

Song of Solomon

And They Sang A New Song Part 12

Almost 100

By Pastor Shane Vaughn, First Harvest Ministries

I want to talk to you a little bit from the Song of Solomon chapter five.

Song of Songs 5:1 I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride. I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk. Eat, O friends! Drink, and be drunken with love, O beloved.

I had no idea it would take almost a full year to get through five chapters of the Song of Solomon, but I'm trying my best to get through this book. Just to recapitulate for a moment, the title of my message tonight is *Almost 100*. Remember, this series of sermons started out from reading in the book of Revelation about singing a new song. We saw that the Overcomers—the 144,000—must learn a new song that no man can sing. Then we learned that a song is our experiences that we go through in life. I asked the Lord, “What is the song that men cannot sing?” He said, “I gave you a whole book that will teach you the *Song of Songs*. If it's a song that no one else can sing, it must be a super song; Amen? It's got to be a song that nobody else can sing, so He said, “If you'll go to the Song of Songs, I'll teach you how to sing the new song.”

When we get there, we find a Shunammite woman who has sung this song, and we begin to read about her life of overcoming. We begin to learn the song that she sings like a nightingale, and we see the experiences that she has gone through in her journey with the Lord. It looks a lot like our journey, so I think maybe we are all singing, or at least learning, the same song. We're all going through the same experiences of life as we become what Yahweh wants us to be. Now, this lady is a prototype. Do you know what prototype means? It's the first of many that is set out as an example. She is the prototype of you and me. If you want to know what your life is supposed to look like; if you want to know what experiences you should be going through *with* the Lord, read about this woman and you'll find she is the prototype for your life.

Her story contained in these chapters in this small book, will become your story, or you will not be in the 144,000; you will not be in the Overcomers. You'll have to experience her dark places; you'll have to experience her good places. You'll have to experience her shortcomings and learn from them. As you experience all these things we are reading about, then you will learn the song that she is teaching you. Tonight, I want to show you her shortcomings. I want to show you *almost a hundred*. I want to show you something that she had to overcome, and if you plan to be in the first resurrection, you will have to overcome this shortcoming that she failed in. You will deal with what I'm going to read to you, on your own walk with Yahweh.

This woman failed the test, but you'll find in the next chapter where she overcomes. It is not about failing. You're never going to perfect this walk, but you can perfect the journey itself. The book's perfect journey is the journey that you're still walking. *Brother Vaughn, I want to walk a perfect journey*. Then just keep walking, because that is perfection. You're going to fall so many times. You're going to come short so many times, but when you take that fall and decide to stay there, then you have failed. If you fall a thousand times on that journey, every fall is a perfect fall as long as you get back up. This Shunammite woman is going to show you how you've got to do the same thing. I want to read it one more time.

I have come into my garden. Who is talking here? This is the Bridegroom. Who is the garden? Her. *I have come into My garden*. Now folks, there is a poetic way to interpret what the garden is, but I'm not going to go into that now. This is an intimate setting here in this scripture, but let's just say He finally landed. *I finally made it into my garden*. I want to tell you the spiritual implication here. He said, *I've come into My garden*. She has been under the ministry of Christ in four stages: The King of Humility, the Shepherd, and the Roe; but now she's coming into the relationship of the Husband. When we started I said I would show you four roles of Christ in your life. You can never meet Christ as the Husband until you've met Him as King, Shepherd, and Roe. Each of those experiences is bringing you to a place where you can become the garden.

Before that, you were thistles and thorns. He had no landing place. He didn't even want to be with you because you were so thorny. But now, under His ministry, He has transformed you into a garden. He says, *I've come into My garden and when I got in My garden, here's who My garden is: My sister wife*. This is who she is. *She is physically kin to Me as a Lost Tribe of Israel. She's My*

sister. But there will come a time after I've called the Lost Tribes, when I will transform them into the remnant, which is the bride. So you'll not only be My sister, but you'll become My spouse. Now, He has advanced in this garden and He says, I have gathered My myrrh with My spice; I've eaten My honeycomb with My honey. I've drunk My wine and My milk; Eat, O friends! Drink abundantly, O beloved.

He has spent much time in this garden. What you're seeing in chapter five is the advancement of the bride from 30 to 60, to *almost* 100 (fold). That's tonight's sermon: *Almost 100*. This woman who started out behind the wall—you may remember her back there, coming out—that's not *her* coming out. Now she's almost 100. She has transformed from glory to glory; here a little, there a little. She had begun to change to where nobody even recognizes her anymore. But not *quite* 100.

Tonight I want to teach you why she didn't make the 100. You would think that after all she's been through that she would get in that 100. Something happens in this chapter that I want to scare the bejeezus out of every person listening to me tonight. I'm going to show you how close you can come to 100, and still be so far away; lest you ever get puffed up with pride because you're a Sabbath keeper, because you know the right calendar, because you know this and you know that. Let me explain something to you: that puts you in the 60. There's only ONE thing that's going to put you in the 100, and she didn't quite figure that out. Thank Yahweh she does in the next chapter.

In this chapter she did not figure it out. Now, why is He there in a garden? For what? What do you find in a garden? FRUIT. This is a fruited woman; she's got fruit now. She has the Fruit of the Spirit. She has developed the Fruit of the Spirit, and now Yahshua is no longer inviting her to His table, but He can now eat at *her* table. Do you know why that is? Because she finally has something worth eating. This is important for you to understand. Notice what He says. He said He wants to come and sup with *you*, not you with *Him*. But He has to have something to come and sup *on*, and it's going to be the Fruit of the Spirit.

Now notice what He said when He got in the garden. The first thing He gathered was myrrh and spice. Myrrh in the Bible means *humility*, and spice is *holiness*. When He comes into the garden to communicate with you, there must be a fragrance that attracts Him to the garden. You can have the Fruit, but it is the

smell of the Fruit that turns Him on. A fragrance will turn you on. It's the smell of the Fruit that brings Him into your life to DWELL with you! He never likes the smell of backbiting and gossip. But if He smells FRUIT; if He smells the Fruit of the Spirit, then He comes in and then the first thing He looks for is myrrh and spice, because to get Him into your life you need humility and holiness. You can get into His life without those two things, but to get Him into *your* life, you do. This is a two way relationship. People say, *Come to Christ*, but there must be a day that Yahshua comes to *you* to make His abode with you. The first thing He looks for is humility. The next thing He looks for is a separated life of holiness.

He said, *I gather that smell that only My bride has*. All over Jerusalem, He couldn't find that smell, but there was a woman who had separated herself from the world in the way she looked, in the way she talked, in the way she carried herself; she separated herself and He smelled it. There is a FRAGRANCE on a godly man or woman. There is a fragrance about your life, that everywhere you go, you'll attract the attention of those who understand what they smell. He said, *I gathered my myrrh and I gathered my spice, and when I gathered that, I accepted her; and then I got the honeycomb*. The honeycomb represents the light of Yahweh, because it's from the honeycomb that the honey comes.

And then He said, *I've got my honey!* Do you know what honey is? Sweetness. Let me tell you something. He doesn't ever like a bride who's got an attitude. He's in the garden to gather some stuff: humility, holiness, the light. And then, SWEET! You've got to be sweet. Everything about you has to be sweet! Listen to me. If you think He's going to make His abode with a smart aleck; if you think He's going to make His abode with a nasty mouth, with a cursing mouth, with a mouth that's full of Skoal, a mouth's that full of just running people down, NO! He's looking for sweet people. I want to be sweet. He's in the garden to collect some things because He's got to find out if He can stay in that garden. He comes in and He sees that you have humility, holiness, and you've got the light, and you've got the sweetness.

Now He's looking for a few more things. The next thing He said He got was wine. Do you know what else He's looking for in the wife? He's looking for what wine represents, and it isn't a sour, disgruntled face; a dissatisfied face that's mumbling, *Praise the Lord or Shabbat Shalom*. When you ask, "How are you sister; I hope you're doing all right," they respond, *You don't want to know*. He said, "I was looking for some wine." Wine is JOY. Wine is uninhibited PRAISE

and WORSHIP, uninhibited LOVE. Wine is the drink of love. You are so excited, it makes you a little uninhibited. When He sees you worshipping Him uninhibited, He likes that.

I want to say this to all of you listening to me, locally and nationally. One day, when I'm gone from this world, you will say about me that one of the greatest things he taught me was how to never let up on my praise and worship. You can't let up. If you don't do it every service, you won't do it, any service. I've tried to teach you that this isn't about *you*. Get your feelings off your shoulders. This is about Him. You're taking His praise and focusing on your feelings. It's idolatry. He's looking for wine. He said, "I drank My wine *with* My milk." *Brother Vaughn, what does the milk mean?* Milk is the only thing listed there that will give you growth. What is it that gives a child the ability to grow? It isn't wine. It isn't honey. No, it's MILK. *I'm looking for somebody who's drinking the sincere milk of the Word and it's causing them to grow.*

When Yahweh comes into your garden, He's looking to drink your milk with you. He's looking for growth; He's looking for somebody who isn't who they were yesterday. If you can't see a change in your life, it's because you've not been drinking milk. He wants to drink it with you. He wants to drink that wine. When you are here at church and dancing, He wants to dance with you. He LOVES that kind of stuff. One thing He doesn't like is your doubt, your disbelief, your feelings, your own agenda. It stinks; it doesn't smell right. He's looking for a bride with a garden filled with what He likes to smell. And the beautiful thing about this woman is that she had all that. She had every bit of that, BUT... the story gets sad from here on out.

She had all of that. *Brother Vaughn, I have all of that!* Well, probably not, but we are all working on it. She had it all! She had the wine, the milk, the honeycomb, the honey, the garden. She had arrived... almost. But there is a purpose in all of those things that she has developed. She knew how to develop those things, but she did not know why she was developing those things. She makes a fatal mistake that you are going to make as well, because you are *learning* this song. She didn't know the *purpose* of her isolation. She didn't know why. Don't forget the story; He hid her in Mount Bether. She knew she had been separated from the Church, from the world. She knew she'd been isolated. She knew she'd been ridiculed and mocked, and made fun of, and she had finally dealt with all the ridicule. She finally dealt with her mother and mother in law and all her family thinking she

was crazy. She handled all of that. She finally got to the point where she had developed the Fruit, but she did not understand *why* we're developing Fruit.

I want you to think about that—Fruit of the Spirit—the nine Fruit of the Spirit. It's not Fruits plural, it's one: *Fruit*, that has to have all that in there. Why are we developing it? Can I tell you why you're *not* developing it? You're not developing it to make Yahweh happy. He doesn't need you to develop Fruit for His sake. He's doing alright without you. If you don't know *why* you're suffering, if you don't know *why* you're isolated, then what will begin to happen is you'll become this super spiritual isolated giant of the faith. Now, this lady had gotten so used to being set apart that she forgot how to fit in. Amen. She had gotten so holy in her separation, but that separation was for a season and a reason. She had gotten so separated that she forgot *why* she was dedicating herself to Yahweh.

Nobody listening to me is dedicating yourself to Yahweh to make Yahweh happy. He doesn't need you to do that. He has His angels that are fully dedicated. He doesn't need you to be more holy for *Him*. It isn't going to affect Him if you never grow up. He's going to love you 30-fold or 60-fold, or 100-fold. This is the deal that people don't get: this has nothing to do with you and Yahweh! *Oh Brother Vaughn, if I could just get better at the Sabbath. I want to keep it better than I've ever kept it. I want to be perfect at doing that.* But then the phone rings and somebody says, "Can you come help me?" *No, I'm keeping the Sabbath and I'm separating myself unto God.*

"Would you like to go brother, and fellowship with us?" *Oh, no no, no no! I must be sacred unto God.*

"Would you like to be part of the body today, and would you like to go and fish with us and enjoy the day?" *No! I've been separated unto God.*

It sounds good, but it's all a lie, because you don't know the purpose of your separation. You don't know the purpose of your sanctification. Some of you have turned into Sabbath keeping monsters. Yes. Because you don't even know why you're keeping the Sabbath. Surely you don't think that the Sabbath is going to keep you holy. Surely! I pray to Yahweh that you don't, because you can't do anything that will make you holy. Do you understand that? Listen, that's why I laugh when people *think* they know what I preach; when they think that they know my message. I just listen to what they say about it and I'm like, "Nope."

They say I'm trying to convert people to be a Jew. No, I'm converting Jews. They say that my message is that you have to keep the Sabbath to go to heaven. No, I don't even believe that we're going to heaven! The point I'm making is, you don't even know what I preach, so don't put your mouth on me; you don't even know.

The point I'm making is: We are not doing this to be special people. There's a purpose in what we're doing. There is a reason for what we do, and it's not even to please Yahweh. No it's not, because Yahweh doesn't need you to please Him, for Him to be happy. But He does have a PLAN that includes you. That purpose is not to please Yahweh, but to place Yahweh *deeper inside of you*. He has no desire for any of you to turn into a nun and become a full-time worshiper stuck in a prayer closet getting closer to Him. When you get *so spiritual*, you don't know why you're even getting spiritual. We are not getting spiritual so we can be sucked up into this aura and be so close to Yahweh that we're in a nirvana experience. That's not what this is about!

We are being broken for a REASON. *Brother Vaughn, what is the reason?* It's in that very verse that we just read. Let's read Song of Songs 5:1 again.

I come into my garden, my sister, my bride. I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk. Eat, O friends! Drink, and be drunken with love, O beloved.

I came into My garden. I found a super spiritual wife. I gathered My holiness, I gathered My humility; I gathered the Fruit of the Spirit; the honey, the honeycomb. I gathered the wine and the milk and I loved it all. Then I gave her the ultimate test to find out if she knew why I wanted all that. I said, "Oh friends, drink; drink abundantly, O beloved. It was never about her. It was about THE FRIENDS.

It was about that 30-fold and that 60-fold, and those who didn't even really know Him. She didn't know that she was not doing this between her and Yahweh. He was preparing her for His friends; those who are not as separated as you are, but they still love the Lord! Those who don't know anything about a Sabbath Day, but they love their Lord! Those who know nothing about how to dress holy, but somewhere they still love the Lord. Those who know nothing about Passover or Passunder; they love the Lord. Those who don't know His Name but they know

whatever He is, they love Him. They're His friends. They're not His bride; they're His friends. Abraham was a friend of Yahweh. Listen to me and listen carefully. Yahweh's got the wife, and He said, "My wife is jealous of My friends." You don't believe it? Read the next verse.

Song of Songs 5:2 I sleep, but my mind is alert. Behold, it is the voice of my beloved. He knocks, saying: Open for me, my sister, my love, my dove, my perfect one; for my head is covered with dew, my locks with the drops of the night.

What does it say? *I slept. I went to bed and pouted over the friends. They didn't have to go through what I went through, and You want me to serve Your friends and give them wine? This is my wine!*

He said, "Oh no, no, no, no. We were making wine for *them*. We were creating a garden that they would smell, and they would also come into this garden that you and I created!"

She's fine as long as they're, Hey, *good to see you*. She's fine as long as it's her and Him in their super spiritual garden. But as soon as He had her almost ready, He had to make sure she was ready for 100-fold. *Here's your last test: Serve My friends. Rule and reign with Me, because to rule is to serve.* This is a picture of the Millennial Reign! He called the rest of His friends and the bride did not want to serve those less spiritual people. She thought this was about *Our little group*. She thought this was about *Our Revelation of Truth*. She didn't understand that the only reason she got the revelation was so she could FEED that revelation to His friends.

Notice what He said in verse one: *Eat O friends! Drink, and be drunken with love..* He tells the friends to drink ABUNDANTLY and He turns to the beloved, and she has gone to bed. She didn't know why we were holy. Listen friends. We are not holy because it's only us. We are holy because we have come to know what our calling is in the Kingdom of Yahweh when He comes to Earth. Somebody has to feed His friends. *Eat O friends. Drink O friends. Drink abundantly; the wine, the milk, and the water. Drink it ALL.* He turns to His beloved and says to His beloved, *Let's now give to them what I gave you. I'm not going to give it to them; I gave it to you. Now you are going to give it to My friends.*

The church I grew up in, I loved it and I thank Yahweh for it, but we sort of believed that we were the only ones going. We did. We were the only ones going. You didn't dress like we dressed; you were down there at the picture show and bless Yahweh that we didn't get to go, but we felt like, *Why do you get to go to heaven?* I'm not playing. We thought, "There's no way the rest of you are going to make it when we've had to give up everything." But what we didn't understand then is what I revealed now. You gave up *nothing*. You're going to get *everything!* *The nations of the world will be My friends and you're going to feed them what I have fed you.* He's getting you ready for a job to do! Let's read verse two again.

I sleep, but my mind is alert. Behold, it is the voice of my beloved. He knocks, saying: Open for me, my sister, my love, my dove, my perfect one; for my head is covered with dew, my locks with the drops of the night.

I'm asleep. That's what she said. *I'm asleep; don't bother me with those people who don't even know that Sunday isn't the Sabbath Day. Don't You bother me with people who don't even know the Name is not Jesus, but it's Yashua. Don't bother me; I'm asleep. Your friends aren't as smart as I am. Your friends don't know what I know.* You just failed the test. It was never about you. It's always been about the rest of them. The first will be last and the last will be first. They're coming in last; do you understand? HalleluYah. *I sleep, but my heart's awake. I hear the voice of my beloved, still knocking, saying, "Open up to Me, My sister, My love, My dove, My undefiled.* He still calls her holy because she separated herself.

Brothers and sisters, let me explain now, what this was in verse one, before we continue. You can read about it later in the book of Deuteronomy chapter 23, verses 13-21. In Israel, there was a celebration every time a virgin married. The whole community would come to eat, to celebrate virginity. They would have a dinner on the ground. How did they know to celebrate? I'll try to be very careful. There was a custom that the morning after the wedding night, the girl would bring the sheets to her father, and prove to the father and all the others that that man married a virgin. The father would take those bloody sheets, wrap them up, and put them among his most prized possessions. At that moment, once the bride was proven to be a virgin, the friends were called to come and eat; to come and dine. First we had to get a virgin bride, before we could get the friends.

There's got to first be a virgin bride that's come out of Babylon, who's unadulterated to the world. We've got to get her first! As soon as they got the virgin bride, they had a party for her virginity. I want you to hear me and hear me well. The whole earth is still groaning, waiting for somebody to find that virgin bride so the groaning can stop, and they can have a party over a virgin bride. The Apostle Paul said, "Everything is groaning, waiting for that bride to be found who's unadulterated and separated from this world. Everything else is depending on you. Everything in Yahweh's plan is depending on you to separate yourself! I wish you were hearing me in the Holy Ghost. The Bible said that the party is in the Millennial Reign. What's going to start the Millennial Reign? The bloody sheets.

First, He's got to find a wife that will come out from among them: the religions of this world. He's got to find a wife that has no name on her except a *Word bride*. He's looking for a Word bride that whatever the Word says, she believes it, she goes with it. Once He finds her and the garden is ready, He's got to make sure that when the time comes for her to serve His friends, that she will pass that test. *Brother Vaughn, how is He going to do that? How is He going to test to see if we're ready to serve His friends?* I'm glad you asked. Do you not know that the Church is the microcosm, a prototype of the Kingdom? If you can't serve your friends in the Church, you won't serve them in the Millennial Reign. Almost 100; ALMOST 100! ALMOST 100!!!

Brother Vaughn, I'm going to serve in the Millennial Reign. Do you serve in the kitchen? Everybody is ready to rule and reign. Don't get too elated. Ruling and reigning means serving and washing feet; serving the friend. You're ready to rule and reign and the Father says, I am going to create a Kingdom before the Kingdom gets here. It's called the local church. I'm going to find out if you love Me too much to serve My people. If you will not serve My friends now, you won't serve them, then. You're almost to 100. You've got your Sabbath Day right. You've got the name right; you've got it all right. But now, let's do one more test. They just told me that the toilet is messed up in the back. Who is going to grab a plunger? Who's going to serve My friends? Who is it that when the cooking is over, you, in the back row; you're the first one to go home? You don't hold the garbage bag.

I've come to preach tonight: *Almost 100*. You thought this was about getting spiritual. You thought this was about getting to know more than everybody else

knows. No, no no! This is preparing you for servanthood. If this truth is not breaking you down into a servant, you'll never make 100! *Feed My Friends!* And the bride said, "I don't know who's going to feed them. I've got a prayer meeting to get to. I don't know who is going to help them. I'm keeping the Sabbath today. I'm almost 100." But you're still not. The greatest lesson you'll ever learn in obeying Yahweh is feeding His friends. Do you know that's why all my life, I've loved to cook? I love to feed people. It's my joy. It's my delight, and I never knew where that came from. But as I have fed others, it fed me. Are you so spiritual? When was the last time you opened your home for someone in this church and said, "I've got dinner cooked for you. Eat, O friends."?

I'm burdened tonight because I don't ever want First Harvest Ministries to become a super spiritual garden club. We're all in the garden, and it's good; but what about the friends? What about those that don't understand what we preach, but they love the Lord? If you ever put down another Christian because they don't understand what you understand, you are ALMOST 100, but you're still so far away. Brothers and sisters, listen to me. Don't ever compromise on what you've been given, but don't ever demonize someone else for what they've not been given.

We love our friends. We LOVE our friends! They're our friends! We don't have enemies in the Lord's army! We may be in a different little garden spot, but they're our friends. If you are part of any Bible study, any Zoom group, or anything else that makes you demonize other believers because they're not in your garden, you need to get out of it. We love our friends. We don't have to agree with them. We don't have to join in with what they do, but we love the friends of Yahweh. He is feeding us these things so that we can serve it and put out a fragrance that others may want to come into this garden.

Let's turn to the book of Revelation. How you treat people is how you treat Yahweh. I didn't say you've got to go fellowship with them. I didn't say you've got to go be in the midst. I said you've got to love.

Revelation 19: 7-9 **7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him; for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and THE HOUSE OF YAHWEH—all the virgins who have been chosen, have made themselves ready! 8 And to them was granted that they should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white; for the fine linen is the**

righteousness of saints. 9 And he said to me, Write; Blessed are those who are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he said to me; These are the true sayings of Yahweh.

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him... And His wife has done what? She got the garden just right. And she was given fine linen, for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints. Listen to me. He has called you to this marriage supper because there is more to come, and He needs a wife who will help Him serve tables at that marriage supper.

The only way the guests can eat and rejoice is if a virgin has been found. They're only invited to eat and drink, but notice something: He said to let them eat and drink, but He never said anything about sharing our myrrh and our spices with them; only our food and drink. Stay with me now. He never said to give away what makes you different. It's your myrrh and your spices; it's your humility and your holiness that makes you the bride. *Don't give that to My friends! You hold onto that one, but you pour out the milk of the Word, the wine; the Joy. You pour out the bread of life, but don't give away what makes you the bride, in order to become just a friend.*

That's the problem when you begin to mix with the world. The Bible never said to mix with the world, it said to *love* the world. We must keep our myrrh and we must keep our spices. It is what separates us unto Yahweh. Don't ever give up your holiness, your standard, where you stand with Yahweh for anybody! Because they didn't earn it like you did. They didn't go through what you went through. Be careful; let me warn you now: Your spices and your myrrh will become an offensive odor to many people. Listen to me. Just because they eat your bread and your wine, doesn't mean they'll ever partake of holiness, or humility.

You will become an offense to Christians—the friends—because of your separation from the world. What you have to learn is this: You're not called to make them holy. You're called to feed them. You're not called to turn them into Sabbath keepers. You're called to feed them the love of Yahweh, and then hopefully when you fed them, there was a smell that was already in them deep inside that will attract them to this garden. But if it's not in them, it will turn them off. If you want to watch people get nervous, let a holiness person walk in the room. They are putting off the smell; it's spices and myrrh. It's beautiful to

Yahweh, but it's offensive to the carnal mind. You can never mix with the world, but you can definitely serve the world; *O friends, serve the people.*

Let's go back to verse two of Song of Solomon real quickly. *I sleep, but my mind is alert.* Now there's work to be done for others to eat, and she wants to slip back into the bed of love. She wants to pray, and fast, and intercede, and worship without serving others. This is why she is almost 100, but not quite. He has found a fatal flaw in the bride, and He's going to find it in some of you. I watch. You don't think I watch because I play a lot, but every time we're together I'm watching. I see the things you don't think I see. I see how you talk short to people when you don't think I'm looking. I see how you don't help when it's time to clean up.

Do you think I see that just to be a Lord around here? No, no, no; but I know what He's looking for. I'm His eyes. Do you understand? I know what He's looking for, and He uses these eyes of mine to see it. Do you know how every elder I put in position got there? It wasn't because they were any better than you. But I listened for certain things coming out of their mouths. They are in every Bible Study I do. They follow; they support. I hear what they say. I watch and listen because I'm listening to see if they're going to abuse the people. I'm looking to see if power is going to go to their head. The minute I see it, they won't be an elder any longer. That license I wrote tears up real easily. You know why? Because we have not been called to lord over the Lord's flock. We are servants here.

If I don't teach you how to serve, you'll be almost 100. You've got to learn. The woman said, *I sleep*, but He said, *It's not time to sleep. We've been sleeping. I separated you to bring you back.* She said, *I sleep.* There's a work to be done. Brothers and sisters, here's what happens in this Song of Songs. You're going to experience this in your lives; let me teach it to you. In your lives, here is one you're going to learn: that you are like a pendulum clock. The Church is like that. Many of you are one extreme or the other; you don't know how to get to the middle of the road. But if you're going to learn this new song, you've got to learn to get out of the ditches.

As soon as you found out that Sunday wasn't the Sabbath, you ran over and became a Sabbath keeper. But many people got in that Sabbath ditch and don't

even know how to worship the Lord anymore. You couldn't pay me to go to a Seventh Day Adventist Church; I don't care how many Sabbaths they keep. You couldn't pay me to go to a Messianic congregation and mess with their traditions. Look, I'm not giving up the Holy Ghost for anything. I'm not giving up the move of the Spirit of Yahweh for anything. Oh no! The minute you're not laying hands on the sick anymore, the minute you're not prophesying, the minute you're not operating in the gifts, you've gone too far to the other side, and I'm not going with you.

I'm not going over there because in the new song you're learning a BALANCE. Get out of those ditches. I'm also not going to go jumping into that Holy Ghost ditch without Truth. I get just as aggravated in a Holy Ghost filled service when they aren't preaching anything. I get so bored when it's the same; nobody is revealing the Word. I don't want either one of them, but the lesson this bride has to learn here is the balance between Love and Law. She's having to learn the balance of Law without Mercy. You know what kills me about some of you folks? You won't eat any pig, thank Yahweh, but you'll eat one another. You'll jump over a table and knock some pig off of somebody's plate trying to save their soul, while you just got through eating your pastor up all in your mouth.

As you learn this new song, you're going to learn the balance. This bride didn't know the balance. She thought all Law or all Grace; all Law or all Love. What you're going to find at First Harvest Ministries is that what they say about us is not true. We've never preached that the Law saves anybody. We've simply preached that saved people obey the Law. I'll never know how they get it backwards. If you're going to lie about me, lie the right way. I'm for real. We don't believe in salvation by works here. But we believe that once you get this real deal, you'll go to work. We believe that if you don't, you didn't get it. This woman in Song of Solomon didn't know the balance. She was all in love, wanting to go make love, instead of making dishes.

She was wanting to get it on instead of getting it off and putting an apron on, and serving somebody. You don't think that woman exists? She's in our church building tonight, worshiping and crying and wanting in the bed. Let's have a sister in the hospital who's just moved here and see how many goes over there. It's not all about *worship*; it's not all about this. It's about getting in there and saying, "You want me to feed your friends? Where's my apron?" Those of you that live out on that land and you don't put your hand to the plow, you're not worth

living there. Why? It isn't about going to church every service. It's about driving the tractor and feeding your friends, helping your friends; putting your hand to the plow, loving one another. She loved Yahweh, but not the people.

She loved Yahweh. Worshiping Him was where she wanted to stay. *But when you're done, feed My friends.* I'm just trying to help you find a balance. Find that balance. Do we believe in the Law? You know we do. But the Law always bows down to Mercy. Always. *Brother Vaughn, what do you mean by that?* Ask David. He broke the Law with the showbread. It was against the commandments to eat that showbread. But David was hungry, and he broke the commandments of Yahweh. If it would have been up to us, we would have admonished him harshly and told him he couldn't be up here with us. But you know what? Yahweh has a balance. Yahweh said, "David, you're okay son. You were hungry, and I always feed My friends."

Don't become so much Law that you lose Love. And don't become so much Love that you forget the Law. Do you see? This is the new song you've got to learn. Where's the balance? She didn't know. The friends had come to her door and she didn't have time for them. She was too busy loving Yahweh. But then she heard a message in that verse. It said, *I laid asleep and I heard the voice again.* Listen to me. I don't care how much you fail, if you can still hear the voice, you've still got hope. If the voice still affects you, you still have hope. *Brother Vaughn, she didn't make 100.* But 100 was knocking on her door, giving her another chance. If you can still hear the VOICE, you can still make 100!!!

She said, "I was asleep, but then my heart awoke. I heard my preacher." That's what she heard; she heard a preacher. She said, "I heard the message knocking saying, *sister.*" He didn't call her backslider. He didn't call her heathen. He said, *sister.* I want you to hear me. There is nobody that's ever left this church that if they walked back in as a sister, that they wouldn't still be a sister. We don't throw people out of the body of Christ. Sometimes they have to be removed from the congregation, but we don't remove anyone from the body of Christ. No matter how bad you mess up, you have not failed until you don't hear the voice. When the voice of an old preacher can't touch you anymore, you've gone too far.

She said, "I was asleep. I backslid." In other words, I was pouting. "But I turned on one of Pastor's sermons and I heard that and my heart awakened because I do love my Lord, but I didn't know how to love His people. But I heard a message

that woke me up and said, *C'mon daughter. You still can make this right.*" Can you still hear the voice? I want to talk to everyone, and maybe there's someone listening who has left this ministry and you're doing a sneak watch—and I want you to hear me. If this message is still affecting you, you're still my sister, you're still my brother. The voice is calling you to never ever, ever go too far from this work, ever! Listen to what she says in verse three.

Song of Songs 5:3 I have taken off my robe, why shall I put it on again? I have washed my feet, why shall I soil them?

I want to get up. I want to serve the people, but I've already put off my robe, and how would I put it on? In other words: I don't like people, but I love You. I've been so isolated, I just don't like people anymore, but I love You. Some of you need to hear this. I'm going to preach something in a second. She said, I already washed my feet and I really don't want to get them dirty now. Can I just pray in the bed? I just want to pray. I just want to intercede because I don't want to deal with people. How about if I sing you a worship song; get on the piano and sing you a worship song? He said, "Come on out. I've got to teach you to serve."

If you're such a primadonna and you come in and leave early, and leave the work to everybody else, I love you; He loves you, but we just can't use you, because it's still all about you and Him. People get caught up in intimacy with Yahweh, and if you can't be intimate with His people, you've got a problem. Yes, I'm preaching to you, the one who just wondered, *Who's he talking to?* Yes, you.

Song of Songs 5:4 My love thrust his hand through the latch-opening; and my heart yearned within me for him.

He still hasn't given up, because you still are almost 100. He put a lot of time into you. The last lesson He has to teach you is to love people. I thank Yahweh that my grandma taught me how to love people. My grandmother made me the man I am as far as how I make people feel when I'm around them. I want it said when I'm gone, *When I was with Pastor Vaughn, I felt special.* When I die, there won't be anyone that remembers what sermon I preached. Here's what they're going to remember: how I made them feel when they were in my presence. That's all they're going to remember. When they see me come, reaching for them with these big bear arms, and that smile, I'm serving the people. When you serve the people,

you're learning that final 100-fold lesson. You thought that 100-fold was learning the Sabbath. No, that's 60. You're learning 100 now.

Song of Songs 5:5 I arise to open for my beloved, and my hands dripped myrrh, on the handles of the lock.

She felt convicted. *I rose up open for My beloved. My hands dripped with myrrh; I still had humility. I'm ready now to serve the people. I put my hands on the door. I'm ready now to not just love the Lord, but to love the laity. I heard Your voice; I heard my pastor's sermon. I'm ready to be a servant now. But there's only one problem; verse number six.*

Song of Songs 5:6 I opened for my beloved, but my beloved had turned away, and left. My heart had gone out to him when he spoke. I looked for him, but did not find him. I called him, but he did not answer me.

Do you know why He left and didn't answer her? Because you didn't know that it's impossible to love the head without the body. When you don't serve the body, the head is gone. Is anybody hearing me? What was knocking on her door was not the Man, it was the Body. When you mistreat the body, the head will disappear. When you mistreat one member of this body, the head will disappear. When you run down one member of this ministry, you have run down Jesus Christ, Yahshua Hamashiach, and He will NOT be in your garden anymore!

Verse 7 The watchmen who went about the city found me; they struck me, they wounded me. The keepers of the walls took away my veil from me.

I lost my brideship because I didn't recognize the bride. The watchman—my preacher—got me. I was thinking I was 100 because I had my veil on, but my preacher got a hold of me, took my veil off, and then said, "Almost 100, but you don't love the people." He was trying to get me to come to my senses. I was ready for the wedding! I had the veil and the watchman jerked it off. She was screaming, But I'm a Sabbath keeper, and he said, "You're nothing. You mistreated My people. You refused to love the body. You wanted to love Me and be in your little closet with Me, but I needed you to go among My people and reveal this truth to them in a loving and wonderful way."

Don't make the mistake of ever not seeing Yahshua when you look at me. When I look at you, if I don't see the head, the head will disappear. If there's anyone right now that has a problem with anybody in this ministry—I'm talking local and national—I'm going to have to take your veil off tonight and tear it. You're not who you thought you were. You've got to love one another. You've got to love Him by loving me. Somebody said, "Pastor, somebody got offended with me and the Bible says not to be easily offended." You're right; the Law does say not to be easily offended, but I have a question for you. If you know that you're offending them, who committed the sin: the offender or the offended? You can't talk mean to people and then say, *Now don't you get offended*, while you're offending.

Don't be easily offended! Then quit offending me.

Now don't you get upset with me because I told you my mind. Then don't tell me your mind.

BE HONEY; SWEET. LOVE ONE ANOTHER. Every one of you represents me and I represent Him. How you treat people is how you're treating me and Him. I heard reports on the land the other day, from people who said you talked rough to them and it hurt their feelings. If you don't have the decency to represent me with a sweet mouth, then don't even come. We've got to love people. We've got to love people with all of our hearts.

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