

PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH

LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE

Sermon Date: 22/11/2020

Text(s): Song of Songs 3

Sermon Title: The Bride

Preacher: Rev Collin See

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

READ (5 mins)

Song of Solomon 3 (NLT)

1 One night as I lay in bed, I yearned for my lover. I yearned for him, but he did not come.

2 So I said to myself, "I will get up and roam the city, searching in all its streets and squares. I will search for the one I love." So I searched everywhere but did not find him.

3 The watchmen stopped me as they made their rounds, and I asked, "Have you seen the one I love?"

4 Then scarcely had I left them when I found my love! I caught and held him tightly, then I brought him to my mother's house, into my mother's bed, where I had been conceived.

5 Promise me, O women of Jerusalem, by the gazelles and wild deer, not to awaken love until the time is right.

6 Who is this sweeping in from the wilderness like a cloud of smoke? Who is it, fragrant with myrrh and frankincense and every kind of spice?

7 Look, it is Solomon's carriage, surrounded by sixty heroic men, the best of Israel's soldiers.

8 They are all skilled swordsmen, experienced warriors. Each wears a sword on his thigh, ready to defend the king against an attack in the night.

9 King Solomon's carriage is built of wood imported from Lebanon.

10 Its posts are silver, its canopy gold; its cushions are purple. It was decorated with love by the young women of Jerusalem.

11 Come out to see King Solomon, young women of Jerusalem. He wears the crown his mother gave him on his wedding day, his most joyous day.

RELATE (30 mins)

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

- 1. Chapter 3 begins with the Shulamite woman getting up to look for her man. Among the singles, once in a while it is discussed if it is okay for a woman to initiate a friendship or a date. If a woman is interested in getting to know a certain man to explore the possibility of a long-term relationship, is it acceptable for a woman to initiate a date or must it be the man to initiate it? What do you think?**
- 2. Whichever our viewpoint concerning the woman initiating a date, we can all agree that it is okay for a woman who is already in a firm relationship with a man to initiate a date. In Song of Songs 3:1, we see the Shulamite woman yearning for the man whom she loves. Spiritually speaking, Christ is the Bridegroom and the Church is the Bride. How comfortable are you expressing your love for Christ during your prayer time? Do you express yourself freely, even using certain *terms of endearment*?**
- 3. God loves us and even yearns for us. He is the God who comes to seek and save the lost. As God's people who have responded to His love, it is only natural that we also long for precious and private moments with Him. Again, in today's passage, we see the Shulamite woman seeking for the one she loves, venturing out into the dark streets. Please share how you seek the Lord in your own way so that we may learn from one another.**

REFLECT (30 mins)

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

- 1. Every time someone gets serious about seeking God, opposition comes from different directions. If we jump to Song of Songs 5:7, we read of the watchmen beating the Shulamite woman because she ventured out to search for her love. How would you respond if a group of people, whether a group of 4 or 400, suddenly come to you demanding that you stop seeking the Lord in prayer? What would you do in such a threatening and terrifying situation?**
- 2. There is this interesting statement from the Shulamite woman in v4, "I brought him to my mother's house." Do you remember from the sermon what is the significance of this? How can we bring people into our homes in this day and age?**

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 have a true yearning for the presence of the Lord in our lives and in our homes and follow that up by setting aside time to be alone with God.
- Pray for our church to be a community that cares about those around us who do not yet know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.
- 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.