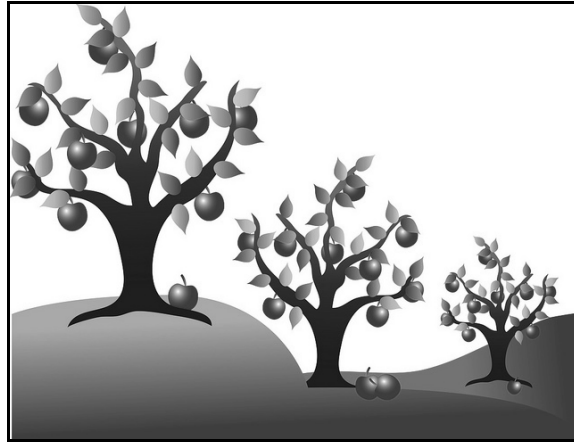


BLOW UPON MY GARDEN



Scripture:

Psalm 145:8-14

⁸The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ⁹The LORD is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

¹⁰All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your faithful shall bless you. ¹¹They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power, ¹²to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. ¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds. ¹⁴The LORD upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.

Song of Solomon 4:12-16

¹²A garden locked is my sister, my bride, a spring locked, a fountain sealed. ¹³Your shoots are an orchard of pomegranates with all choicest fruits, henna with nard, ¹⁴nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense, myrrh and aloes, with all chief spices — ¹⁵a garden fountain, a well of living water, and flowing streams from Lebanon.

¹⁶Awake, O north wind, and come, O south wind! Blow upon my garden that its fragrance may be wafted abroad, let its spices flow. Let my beloved come to his garden, and eat its choicest fruits.

This is the Word of the Lord! Thanks be to God!



The service this day is a Spanish/English Worship Service led by the Rev. Dr. Cindy Alloway and Pastor Jonathan Bravo of Centro Cristiano Hispano, the congregation that meets at Church of the Roses on Sunday afternoons.

The first part of the sermon was preached by Pastor Jonathan Bravo, speaking on the Scripture from the Song of Solomon.

**(PASTOR BRAVO USED THESE NOTES
AND SPOKE IN MORE DETAIL
ABOUT THE PASSAGE.)**

The Church is compared to a beautiful woman with no arms in the Song of Solomon. In this section of chapter four there are things so intimate that should be seen like a private property with a very large sign saying, *NO TRASPASSING!* "*Closed Garden.*" "*Closed Fountain.*" "*Sealed Fountain.*" ... That is why we insist on being part of a clean and healthy church in every way and in constant Sanctification.

Further on shown, in that garden, there are nine kinds of soft fruits ... Each one has an amazing relationship with The Fruit of the Holy Spirit mentioned in the same order of Galatians 5:22-23. Pomegranate - Love, Henna - Joy, Nard - Peace, Saffron- Patience, Calamus – Kindness, Cinnamon - Goodness, Incense - Faith, Myrrh - Meekness, Temperance - Aloe. What do you think? Do you realize? How I wish I had time to savor each and every one of them!

Continuing, it talks of something you will be familiar with: *A fountain of gardens, a well of living water, rivers of living water!* If you have the Spirit, something inside you feels alive!

At last, the four natural winds are described. I want to dedicate this time to share with you that the winds blow over the garden and carry the scent all around.

PASTOR CINDY'S RESPONSE:

I have never preached from the book of Song of Solomon before, so I applaud Pastor Bravo for being very brave! This book is so intimate it makes many people blush. But it is not just an example of deep love between two people. It is also a metaphor for how deeply and passionately God loves us individually as his creation and corporately as Christ's church, the community of believers, the body of Christ. Ephesians 5 talks about the church being the Bride of Christ.

So these words in Song of Solomon can be seen as a demonstration of what the depth of God's love is like towards us.

In this specific passage, the well of living water is a wonderful metaphor for the abundant love that God has for each of us, quenching our thirst and

providing us with peace that surpasses all understanding. And once our thirst is quenched we are to share Christ's living water with others who thirst for a sense of God's love and peace in their lives.

Historically, you probably remember that the author of the Song of Solomon was King Solomon. He was the second born child of Bathsheba and King David who inherited the throne of Israel. Solomon is an example of God's forgiveness and amazing grace because King David had taken Bathsheba from her husband Uriah and had him killed in battle. Their first baby died but their second son, Solomon lived. His name means Shalom, peace and wholeness, an example of King David finally feeling at peace with God.

Most commentators consider the Song of Solomon to have been written early in the king's life. Solomon's early Godly years were followed by a decline and an extended time in his life when he was not walking with God. Solomon's journey of faith and doubt is clearly described in 1 Kings, chapter one.

**I love the way the Bible scriptures
record the times of doubt and
weaknesses and the mistakes of people
like King Solomon and King David.
It shows that God knows
(and still loves) frail humanity.**

These honest stories make the Bible seem all the more real. Amen



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