Song of Songs 1:9-15

9 “To me, my darling, you are like
My mare among the chariots of Pharaoh.
10 “Your cheeks are lovely with ornaments,
Your neck with strings of beads.”

11 “We will make for you ornaments of gold
With beads of silver.”

12 “While the king was at his table,
My perfume gave forth its fragrance.
13 “My beloved is to me a pouch of myrrh
Which lies all night between my breasts.
14 “My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blossoms
In the vineyards of Engedi.”

15 “How beautiful you are, my darling,
How beautiful you are!
Your eyes are like doves.”

2 Corinthians 2:14-15

14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. 15 For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.
Main Points

- **Review**
  - Jesus responded to the request for restored fellowship with Him by giving the following directives:
    - Get back into fellowship with the people of God.
    - Begin to serve.
    - Come under the authority of the shepherds God had put in place.

- **Verses 9-11**
  - Jesus did not see the Bride as a failure, but as one that was on the journey to maturity.
  - “Most beautiful among women” means that you are God’s best!
  - A mare among Pharoah’s chariots relates the idea of the strength and victory in a war horse – overcoming hearts.
  - The lovely cheeks reveal emotions and the fact that the King was focused on them demonstrates that our emotions are so lovely to Jesus. We move Jesus with our emotions (e.g., He cried at Lazarus’ death).
  - God will complete in you what He started. He will make for you ornaments of gold, that is, He will make your character like His. He will redeem us completely.

- **Verses 12-14**
  - When Jesus came to her in mercy and affirmation, the Bride’s heart opened to Him.
  - Fragrance represents the release of the inner attribute. We release the fragrance of Jesus to God.
  - The characteristics of myrrh are 1) a sweet smell and 2) a bitter taste. It was used to anoint for burial. The fact that the Bride says the King was like a sachet of myrrh that lies all night between her breasts mean that she would meditate on the great love expressed in Jesus’ death on the cross for her, especially during the dark and difficult times in life.
  - Engedi was an oasis with many flowers and fragrances. The Bride says that Jesus is a “cluster” or many henna blossoms because His glory and goodness are so multi-dimensional. This is particularly expressed in creation and we should connect with God’s beauty in creation.

- **Verse 15**
  - In response, to the Bride’s expression of her love and praise for Him, Jesus responds back with His own praise. He re-emphasizes her beauty and declares her eyes are like doves. Doves have no peripheral vision and can only see straight ahead. They also only mate with one other dove for life. Jesus is expressing His praise for her focus and loyalty to Him.
Discussion Questions

1. Reviewing verses 7-8, what is the Bride’s heart issue and what is Jesus’ response to it (three directives)?

2. Do you see yourself as God’s best?

3. Can you see a path of victory and increasing maturity when you reflect on the years of your life? Do you see yourself as one who is moving forward and upward in God?

4. What is Jesus saying about you, His bride when He compares you to a mare among Pharoah’s chariots?

5. What do the cheeks represent in verse 10? Why is Jesus saying by making reference to her cheeks?

6. Discuss the experience of the Bride in verse 12. What is she saying? Why is she having this experience?

7. Discuss the meaning of the sachet of myrrh. Take a moment to express thanks for Jesus’ love as He expressed it on the cross.

8. When have you connected with God through His creation? What has recently impressed you in the creation?

9. What is the basis for Jesus’ comparison of the Bride’s eyes in verse 15 to those of a dove?