

Come with Me

Song of Solomon 4:8-11; Matthew 4:8-10

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It is one of the greatest expressions of love in a Christian marriage for a husband to say to His wife, “Come with me for a couple hours. Let’s get away from work, from other responsibilities, and even from the children to spend some time together—just the two of us.”

For a wife to know that her husband longs to spend time with just her tells her that she is dear and precious to him. As important as it may be to spend time with your children, the earthly relationship in a Christian home that determines the health of the family is the relationship of a husband and wife. If that is absent, the whole family will suffer.

It is similarly true in the Christian’s relationship with Jesus Christ. If that blessed communion with Jesus Christ is not enjoyed by individual believers and Christian families, the church will suffer. Jesus not only loved you from all eternity, not only redeemed you with His own blood, but He calls you to come away with Him as a further expression of His love for you. Dear ones, it is one thing for us who are so weak and needy to desire to be with Jesus and commune with Him. But He delights with the greatest expressions of love and joy to draw us away from this world to commune with us. He, who is eternally God, who is absolutely holy and just, who became a man to bear the guilt of sin and everlasting condemnation of God for you, His bride whom He loved from all eternity, finds more beauty and joy in you than in all of His creation and calls to you today, “Come with me” (whether it be to the Communion Table, or to private, family, or public communion in worship of the Lord Jesus). If your heart is not broken and your love not renewed to come away with Him, then there are other lovers that have your heart rather than Jesus. Our main points are: (1) Come with Me to Commune with Me (Song 4:8); (2) Come with Me for Thou Hast Ravished My Heart (Song 4:9-11).

I. Come with Me to Commune with Me (Song 4:8).

A. The Lord Jesus continues with His speech to His beloved bride (which began in Song 4:1), but now He moves from describing the beauty of grace in His bride to how her beauty affects Him—how it moves Him to be with you and to enjoy you, dear believer and lover of Jesus Christ. Your beauty in Christ doesn’t leave Him indifferent, neutral, or lukewarm about you. The beauty of His grace in you leaves Him passionate to be with you (now and for all eternity). Hear His call to you in Song 4:8.

1. “Come with me.”

a. Remember the bride has been riding in the chariot or carriage of Christ’s salvation and has been communing with Him upon His bed while traveling through the wilderness of this world (Song 3:6). The Lord Jesus told His bride (Song 4:6) where He was going—“I will get me to the mountain of myrrh, and to the hill of frankincense.” The Lord Jesus was saying to His bride that He will go to be with His people as they gather to worship and commune with Him in the temple upon Mt. Zion (where such sweet smelling aromas perfumed the worship of Christ). The temple points to and is realized in the New Covenant Church of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:16) where we offer our spiritual sacrifices of praise to Him (Hebrews 13:15) and our body as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1). He calls His bride to come with Him and commune with Him (Song 4:8).

b. Though calling His bride to come with Him **TO** the mountain of myrrh (the ordinances of worship—preaching, prayer, and the sacraments), take note **FROM** where He calls her to leave in order to come with Him—“Come with me **FROM** Lebanon, my spouse, with me **FROM** Lebanon: look **FROM** the top of Amana, **FROM** the top of Shenir and Hermon, **FROM** the lions’ dens, **FROM** the mountains of the

leopards” (Song 4:8). Amana, Shenir, and Hermon are all prominent mountains on the northern end of Israel that borders Lebanon. These were beautiful, lush areas that Israel conquered during the wilderness wanderings. Jesus calls the bride away **FROM** these mountains covered with the green cedars of Lebanon **TO** come to His holy hill. Why?

(1) These impressive and attractive mountains speak of the many attractions that the world has to offer. The view from these mountains is spectacular. They point to the glory of this world and its kingdoms—the glory of riches, power, fame, and relationships. To have all of these is what people seek with all of their hearts. They believe the lie that if they can climb to the top of those mountains and look from there, they will finally have arrived. They believe the lie that if they reach the pinnacle, they will find satisfaction, pleasure, and contentment. Don’t misunderstand me. I am not saying that riches, power, fame, and relationships are sinful in themselves. However, they become sinful when they become your treasure and where your heart is. When having that job, or your health, or your pension, or that family member near you becomes more important and of greater value and love to you than the Lord Jesus Christ, His gospel, and His commandments, you have left your first love (Revelation 2:4). When you cannot be pulled away from those mountains and kingdoms of this world to come away with Jesus to commune with Him at the mountain of myrrh (Christ’s kingdom and His ordinances in private, family, and public worship) in order to find in Him your greatest treasure, pleasure, affection, and boasting, it becomes clear which kingdom has your greatest affection.

(2) Remember that Satan tempted the Lord Jesus with this same temptation (Matthew 4:8-10). Just as this temptation came to Jesus while in the wilderness, so the bride faced this temptation while in the wilderness. It is so often that while you are going through some great wilderness trial or temptation that the temptation of the enemy comes to you that you can have it all if you follow your own path rather than the paths of truth and righteousness, if you choose those mountains of pleasure over God’s holy commandments, if you follow family and friends rather than Jesus and faithfulness to Him (Matthew 10:37-39; Job 13:15). The lush mountains are such a temptation when struggling through the wilderness of suffering, heartache, and rejection for Christ’s sake. Jesus faced the same temptation and overcame it by faith in God’s Word for you (Hebrews 4:15-16). He was beautified by passing through that temptation in the wilderness and so will you.

c. Though those mountains and the view from them look so glorious and attractive to our natural affections in beholding the glory of this world, Jesus warns His beloved bride that there lie in wait many dangers for the soul, for in them are “lions’ dens” and “leopards” (Song 4:8). Beware, dear ones, for if your first love for Jesus and obedience to His truth be left behind in looking for peace, contentment, and happiness in this world, the enemy of your soul is just waiting to strike you and devour you (1 Peter 5:8). The temptations of the enemy always look so good and easier than the path of the cross—that is why most take the broad path rather than the narrow path. However, the broad path leads to destruction; but the narrow path leads to life. You may weep for a night of years in resisting these temptations, but you shall rejoice in the morning of eternity forevermore. Walk by faith!

II. Come with Me for Thou Hast Ravished My Heart (Song 4:9-11).

A. Now the Lord Jesus gives His elect bride such a mighty incentive to come away with Him to commune with Him—He is ravished with your love for Him. I can think of nothing greater to move you to come away with Jesus and to commune with Him than this. You are His “spouse” and “sister” spiritually: by marital covenant and by adoption (Mark 3:35).

1. Jesus is not complacent about your love for Him. There is not a blank look on His face or even just a little smile on His face over your love for Him. Your love for Jesus ravishes His heart (Song 4:9) so that it is as if your love has stopped His heart and taken His heart away. I can understand how the infinite and

everlasting love of Jesus demonstrated in bearing my sin and condemnation ravishes my heart for Him, but I cannot understand (though I receive it as true) how my weak, imperfect, but growing love for Him ravishes His heart (takes His heart away). For I am a faltering Christian, but because of His love for me and His love for the beauty of His grace that He has worked in me, my return of love to Him gives Him such delight and pleasure that He is ravished. If that does not speak volumes (yea a library full of volumes) as to the love of Jesus for you, His chosen bride, nothing will. Will you not come away with Him who is ravished with your love? Will you not come with renewed faith and love to commune with Him knowing that you take His heart away? Why else would He have sacrificially laid down His life for you?

2. Even the glance of one eye of love cast upon Him draws Him to you (Song 4:9). Even one chain around the neck that adorns you delights Him with such great pleasure (the neck is faith—Song 4:4—and when it is exercised it is like a chain). You know that it is your duty to trust and love Jesus. But dear ones, when you only see your duty, but not how Jesus is ravished by your love, you blind yourself to one great motivation to come away with Him to commune with Him. It takes no great effort to imagine why you would not want to come away with one who would berate you, criticize you, condemn you, and mock you. Perhaps that is your distorted view of the Lord Jesus, dear Christian. If so, you have believed the lie of the devil who only seeks to keep you away from sweet communion with Jesus. But hear His voice today in His Word: “Thou hast ravished my heart, my sister, my spouse.”

3. Your love for Jesus makes you “fair” (beautiful) to Him (Song 4:10). Is it even possible to hear it too many times that Jesus considers you beautiful in His sight (due to His imputed righteousness and infused faith, love, and holiness)? Why does Jesus repeat Himself? He does not want you to forget. He wants you to know He is sincere. He wants you to know that your love for Him ravishes His heart. Your love for Him is better than the finest of wines (better than anything in the world that would satisfy the appetite), and better than the most fragrant ointments or spices (better than anything in the world that would satisfy the sense of smell).

4. Here again the Lord Jesus speaks of the lips of the bride (Song 4:3) from which flow forth her words of praise, worship, and thanksgiving to the Lord and words of speaking the truth in love to the saints (Song 4:11). Her words are sweetened like honeycomb and underneath the tongue (in the hidden part of her heart) are both milk (nourishment) and honey (edification). Dear ones, your words reveal what is in your heart (Matthew 12:34). When you get angry and spew forth the poison of asps (Romans 3:13) rather than sweet honey (Psalm 119:103), you are revealing what is in your heart at that moment. You may say, “I’m sorry. I did not mean it.” But it is what was in your heart at the time. We must listen most closely to our own words even more than we do to the words of others. We must smell our own garments first before we go about smelling the garments of others.

B. The Lord Jesus has given to us such persuasive reasons and glorious motivations to come away with Him from the attractiveness of the world to the place of communion with Him (especially in communing with Him around the Lord’s Table). Dear ones, if Holy Communion is the only communion you enjoy with Jesus, your communion is in vain. Jesus is not ravished with you, His beloved bride, only at such a holy time, but He is ravished with your love at all times (private, family, and public worship). He is calling to you each day, “Come with me.” Do not turn a deaf ear to the love of Jesus Christ when He declares that your love for Him ravishes His heart.

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