

Jesus Sees No Spot in You
Song of Solomon 4:1-7; Matthew 6:21
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Jesus declares to you, His elect bride: “there is no spot in thee” (Song 4:7)? What does Jesus mean?

After all, one indication that you are actually growing in your sanctification is that you see the spots of sin in what you think and desire, in what you say and listen to, in what you watch and how you use your time, your treasures, and your talents and you do not try to hide them from the Lord Jesus (as if it was possible to do so anyway). In fact, the closer you get to the light of God’s Word in reading it, meditating upon it, believing it, loving it, and applying it, the more His law reveals the spots of sin in your thoughts, words, and deeds.

Acknowledging and repenting of your sin in order that you may put it off in Christ is a part of the work of grace in your life. What then does Jesus mean that He sees no spot of sin in you? You see these spots of sin in you. How is it that Jesus does not seem them? Let us see from our text.

The main points from our text are: (1) Jesus Describes the Beauty of the Bride (Song 4:1-5); (2) Jesus Promises His Presence till the Shadows Are Past (Song 4:6-7).

I. Jesus Describes the Beauty of the Bride (Song 4:1-5).

A. The daughters of Jerusalem had pointed to the beauty of the bride especially as she had just emerged from the wilderness of this world’s trials (Song 3:6). She was beautiful through her communion with Jesus Christ and the gospel with which he made her beautiful. But now the Lord Jesus Himself describes most emphatically the beauty of His own beloved bride (Song 4:1-5).

1. Dear ones, when you see so clearly your sins, your failures, and your struggles against the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, when you bow your head with sorrow, shame, and repentance over how you have fallen once again, the Lord Jesus calls you to listen closely to Him; for He wants you to know how lovely and beautiful you are to Him. It is His grace, His love, His righteousness, and all the fruit of the Spirit implanted in you that even outshine your failures. To be sure, Jesus knows your failures and you are to repent and seek His forgiveness, but His grace is infinitely greater than all your sins (Romans 5:20). You and I may be great sinners, but He is an infinitely greater Savior.

2. Christ’s description of the bride’s beauty is not flattery or exaggeration. He intends not to inflate you with pride. Jesus knows all the ways that you are rejected in the world (by family, friends, and those who despise you) for your beautiful faithfulness to Jesus and His truth (gospel and commandments, doctrine and worship). Remember—the world sees you as ugly and contemptible, but Jesus sees you in His beauty. Jesus is alone competent to judge this beauty pageant between His bride and the world. Listen to Jesus, not the world which mouths the lies of the devil.

3. Jesus describes here the beauty of grace in His bride so that you might understand that it is not the things of this world that will make you beautiful, but rather the beauty of His grace and love alone (Psalm 90:17).

C. Consider the Lord’s own evaluation of your beauty as His bride.

1. **“Behold, thou art fair, my love: behold, thou art fair” (Song 4:1).** Jesus says in effect, “Look here! You are stunning, not in yourself, but by the beauty of my grace, my salvation, my righteousness, and my fruit of the Spirit that I have purchased for you.” Jesus repeats this not only to emphasize that His evaluation is absolutely true (and so receive it as true), but also to reveal the intensity of His affection in being ravished by you (Song 4:9). Jesus takes great pleasure in speaking of your beauty as His bride in the very courts

of heaven. Will this truth not transform you regardless of what others think of you? Will this truth not draw you to Jesus to delight in communion with Him all the more? All seven (the number of perfection) of the beautiful features of the bride that now follow are not a physical beauty, but rather a spiritual beauty wrought by God's grace (common language of Eastern poetry).

2. **Doves' eyes (Song 4:1).** The eyes are a window to the soul and reveal the love and affection within that one has for Jesus. Whatever your eyes are fixed upon tells you where your heart and affections are (Matthew 6:21; Proverbs 17:24). Who/What do you see as your treasure above all treasures? Who do you have eyes for? Jesus or the world? That will reveal where your true love and affection lie. Jesus says that His chosen bride has doves' eyes. The dove is a symbol of purity (Matthew 10:16—harmless as doves—unmixed in purity and faithfulness). This is not a feminine spiritual grace. It is a Christian grace. All true Christians have doves' eyes. The battle that you fight every day is to keep your doves' eyes upon Jesus rather than other lovers (people and things).

3. **Hair as a flock of goats (Song 4:1).** Her hair is compared to a flock of goats covering the side of Mount Gilead, which from a distance, resembled hair hanging down from the head. Paul teaches that the longer hair of the woman points to her created distinction from men and her created submission to man in that which is lawful (1 Corinthians 11:15). Jesus loves you and sees the beauty of His grace in you in your humble submission to His revealed will (commandments) and to His providential will (what He brings into your life by His sovereign power, wisdom, and love). Don't say that you love Jesus and yet care not what Jesus commands you to believe, to say, or to do. That is a mockery of love and submission to Christ (Luke 6:46). Mary Magdalene's hair was beautiful when she humbled herself and wiped the feet of Christ with it. It may have looked foolish to man, but Jesus saw it as beautiful.

4. **Teeth like a flock of sheep (Song 4:2).** Teeth are God's gift to us for the purpose of eating food that nourishes us. From the description given here, they are like sheep that are shorn for their wool. Sheep are not simply to be gazed upon. They are to be shorn and used. Jesus says you are beautiful when you hunger and thirst for righteousness and use your spiritual teeth to feed upon the milk and meat of God's Word regularly (by reading, meditating, memorizing, and practicing it). The Word washes and cleanses you as sheep are washed (Ephesians 5:26). The Word brings forth other sheep and it will not return void.

5. **Lips like a thread of scarlet (Song 4:3).** Jesus delights to hear your lips used to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) rather than to yell at one another, to utter profanity, blasphemy, disrespect, criticism that tears one another apart, lewd jokes, gossip, and lies (Ephesians 4:29). These are not uncircumcised lips (Exodus 6:12), but lips that have been purified by the thread of scarlet—even the blood of Jesus Christ (which scarlet cord saved Rahab the harlot). The lips of the bride are beautiful. What about your lips in the way you speak to one another in the home? Perhaps today your lips need to be cleansed by the coals from God's altar (the cross) as were Isaiah's (Isaiah 6:5-7).

6. **Temples like a piece of pomegranate (Song 4:3).** The temples include the cheeks on each side of the face. Just as the split pomegranate has red seeds in it, so this spiritual grace which Jesus finds so beautiful in the bride emphasizes that she blushes at that which is immodest, immoral, and filthy (Ephesians 5:3-4). How brazen this world is in making public all manner and forms of immorality! The worst perversions are taught in public schools and are watched on television and on websites at a touch of the keys on your computer. Do you blush and flee from all such immorality (like Joseph) or do you stay and visit a while? Where you have failed to blush, there is forgiveness. Pray to the Lord that you would grow in the grace to blush at immorality.

7. **Neck like the tower of David (Song 4:4).** The neck here points to the grace of faith, by which you are united to Christ. Just as the body is united to the head by the neck, so you who are the body of Christ are united to Jesus the Head by faith alone. The tower of David is the Lord Jesus and His promises where alone you find safety from all of the attacks of the enemy (Proverbs 18:10). There are a thousand shields of mighty men (the shield of faith, Ephesians 6:16). These shields point to the mighty men/women of God

throughout history who have exercised faith in the Lord when the fear of the enemy has come against them (whether the fear of man, poor health, children, marriage, finances, jobs, persecution—Hebrews 11). Be not stiff-necked like the children of Israel in the wilderness who resisted God, His promises, His commandments, and His providence and sought the comforts and pleasures of this temporary and ugly world. You are united to Christ by faith alone.

8. **Breasts like two young roes (Song 4:5).** Remember that this is not intended to portray some graphic nudity, but points to the beauty of Christ's spiritual grace bestowed upon His bride in which He delights. The Lord Jesus sees His bride as beautiful when she feeds, comforts, encourages, and spiritually nourishes fellow members of the Church of Jesus Christ (just as mother breastfeeds her own children). We live in such a "me first" culture. Everything in life, in marriage, at work, in the church revolves around me rather than the beautiful grace exhibited in all of the "one anothering" passages (love, comfort, edify, kind, forbear, forgiving, etc.). The breasts of the bride point to the love and delight that you have in your communion with Jesus (Song 1:13). It is not a burden. It is your joy. Dear Christians, you are beautiful to Jesus and He is ravished with your love (Song 4:9).

II. **Jesus Promises His Presence till the Shadows Are Past (Song 4:6-7).**

A. In order to understand the words of Jesus here, we must look back to the prayer of the bride (Song 2:17). Christ's promise is almost exactly in the words of her prayer with the difference that she prayed for His coming to her and now He promises her that He will never leave her nor forsake her "until the day break, and the shadows flee away". It was not an immediate answer, but He did answer. In the midst of your present shadow of trials, heartaches, and temptations that you face, Jesus promises that nothing can separate you from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:39). Where will Jesus always be? In and with His church. "The mountain of myrrh" and "hill of frankincense" both speak of the temple on Mount Zion in Jerusalem where myrrh and frankincense perfumed the house of God. The New Covenant temple is the Church of Jesus (1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Timothy 3:15). Remember this was the promise of Jesus before His ascension (Matthew 28:19-20). You are never alone. You can face all fears, all delays, all trials, all pain and sorrow, and all temptations if you know and believe that Jesus, your Savior and King, is with you.

B. The Lord Jesus closes here (Song 4:7) where He began, once again assuring you of His infinite love and taking greatest pleasure in telling you how much He loves you. Will you believe Him? These are not empty, vain words, but words sealed by His own shed blood. But here, Jesus adds, "there is no spot in thee." There is no spot in thee because God as your Judge has forgiven all your spots of sin, because God has imputed to you the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ, because the beauty of His grace in you is greater than all your sin, and because you are a bride that He will certainly present to Himself without spot or wrinkle on that final day. Dear ones, have an eye to behold your sin, to repent of your sin, and to seek God's fatherly forgiveness for your sin. But do not stop there. Behold the beauty of Jesus and rejoice for His beauty has become your beauty. That is the beauty He has already purchased for you. That is the beauty that He is working within you. That is the beauty that He shall perfect when you see His face to face.

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