

Song of Solomon series

And They Sang a New Song (part 5)

The Broken Rose

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Last week we left off in Song of Solomon, chapter 1, verse 16. We left off with *Our bed is green*, so now we'll pick up in verse 17.

Song of Solomon 1:17 The beams of our house are cedars, and our rafters are firs.

Father, anoint your servant, the lips of the unprofitable servant. Anoint the ears of this congregation—these holy people—people unlike any on planet Earth. Indeed, they are a strange lot, Father. Indeed, we are a unique lot. HalleluYah. But we thank You that You called us to a marvelous light and this Word is the light that we now crave! Father, we thank you that our food has become like Yahshua's. It's meat that we know not of; it's a spiritual meat. We ask you now to tenderize this meat for us, and pulverize it for us, so that we can digest it a little bit. Let it be sweet to our mouth and bitter to our stomach Father, as it goes in and begins to do a new work, and draws us closer to Your soon coming kingdom. In the Name of Yahshua, Amen.

For those of you who have just joined us, I want to recapitulate for a few minutes where we started in this series. It's important for you to hear, because for us to get to where we're going to get to tonight, you need to go back and remember where we started. We started in the book of Revelation. There was a group of Christians; a group of believers who were not like other Christians. They were not like other believers and they were definitely not like the world. They're known as the first harvest or the first fruits. They're known as the 144,000. They're known as the remnant. Whatever you want to call them, they're known as Israel.

But whatever they are, they are different. They were known by a song that they were singing. This song was not sung by anyone else. There were millions of people before the throne, but none of those saved people could

sing the song that this little strange group was singing. And we learned that a song is an expression of where we are: our life experiences. We learn that when a song writer sits down to write a song, they normally are writing from the moment that they are experiencing. So your songs are your life experience. When you die—everyone in this room—I'll preach your funeral and you'll preach mine; we're all going by the way of the grave. When they close our casket, that will be the end of the song. Your whole life has been a song. You've been writing a song and some of those verses are probably not very good. It would probably sound like a Dolly Parton song if we sang your song: *A Coat of Many Colors*. Every one of you: your life is a song. It's a song of what you have experienced in this life and how that song has either drawn you closer to your heavenly Father, or further away from Him. You're writing a song and right now, you may only be on verse two right now. But as we go along, we're learning a new song.

There's a group of people that Yahweh has called out to personally teach you a new song, and it's His song. It's the song that His Son sang here on earth. It's the song that the first born Son had to learn. The Bible said that the first born Son of Yahweh *learned* obedience by the things He suffered. His song at the end of His life was the *Song of Surrender*. He was the only man in the history of the world that ever got that song right. He's the only one that got the Song of Songs right—*The Song of Surrender*. He's learned every verse. He learned the melody. He experienced the pain of that surrender. He became the song and the song became Him.

Brother Vaughn, if I want to sing that song, where do I find it? It is the Song of All Songs, or in other words, the life of all lives, the existence of all existences, the lifestyle of all lifestyles. It is the ULTIMATE song! It's the ultimate life. It's the ultimate dedication, the ultimate surrender. The Bible said in the book of Revelation that no man could sing that song, except this group of people. Do some people have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying? NO man can sing this song. James Sewell cannot sing this song. Rick Connolly cannot sing this song. Shane Vaughn cannot sing this song. But if that *same* spirit that was in Yahshua also dwells in you, then you'll parody

that song. You'll be a parrot. You'll be a part of the choir. That song will flow out of your life of surrender like it flowed out of His.

So all of these years you've read your Bible and you've read every book of it, but you've always skipped over that little Song of Solomon. It just didn't quite make any sense to you; a little weird book, almost as weird as Enoch. It's strange and you wonder why Yahweh even put it in the Bible. *It really doesn't affect my life. It's a love story; a poem. It's just a song.* That's your mistake. It's not just a song. It's a Song of ALL Songs. The Father hid it away because He wanted you who is called to sing the song, to find the song. That's why others skip over it and we're taking it verse by verse. There is somebody in that Song of Solomon that already sang that song. All you have to do is read the lyrics and listen to the melody, and live the song and sing it yourself and you will sing a song that the angels cannot sing! HalleluYah! Glory to Yahweh!

When we pick up in verse 17, the beams of our house are cedar. As I'm reading that today and asking the Holy Spirit for the inspiration of the verse, the first thing that popped out to me were the words *Our House*. Let me explain something to you. When you are in a covenant of marriage, your house becomes *our* house. My house became *our* house. Those who do not stay in the house, have not learned the Song of Songs. I want you to hear me now. Why? Because, what is the first thing we want to do when we have quarrels in the house? Run! I'm teaching about myself when I preach. Do y'all know what my wife did when we first married? She took all my suitcases and threw them in the garbage because I was always packing one up every few weeks whenever we had a quarrel. I did that because I had spent my life running. If the fire gets hot, run! I came home one day and there were no more suitcases anywhere in the house. When you learn this new song, STAY! Stay in *our* house. Stay!

My wife said, "You can leave but you're leaving with no clothes, no toothbrush, no mouthwash. Go on out there, but your stuff is staying in our house!" When you learn to quit running away from The House of Yahweh when times get hard, you will learn this new song! Yahweh's bride has to

stop trying to move out of the house! When times get difficult and they don't like what the preacher is saying or they don't like what somebody did to them, they want to leave. But there will come a day! When you begin to learn this new song, if you're still singing the church song, you go out when you get mad at somebody. But when you learn the new song, His house becomes *our house*. That's if you're in a covenant of marriage. It's different if you just stopped over for a one night stand; just came in so your children would have a good program to go to or came in so you could hear the prophet prophecy. If you came in for a blessing, then it's not *our* house. It's not until you can say, "I don't care if times get hard; I don't care if the lights get turned off; I don't care if we run out of money; THIS IS OUR HOUSE!"

I don't care who I don't like or who doesn't like me. This is OUR house. The House of Yahweh is a covenant house. You can't sing this new song if leaving is an option. There must come a place in your walk with Yahweh, that you say in your mind, "I don't care who offends me; I don't care who doesn't like me; I don't care who I don't like; I'm in a COVENANT with Yahweh! This is our house! " All through the Bible the Temple of the Lord is referred to as His house. It was always referred to as His House: My Temple, My house. I want you to see in the Bible where it changes. Do you know why it was His house? Because He didn't trust a woman enough to move her in. He was doing the whore test on her. He was seeing why she was there.

Let me tell you something. If you're in a marriage for as long as it's good, you won't be in it very long. Yahweh's church isn't always going to be easy for you to come to. There's going to be tests. There's going to be people who will get on your nerves. There's going to be things I say that you don't like. There's going to be things *you* say that I don't like. But there's a problem: it's our house and I'm not leaving and you're not leaving, so we may as well find a way to make this thing work. This is OUR HOUSE! This is our MINISTRY. This is our CALLING. Plant your feet. Yahweh said in His Word: "My House," but there's going to come a day when *My House* is *Our House*. Halleluyah! Do you know *who* that's going to be? That's going to be

a wife, not a prostitute. That's going to be a bride, not a whore. That's going to be a committed covenant believer who has *no* out.

Whenever you come into a ministry, you come into a covenant with that ministry. When we ask you to be partners in ministry—the nationals, not the locals, because they're partners because they're here—we never ask you for a dime. We ask you for a COVENANT. If Yahweh has called you here, then *be* here; join us in a covenant. Let's do a spiritual blood covenant with each other. We come to this place and we make a covenant that it's our house. I want you to hear me. If all it takes to get rid of you is an offense, Satan's got one ready for you. Let me tell you something. The woman I married, it takes more than an offense. It takes more than a disagreement. It just does, because when we got married she almost put a lock on the back door. There's no out!! I'm IN! I'm in because it's a covenant. When we married, she knew I spent my life as an orphan running from here to there. When we married, she said, "Your running stops right now! This is *our* house!"

She said, "There's going to be days you don't like me and I don't like you. We may go to bed not liking one another but we'll wake up in the morning and we'll like each other again." She said, "There's going to be days when I'm not dressed up and I don't look the way I look right now. But I promise you one thing: I will be here for you when you have nobody else. Neither of us are leaving; this is *our house!*" The only people who can leave are those who were never really there. Listen to me, those of you who have moved here from across the nation and those on your way here now: Anything worth fighting for is worth fighting for, and THIS house is worth the fight!

He said, "Our house." Now, all through the Bible it was *His* house. Up until this point, it was His house. Up until this point, it was Yahweh's house. Let's read from the book of Revelation.

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the brides, say; Come! And let him who hears, say; Come! And let him who is thirsty come. And whoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Notice what the verse says. At one time it was Yahweh saying, *Come to My House*. But not anymore. Now it's the Mister and the Mistress telling the world, "Come to our house." Before we can invite the world to our house, it has to be settled by a wife and a husband—by a covenant! Before you bring a baby into the world, get your house right! The Spirit *and* the Bride say, "Come to Our House." Do you know why? "Because you're safe here; we're not going anywhere. You're safe here; we're solid as a rock." One thing you can know about this ministry is that whenever every enemy of Hell is through fighting and they're about done, we're still going to be here with the lights on! Do you hear me? We're not going anywhere! This is our house! It was built by the Father and the Mother of this church. THIS IS OUR HOUSE!

No matter what you do, we're going to be here with the lights on. Every Friday night, it may not be anybody but me and a couple others along with Mama and Daddy, but we're going to be here. Why? We're in a covenant with this house! You've got to learn what *covenant* means. How are we going to grow a family if we don't expect family problems? Do you think that everybody moving down here is going to be right? Do you think everyone coming here is going to be right? But I think we could get them right if we just had a house ready for them. Yahweh said in His Word that if you learn this new song, you have to BECOME IT! You have to be committed to the House of the Lord where the work of Yahweh is going forth!

Now notice what she—the bride—said about that house in Song of Solomon, chapter 1, verse 17. She's talking to Him. She said, "The beams are cedar." What are the beams of a house? They're the support; the structure. If you look at the inside roof of our church, that's called *the crown*. The crown will fall without the beams. I want you to hear me now. The cedars are what we have to build the structure of our House with Yahweh out of. She's talking to the bridegroom. She says, "I've been building our house with cedar." Now, the roof of the house will be our eternal glory. The roof is our salvation when we finally get it. That roof is coming, but not until there is a

House made out of cedar. It's not Yahweh's job and He's not going to build the House. Your life is a house. This ministry is a house. But if you build the cedars, He will build the roof.

There's two things He will build: the roof and the foundation. He said, "I'll root it. I'll lay the foundation of salvation, but I'm not going to root it; I'm not going to build the beams." You have to build the beams. Why? That's the purpose of your salvation. That's the purpose of the foundation. The foundation is there for a house to be built on it! It's not there for you to sing *I'm Saved*, because you've got a foundation. He said, "We built our House out of cedar." I really wanted to know the meaning of *cedar*, and I realize that there are many sources out there, but I was looking for a Bible answer, and I found it. To understand the meaning of cedar, you have to look beyond the Peshat level; the literal level. As I was reading the Peshat level *cedar*, then I heard the Remez—the hint. And now, you and I are going to do the Derash level where we research this, because we got a hint.

I knew the word *cedar* had to mean something because all of Yahweh's Word is hidden with beautiful meanings. And I found the answer in the book of Numbers, chapter 19. When you get there, you're going to find an interesting story in the Torah. Listen to me well. You can never understand your Bible well without the Torah. Ever. Everything you interpret will be wrong without Torah. So, I went to the Torah and I found *in* this book and chapter, something called *The Waters of Separation*, or *The Waters of Purification*.

Here's how the story goes: In the days of Torah, if you touched a dead body or if you became unclean—if you laid with your wife during her cycle for instance, or anything that made you unclean in the eyes of Yahweh—you had to be put outside of the congregation. You had to be put out of the church once you touched something that brought infection into the church. Whenever you brought infection into the congregation, you had to be put out. If you don't believe in that, you don't know Torah. Then, you had to go through a ritual called *The Waters of Separation*, or *The Waters of Purification*.

The way it worked was really simple. You would find a red heifer, a perfect red heifer, and you would take this cow and you would slaughter it. You would drain the blood and sprinkle it seven times toward the Temple—His House; not our House yet. You'd throw that blood that way and then you would take the rest of the animal—the innards, skin, bones—and you would burn it. When you were burning it, it could only be burned with a certain type of wood: cedar. This is because cedar is the symbol of purification and separation. It's not like other trees. It is a holy tree unto Yahweh. They would take that heifer and burn it with cedar wood until there was nothing but ashes. Then they would take the ashes and put them in a clean vessel and they would seal it, and set it outside the camp.

When you became infected, you had to go outside the camp so they would take you and find running water. It could not be stagnant; it had to be a river, a running stream of water. They would take that water that was running and they would take the ashes and they would pour *The Ashes of Separation*, and pour the water over the ashes and pour that water over your head. As that water went down on you, the cedar that was in that water would separate you and clean you, and make you pure. It's called *The Waters of Separation*.

I want to show you something. When the Lord showed me that, He said, "Notice it has to be running water." The Lord and I talk back and forth. And then He said to me, "What does water represent?" I said, "The Word." He said, "Exactly." This is when it got deep. He said, "What would have happened if they had mixed the ashes with still water?" I answered, "It's the Word, but it's not a fresh revelation." Christians who say, *I'm in the Word*, it's killing you more than it's helping you. It's *dead* water. If you've never been to a stagnant pond, do you want to see filth? Do you want to see algae? Do you want to see bacteria? It's like a stagnant pond when you get a bunch of old preaching that's not for your day and try to take a bath in it. *I'm in the Word*. But is there a Word in you—a fresh revelation for YOUR day? Not their day. Not yesterday. But every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of Yahweh!

*Brother Vaughn, I go where they preach the Word. I know the Word. It's the Word, but is it the Word? Is it a Word from a hundred years ago, from a religion that is dead and gone, or is it a right now revelation of this hour, this moment, this minute, that you're living in now? You don't need water; you need LIVING water! Until you can go to a ministry where every service you leave saying, Where did **that** come from? you're not under living water. If every service you go to, you already know before you get there that you'll be hearing that God's going to bless you, and God's getting ready to... I wonder why God is always getting ready.*

But if you're swimming around in dead water, you *think* that's water. You think that's a word. You think that's revival just because it has the name Asbury in it. Let me explain something to you. You have to have SEPARATED water! You've got a pool of water; you have a little water. You have a little word. It's wet, but it's full of mixture. It's dead water! I don't want to baptize anyone else in dead water here at our church. I want you to pull the plug while I'm baptizing so it runs out. I don't want to baptize people in dead water any more. Turn it on and let it run while I'm baptizing. Do something. Get it alive in there; trouble the water. That's why the Bible said, *The letter killeth*. It's the Word but it can kill you! *Brother Vaughn, you mean the Word will kill me?* If it's not the Word for your day, and it's the Word for another day and you eat it, you cannot live in the present day.

He said, "Go get running water, and I want you to take this cedar ash and mix them together, and I am going to use that mixture to separate you and make you pure again. I'm going to take those three elements and I'm going to separate you and purify you with cedar." *Brother Vaughn, I've been memorizing the Word.* But if you're not mesmerized by *today's* Word and are memorizing yesterday's Word, it's not going to help you at all. I'm not against memorizing scripture; that's wonderful. But you must be mesmerized by scripture, mesmerized by it so when you hear it preached you go, *Oh, I see that; there's something alive in that Word.*

I have a family from a big Pentecostal church and they said, “Pastor Vaughn, we’ve been with you from the beginning.” He said, “When we heard the Word, we don’t know how we knew it was true because it went against everything we believed, but we KNEW it was truth; we just knew it.” That’s the fresh revelation of the Word of Yahweh. The Bible does not say that man should not live by bread alone, and it doesn’t say he shall live off the Word, but *BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDETH, that KEEPS COMING out of the mouth of Yahweh*. You must have *fresh* revelation or you will DIE in this day! *Brother Vaughn, I have loved ones who know the Bible from front to back*. I know they do. They’re in a dead pond. The Bible said the Word, the letter, will KILL you. But when you get under the spout where the revelation is coming out, it will give you life in this hour that you’re living in.

Notice the three elements of the water of separation. It had to be blood, fire, and water. Without these, you can’t be separated. I’ll say it again. You have to have BLOOD from that red heifer. But then you had to go to the Upper Room and get a little FIRE. Then you had to get the WATERS of baptism. When you bring those three elements together, you’re SEPARATED! You’re separated unto Yahweh! You’ve got to have blood; you’ve got to have water but you also have to have fire. I want to talk to you about that fire. If you’re not careful, you’ll think that fire is just to get you shouting. But when the Bible talks about the baptism of fire, it says He will have a fan in His hand and He would burn up the threshing floor.

I want you to hear me. If you truly have the fire of Yahweh in your life, every day it is burning up your threshing floor. Everything that shouldn’t be in your life is getting burned up. Everything that’s wrong is getting burned up! Do you know what I say a million times even if nobody hears me? I’m going to say it again. When I have this microphone, I have no friends. Do you know what I mean by that? There’s a fire that has to come out of my mouth and it has to burn you up, and me up. It’s got to be burning on that threshing floor. When you’re burning up the forest, you’re burning up the straw. Anything in your life that can burn, it’s going to burn. Otherwise, you

can't be separated and you can't tell your Bridegroom, "Our house is built with cedar."

If you've not allowed that fire; if you've not allowed that cedar wood, then you can't tell Him, *Beloved, our house that I've been preparing for You to move into, it's built with cedar, with separation, with holiness, with purification. I'm building You a house, Sir, where You'll make Your abode with me and this will be our house.* Once you've built the beams of purification, then He will crown it with holiness. He will crown it with eternal life. He will crown it with the Crown of Life. Now let's go to the next verse and I want you to listen carefully. He's talking back to her.

Song of Songs 2:1 I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys.

Why does He tell her that after she talks about a house of cedar? Because He wants her to know, *You really want Me in your house because I'm the rose of Sharon and I'm the lily of the valley.* The rose is a symbol of beauty, perfection, elegance, fragrance, romance, and love. It's the queen of all flowers. Do you know why? It's a perennial; you can't kill it. Winter doesn't kill a rose. Twenty degrees doesn't kill a rose. It kills all those little *offensive* flowers; all those dainty flowers. All your little petunias; they can't survive. But the rose of Sharon will be back next year. The rose of Sharon will be back after the winter is gone. He said, "I am the rose of Sharon. I am the queen of all the flowers."

Now why does He call Himself the rose of Sharon? Because what He's doing here, is telling His wife, *My nature; Who I am as a person. The hidden part of Me is the rose of Sharon.* The rose is being used to demonstrate the nature of the Bridegroom. Now why would a man call himself a rose? Roses are a feminine characteristic, but there better not be a man here who doesn't have a rose inside of you. He's telling her His nature. *On the outside, I'm a tree, but inwardly I'm a rose.* And He said, "I want you to know." It's like a man who dates a woman and on the first date, he walks around rough and tough, wearing short sleeves to show those muscles off.

But let me tell you, all these men once they fall in love, start exposing their rose, their affection, their tenderness. You'll expose it in a secret place to your bride.

Yahweh says, "If you'll come into my secret place, I'll take off my warrior's clothes and I'll show you the rose—who I am, deep inside!" He says, "I know to the world I'm coming with a vesture dipped in blood. I know I'm coming with a sword in My mouth. But there is a group of people who are going to bypass the sword, and they're going to find the Rose." You've got to know Him as the Rose—the Rose of Sharon! Why does He want you to know Him as the Rose? Because the nature of a rose is only revealed when it's crushed. You'll never get the fragrance of a rose until you crush it. Only when you take it off the stem and rub it on your fingers and you get that fragrance on you—only when you take the pedals and put them on the bed sheets will your lover enjoy the fragrance of the rose. The nature of a rose is only revealed when it's crushed! When it's crushed, you find its inner beauty. Crushing always reveals the nature of a thing. Take the lid off of sour milk and you'll find its nature hiding in that beautiful jug.

I want you to hear me. Every single one of you has a nature and we'll all see it when the lid comes off. I want you to hear me close. That jug of milk sitting there with all the rest of the milk, is looking just like the rest of the Church. But if you ever do something to cause that lid to blow, you'll find out what's inside. The rose is waiting for you to crush it, because it has nothing to hide. Its best part comes out when it's crushed. It was born to be crushed! I know a people who were BORN to be CRUSHED! We SHINE when we hurt!

I AM THE ROSE OF SHARON!

It was this Rose that released its sweetest fragrance on Mount Calvary when they crushed His bones, and they crushed His pride, and then they attacked Him. They did not offend Him. I want you to hear me now. The only way you can be offended, is *if* you can be offended. The only way you can be hurt is *if* you are able to be hurt. Roses don't get crushed, they get RELEASED!

It was Your attack on me that showed you My nature; what was inside of Me. They broke the Rose on Mount Calvary, and if you go to the book of Luke, chapter 23, you'll find out when they broke the Rose, what flowed forth.

Luke 23:34 Then Yahshua said: Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do. And they divided His garments by casting lots.

Watch after they take this beautiful Rose of Sharon and they crush the Rose, what came out of the Rose: *Father forgive them...* That's what comes out of a Rose. Does anybody hear me? THAT'S what comes out of a ROSE; that's what comes out of a rose! Whatever has been hiding in there comes out in the crushing. When they broke that Rose on Calvary, He could have screamed, *Father, kill them all!* Do you know what He said? *He said, "Do you not know that I could call ten thousand legions of angels? Do you not know My power? But I'm going to sacrifice My power for my fragrance! Father forgive them! They know not what they do.*

You listen to me, and listen to me well. Until you can release *that* fragrance, you are a joke! I'm going to tell all of you something. The biggest scam in the world is the cover of Christianity. I want you to hear me before you say *Amen* because you might not say it when I get done. If you dare call yourself a Christian and you cannot forgive, you're a fraud. You're a scam artist. You have a mask on that's worse than Mardi Gras. I tried six months ago to be an example to this church of how you release the fragrance of forgiveness when everybody attacks you. I tried to be your example when they were blistering me all over people's inboxes, and all over Facebook. I tried to be your example: *Father forgive them. They don't even know what they're doing.* Your fragrance comes out when your life is CRUSHED!

You're going to answer to Yahweh for not forgiving people. And the only way it counts is if they *don't* deserve forgiveness. It only counts if they don't deserve it. He said, "Father forgive them; they don't know what spirit is operating in them." You all say you want to learn a new song, but I don't

think you do, because this is part of it. Until you can release the SAME fragrance of forgiveness as Yahshua did, you are not a Christian! You are a church goer and there are too big differences between those two. I forgive you all in *advance* because I know you're going to say something I'm not going to like someday. You're already forgiven; did you know that? I live what I preach.

I've got a number of family members who are forgiven every day. Before I wake up, they're already forgiven. Yahweh is trying to introduce you to the rose of Sharon. I hope we're not building a fake church; that's my fear. *I* fail whenever we don't forgive one another. Yahweh is calling you to release forgiveness today to one another. Otherwise, Mama and Daddy might as well sell the building. If we don't love one another, what are we doing here? If there's one person in this church who can't talk to another, you're a fake. You're a fraud. Get it right! Get it right with whomever you have to get it right with. Just get it right. Do you know how you do it? Not by waiting for them to forgive *you*. You just go ahead and forgive them, and it's over. HalleluYah!

I want to sing a NEW SONG—The Song of Songs! I want to learn this song. I want to learn how to be beautifully broken in all the right places so that the Master can repair it. He said, "I'm the Rose of Sharon and I want you to smell like Me." I was at my grandmother's house, and she's getting ready to leave this world. I thought about my grandmother, and my life was so affected by her. I began to think about her life and my life and I remembered something that will live with me forever—her fragrance. I used to live with her, and when you live in someone's home, you can smell their fragrance. Karen tells me, and I believe her, that her whole life, she never heard her daddy raise his voice—not one time to her or his wife. I want to smell like *that*. I'm not quite there yet, but I want to smell like that.

I want you to hear me now. My grandmother, when I was a little boy, somebody would say, *Sister Gatlin, somebody said something about you*, and then they'd tell her what was said. I'll never forget what my precious grandmother would say. She would always say these words: *Honey, they*

must believe that. Someone must have told them something and they just believed it. And she meant it. That's all she said. Never, "I wonder who told them that?" Never, "Well, I'll set them straight right now." Just, *Somebody must have told them that.* I watched her my whole life and she never said one ill word against anybody. She would get up every morning at five o'clock to pray, and she didn't pray like we do; she was *loud!* I smelled her fragrance! That's *my* testimony from living with her. Your life has a fragrance! It stinks or it smells like a rose.

Do you know what a rose does? It gives hope. In a dark, ugly, stinking world, pick a rose and smell it. All of a sudden it takes you away to a better world. It makes you think that maybe there's something good left in the world with the smell of a rose. It gives you hope. Do you know why people commit suicide? No hope, because they've never smelled our sweet Rose, that we smelled when we *walked in the Garden alone while the dew was still on the roses!* They've never meandered through the garden like you have in prayer, when you smell that sweet fragrance of hope. Listen brothers and sisters, breathe deeply of His fragrance. Breathe it deeply. His fragrance will keep you in His love.

I'll tell you where you can smell that fragrance: *Sweet hour of prayer; sweet hour of prayer.* That's where you smell it. People are scared to pray because they don't know what to pray. Don't say anything. Just lay down in the garden. Just get in the garden and start sniffing and *smell* His presence. He goes on and says, "I'm the Lily of the valley." Why did He call Himself that? Because He wants you to know that when you get in the valley, *My fragrance will be there too. In the low places of your life where hope is needed most, I'll be there too.*

Song of Songs 2:2 Like a lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters.

He just called himself a Lily of the valley and now He's talking to you tonight in verse 2. Once He found out she had built Him a house out of cedar and was literally absorbing His fragrance, He began to commend her

on the song that she is learning: the *Song of Surrender*. As she's absorbing His very likeness, notice this: In the previous verse He said, "I am the Lily of the valley." and in the next verse He says, "My daughter, you are a lily among thorns." I thought He was the Lily. Does anybody see what's happening here? He says, *I'm starting to be pleased with you because you are starting to smell a little bit like I smell. I see that I'm the Lily, but now look at you. You were an old briar patch, but you're turning into the same lily that I am!* He said in that verse: *I'm seeing My nature in a daughter.* And I love what He said next. He said, "Among all the daughters—among all the church people—they are all daughters, but she is the fair one." *They're still daughters. You are turning into a lily.* They're still Christians. You're turning into an Israelite. They're still Babylon. You're turning into the rose of Sharon! He said, "My love among the daughters." That means He isn't talking about sinners when he talks about daughters. He's talking about Church folk. But there is a bride in the body. There is a hundred-fold in the Tabernacle, and He says in that verse, *You're turning into what I am. I'm the Lily.*

But I love when He said, *Among the thorns*. He's calling the other daughters thorns. They're growing up in the same church, keeping the same Sabbath day, and always picking at something—poking, hurting people; being a thorn. A thorn's always pointing. Always pointing at what somebody else is doing; always making life miserable. But not that little lily. She's just putting off the fragrance of forgiveness before anybody even needs it. She can't be offended. She can't be hurt because she's so much like Him, you can't tell the difference between the two. The *Song of Surrender*. She's willing to surrender her old feelings.

I want you to hear me. You're looking at a pastor that has no more feelings. I mean it. I love everybody and I love you when you don't like me. I truly believe that one day you're going to put a lid on my casket and I don't want to stand before Yahweh as a fraud. I've been down that road. I don't want to be that fraud. I want to love like He loves; smell like He smells. I want to be a lily among the thorns of this world. This world is mean! Don't let the Church be mean. The world is mean enough! This ought to be our resting

place. Lily among thorns. Why is it the lily of the valley? Listen, you're becoming ministers of the valley. You're becoming Missus Yahshua; Missus Obedient; Missus Crucified One; Missus Crushed Rose.

The problem is, she didn't know what she signed up for. You signed up because you thought you found a sugar daddy. You thought you could pray and He'd answer all your prayers, and you didn't know that He wanted something back. You didn't know that salvation was free but sanctification wasn't. You will know that the lily has been formed in you by the fragrance you release when you get pricked by the thorn. I'll say it one more time. You'll know that you turned into a lily when the thorn pokes you and you see what it has released in you. That's when you know that you have become a lily: when you get poked by the thorn. When someone in a dark place pricks you, does the fragrance of humility pour forth from you? Or does this pour forth: *Who do you think you are?! You're supposed to be a lily. Don't be a Lily Lou, but just be a lily; a good little lily. It's worth any price for Him to call you a lily among thorns.*

As you learn that new song, I'm going to read you something that you won't like. The sword of the Bible is coming out to divide the bone from the marrow. Let's turn to I Corinthians, chapter 6.

I Corinthians 6:1-7 1 How dare any of you, when he has a dispute against another *brother*, take it to court before the unrighteous judges, and not before the saints?

Now here's what Paul says: *What do you mean by not going to the church? You are talking one another to court instead of taking it before the church.*

2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you not competent to judge trivial matters?

How are the saints supposed to judge the whole world if we're not supposed to judge? *We're not supposed to judge anybody.* My Bible says different!

My Bible says we're going to judge the whole world. Do you know how you're going to judge them? By the life that you've lived; by the fragrance you release. Listen to what he says: *If the world is going to be judged by the saints, then why is the congregation not able to judge the smallest matters among you?*

3 Do you not know that we will judge the malakim? How much more, the things that pertain to this life?

Did you all know that your job was going to be to judge? To call one another into meetings and find the truth? That's what judgment does. When someone is offended, you bring them in front of the whole church and the church is supposed to judge it. Did you know that? Nobody does it because nobody is a Bible keeping church. This is Babylon. They don't believe in all this. They believe in *loving one another in spite of their sin*. But Paul said here in verse 3, that if you're going to judge the angels, how much more should you be judging the things in this world.

4 If then, you do hold court for everyday matters, why do you seat as judges those who are least esteemed among the called out ones to judge?

If then you have judgements of things pertaining to this life, why do you set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church?

5 I say this to *move you to shame*. Can it be, that there really is not one man among you competent enough to render a decision between brothers?

Shame on you, he said to this church. Paul is talking to First Harvest Church right now. This Word is alive. He says, *Shame on this church. Is it true what I'm hearing; that there's not one wise man in the whole church? Is no one able to judge between two brothers who are arguing? Is no one able to call a meeting? Is no one able to say, this is right and that's wrong?*

He said, “Shame on you; you’re not a real church. You’re a fraud.” I read all of that to now read my favorite part.

6 As it is, brother goes to law against brother, and this before unbelievers! 7 Why, the very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?

There is a fault among you because you go *outside* the Church to handle your problems. This is the part that gets me: Why don’t you just *take* the wrong? Because you want to be vindicated. Your pride wants to hear, “You’re right.” But Paul said that if you want to solve the problem you should take the wrong. Just take it. Be crushed like a rose and give Yahweh the glory for it. *Pastor, they were wrong. Take it. I want to be heard.* They want to talk about it, but Paul said that we don’t have to go to court or even have a meeting. Just take the wrong and release the fragrance of forgiveness and the whole church is at peace again.

You can only do that if you are a rose or a lily. A thorn can’t do that. I want you to hear me now. We’re singing a new song. When First Harvest Ministries has grown beyond this building and we’re on that 30 acres of land with that beautiful Tabernacle, if I’m dead and gone, I want you to remember this sermon and I want you to put it in a book. You better grow up and learn to take the wrong, or you’ll leave the house every time. We have been done wrong so many times. We’ve been crushed and walked on. I’ve told my wife, “Let’s just let it go.” If you need to be vindicated, then you’re not a rose yet. Yahshua was not vindicated. They stripped Him naked and He went to His grave with everybody believing He was wrong. But when He got up EVERYBODY knew He was right.

Your day will come when everybody will know you were right. Wait for that day. Let it go. Yahweh is calling you and me to be a rose among the thorns. I am pleading with this congregation, the national and local church: make up your mind that this is our house. It’s not my house; it’s our house. This is not Bishop Kendrick’s house; this is our house. There’s going to come

times, just like marriage, where you're looking for the door. But if you wait it out, you'll end up back in the love nest again. Be a rose. Let Yahweh crush you. Sometimes He uses people to do that and it doesn't feel good; it hurts. Whenever you lose your desire to be right, that's when you'll be right.

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