

Chapter 24

She Showed Me Her Room, Isn't It Good?

BIBLE

Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which when translated, means Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and acts of mercy which she did.¹

John was clothed with camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey.² Passing through the street near her corner, he went the way to her house.³

She has sent out her maidens. She cries from the highest places of the city:⁴ "The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes, leaping on the mountains, skipping on the hills."⁵

"Please let us make a little room on the roof. Let us set for him there a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp stand. When he comes to us, he can stay there."⁶

He looked around to see her who had done this thing.⁷ So she caught him, and kissed him. With an impudent face she said to him:⁸ "Come, eat some of my bread, drink some of the wine which I have mixed!"⁹

COMMENTARY

¹ **Acts 9:36**

² **Mark 1:6**

³ **Proverbs 7:7**

⁴ **Proverbs 9:3**

⁵ **Song of Solomon 2:8**

⁶ **2 Kings 4:10** "She showed me her room, isn't it good?" John asks in "Norwegian Wood (This Bird Has Flown)," one of many highlights from the *Rubber Soul* album.

The Dylan influenced lyrics, full of ambiguity and innuendo, describe a room, a bed, a bath, a rug, and a chair. Musician Rennie Sparks calls it "the most bittersweet song about furniture ever!"

⁷ **Mark 5:32** John: "'Norwegian Wood' was about an affair I was having. I was very careful and paranoid because I didn't want my wife, Cyn, to know that there was really something going on outside the household...I was trying to be sophisticated in writing about an affair, but in such a smokescreen way that you couldn't tell."

⁸ **Proverbs 7:13**

⁹ **Proverbs 9:5** In "Norwegian Wood" John is "biding my time, drinking her wine."

"I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.¹⁰ Come away, my beloved! Be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices!"¹¹

When the days of his service were fulfilled, he departed to his house.¹² When she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and had run outside,¹³ she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to Yahweh, weeping bitterly.¹⁴

"Hurry to help me, Lord, my salvation.¹⁵ I rose up to open for my beloved. My hands dripped with myrrh, my fingers with liquid myrrh, on the handles of the lock.¹⁶ I opened to my beloved; but my beloved left; and had gone away. My heart went out when he spoke. I looked for him, but I didn't find him. I called him, but he didn't answer."¹⁷

"Now my soul is poured out within me. Days of affliction have taken hold on me.¹⁸ God, don't be far from me. My God, hurry to help me."¹⁹

God is within her. She shall not be moved. God will help her at dawn.²⁰

"Sing and rejoice, daughter of Zion; for, behold, I come, and I will dwell within you," says Yahweh.²¹ "When you lie down, you will not be afraid. Yes, you will lie down, and your sleep will be sweet."²²

¹⁰ **Proverbs 7:17** "She said 'it's time for bed'," John relates in "Norwegian Wood."

¹¹ **Song of Solomon 8:14** "Norwegian Wood" marked the first time that a sitar had been used on a rock record.

¹² **Luke 1:23**

¹³ **Genesis 39:13** "Norwegian Wood" showed how far the Beatles had progressed as songwriters. Mark Hertsgaard in *A Day in the Life* calls the song a "pop masterpiece," praising its "perceptive, wicked and funny" lyrics and "remarkable musical simplicity."

¹⁴ **1 Samuel 1:10** Ted Montgomery: "Perhaps no other song in rock and roll history captures a feel and nuance more succinctly and powerfully in 2:05 than 'Norwegian Wood'"

¹⁵ **Psalms 38:22**

¹⁶ **Song of Solomon 5:5**

¹⁷ **Song of Solomon 5:6**

¹⁸ **Job 30:16**

¹⁹ **Psalms 71:12**

²⁰ **Psalms 46:5** When we open up to the indwelling Christ presence, the God within, we experience peace of mind, and gain strength to help endure hardship.

²¹ **Psalms 29:11**

²² **Zechariah 2:10** In "Golden Slumbers," "golden slumbers fill your eyes, smiles awake you when you rise."