

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

May 5, 2025 – Song of Songs: The Journey into Wholehearted Love – Rendu Paras

Day 66 – Bold Love in Public and Private

“Oh, that You were like my brother, who nursed at my mother’s breasts! If I should find You outside, I would kiss You; I would not be despised. I would lead You and bring You into the house of my mother, she who used to instruct me. I would cause You to drink of spiced wine, of the juice of my pomegranate.” — Song of Songs 8:1–2

After bearing fruit in hiddenness, the Bride now longs to bring her love for Jesus out into the open. Her desire isn’t just private affection, it’s public boldness. She prays, “Oh, that You were like my brother...” In her culture, it was only appropriate to show open affection to a brother. This cry reveals her longing to love Jesus freely without fear of being misunderstood, judged, or rejected.

This is a cry many of us know well. We long to express our devotion to Jesus without holding back, to walk with Him openly at work, at school, in our families, and in our communities. But like her, we’ve also learned that love sometimes calls for wisdom. Some expressions of intimacy are meant for the secret place. Some moments with Jesus are too sacred for a crowd. There is a time for public witness, and a time for private worship.

Still, the Bride doesn’t stay hidden. She leads Jesus to her mother’s house, a symbol of the Church, her spiritual roots, and those who disciplesd her. She honors her past by inviting Jesus into it. And she offers Him her very best: “spiced wine” and “the juice of my pomegranate”, rich, costly, and personal fruit, reserved only for Him.

This is what wholehearted love looks like: bold, but humble. Public, but pure. Rooted in history, but alive with fresh devotion. The Bride is not trying to perform, she’s trying to please. She has cultivated a love that longs to give Jesus everything, in every place, before every person.