when you have religion, instead of serving the one and only creator, you make up your own gods—
 - Instead of receiving revelation from the one true God, you choose what you want Him (or them) to be (what you think He (or they) should be) and you worship them as God.
 - It is still autonomy because you are the one who decides instead of coming to the one who made you as a real being.
 - You can't design God, you have to learn and accept who He is instead of making Him the way you want.
 - It is utterly ridiculous, but we like to design our own gods because we know that we have offended the true God by rebelling against Him—and we don't want to have an offended God.
 - So we pretend that we can either make up our own God or deny Him altogether.
 - It is a fool's errand, and it leads to destruction.
 - But you who have come to Jesus truly love Him.
 - You see that God was rightly offended, but that the Son of God came here to redeem you.
 - You see how wretched we all were to reject Him, and you marvel that He should be so gracious as to pardon you...
 - when that meant going to the cross Himself to pay for your sins.
 - And what is even more unfathomable is that He has asked you to be His wife and to live with Him forever and ever!
 - Ever since you accepted His proposal, you have seen how wise and how kindly He has dealt with you...
 - There have been hard times, but after you see how good they were for you and how wise and gracious He has been to you, you can only be grateful.
 - Yes, He is **your** beloved and you want Him to come and take you into His palace forever!
3. The third thing we find in our text is the request that He would close that gap that separates us from Him.
- a. Our words to Him here are, **“Be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices.”**
 - This is the beautiful picture we used before in this song (in 2:17) that portrays Him as a gazelle or stag running to get to us—
 - running with passion to close the distance between Him and us as quickly as possible because of His great desire to be with us.

- It is a picture of beautiful agility, of Him wending His way through the mountains, overcoming every obstacle that lies between Him and us so that He can come to us.
 - I told you how this makes me think of our little dog, Deasie, at Peggy's Cove when we call her and she comes running across the rocks, leaping over obstacles and climbing up banks to get to us.
- We are asking Jesus to come to us like that—to let nothing stop Him.
 - How heartening it is to see Him making His way toward us!
- b. But I want to point out to you a change in the wording when we, His bride, asked Him to come in this manner before—like a gazelle on the mountains...
 - In 2:17, we said, “Be like a gazelle or a young stag upon the mountains of Bether.
 - It told you that *Bether* means *separation*, so it was speaking of the mountains that stood between us and Him that He was scaling and overcoming to get to us.
 - Now in 8:14, we His bride call these mountains the mountains of spices.
 - Why the change?
 - I would suggest this—
 - There has been progress in the Song—there is a change in us.
 - Many things have happened and we have seen Him overcome many barriers between us in order that He might come to us.
 - We have seen Him overcome our stubbornness and sin.
 - We have seen Him grow our trust in Him and our love for Him.
 - And we have seen Him pardon our sin.
 - This is also true of us as the one bride who spans the ages.
 - We who have the benefit of living in these last days have seen Him overcome the greatest mountain of separation by going to the cross to pay for our sin that separated us from His house.
 - And having seen that, it makes that mountain of separation become (in our eyes) a mountain of spices...
 - Remember that in the Song of Solomon, spices represent the affection of a lover, whether ours or His—our love portrayed as a sweet aroma.
 - The idea here is that by going the cross, He has transformed what was a mountain that separated us from Him into a mountain where His love was displayed.
 - The curse on our sin separated us from God, but by bearing and overcoming the curse, that mountain has become a sweet aroma of His great love for us.
 - So our request here is that He would keep coming to us like a gazelle or a stag, overcoming the mountains that stand between us and Him, until the time comes that He is able to marry us and bring us into His house.

- We are cheering Him on as He gathers in the rest of us, all those members that are yet to be gathered—
- And as He teaches us the things about Himself that we need to learn while we are here...
 - Already we have experienced deliverance from the flood, from Babel, from famine, from bondage in Egypt, from the wilderness, from sin, from division, from Babylon, from the penalty of sin at the cross, from heresy, the list goes on and on.
 - He will finish all that must be done and then He will come to us. He is actually coming quickly, as He says in Revelation,
 - but there is so much to do that it takes time—every member must be brought into the fold and all the while lessons are being taught to us about Him and His grace that could only be taught here—in a world of enemies and sin and remaining sin in us.
 - He is doing His work with skill and agility.
 - He is coming like a gazelle and a young stag with passion and virility and soon He will bring us home.

TRANS> So you see that our request is that He would come quickly.

II. How is it that we are so bold in making this request?

- Isn't it a bit surprising to see us demanding that He would get on with it?
 - How do we find the courage to speak to Him like that?
- A. We are encouraged to speak like this because we know that it pleases Him.
1. In the Song, we learned that when He pulled away for a time because we had refused to receive Him—not in spite, but to teach us proper respect...
 - we learned at that time that He saw us when we realised what we had done and went out looking for Him—telling others about how we must find Him and about all that He means to us...
 - He told us afterward that saw us, and His heart was overcome when He saw how much we wanted Him... so much so that he could not stay away.
 2. We learned that He loves for us to love Him.
 - He wants us to desire to be with Him and to pray earnestly, “Your kingdom come,” or “Make haste, my beloved,” or “Come Lord Jesus.”
 - He wants us to be unable to live without Him—
 - His purpose is to grow our love for Him while we are yet in this world in ways that it can only be grown in the wilderness.
 - He is preparing us for eternity when we will always be with Him.
 - These lessons in the wilderness of this world are eternal lessons.
 - When He is separated from us, our love deepens.

- He would be offended and dishonoured if we didn't care when He withdrew.
- He loves it when we ask Him to come to us, to manifest His glory to us, to hasten His coming, to stay near to us...
 - And when we live in such a way as to keep Him near.

TRANS> This gives us boldness to demand that He come quickly.

- But there is another reason we address Him this way.

B. The more we come to know Him, the more we are constrained to cry out to Him to come quickly!

1. Moses saw much of His glory and that made him cry out to see more. "Show me your glory," he said.

- The more we taste His excellence, the more we yearn for Him to come.

2. We have so many reasons to desire that He would come.

- Charles Spurgeon gave these reasons why the bride wants Him to come...

a. It is the result of true love—we love Him and want to be with Him.

b. It is because it will end the conflict, for we wage war in the world with His enemies who oppose Him and oppose us. We must battle with sin here and we must battle with the world.

c. We want Him to come because of the wonders that will be done at His coming—we will see Him raise the dead and renew all things.

d. We want Him to come because when it does, it will be the glory of His people—"Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father."

e. And finally, we want Him to come quickly because He will be glorified in that day. We shall see Him as He is and all of the enemies who were so bold to slander Him will melt away in terror.

f. And I would add to all this those wonderful words, that when we go to be with Him on that final day, "so shall we ever be with the Lord."

- Even so, come Lord Jesus!

- **Make haste, my beloved, be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices.**

- That is our bold request to Him—and He loves it!

III. And now, finally, I want to show you what a fitting conclusion this is to the Song of Songs.

A. It is a fit ending because this is how the Song of Songs began.

1. Do you remember?

- In verse 2, after the declaration that this was the Song of Songs which is Solomon's, it says: **"Let Him kiss me with the kisses of His mouth, for your love is better than wine."**

- I told you that His kisses refer to the manifestation of His love to us—that is what a kiss represents.

- So the Song began with the betrothed bride (us) wanting Him to manifest His love to us.
2. And so it ends with the bride speaking, with us asking Him to make haste and come to us like a gazelle or a young roe on the mountains.
 - We are yearning for Him like we were from the start, only there is a difference.
 - He has worked in us to mature us—we have been through experiences with Him that have taught us to trust Him more, that have shown us more of His love and grace, more of His perfections.
 - We have learned more about our sin and more about His grace that so gently overcomes, though it can be hard at the time—very hard!
 - So now at the end, our desire for Him to come is spoken out of a deeper, stronger commitment to Him.
 - It is a more intense desire born out of more love to Him and more confidence in Him, more knowledge of His excellence.
 - My brothers and sisters, that is how He graciously works in our lives over the years.
 - Our petition for Him to come to us gets stronger and deeper—that is what the song teaches us.

TRANS> I say, “**Make haste, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices,**” is a fit ending because that is how the Song began.

B. But perhaps even more, it is fit ending because it is how the whole Bible ends.

1. This song that is about our love for Jesus as His bride ends in the same way that the Bible itself ends.
 - We read it in Revelation 22, the last chapter in the Bible.
 - Verse 17 says: **And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.**
 - And verse 20, the last verse before the benediction, says, **He who testifies to these things [that’s Jesus] says, “Surely I am coming quickly.”**
 - And then the bride responds, **“Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!”**
2. When we read the Bible rightly, this is where we end up at...
 - Yearning for Jesus to come quickly and take us into His house as His wife.
 - We want Him to hurry and complete all the work that He must do to gather us and teach us all that we need to learn here so we can live with Him in happiness.
 - The Bible teaches us that it is Jesus who brings us out of the estate of sin and death when we trust Him and that it is He who brings us to glory.
 - You have read the Bible rightly when you conclude with a passion to be with Him in glory forever.
 - The Song of Songs ends the way the Bible ends because it is a song about our relationship with God’s Son.

- C. Yet another reason the ending, **“Make haste, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices,”** is a fit ending for the Song of Songs is because this is the desire of God’s people in every age.
1. The elect bride leans on Jesus to bring her out of the wilderness and into His house.
 - We have Adam and Eve, who, after the fall, were driven into the wilderness, but who trusted in God’s promise that a Son would be born who would deliver them.
 - They said, “Make haste, my beloved.”
 2. We see Noah, receiving the promise of deliverance by leaning on the Lord when all the world perished in their rebellion.
 - He was brought through the flood leaning on his beloved, wanting to be with Him.
 3. There was Abraham—who left his homeland at the call of God because he was looking for a city whose builder and maker was God.
 - He and Sarah trusted God for the son that God promised to them when they were barren—the son that would deliver them.
 - They said (in effect), “Even so, come Lord Jesus.”
 4. The book of Genesis ends with Joseph dying in Egypt, calling upon his brethren to bring his bones to the promised land when God brings them out of Egypt—
 - And promising that the Lord will surely visit you!
 - All as if to say, “Make haste, My beloved, to visit us.”
 5. And Moses begins his ministry, as we read in the opening chapters of Exodus, proclaiming that God has come to visit His people.
 - He has come to the to bless them with His promise of a land of their own where they would be governed and kept by Him.
 - Even so, come Lord Jesus! Make haste.
 6. We could tell of Joshua and Ruth and Samuel and David.
 - All of them looked for their beloved to come to them because that is what the bride of Christ does—she looks for Him to come to her and bring her into His house forever according to His promise.
 - We have the prophets, declaring that “unto us a child is born, unto us a son His given, whose name shall be called wonderful, counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the prince of peace...
 - as if to say, “Come Lord Jesus.” That is what the bride wants.
 7. Then we have John the Baptist whose father says, “The Lord has visited His people.”
 - John comes forth proclaiming that the kingdom has come because Jesus has come, and Jesus affirms this so that the true bride in His day comes to Him.
 - They come to come that they might be saved from sin to live in His house forever.

- Their song begins with “Let Him kiss me with the kisses of His lips,” and it ends with “Make haste, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices.”

D. My friends, it is a fit ending because it is the theme of the best fairy tales.

1. This shows that it is the longing of the human heart.
 - We yearn for the Prince of Peace to come and deliver us and take us to live happily ever after with Him.
2. Take one example of a modern fairy tale—the Princess Bride.
 - Wesley comes to Buttercup.
 - She is sour toward him, but he wins her heart and they are, in a sense, betrothed as he goes away to prepare a home for them, promising to return—just as our Lord Jesus is doing now.
 - She hears that he has been killed, and despairs, but then he comes to her and rebukes her for doubting him—how could such love as theirs be broken by death?
 - But then he is taken away by the evil Prince Humperdink who pretends love for Buttercup that he might marry her to exploit her.
 - He takes Wesley to his torture chamber and tells Buttercup that Wesley is not coming to her because he is no longer interested in her.
 - Yet this time, she has grown in faith and she declares the most beautiful of words, “My Wesley will always come for me.”
 - He overcomes the cross—the torture chamber that took the life out of him—and he comes to her, and they live happily ever after.
3. Our best fairy tales copy the Song of Songs because it is the Song of Songs.
 - The longing of every human heart, to be loved by the living God who is the most excellent one and to be all that He wants us to be forever and ever.
 - Yet, we know that as sinners we are unworthy.
 - It is our pride and a malice that keeps us from accepting Jesus’ proposal to save us from our sin and bring us to live with Him forever.
 - But when we do come—then our cry to Jesus is, **“Make haste, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices.”**
 - And he says, “Behold, I am coming quickly.”
 - Indeed He is.
 - Every mountain will be conquered, and when that is done, He will come.
 - Even so, come Lord Jesus!
 - How have you answered His proposal of marriage?
 - With a yes or a no?
 - He promises that of all who come to Him, not a single one will be cast out.
 - Are you among them?
 - Is the Song of Songs the Song of your heart?
 - Do these words express your desire after reading this Song?
 - **“Make haste, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices.”**

- If that is your Song, He finds it irresistible and He will indeed come.
 - He will come in this present time to manifest His love to you...
 - And He will come at the end to bring you to live in His house forever.
 - Truly, He is the fairest of ten thousand.
 - His love is better than wine.