

Song of Solomon 5:2-8

Song of Solomon 5:6 I opened for my beloved, but my beloved had turned away and was gone. My heart leaped up when he spoke. I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer.

The narrative in this stanza of the Song provokes a number of questions. Why is the young man locked out if they are now married? If he is so urgently knocking, why would he disappear so quickly? Surely, she would have called out that she was coming. If he did disappear, how could she possibly have gone out into the city in the middle of the night? Everyone knows that cities are not safe for good people in the middle of the night. What good could have possibly been done by putting herself at risk in such a way?

While the story makes no sense, if it is a dream then it becomes possible because dreams don't have to make sense. Dreams again, reflect our emotions and our anxieties. If we are not aware of being stressed over something and we are stressed about it in our dreams then we are stressed about it - whatever it is. I was a sorter in a UPS hub while in college and I can still have dreams about forgetting

which belt a certain zip code is supposed to go on. I was stressed out by that job.

In our story, our young woman is stressed out by her own competing emotions. She apparently feels some reluctance to respond to her young man. Maybe she is upset about something so that when he knocks she wants to think about it. But, she also is deeply attached to him and has fears about losing him. In her dream she is at first reluctant to let him in and then panicked when he is gone. She will then go to any length to get him back.

If you were to have such a dream, what might it tell you about your emotional state and would you do well to resolve to take some sort of action when your state of mind is clarified by such a dream?

The spiritual application of our passage could begin with Rev. 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into him and dine with him, and he with Me." This verse is a word from Jesus to the church in Laodicea which was described as "lukewarm." Their ardor for God had turned into lethargy and ambiguity. Jesus stood outside, knocking, calling out to those within, seeking admission. The outcome is left to the imagination. Will the door be

answered? Will Jesus' call evoke a response? Will the people of God find and experience the joys of fellowship with their Savior?

Our story begins with knocking and calling like in Rev. 3:20. And similar to Laodicea, the young woman is not anxious to answer. She has some pretty flimsy excuses. I'm in my night clothes and I don't want to get dressed. I've washed my feet and I don't want to get them dirty again. I don't want to have to wash them all over again. None of these things would be issues if she was excited to see her young man. She is lukewarm toward him, lethargic and ambivalent.

But then, he goes away. He has sensed her ambivalence and appears to be wounded by it. His leaving is a way of saying that if you don't want me then I won't come. Once he is gone, all of the reluctance is replaced by panic, "Have I lost him?" She thinks.

God possesses the freedom to choose and to respond appropriately to us. He is not constantly adjusting to our agenda. In my relationship with God, I am not in charge. We cannot presume that our present opportunity for fellowship with God will always be there. You might skip a respite of joy and skip straight to a time of testing.

