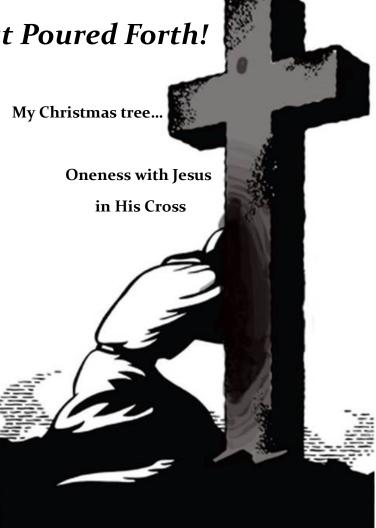
CHRISTmas Perfume,... Christ Poured Forth!

Song of Songs 1:3 Because of the savor of thy good ointments thy name is as ointment poured forth, therefore do the virgins love thee.

This Shulamite woman in the Song of Songs was in pursuit of her Beloved, and from the very first chapter of that book we find that she had pressed closer than the normal view of Solomon (Christ). She had come close enough to smell the savor of His person. She discovered something wonderful about Him in her deep pursuit of His heart, something that was far greater than any treasure this earth could ever give her. In her experiencing of Him she found that His fragrant life releases it's fullest aroma as He is pouring Himself out in selfless giving, even unto death. In an intimate knowing she began to perceive that the divine essence that comes out from Him is released through scars, through wounds, through brokenness and crushing that results in love-filled giving.



I believe another great discovery comes to such seeking hearts as hers; the discovery of the beauty of His altar. There is a fragrant aroma of HIM (Lamb) that can be most deeply released and inhaled through the altar where the Lamb pours out His purest manifest essence in selfless giving. She finds Who He really is <u>there</u> and she breathes Him in <u>there</u>. She makes choices to press in and abide in this Lamb even in the dark places where He desires to be 'poured forth' through her. The poured out crucified One is the one she loves and is being drawn into. He is her perfume, her Life, her all.

This Shulamite and all those with hearts like hers do not find the savor of Lamb life being released through selfless giving as "a dreadful smell of death and doom", rather to them it is a "life giving perfume". In the Lamb slaughtered she sees only beauty, she smells only Life (the Life of Him Whom she loves). There is a faith filled anticipation for greater intimacy with her Lamb-Groom when she senses troubles and trials coming her way, for she knows that in these very circumstances the Lamb can fragrantly pour Himself forth from within her and fill the room with His fragrance, reaching people in ways that words never could.

II Corinthians 2:16 New Living Translation

"To those who are perishing, we are a dreadful smell of death and doom. But to those who are being saved, we are a life-giving perfume. And who is adequate for such a task as this?"

"In an intimate knowing she began to perceive that the divine essence that comes out from Him is released through scars, through wounds, through brokenness and crushing that results in love-filled giving".

This fragrant Solomon that the Shulamite found and came to intimately know in the Song of Songs represents Christ Crucified Who is now in us. When we press into and yield unto His Lamb nature from within and let Him flow forth, things that used to seem like "death and doom" become places of pouring forth the Lamb to release His living perfume so that others too may smell Him and fall in love with His true Person.

When we begin to walk as vessels of the poured out Lamb in this way, EVERY THING CHANGES! Now

when we walk through low times and valleys of weeping and loss (Baca - Psalm 84:6), our tears will pour forth from His nature within us, tears like precious ointment exuding out from the Lamb within, tears falling like precious seeds being sown for others who will much later drink from that well of tears and taste the beauty and smell the fragrance of poured out Lamb life instead of self-pity and loss.

The greatest gift ever given to man is when God the Father gave us His Beloved Son and put Him IN US. The greatest gift we could give back to the Father and others is to let this Son Who is in us pour out of us. Then the savor of His Life will ascend to the Father's delight. This holiday season instead of getting caught



up in earth issues, hurt feelings, jealousy, pride and self-pity, we can choose to pour out Jesus instead and fill everything with His sweet perfume! What a gift! May the Holy Spirit quicken our hearts and minds to yield to the Lamb within as we gather with our families and loved ones.

Psalm 84:6 - "Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well".

Psalm 126:6a – "He that goeth forth weeping bearing precious seed..."

