

The Perfume is Left on Your Doorknob

Song of Solomon 5:5-6

The story is told of a wealthy girl whose parents offered to buy her a car when she turned 16. They told her they would buy her a brand new Honda Civic, manual transmission, so that she had a safe reliable care to get to school. In return she would have to drive her younger siblings around and help run some errands that required a car. They took her to the dealership, and she threw a tantrum in the car dealership, demanding a BMW like her mom drove. Crying, screaming, until her parents (who seemed reasonable up until this point) gave in and bought her one. Oh, and guess what? She never drove her siblings around or helped with anything.

- We call this entitlement mentality.
- The Lord showed me I have lately been wrestling with this kind of attitude spiritually speaking.
- God has blessed me and been good to me and my family.
- He has protected my family.
- He has allowed me to travel the world.
- He has given me some nice things.
- God has kept me and my home from tragedy and death.
- God has given us a great church and school here at POW and VCA.
- We have wonderful leadership that is a great honor to pastor.
- Yet, I have discovered lately when God does not show up right away in prayer and worship where I can feel Him I begin to lose interest with pursuing Him. I am talking about Don Rogers and nobody else.
- I have found my attitude unwilling to press or labor to enter the rest of the Lord through prayer and fasting.
- So the Lord withdraws the closeness and the peace and the joy of His presence like vs. 6 to challenge me to cause me to become hungry for Him.
- All to get me to ask myself what pleases or satisfied me the most. His blessings or His presence.
- After all God, I'm Don Rogers. I've served You for 36 years. I've worked hard for You. I carry a lot of responsibilities. Surely You can answer prayer and come and bless me in 5 or 10 or 20 minutes of prayer. I shouldn't have to press or work hard in prayer. I have a track record God, I have a reputation.
- Yet, God withdraws His presence sometimes to get us to ask the question, Am I worth it? How bad do you want My presence?
- I left the perfume on the door knob and withdrew myself from You. Not because I'm mad at you or doing something bad. I want you to pursue Me more than the people you please.
- I have found myself very lonely lately with many people who love me, around me.
- Even after seeing great moves of God in churches I've preached, I've come away feeling empty and something missing.
- God said you've been motivated to please people, before being motivated to please Me.
- Famous gospel artist Helen Baylor once said, "I took the applause of the people as God's acceptance and failed to understand that the people's approval and applause is not by itself what pleases God.
- God told her, 'you must sing to please Me, and not the crowd.'
- So I'm leaving the perfume on the doorknob to remind you. I did not withdraw from you out of abandonment or rejection but to get you become more hungry to seek after Me and to desire to please Me and be captivated by Me more than pleasing others. Because I want to promote you to new assignments and you will not be ready at the level you are on right now.

We will return to this chapter in a minute but go to Song of Solomon 2:14

- a) She climbs the rocky steps up the hillside.
- b) This is God asking you, Am I worth pursuing up this rocky hillside in prayer when it feels like I've withdrawn and left my perfume on the doorknob?
- c) My answer has been No God!
- d) Explain how my grandson acts and wants to be held instead of walking on his own.

You see, to climb the rocky hillside means:

1. Praying, lingering through your own impatience.
2. Constant distractions
3. Through fears, worries, and anxieties
4. Or failed expectations

- This shows God you are worth the pursuit.
- And I'm going to show it in climbing this rocky hillside.
- Because Your love has captivated me.
- Read Song of Sol. 5:10, and vs 16
- God said just don't pursue Me but get captivated by My expensive love.
- Get your eyes off of whether you're pleasing people and see beyond that by going passed the perfume on the door knob to find Me. I purposely withdrew My presence so you will get hungry for Me.
- Am I not worth pressing and pursuing past the perfume on the doorknob?
- Didn't I perform miracles for you?
- Didn't I heal your body?
- Didn't I deliver you out of that hard situation you were in?
- Didn't I bless you when there was no way possible?

God wants to develop a deeper desire to please Him more than you desire to please others or succeed at your ministry and job.

It's God who causes feelings of emptiness and unfulfillment.

Quote from Troy Aikman, "Is that all there is?", after winning a Super Bowl.

So to grow to the next level, God leaves perfume on the doorknob and is asking, Am I worth you pursuing Me in love, worship, and intimate prayer?

Read Isaiah chapter six

- a) He pursued God in a very difficult time.
- b) The angel mightily touched him.
- c) But look at the assignment God gave him.

Now go back to Song of Sol. 5

Vs. 7, she was wounded

- Her response was only how much she loved Him in vs. 8.
- She still searches for Him and refuses to allow her wounds, her busyness, and her distractions to lose her focus.
- She was not focused on her hurts, she wanted Him.
- Her love and hunger was greater than her hurts.
- Our hunger and passion drives us to be more pliable in God's hands.
- Without this attitude we resist change.

Read Ps. 84:2, Ps. 119:20, Ps. 119:131, Ex. 24:12, Ex. 33:11, Phil. 3:8-14

He wants you captivated by His love, that real success is obedience to please God.

1. He's a lover, Song of Sol. 5:10-13
2. Warrior vs. 14
3. Lion for judgment vs. 15

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