

Relentless Pursuit July 21, 2019 Guest Speaker PC Walker

My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away, for behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree ripens its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.

Song of Solomon 2:10-13 (ESV)

I am my beloved's, and his desire is for me.

Song of Solomon 7:10 (ESV)

He entered Jericho and was passing through. And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house

today." So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Luke 19:1-10 (ESV)

Many of us have a longing for God, but something shifts in life when you take personally the fact that God loves you so greatly that he longs for you as well.

I don't think there is a good human word to adequately convey the longing Jesus has for you and me, but union comes real close.

Some of us, today, need the heart of Jesus to look us in the eye, see the <u>beautiful and good</u> in us that we cannot see in ourselves.

The Jesus who initiates a pursuit of you is the same Jesus who relentlessly pursues you through all the lies, <u>self-hatred</u>, <u>and brokenness</u> you have believed along the way.