

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

April 16, 2025 – Song of Songs: The Journey into Wholehearted Love – Rendu Paras

Day 47 – The Second Test of Maturity: Wounded by the Watchmen

“The watchmen who went about the city found me. They struck me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took my veil away from me.” — Song of Songs 5:7

This is the second test of maturity: persecution and rejection, especially by spiritual leaders.

The “watchmen” in this verse represent spiritual authorities, those appointed to protect and guide God’s people. But instead of protecting her, they wound her. Instead of covering her, they take her veil, her spiritual identity, her function in the body, her ministry. She is struck, misunderstood, and stripped of what she once carried.

This is more than just a painful moment. It’s the removal of the very two things she longed for most.

Back in Song of Songs 1:4, her heart cry was clear:

“Draw me after You, let us run together.”

That’s the 2-fold vision of her life: intimacy with Jesus (“draw me”) and partnership in ministry (“let us run together”).

And now, both are taken. She no longer feels the closeness of His presence. She’s been removed from her place in ministry. It all seems lost.

This is where many draw back.

This is where offense sets in.

When God feels distant and the Church feels like the source of your pain, it’s easy to wonder: “Is it even worth it?”

But not the Bride.

She doesn’t grow bitter. She doesn’t lash out or harden her heart. She turns to the immature Daughters of Jerusalem (those younger in the faith), not in pride, but in humility and says:

“If you find my Beloved, tell Him I am lovesick.” (Song 5:8)

Her love remains. She’s still lovesick. She’s still reaching.

This is the test of true maturity:

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Will we still love Him when He feels far away? Will we stay faithful when we've been hurt by His people? Will we love Him for who He is, not just for what He gives?

Jesus said, "Blessed is he who is not offended because of Me." (Matt. 11:6)

This moment is a furnace. It's a purifying fire. And it reveals what kind of Bride we truly are.

God is looking for a partner who loves Him fully, through the silence and through the stripping. A Bride who is equally yoked in love. A people who don't quit when the path is hard or the pain runs deep.

This is the ultimate 2-fold test of maturity. And on the other side of it is deeper love, clearer vision, and a stronger yes.

Don't let the fire break you. Let it brand you.