

## ***Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles***

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**March 13, 2025 – Song of Songs: The Journey of Awakening Mature Love – Rendu Paras**

### ***Day 13 – Dark, But Lovely (Part 4)***

"Do not look upon me, because I am dark...My mother's sons were angry with me; they made me the keeper of the vineyards, but my own vineyard (heart) I have not kept. Tell me, O You (Jesus) whom I love, where you feed Your flock, where You make it rest at noon. For why should I be as one who veils herself by the flocks of Your companions?" (Song 1:6-7)

Mother's sons (brothers) = Older spiritually dull leaders who do not appreciate fervent young believers

Vineyards (garden) = Heart

The Shulamite woman experiences five different pressures related to her spiritual crisis in Song 1:6-7. She feels ashamed by those staring at her because of her failure; being rejected by her angry brothers; being overworked by being made to keep other vineyards; allowing her own vineyard (heart) to not be kept with fresh love for Jesus; and for serving Jesus at a distance.

In these verses we see that her brothers take advantage of her passion by overworking her in ministry. She ends up going hard in ministry (keeping other vineyards) but she burns out (her own vineyard not kept) because she served Jesus at a distance (forgot to prioritize intimacy). She feels like a veiled woman who served the Shepherd at a distance.

Originally, what she wanted most was the kisses of His Word. However, as time goes by her vineyard or the garden of her heart was choked by the weeds of spiritual coldness, sin and shame.

Realizing the ruined state of her vineyard (heart) leads her to cry out what is essentially a prayer in verse 7. She wants to be with Him wherever He is. She lost the sweetness of her communion with the Lord. She longs for the kisses of His Word and the chamber experiences that she once had.

(To be continued.)