**The Power of Love (Song of Songs 8:5-7)**

If you want to know God, learn to love.

Greetings to you, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we delve into the depth of love and attempt to understand its power. There are many definitions of love: for some, it is simply the reflection of a number of (simultaneous) biological activities within the human body. For others, it is an emotional reality. For still others, it is a mental or thought-related reality. And yet, for others, it is a purely spiritual reality. The Bible, however, does not always separate the spiritual from the physical in its explanation or view of the world. Often in the Bible, physical love points to or imagines a greater love, that of God, against which flow no adversary or enemy has ever been able to stand. Thus, today, we are going to establish the truth of the power of God’s love, especially through the example of the love within a human marriage relationship. Again, if you want to know God, learn to love. Let us move on to this study of the Song of Songs…

Just as a man and a woman fall in love and their love for each other grows, so your love relationship that you have with God will, if you give Him permission to join you in life. The book by the name of Song of Songs describes human love within a marriage relationship, but if we read it carefully, we can see that there are hints or traces of examples of God’s love throughout. For example, when we read the first few phrases of our passage, we see a moment of trust portrayed; the wife is leaning on her husband as they come up from the wilderness. The bride is leaning on her groom; there is a feeling of security there. The man is trustworthy – the bride has given her heart to him.

Then, we move to verses that speak about the act of procreation. The bride is thinking about having a family. Falling in love, getting married is not purposeless. She remembers that their own parents also formed a part of that long chain of generations coming from Adam himself. It is family, fruit, that is brought forth from love. It is not selfish, neither is it shortsighted. Notice, also, that there is a journey that is taking place in these few verses – the passage is starting out in the wilderness, but if you were to read on beyond our short passage, the couple is going up to Jerusalem. The journey of love, in other words, happens in a direction – towards God’s house, towards God’s Presence. Love is a journey, and its fulfillment is found in God alone. (Remember that Jerusalem is the location of the Temple on Mount Zion.) The heart of the groom is his inner self – his true identity. His arm symbolizes his work and power. The woman wants to be part of both, infused and transformed into a part of his own self. Why? The reason is because love is extraordinarily powerful. Love does not give up – it cannot be defeated – it does not tolerate other lovers… Love is like a fire; it cannot be limited easily. In addition, if the Lord Himself is the embodiment of Love to begin with, then we can never put God’s Love (for us) within certain boundaries or limits. If you want to know God, learn to love.

For those in love, not even death can overcome their love for each other. This, then, is the true marriage based on love, which is an important example of God’s love in this world. The marriage relationship is not some dry institution or some ordinary cultural custom. Rather, it is a fiery relationship filled with passion and desire.

For the Bible authors, marriage and the fire of love walk hand in hand. We see a mystery of life in these few verses: First, marriage, then procreation, then children, then death. Interestingly, even the word for “fire” in the original text contains the name of God “Yah” to express an extremely hot fire. It makes us think that God has such a fiery love for us that not even death can defeat…

If you want examples of love, remember the example when a mother saves her child from under a car not only out of adrenaline, but out of love, lifting the car with her bare hands and taking the child out from under the vehicle. Even more, remember Jesus Himself, who didn’t even flinch at giving up his own life and dying on a cross, knowing that there was no other way to save you. Not even death was able to defeat Him.

Therefore, we also are called to that same powerful love relationship with our Lord. It is not good when our relationship with God turns routine, because He is not an ordinary Being! God is a God of love, a burning fiery God who does not want you to have a lover other than Him. Those others are nothing but idols, who try to entice you to themselves. God desires that you also, like that woman in the verses, belong only to Him, and ask Him to write your name on His heart and arm. He wants that you come out of the wilderness leaning on Him, and that you go towards Jerusalem, towards His living, miracle-working, and all-powerful Presence during your live-journey.

Come and rekindle your love for God today. Come and turn the little sparks of your love for Scripture into a blazing fire… Do not be an ordinary, dried-up, tired Christian.

The God who is in love with you and who dotes on you because of His great love is inviting you to experience His fiery love in the Holy Spirit – just as you dote on a cute newborn or when you see a little child…

Just as a man and a woman fall in love and their love for each other grows, so your love relationship that you have with God will, if you give Him permission to join you in life.

If you want to know God, learn to love.

Love cannot be defeated if it is a Godly love. May we all fall in love with the God of Love first, and then also learn to love each other. The Lord bless you all. Amen.