

This is a parable about the King, *SOS 1:4*, the Lord Jesus Christ, and His relationship to the believer. The believer and the Church, the Bride of Christ, as a whole is pictured as a Shulamite maid, *6:13*, who is strongly in love with her King and Shepherd, *1:2,7*. The King is fully in love with the maid, *1:8-11,15*, *2:1,2, 14,15*, and desires her to with Him in all that He is doing, *2:10-13*.

**The deep desire of the maid is to follow the King wherever He goes, 1:4.** She wants to be with Him all the time. **However, there are within her being, hindrances that prevent her being able to do this.**

When the King comes and calls to her, *2:8-13*, there is a wall between them, that she calls "our wall". He looks in through the windows and shows Himself through the lattice. This reminds us of Jesus knocking at the door in *Revelation 3:20*, and asking if He can come in. **The truth is that there are things in our lives that separate us from the Lord, and although we desire Him deeply in our hearts, Rom 7:22, we want Him on our terms and not His.** We want to be in control of our commitment to Him and to be available to Him on our terms. As I write this I am deeply convicted of this sin by the Holy Spirit and am seeking to wholly repent.

Her response to His call to come away, *2:10-13* is, "You go and do what you love to do, but I am going to stay here for now. See you later!" *2:17*.

**But something deep within her cries out for Him and longs for Him as never before, 3:1-3.** So she arises and seeks for Him until she finds Him, *3:4*.

The King, Who loves her deeply, expresses this in *4:1-15*. **As He expresses His love for her, He repeats His desire for her to come away with Him, 4:8**, skipping across the tops of the mountains. He calls her, "A garden enclosed, a spring shut up, a fountain sealed", *4:12*.

**Gradually her eyes are opened**, and she sees the need for an opening up of her self, to give out the life of the Spirit that is within her, *4:16*. She desires her beloved to come into His garden within her, and He does, *5:1*. **However, she is in for a shock, because He brings His friends with Him! Actually, she really only wanted Him.**

She is asleep and her beloved comes calling again. He knocks and calls out to her, as the one He loves, to open to Him. Once again she is reluctant to respond, because she is settled in bed. He shows His hand at the door and she has a sudden urge to see Him. So she gets up and goes to the door, but too late, He has gone, *5:2-6*. She goes out into the night to seek for Him. The watchmen find her and strike and wound her.

A group of women friends ask her, "What is so special about her beloved?" *5:8,9*.

She describes the One she loves to them, *5:9-16*. They ask her where He is gone and she tries to tell them, *6:1,2*.

At this point the King appears again and declares the beauty He sees in His love, *6:4-12*. He describes her and the whole church as a mighty army, *6:10*. In the second part of verse *13*, He describes her as a company of two armies.

In chapter seven He describes the beauty He sees in His love, *7:1-9*, and calls to her again to come with Him to the field, the villages and the vineyards, *7:11*. **From chapter 8 verse 5 it appears that she responds to His call, and at last has overcome the reluctance and hindrances that have held her back from being available to go with Him.**