

## **PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH**

### *LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE*

**Sermon Date: 15/11/2020**

**Text(s): Song of Solomon 2**

**Sermon Title: The Blessedness of Waiting**

**Preacher: Rev Jason Phua**

(The sermon recording is available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

### **READ (5 mins)**

#### **Song of Solomon 2 (ESV)**

**1** I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.

**2** As a lily among brambles, so is my love among the young women.

**3** As an apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved among the young men. With great delight I sat in his shadow, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.

**4** He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.

**5** Sustain me with raisins; refresh me with apples, for I am sick with love.

**6** His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me!

**7** I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or the does of the field, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.

**8** The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes, leaping over the mountains, bounding over the hills.

**9** My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Behold, there he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, looking through the lattice.

**10** My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away,

**11** for behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone.

**12** The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

**13** The fig tree ripens its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.

**14** O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the crannies of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.

**15** Catch the foxes for us, the little foxes that spoil the vineyards, for our vineyards are in blossom."

**16** My beloved is mine, and I am his; he grazes among the lilies.

**17** Until the day breathes and the shadows flee, turn, my beloved, be like a gazelle or a young stag on cleft mountains.

### **RELATE (30 mins)**

(Relate to what was shared and on key themes in the sermon)

- 1. In chapter 1, the woman called herself dark, caused by much exposure to the sun. Now she compares herself to a lily growing in the valleys. Is this a denial of reality or is there something more to it? What do you think?**
- 2. Chapter 2 of Song of Songs takes the attraction between Solomon and the Shulamite woman a notch higher. There are references to flowers and fruits. There is talk about being in physical contact. Is anyone feeling uncomfortable with such talk and with expressions of affection? Do you think it is wrong to talk about our love for Christ in romantic terms?**
- 3. Taking our discussion a step further, in Song of Solomon, after the romantic words, there are also references to sexual intimacy. The preacher mentioned how popular media often portrays sexual intimacy before marriage as something common and normal. This liberal attitude on pre-marital sex has made inroads into the minds of the young more and more from one generation to another. Why is this so? Should Christians follow this attitude or should we hold a different conviction? And what would be the consequences, whichever attitude Christians choose?**

### **REFLECT (30 mins)**

(Reflect and apply God's word to our daily lives)

- 1. A highly prized vineyard that produces high-grade grapes can be easily destroyed by little foxes. Intimacy between a man and a woman is something that should be valued and treasured. What are the little foxes in today's world that are destroying intimacy between married couples? What about unmarried people? How are singles affected by these same little foxes?**
- 2. In v7, the woman says, "I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or the does of the field, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases." Is there wisdom in not desiring depiction of sexual intimacy in popular media? Are we being rigid and old-fashioned in wanting movies and TV shows to be more wholesome? How would you choose should the media gets even more "over-sexed" ten years from now?**

**REST (15 mins)**

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See MyPMC > PRAY for weekly guide)

- Pray for one another to desire personal purity over personal pleasure, to value waiting over instant gratification.
- Pray for our church to be a community that cares about one another, one that values relationship and friendship.
- Pray for the MCS to continue to be strong and stable, able to meet needs in Singapore, and stand out as a true witness of Christ Jesus.