

“The Lily of the Valleys”

Song of Solomon 2:1-2—*“I AM the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys. As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters.”*

The lily is also mentioned in 5:13. Lilies were engraved within Solomon’s Temple and on the altar of brass. 2 Chronicles 4:5— *And the thickness of it was an handbreadth, and the brim of it like the work of the brim of a cup, with flowers of lilies.*

Lilies have been called the "white-robed apostles of hope"

If the rose is the King of flowers, the lily is the queen of flowers.

It should not be surprising that God has chosen to use various plants to illustrate His character. What would this world be like without flowers? From flowers we get...

- Medications used in therapy for healing. Jesus is the Great Physician.
- Tons of honey produced from nectar. Jesus makes life sweet.
- Costly perfumes. Jesus is a sweetsmelling savor.
- Oxygen we breathe. In Him we breathe, move, and have our being.
- Beauty of landscapes and gardens. What an ugly world this would be without Jesus.

➡ Like a lily we see in Christ...

1. **The LOVELINESS of His *presence*.** He is altogether lovely (Song. 5:16).
2. **The LIKENESS of His *purity*.** Pure white without blemish.
3. **The LOVINGKINDNESS of His *presence*.**
 - Is there any occasion of gladness or grief when flowers are inappropriate? They brighten any situation whether it be a wedding, a hospital room, or a funeral.
 - So likewise, Jesus, *“the lily of the valleys,”* can encourage any circumstance you face. What a change His presence can bring in a time of distress... discouragement... or delight!

➡ A few thoughts about lilies...

- I. **The SETTING of the Lily.** Planted in the valley

- A. Solomon writes about “*the lily of the valleys...the lily among thorns.*”
- B. Valleys = Low places in life—Times when things are dark and gloomy. Yet it is in the valley where lilies grow and blossom.
 - “*The lily (singular) of the valleys*” (plural)—Jesus is the ONE LILY you need for ALL the valleys of your life!

II. **The SCENT of the Lily.** Strong fragrance.

When lilies are in bloom, all hunting stops. The strong scent of the lilies is so overwhelming the scent of the game is lost and the dogs cannot trace their prey. Therefore, small game can wander among the lilies, without fear.

Dr. R.F. Horton, notes how the sweet scent of the lily illustrates why we call Jesus “*the lily of the valleys.*” Where Jesus is, we are safe—We can walk with ‘*the lily of the valleys*’ and the hounds of hell cannot reach us or track us.

III. **The SUFFERING of the Lily— Thorns.**

- A. Thorns are not pretty. They are ugly and painful.
- B. Yet, here is a beautiful lily blooming in the midst of thorns.
- C. Jesus wore a crown of thorns, yet He still bloomed amidst His pain and suffering!

IV. **The SPLENDOR of the Lily.**

- A. God created the lily to BLOOM. Jesus compares the beauty of a lily to the royal apparel worn by King Solomon (Mt. 6:28-29 —“*Consider the lilies of the field...That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.*”
 - Jesus is one greater than Solomon!
- B. **A lily is not defined by it’s surroundings.**
 1. A lily shows forth it’s beauty and loveliness regardless of where it is situated.
 2. Jesus came into a world of thorns (sin). Yet, even when He walked through valley of the shadow of death, His loveliness

was still in bloom. He was a blessing in His valley forgiving the dying thief and praying for those who crucified Him.

SUMMATION: APPLICATION: Like Jesus, *“the lily of the valleys,”* we need to bloom wherever we are planted.

See Jeremiah 29:4-7—When the people of Judah were taken captive into Babylon, God sent the prophet Jeremiah with this message: *“Build ye houses, and dwell in them; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them; Take ye wives, and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; **that ye may be increased there, and not diminished.** And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused youth be carried away captive, and **PRAY** unto the Lord **for it...**”* In other words, they were to bloom where God planted them.

That is the challenge of every circumstance—To **increase** rather than decrease—to **grow** and not diminish—to **bloom** and not fade away.

- Are you planted in a deep valley right now.
- Are you in a situation surrounded by thorns that cause you pain.

Remember God loves you. He put you in the ground you are planted in. Determine to be a blessing and bloom where you are planted.

Never forget—**God cares about lilies!** Jesus said, *“And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field... I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these... Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field... shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?”* (Mt. 6:28-30).

BLOOM WHERE YOU’RE PLANTED!