



Day One: Dressed for Success

Read Ez 16:10-14 again just as a refresher.

Okay we have the shoes on lets go ahead and get into the dress and accessories. We are comparing the wedding robes of the queen in the Ezekiel passage with the very surroundings of the dwelling place of God in the tabernacle.

Lets look at the inner layer of curtaining, the finely woven linen that surrounds the very chamber of God's presence. It is finely woven with artistic designs in the colours of scarlet, blue and purple. Lets look at the gown the bride wears,(one of the reasons we go to weddings isn't it) it is made of fine linen, costly beautifully embroidered fabric. I wonder if they were designs of Cherubim. Cherubim are woven into the inner cutains of the most Holy Place. Incidentally cherubim are winged creatures that fly around the throne room of God, remember he covered her with His wings (vs8). Food for thought isn't it, every thing God does is layer upon beautiful layer from old testament to new.

Solomon also said of his shulamite bride in SOS 1: 5 right when she was feeling dark and unworthy he calls her lovely, like the fine linen tapestry hanging in the holy place. Sounds an awful lot like she was wearing the glorious robe of righteousness offered to us by Our Bridegroom king Jesus.

Her jewellery bracelets necklaces and nose rings were all bridal gifts that she wore signifying her marriage covenant. (Isaac took Rebekkah similar gifts upon there betrothal in Gen 24) The crown on her head denotes her queenly status, the book of revelation talks about the crown the believers wear.

She in all ways looks like the queen she is (ez16:13) The pinnacle of it all is verse 14 declaring, I dressed you in my splendour and I perfected your beauty. Adam and Eve were clothed with all the splendour and beauty of God in the garden, that's what sin really is; its to fall short of His Glory, the glory you were made to live in.(rom 3:23) So, the whole way through this description of the garments of the bride we see God describing her as the covering around his



holy place, the place where his presence resides. The inner chamber, the secret place, my sweet sister is inside of you.



Wow, God's word is so rich in imagery. It leaves me breathless to absorb the implications of what God is declaring about us. The same coverings surrounding his presence in the tabernacle cover his adored bride. He lives in us we are the temple of God. This needs to sink deep in to our hearts.

Think then about this imagery (if you dare) Psalm 104:1,2 declares God is clothed with majesty and honour He is covered with light as a garment. If He lives in me, what then am I wearing? Can you say it? You are clothed with majesty and honour and covered with light as a garment because God lives in you. O Lord, HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

I dare you to close your eyes and 'see' it....



Day Two: Secret places

Just in case you missed it yesterday, or think this can't be true.... I know we are receiving the heart of the gospel if we begin to think this is too good to be true...

The New testament tells us we are the temple of the living God.(2Cor6:16)

Girlfriend, don't look for your king outside He is inside you. There is a beautiful section in the SOS, the bride becomes confused and fearful and loses sight of her lover, she frantically searches for Him, believing Him to be gone and then the penny finally drops in 6:2 and she realises my lover has gone down into His garden of delight He is within me. **You** are the secret place of the King the hidden chamber, clothed in the most glorious wedding clothes. Indeed, the desire of the shulamite maiden to run away with him to his cloud filled chamber in SOS 1:4 is literally translated a chamber within a chamber and denotes the holy of holies. The chamber within us where we are one with our bridegroom is a chamber within a chamber.

In the Song of Songs, which is the journey of a plain ordinary maiden, who cries out for a kiss and ends up swept away into the most wonderful of romances culminating in the most glorious of bridal dances. Jesus likens the secret place inside her to His own private garden, where she grows all kinds of wonderful fruit and spices which they explore and love together. It is her journey from immature fiancée to mature bride. It is our journey ladies, as she learns about him and their secret garden and learns to live from that place she becomes transformed, the clothes begin to feel like they fit and the shoes well they are great, never sore feet in them, the stones and thorns of the road of life cannot pierce those shoes.



Soak Time

“Your inward life is now sprouting, bringing forth fruit. What a beautiful paradise unfols within you! When I’m near you I smell the aromas of the finest spice I find many clusters of My exquisite fruit growing within you inner garden- Here are nine: Pomegranates of passion, Henna frim heaven, spikenard so sweet, saffron shining, fragrant calamus from the cross, sacred cinnamon, branches of scented woods, Myrrh, like tears from a tree, and Aloes as eagles ascending.” –Your Bridegroom-King SOS 4:13-14

Beloved sister, This is what your garden looks like? Jesus Himself enters with you there and enjoys the delights of His garden within you. He picks fruit for the world to receive from there (SOS 5:1) See yourself as this verdant procutive garden and you will harvest the abundant fruits of it in your soul and body, in your relationships, in every area of your life.

Get creative now, mediate on the fruits in your garden. Think of it in light of the fruit of the spirit (Gal 5:22). Write down anything the Holy Spirit shows you.



Day Three: Chosen Bride

I want to draw your attention to something pretty significant today. When does Jesus call her His lovely bride, right from the get go, before she even WAS He knew her as His. Right from the beginning of the book SOS 1:5 He describes her wearing the tapestries of the Holy Place. We were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world (Eph 1:4).

There is great power in the word Chosen. It is the essence of Covenant. In fact the very imagery God gives us to cement this idea in our hearts is that of the marriage covenant. Some of our marriage covenants might be less than concrete but as the Bride of Christ who is our covenant with?

Jesus Chose us. When, before the foundation of the world. Before any of this mess He chose us. Jesus says, "you didn't choose me, I chose you" (John 15:16). What does this mean? Even if we don't choose Him, He still chooses us, Even when we fail, He still chooses us, Even at my grubbiest He still chose me. He chose me unto death. He will never unchoose me, His love is continually turned on towards me. He is Love, He can not be any other way. It is His concrete covenant with me. I will never have to worry about His side of the covenant, He always has and always will choose me.

Jesus has been singing this song for us for a very long time (Only since before the beginning of the world). He relentlessly calls out the treasures in us until we believe it. Even if you have trouble believing it, as a born again child of God: you will always wear white, you will always wear the garments of the very Holy place of God. Remember the power is not in the pot but the treasure, You Just say I DO with your whole heart.



Soak Time

Think with me about the power of our choices. Whether wise or foolish, they all contain the power to effect our lives, either positively or negatively. Now expand further and think for a moment of being on the receiving end of the choice of the God of the universe. A God who never changes, never fails, never quits and is never wrong, and He chooses you. Are you safe or What....

Write down your thoughts.



Day Four: Open the eyes of my heart

Now that we have established, we are the secret place of Jesus. What happens when we enter in there. In a Jewish wedding, when the couple enter the bridal chamber the groom serves his bride and cares for her every need (remember Jesus serving his disciples at the last supper). They also become one with each other and their marriage is consummated.

The secret place is a place of intimacy with your bridegroom. It is where we commune with the King. Spiritual babies, the good works you were created to do (Eph 2:10), that's not everything you do, are conceived there. We explore the vast spiritual realm of His kingdom inside us with our king. Don't think of your born again spirit as little remember it holds all the promises and power of heaven. When the Shulamite maiden discovers the heights of the secret place, she can't wait to get there, she describes it as a perfect home in Song of Songs 1:16-17, she goes on and on about it she is totally passionately in love with her beloved.

Ladies you might think I am going heavily upon the imagery, indulging in some fantasy, you might even think I have painted an unbalanced picture over the last few weeks. Please hear my heart, I am not negating the weight of sin, but Jesus paid for it dearly, it cost Him His life. I am not neglecting the evils of the world, but Jesus too has conquered the world, and given us His peace in the process.

In the end if you don't 'see' your self as His treasure and His secret place, clothed in all the fine apparel of the Holy of Holies, then all He has done, all He paid for, the priceless gift He longs to give us is useless to us, unless it is **believed and received**. It is as sad a beautiful dress lying crushed in the bottom of a cupboard when it was designed to be worn or a perfect jewel lying abandoned instead of displayed for all to see.

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Soak Time

Paul prays for us in the book of Ephesians (1:18) "That the eyes of our hearts may be enlightened" That's my prayer for us as we finish off today. I'd like you to close your eyes and see yourself, with the eyes of your spirit, look into your heart and really see yourself in these scriptures imagine yourself there connect to Jesus your Bridegroom there

Okay here we go, ready to enter the Holy place, put some music on you can either sing to it or just let it wash over you, spend time soaking with the king.



Day Five: Testimony

Girls this is my last day with you and I thought to finish of with a testimony in the form of some poetry written by someone who attended retreat. May it bless you as it did me.

My Treasure box

A woman with a treasure,
That's settled close to her heart.
A passionate endeavour, her saviour took her part.
Her sin and shame replaced that day,
With triumphant victory.
The treasure that contains it,
a place inside of me.

A jewel box now beautifully encrusted,
With glorious gems and gold,
Replaced the cracked and battered,
That broken box of old.
A perfumed box now surrounds it,
The light of the word, behold.
The oil inside so infinite, so precious,
It's transformative power will, forever be told.

Now she longs to give it,
To pour at her saviours feet.



The once vile, so perfect,
His rendering is complete.
The broken and ugly box that
Held her past despair.
Is forever changed, renewed,
Yes we will ever wonder there.

The pure love of one so great,
To give His life, one for all.
A ransom He paid so willingly,
A treasure box, available for all.
So receive this day, your life for His,
And blessings all untold,
Your story of a broken, battered box
That now is made of finest gold.

Pour out your praise perfume to Him,
Upon the saviours' feet.
With tear filled eyes, look to the cross
Your salvation is complete.
Your heart in His, the two will rest
Forever in unity.
And your box of old, now filled with purest gold
Rests in you, His home, where you meet.



Soak Time

In Revelation 12:11, we are told we overcome the devil by “the blood of the lamb and the word of our testimony” Our testimony with Jesus is living and breathing it is ongoing and added to daily, it is the essence of our proving (making manifest) the will of God in our life. It is not just your salvation experience, that is merely the beginning. Take some time to write some living testimony of Jesus today then use it against the enemy to enforce his defeat. (beat him with it)

“Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His Holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all His benefits:” Psalm 103:1-2