

The Beloved

By Steve Pruitt

Where has your beloved gone, O fairest among women? Where has your beloved turned aside, That we may seek him with you?

Song of Solomon 6:1

Probably at some point in your life a friend or relative has described a place they have visited or an event they have attended that sounds so intriguing you just have to see or experience it for yourself. Maybe it was a place they visited while on vacation, a book they read or a movie they watched. But they were so moved by it that the very passion by which they shared it made you determined to check it out.

In the fifth chapter of the Song of Solomon the Shulamite is desperately looking for her Beloved. Her beloved had come to visit her, but she did not immediately respond to his call. By the time she opened the door he was gone. She begins to go about the city in search for him but to no avail. Finally she asks the daughters of Jerusalem to help her find her beloved.

The daughters of Jerusalem respond, *What is your beloved More than another beloved, O fairest among women? What is your beloved More than another beloved, That you so charge us?* (Song of Solomon 5:9) In other words, "What makes this guy any more special than the next? Why should we be interested in him?" In verses 10-14 the Shulamite responds with a detailed description of her Beloved.

As you read the Shulamite's response you soon realize she is not describing what her Beloved does or feats he has performed but rather the beauty of his person. Such a detailed description could only be possible by spending much time in her Beloved's presence. In fact her description is so stunning that the daughters of Jerusalem quickly respond; "Where is your Beloved? We'll go help you find him." They probably thought, "If he is this beautiful we want to see him for ourselves."

As worshipers the beauty of Jesus should put a longing in our hearts to spend time in his presence. And the more time we spend with him the more beautiful he becomes to us because we see the features of his person more distinctly. As worshipers we are not ashamed to proclaim the beauty of the person of our Beloved to those around us. Our hope and expectation is that our passionate display of his beauty will cause others to want to seek him as well.

How much time do you spend in the presence of your Beloved; Jesus? Do you see him as beautiful and infinitely valuable? Have you proclaimed his beauty to others in such a way that they too want to seek him? Ask the Father to give you a passionate desire for the presence your Beloved.

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Scriptures for meditation:

Psalms 27:4

Psalms 96:6

Philippians 2:6-11

Colossians 1:15-18