

**We ended (last Wednesday) with the bride's earnest request and prayer to the bridegroom to come back to her:**

Song 2:17: She is waiting for the breaking or dawning of the day, when there will be no more hinderances to her sight of the One whom she loved!

She looked for THAT DAY; A TIME when she would no longer have to look through the shadows, when there would no longer be "any darkness or distance" between she and Him!

But AT THIS POINT, SHE WAS STILL looking through the dimness and shadows, SO SHE PRAYED and called out to Him to "turn" and come back to her... swiftly, like deer running in the mountains.

AND THEN, in Song 3, the bride went FROM CALLING for His presence...TO SEEKING for His presence!

To prepare us for this passage, I would like to read Psalm 77:1-6.

I believe Psalmist's experience is what we (AT TIMES) experience in our Christian lives... We cry out to God, but we find no comfort and no consolation...it is as if He is not there for us.

In Song 3, the bride sought the presence of the bridegroom in the quiet of the night, in her meditations, and in her prayers and supplication to Him, that He might come to her and comfort her...she SOUGHT AFTER the love of her soul...But she could not find Him.

Song 3:1-5

I want you to see what NOT FINDING the bridegroom did to the bride; when she did not find Him, her dissatisfaction did not discourage her, but because He was the love of her soul, she was motivated to seek Him more earnestly and diligently.

A dissatisfied seeker will do one of two things, stop seeking, give up, or "LOOK HARDER", and search more diligently! Proverbs 2:1-5

**What can we learn from the bride so earnestly seeking for the bridegroom?**

She could not and would not be comforted or satisfied until she found Him, who was the love of her soul. << THAT'S WHY SHE WAS SEEKING HIM!

In the beginnings of her seeking Him, she sought Him in the night, on her bed, in her thoughts, prayers, and in the meditations of her heart.

But (saith the bride), in the quiet of the night on my bed, I did not find Him. Cp. Song 5:6

But THIS did not discourage her, in (V2), we read of her rising from her bed and going out into the streets of the city where TO SEEK FOR HIM... but once again, she did not find Him.

BUT THEN, while she was seeking for Him in the streets of the city, she was found by the watchmen, "who go about the city", whose

calling it is to guard and protect the people of the city from enemies within and without. I do believe Jerusalem is this city. We do not know "The Watchmen's" answer to her request was...and what was her request? "Saw ye Him, whom my soul loveth?" But what we do know about this encounter is written in Song 3:4.

**"It was but a little that I passed from them", or as it means "SCARCELY" had I passed from the watchmen, but I found Him, whom my soul loveth.**

After diligently searching and enquiring for Him, SHE FOUND her beloved, and once SHE DID FIND Him, she held Him close, and would not let Him go, UNTIL she brought Him into her mother's house, where she was conceived.

Psalm 87:3-6, Galatians 4:26: I'll just leave you with these passages!

And then in Song 3:5, she charged, compelled, and commanded the daughters of Jerusalem not to stir Him up or provoke Him to depart; THIS, in the same way that she had previously charged them: Song 2:7.

Who were these "daughters of Jerusalem"? I believe they were inhabitants of the city, not enemies against the bride or bridegroom, and yet, they are those that did not understand the bride's ardent love for the bridegroom!

Song 5:8-9,16, Luke 23:28

### **What can we learn from this passage? Song 3:1-5?**

First: Do you seek the presence of Christ like the bride, who sought the bridegroom's presence? AND THEN, when you cannot seem to find Christ's presence or comfort in your meditations and prayers, or in the church gathering...WHAT DO YOU DO? Do you stop seeking for Him? Or do you "rise up" from your spiritual slumber and seek Christ, whom you profess to be the love of your soul?

Jeremiah 29:13-14, Psalm 27:7-9, Matthew 6:33, 7:7

Second: Do you KNOW when Christ has withdrawn Himself? Are you "alive enough spiritually", so that you may detect when this is happening in your life, SO THAT YOU MIGHT shake yourself from your spiritual slumber to rise and seek Him again?

There are times when we might go days in spiritual slumber and dullness, not realizing that we are not walking with Christ.... Luke 2:42-46

Third: When you do find Him, "actually", He never left, you're the one who lost sight of Him...but again, when you do find Him... DON'T let him go...HOLD HIM FAST! Hebrews 3:12-15

AND THEN don't do anything that would stir Him up or provoke Him. Don't grieve His Spirit by sinning against Him and causing Him to withdraw Himself. Revelation 2:1-5