

**Song of Solomon 7: 10-12; “His Desire is Towards Me”, Sermon # 64 in the series – “I am My Beloved’s”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018, in the Afternoon Worship Service.**

Here in Chapter 7, it has been the Heavenly Bridegroom/King who has been speaking, in the first nine verses. Christ has been describing the Church’s beauty to her in ways which shows His great love for her. And in each phrase, He has given to us a picture of how He views His Church, spiritually, in terms of the beauty of what she has become by His grace. Now, here in verse 10, we have the response of the Bride to all that Christ has said to her. His descriptions of His love, and His admiration for her, have brought her to better realize all that she means to Him. The language of assurance comes forth from her lips. She speaks of the assurance which Christ Himself has caused her to have. She knows that she belongs to Him, and she knows of a certainty that His desire is towards her. I believe that this is not only a statement representing the Church as a whole, but it can, and it should be seen, as that which every believer in Christ can experience if you will think and act upon the love of Christ which has been shown to you. So, knowing that Christ’s desire is toward you, to build and strengthen your faith, and make you useful in service to Him, this should lead you to make request of Him, even as the Bride did in our text. Christ has expressed 3 desires for us here which are related to your intimate fellowship and communion with Him. I pray that as I preach this sermon to you that you will be asking Him to bring to you a deeper experience of His love, and thus you will be able to give yourself to Him in greater acts of loving obedience, and seek to bring others to know Christ, or to know Him better.

**1<sup>st</sup> of all – His desire is toward you in that He would come with you in all of your going out into the field of the world.**

Verse 11 says – “Come, my beloved, let us go forth to the field.” I take this word “field” to mean, as it does in the parable of the wheat and the tares in Matthew 13: 38, the whole world of mankind. “The field is the world, the good seeds are sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one.” The true Christian wants Christ to come with them in relation to all that they do in relation to the Church, and also, all that God will have them to do in relation to whole wide world of people around them. Jesus said to His disciples when He was going to the cross, “Until now you have asked nothing in My name.” “Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.” It is the joyful privilege of Christ’s followers to ask their Savior, who is also their Husband and their Friend, to come with them into all the situations of their venturing out into the world to serve Him. Many times we “do not have, because we do not ask”. James chapter 4, verse 3. He says there, that “we ask and we do not receive, because we ask amiss, that we might spend it on our pleasures”. But here we are told that our joy will be made full if we will only ask in relation to knowing Him better and walking with Him more closely, and serving Him in the power of the Spirit.

Jesus said to His disciples in John 16: 26 – “In that day”, that is, the days after His resurrection from the dead, and after He had ascended to the Father, and after He and the Father had sent the Holy Spirit to be the Helper and Comforter of His people to the early Church, “You will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God.” “I came forth from the Father, and have come into the world.” “Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.” You see, the true Christian understands, or they should understand, that Christ’s command and His desire is for them to – “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”. This may mean going to a different country to be a missionary, or it may be going next door to talk to your neighbor about Him. But when you go, and as you go, He likes to hear you say to Him in effect – “Let us go forth to the field”. In other words – Lord, how can I go and preach the word and make disciples and have any success in preaching or sharing your word, unless You go with me?

Yes, it is true that in Matthew 28: 20, He says – ‘And lo, I am with you always to the end of the age.’ But what excites the heart of our Lord is when you, the believer, will ask that He will go with you. You will see an Old Testament example of this if you will turn with me over to Exodus chapter 33, verses 13-18. Moses is speaking with the Lord, and he says – “Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight.” “And consider that this nation is Your people.” “And He said, ‘My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.’” “Then he said to Him, If Your presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.” “For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us?” “So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth.” “Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘I will do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name.’” “And he said, ‘Please show me Your glory.’”

Now, I want you to see, that Moses was living by faith in the promise of God, that His Presence would go with him, and that He would give him, and those with him, who were also living by faith in God, rest. But even though Moses had been given this mighty promise, that He would go with him, he wants to make doubly sure that God would go with him, and so he declares to God that if His Presence didn’t go with them, that he did not want God to bring them up from there. For how would it be known, he says, that he and the people had found grace in God’s sight, except He went with them. See how much it is, that success in the Lord’s work depends upon God’s going with us into that work? Without Him we can do nothing. And then, see too, how much Moses desired that he would be shown God’s glory as he led God’s people forward to go into the Promised Land, the land of Canaan. It is when we ask to behold God’s glory in all the way that He leads us in this world, and through this world, that we come to experience the joy and pleasure of His Presence with us, helping us on to know Him better, and helping us to fulfill all of His good word to us. Will you not remember, dear Christian to pray in this good way? Come with me, my Beloved. Let us go forth to the field.

**2<sup>nd</sup> – His desire is towards you in that He would come with you to lodge with you in the villages.** (verse 11 b)

That is, that you would know more of His presence with you, in your fellowship with Him, and in your interaction with the people around you, in both the church, and with people around you in general. When you ask Christ to lodge with you; to travel with you where you go, and dwell with you in the places that you go, He really does come. In order to labor effectively whether on the mission field, or living in a village or small town anywhere, it is good to pray and ask that Christ would be with you in all of your endeavors to promote His worship, His glory, and His gospel. Some of you live in great Metropolitan cities, and yet you are coming here to this small village, to church. Why do you come? You come for a pure worship, and the preaching of the good word of God, and it is your hope that God will use us, this little band of believers, to reach not only the Tama-Toledo area, but also, in a way that only He can, open the door for you, to somehow minister to the cities that you come from. Even though you may live some miles away from this town, and this church, you should still pray and say to the Lord – “Let us lodge in the villages”. May your Presence go with us as we travel here Sunday by Sunday. May You be with us to bless our fellowship together here in this place. May You indeed build a regional church around this small village, if that is your will. Come and dwell with us, and abide with us. Thomas Robinson in his commentary on Song of Solomon says – “The Gospel is to be preached in the villages, as well as the large centers of population.”

In Mark 6: 56 it says – “Wherever Jesus entered, into villages, cities, or the country, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged Him that they might just touch the border of His garment.” “And as many as touched Him were made well.” Now, you can see here that it is the Presence of the Lord Jesus, coming into these villages and cities, that made all the difference. And so, you must understand that wherever you go, entering a city or a village, you are taking Jesus with you into whatever situation you are entering. And yet, the thing to pray for, the thing to beg for, is that Jesus might touch them, and that they might ask Him to come to them, come into their hearts and save

them, by their exercising faith in Him. Because, it His manifesting His saving/healing Presence to others around you, that will make all the difference in the world.

You see the same kind of thing happening with the two on the road to Emmaus after the crucifixion. Turn with me over to Luke 24: 13 – “Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem.” “And they talked together of all these things which had happened.” “So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them.” “But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.” You can see here that these men were not from the big city, Jerusalem, but they had been there evidently, during the time of the Passover and they had seen Jesus crucified on the cross, and they had heard the report of His being raised from the tomb, and yet they had not seen Him, alive from the dead, for themselves. Look what happens when Jesus comes with them, to join in their conversation.

Verse 17 – “And He said to them, ‘What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?’” “Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, ‘Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?’” “And He said to them, ‘What things?’” “And they said to Him, ‘The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him.’” “But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel.” “Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened.” “Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us.” “When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive.”

So you see, how they laid out all of their thinking; all of their heart, in relation to Jesus, and He went with them further, even to the village where they lived. In verse 24 they keep explaining – “And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see.” Then He said to them, ‘O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!’” “Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” “And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” “Then they drew near the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther.” “But they constrained Him, saying, ‘Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.’” “And He went in to stay with them.”

And you know how the rest of the story went. He went with them because His desire was toward them; to reveal Himself to them in His resurrection glory, at the table in the house. Verse 30 says – “Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.” “Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.” “And they said to one another, ‘Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?’” I want you to see, that Christ has these good purposes to reveal His glory to His people, as they ask Him to abide with them; as they constrain Him to turn aside to hold fellowship and communion with them, over a meal, or even over the Lord’s Supper. Let us be those who ask Him to “lodge in the villages”.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> – Christ’s desire is towards you in that He would come with you to see and to evaluate the vineyards and their fruit.**

Verse 12 – “Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine has budded, whether the grape blossoms are open, and the pomegranates are in bloom.” “There I will give you my love.” The vineyards here appear to represent churches. The Bride of Christ, and the individual believers who make up that Bride, want to have Christ come with them to evaluate the state of the Church’s fruitfulness. I want you to understand that the Church of our Lord Jesus sometimes cannot clearly tell whether she is bearing fruit which is pleasing to Christ, without His help. She needs the help of the One who is perfect in discernment to help her to understand whether she is making progress; whether grapes and pomegranates are open and in bloom; or whether she is going to bear lasting fruit

for Christ. Old Testament Israel needed this kind of evaluation and God gave Isaiah the prophet the words to tell them. In Isaiah 5, verse 1, we find it being spoken by the prophet in this way – “Now let me sing to my Well-Beloved a song of my Beloved regarding His vineyard: My Well-Beloved has a vineyard on a very fruitful hill.” “He dug it up and cleared out its stones, and planted it with the choicest vine.” “He built a tower in its midst, and also made a winepress in it; so He expected it to bring forth good grapes, but it brought forth wild grapes.”

Notice that this is the same kind of language that is used in Song of Solomon when it speaks of the “Beloved”, who is our Lord Jesus Christ. But notice the difference between the Bride in Chapter 7, verse 12, and the vineyard of Israel in Old Testament times, and in the times when Christ’s earthly ministry was taking place, was fruitfulness. Chapter 5, verse 4 of Isaiah says – “What more could have been done to My vineyard that I have not done in it?” “Why then, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes?” “And now, please let Me tell you what I will do to My vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it shall be burned; and break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.” “I will lay it waste; it shall not be pruned or dug, but there shall come up briers and thorns.” “I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain on it.” “For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are His pleasant plant.” “He looked for justice, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold, weeping.” Now, I hope that you can see, these are the kinds of fruits that the Lord is looking for, from anyone who professes to be a Christian. He is looking for good grapes. He is looking for love to Him first, and then doing what is right.

And so, we need to see that it is only by and because of, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and His “coming with us”, and working in us, that we can bear fruit unto Him. What is the way to bear fruit unto God? It is to abide in Christ. John 15: 4 – “Abide in Me, and I in you.” “As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.” “I am the vine, you are the branches.” “He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” But asking Christ to go with us when we are laboring for Him, and asking Him to show us whether our vine is budding, whether the grape blossoms are open, and the pomegranates are in bloom, we can come to know that we are bearing fruit for Him if, in the process, we are giving Him our preeminent love. It is when you are willing to have Christ examine your soul from top to bottom and be enraptured with His evaluation and His love, that you will find yourself giving yourself more and more to Him; to please Him in all of your service to Him.

When you give yourself to Him you will be asking Him to bring to you a deeper experience of His love, and to be able to give yourself to Him in greater acts of loving obedience, and you will be seeking to bring others to know Him, you will want to help others to know Him better. And this is bearing good fruit to Him; fruit that He will be able to approve of. Let me give you this one last thought before I close this message. One day the churches in all the world will be stronger than they are now. How do I know that? Well, listen to Isaiah 27: 1 – “In that day the Lord with His severe sword, great and strong, will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan that twisted serpent; and He will slay the reptile that is in the sea.” I believe that this is referring to the binding of Satan in Revelation chapter 20, and the time when the Lord shall pour out His Spirit upon the Jews for their salvation, and many people in many other nations of the world shall be brought savingly to Christ.

Verse 2 shows us what that day will be like for the Church of Jesus Christ. “In that day sing to her, a vineyard of red wine!” “I, the Lord, keep it, I water it every moment; lest any hurt it, I keep it night and day.” “Fury is not in Me.” “Who would set briers and thorns against Me in battle?” “I would go through them, I would burn them together.” “Or let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me.” “Those who come He shall cause to take root in Jacob; Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit.” That is how it shall be in that day, but that day has not come yet. And so, it will be good for us to get up in early in the morning in prayer and pour out our hearts, that Christ would come with us to see if our vine has budded, and ask Him to come to the garden of our heart, to help us to know whether we are bearing fruit to God; all manner of fruits, old and new.

