It seems like she is dreaming and awake at the same time. It seems as though it is actually happening

1. **IT’S A DREAM FILLED WITH EXCITEMENT**
   A. **THE VISITOR THAT COMES**  v. 2a

   The one who loved her, came to her
   She loved him too, just not as much as he loved her
   He proved his love by what he did. He came out in the night. Jesus proves His love by coming to us when we are facing the dark times of our lives

   B. **THE VOICE THAT CALLS**  v. 2b

   He whispers sweet nothings to her. He desires a time of closeness. Just him and her.
   It is obvious, no doubt about it, he loved her
   He does the same to us. He comes, speaks, asks us to spend time with Him

2. **IT’S A DREAM FILLED WITH EXCUSES**
   A. **AN EXCUSE THAT DEALT WITH HER COMFORT**  v. 3a

   “how shall"
   She asks, a dumb question. There is an easy answer. She just had to get up, walk over and open the door
   Just like she had done many times before. Just like she would in the morning. She was going to get out of bed then. Why couldn’t she now?
   It’s amazing how difficult things seem when it’s for the Lord.
   An hour of prayer seems so much longer than an hour in front of tv.
   $20 at church seems so much more than at Wal-mart.
   Going to hang out with a friend seems so much easier than going to visit someone lost

   B. **AN EXCUSE THAT DEALT WITH HER CONVENIENCE**  v. 3b

   She would get her feet dirty. Big deal. How difficult would it be for her to wash her feet again?
   She didn’t want to bother. Most people don’t want the bother of spending time with the Lord

   C. **AN EXCUSE THAT DEALT WITH HER CLOSENESS**

   Her response makes me question, how much did she really love him
   If she loved him like she claimed she would have gladly done whatever necessary to be able to spend time with him
   The problem is revealed here. She didn’t love him like thought she did
   What about us? Do our actions reveal that we don’t really love Him?
   It was inconvenient and it taken extra effort but it would have been worth it. She would not have regretted it
   if we love him we will obey
   if we don’t obey Him, it’s proof we don’t love Him
John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.
Luke 6:46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

D. AN EXCUSE THAT DEALT WITH HER COLDNESS  v. 4
This reveals his heartfelt desire
He wants to get closer but his love doesn’t move her. She is cold as ice

3. IT’S A DREAM FILLED WITH EXHORTATION
There is something we can learn
This is supposed to teach us something

A. HER DECISION  v. 5
She finally moved, got up

B. HER DISCOVERY  v. 6
He was gone
even though he loved her, his patience ran out
He is patient but He isn’t a puppet. He doesn’t snap to it whenever we decide to call
We can’t ignore Him anytime we want to and then call Him when we want Him

C. HER DISAPPOINTMENT  v. 6 “my soul failed”
She is sincerely upset but it’s too late

D. HER DESPERATION  v. 6 “sought / called”
She went out / looking.
An act of desperation and danger
We put ourselves into situations we wouldn’t have to endure because we have refused to listen to His call
All she did was delay few moments. It doesn’t take much
She is desperate now. It’s a shame she wasn’t this desperate to see him when he came to her.

E. HER DANGER  v. 7
in the streets / watchmen finds her

SHE IS INJURED  v. 7 “smote / wounded”
SHE IS INSULTED  v. 7 “veil”
The veil was a sign of modesty.
She is out in the street, at night, stripped of modesty
Same thing will happen to us if we neglect our time with Him
Every backslider who is out of church, started their backsliding by getting slack on their time of devotions.
We cannot be a vibrant Christian if we neglect our time with Him
Maybe that’s what has happened to the average Christian of today.
Most Christians have no joy, no excitement about the things of God, no victory
Most have no burden for a touch of God or for lost people. The problem may be found if we look closely in our secret place and find out we have neglected the Lover of our soul.