



In the Song of all Songs, sometimes described as the Song of Solomon, God has given us an incredible image of the depth of His love for us, His chosen ones, His Bride. The unparalleled affection He expresses in this Song gives us much insight into His heart toward us.

One of the challenges imperative for us to come to grips with is to grasp more and more the depth and the height, the width and the length of our Lord's love for us. I would encourage you to devote some time to this book. Pay special attention to the words of the King (Jesus) to the Shulammitte maiden (you). This story can be and should be interpreted on many levels. If it is to reach our hearts and change us, we need to see it on a personal level. This is a prophetic story of Father God's love for each of us individually. And corporately.

Why would God write this book? Why put it in His Holy Word? Is it really just a love story that He wrote so He could fill in the 8 chapters that would be missing in the Bible had he left it out? I don't think so. He wrote this book to show us how tender, how gentle, how persistent, how transforming is His love for His chosen ones. Oh the hope I have when I consider His words to her; when I begin to comprehend the enormous transformation He gently leads her through. The other point of great joy to me is to track her unfolding healing and growth from a young immature follower of His to His very Bride, regal and full of Him and shining with His glory!

In one of her early moments of grappling with the fact that His love for her causes Him to see her as utterly beautiful (because He tells her this twice), she finally says,

My lover is to me an apple tree among all the trees of the forest.
I delight to sit in His shade;
His fruit is delicious to my taste. Song of Solomon 2:3

She sees Him as standing apart from all the other “men” of the forest. As you undoubtedly know, trees sometimes are used in the Scriptures to speak of men. For example, speaking of Israel, (and thus we who embrace Jesus as Messiah), God says of us,

So they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.
Isaiah 61:3

Our Shulammitte sees Him as more desirable than all others. There is no other tree (man) like Him. She is so taken with Him that she takes utter delight, utter pleasure in simply sitting in His shade. She rests in His shadow. She leaves all others, finds Him and then rests in Him.

Aren't you glad to read that she didn't just smile or wave as she walked past Him? Does it not bless you to imagine her laying a little cloth under that tree ever so carefully, and then just taking a refreshing rest there?

She goes on to say, “His fruit is delicious to my taste.” His fruit. Like no one else's. His fruit. What is His fruit? love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness. Wow. That is what His heart is full of. That is what He gives to His Beloved to nurture herself and refresh herself with. That is what she takes inside herself. How can anyone resist this wonderful Lover and Friend?

My friend, would you take this Scripture to Him in prayer today? Would you ask Him to just speak to your heart about His beauty, His superior excellence, His shade that saves, that refreshes, that consoles. Would you ask Him to deepen your hunger for His fruit to be manifested in your life?

As He sings over you with songs of joy (Zephaniah 3:17), would you rest for awhile under this special Apple Tree, enjoy his shadow, eat His fruit and be filled with your Lord.