

God's People Humble and Epentant

by Erlo Stegen

Christians must remain pure until marriage and avoid worldly desires, seeking God's will and repenting from their wicked ways to achieve revival and please God.

Duration: 1:00:03

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 7:14, Matthew 5:22-23, Matthew 12:36

Topics: "Repentance"

Description

In the sermon transcripts, three different stories are shared to convey important messages about God's will and the consequences of our actions. The first story tells of a girl who is far from her family but finds strength in knowing that it is God's will. The second story warns against the dangers of being lured by rich girls who offer material things, as it can lead to unexpected consequences. The third story emphasizes the power of God's control over nature, stating that if He closes the heavens, there will be drought and pestilence. These stories serve as cautionary tales and reminders of the importance of following God's will and being cautious in our choices.

Transcript

Could the couple who are getting engaged please come forward? It's amazing how children are growing up. A child one day and the next, it's their engagement service. I'm grateful for you Martin.

As you know, his twin brother got married just recently. I'm grateful for their parents. It's wonderful if their children get engaged in this manner.

Isn't it? I've got a picture here of a girl. Who remembers her? I once showed you this, but it was before this and your auditorium was built. Her name is Alison.

I was sorry when I had come back from America, when I then read the story, I had been in that very place where she lives, or lived. And she starts her article by saying, my date. Now, remember that people who are unsaved, they have their dates.

Well, in some churches they do say they're saved and they continue to date. But we don't do dating. And he said, on a certain day I will visit you.

Yes, they left their date. And she writes, my date did arrive with a bottle of champagne, roses and aides. Of course, people in the world do consider that flirting around with their dating and that is a good thing.

Remember I told you how a certain mother phoned me? And we met together at my house. She said to me, Olo, the gospel you preach is good. Except for something that is not good.

Telling young people not to date. And I thought, well, she speaks like that because she doesn't have children. She said, oh, I've got two.

I've got two girls. And that's why I say it. So I thought, why is it to remain silent? After all, if you speak to a person who only has home-grown pips.

So I thought, why is it to remain silent? And I thought, well, she speaks like that because she doesn't have children. For brains, then it's better not to push the issue. Because she was adamant that young Christian people must date and fall in love.

And it didn't take a long time. When I received the news that the mother had fallen into sin. Do you hear, you young people? Everybody here, do you hear? I preach about 50 years.

I'm not speaking nonsense. I know what I'm talking about. The worldly way is a sinful way.

Let there be apartheid between young people. When they married, they married. The son of God has fallen.

Because he has fallen into sin. I have said, if you speak to a person who only has home-grown pips. So I thought, why is it to remain silent? After all, it's better not to speak to a person who only has home-grown pips.

And I thought, well, she speaks like that because she doesn't have children. And it didn't take a long time. When I received the news that the mother had fallen into sin.

Now in this article she writes, when my date arrived with the bottle of champagne, roses and aids, and when she saw all that, she said sparks will be flying today. She says they came together and there were no sparks. That was the night when she got AIDS.

In another country I know of a man, a father, who allowed his daughters to have their dates. One of the girls, one of the daughters was of particular help in the Lord's work because he was a preacher and she was a leading person among the young people. The next thing though, it came to light she was pregnant.

And then he was troubled about one thing, should he still carry on being a preacher or should he stop? That is why I am glad that the Lord is so happy, also for your parents, for the path that you have walked. And if there are people who don't like this way, send them to me, I will speak to them. Send them to me and I will tell them the truth.

The thing is, people pull in this direction and that direction, insisting on their own way, it is because they are in love with sin. Here is this person, this Alison, she was only 16 years of age. She had gone to a cafe or restaurant and she saw this young man who just stunned her, she had never seen such a handsome young man.

However, it was in vain that he brought champagne and roses because he actually brought her AIDS. And she didn't know that he was a homosexual, he hid that from her. And so one finds that these are the ways of the world.

So you continue in this way of purity right till your day of marriage. Because if you had to change your minds and now start dating since you engaged, well, I'm certainly not going to be the minister that marries you, nor can you get married here. You can rather go other places, to other churches.

I think with that point I need to end there, otherwise I would go on at length. I can't understand it. If people are born here, grow up here, and they don't know this way, they must have had demons in their ears to be at places like this, at times like these, and they didn't hear what it's about.

And the best sparks that are flying is when you know it's God's will, and God shows you, that's the girl for you, and He shows you, that's the boy for you. Those are the best sparks. All the other sparks, you get burnt.

We've got some young people that just got married. Are they here today or not? They're not here today. I would have said they should get up.

Are there some that recently got married? One is from Romania, the other one from Switzerland, and the other one will be from... Zimi, bist du hier? Yes. Warum versteckt ihr euch denn da hinten? Why are you sitting so far back? Just get up, and we can see. There they are.

You can't miss them, they're still holding their hands. That's the best. She's so far away from her father and from her family.

But one thing that's strengthening her, it's God's will. That's the best. If you know that it is God's will, there are no sparks like that.

That's heaven in your heart. That's true. That's true.

Come and sit down. Amen. Simon had a text.

Simon had a text for his wedding in Romania. That the ways of the Lord are pure. But in the Hebrew, it doesn't just say, the ways of the Lord are holy.

It says rather, God, the holy way. God, the holy way. God is a holy road.

Not that God's way is a holy way. He, personally, the holy way. If you don't know that God is the holy way, then there is a mistake in your life.

And you must repent. Maybe something... Let me say this, something which I have said a long time ago. A young man who had studied hard and accomplished getting his engineering degree in France.

He was a mother's boy. A favorite of his mother, very close to her. And he grew up in a very chaste and good way, the way of heaven.

One day, after getting that, he went to a restaurant just to buy something small. In the restaurant. Now, remember, he was a boy who was not gifted with making conversation with others and girls.

For the first time in his life, a girl approached him, coming and flirting with him, asking him to tell her about himself, etc. To be careful of girls who come to woo you. The young man didn't know what to respond with.

And she said, shall I buy us a cup of coffee? She came to him and was so flirtatious and offered to buy them a cup of coffee. Now, this girl in the story that I'm telling you about in France, was very talkative.

They said, They said for such a long time, she asked him, She then offered him, because it was becoming late, there in the restaurant, they sat so long, she said, look, why don't we just go and sleep at a hotel? She offering to pay, you young men, you boys, be careful of rich girls who offer things like that, rather the poorer ones.

And so indeed, that's what they did. It was his first experience to sleep in a hotel with a woman in this queen, big queen bed. In the morning when he woke up, the girl was gone.

She had gone. He thought, He thought, where has she gone? Her clothing which had been on the bench was gone, so he thought she's in the bathroom. He went there and there was a huge mirror, one of those that fills the whole wall.

And he noticed something written on the mirror, That's what was written. That's what he was looking at. His knees began to shake.

Do you hear, you boys, you young men? Welcome to the AIDS club. Eklapi for summer AIDS. for summer AIDS.

for summer AIDS. Go dress quickly. He didn't go back home, he didn't go back to the church, he didn't go back to church.

He didn't go back home, he didn't go to his mother first, he went straight to the doctor without an appointment. The secretary said, but you haven't made an appointment. He said, I must see the doctor.

Now this story I've told of old, before there was AIDS around here. Why is it? I'm such a good man, I'm so good that I can see the doctor. I'm such a good man, I'm so good that I can see the doctor.

You haven't made an appointment, but you're still not being born. And the secretary then told the doctor, there is a young man who is insistent on seeing you. he must see you he says.

So the doctor said well just slip in in between the appointments which she did. The young man told the doctor the whole story there are many things that doctors have to listen to. The doctor said young man I hear what you say but your case is too fresh.

You can only come back after three months. Then the tests might show whether you have contracted the virus or not. So after three months after three months indeed he went back to the same doctor had the test done and the results came back that he was HIV positive.

His life just came to an end it was the he felt finished off. Like this girl Alison which I have read to you about. She writes in this article that she had dreamed about having a family a wonderful husband children pets but all those dreams came to an utter end.

The father managed to forgive her but she said my mother from the type of family a very distinguished family from Manhattan in New York City the mother found it very hard to accept and forgive her. So the doctor said well just slip in between the appointments which she did. The young man told the doctor the whole story there are many things that doctors have to listen to.

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The young man told the doctor the whole story there are many things that doctors have to listen to. The father managed to forgive her but she said my mother from the type of family a very distinguished family from Manhattan in New York City the mother found it very hard to accept and forgive her. She brought disgrace to the mother.

The mother felt such pain so wounded. Think of what God feels as a parent. If you are a Christian and you disgrace God in such a way think of the hurt you bring him.

Think of the shame and the disgrace that you bring not just to God but to the Christians you are with. So in this past week we were there in Namibia. There was a suggested text.

It's a suggested text. Second Chronicles. Where it says in Second Chronicles chapter 7 from verse 14.

If I shut up heaven that there be no rain or if I command the locusts to devour the land or if I send pestilence among my people if my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Let me start from 13 as well. There where God says if I close up the heavens so that there is no rain, there is drought, there is locusts and pestilence among my people.

You see God, if he says he is closing the heavens that it should not rain, it will not rain. We might be astonished and say it's so dry, there is a drought, the heavens, the clouds just give no rain. And he says or if I command the locusts to devour the land.

Locusts which destroy and kill like terrorists which bring death and destruction. But God says however if my people who are called by my name should repent and pray and humble themselves and seek my face and depart from their wicked ways I will heal their land. I related to that audience there in Namibia about the time when Samora Machel who was president of Mozambique had died.

You remember him? And he was born into communism. Samora, South Africa. S-A stands for South Africa.

M-O for Mozambique. R for Rhodesia. A for Angola.

He was nicknamed like that and his communist colleagues said that's what you will accomplish. That we will bring communism to all these different countries here in Southern Africa. And he said that we will bring communism to all these different countries here in Southern Africa.

We happened to be in the eastern part of the country at that time and so we visited the place where his plane had crashed. It was a piteous sight to behold. Although they had taken away the bodies there were still bits and pieces of human remains of skull and of wigs.

I was asked after that to take service in the Red Star Stadium there in Mozambique. You see Samora Machel had a stadium which was called Red Star Stadium. Now I was invited to preach there and many came.

Many people attended the stadium service and I used this very text that if the land is being destroyed but my people call by my name, call upon me and repent, turn from their wickedness, I'll heal the land. When I gave an invitation for people to repent, for God's people to repent, they streamed to the front to the altar in hordes coming forward. But their pastors stopped them blocking their way saying no this sermon was intended for the unsaved not for you as Christians.

I used this very text that if the land is being destroyed but my people call by my name, call upon me and repent, turn from their wickedness, I'll heal the land. So the next day in the stadium I used the same text and to press the point home I made sure that they understood that God is referring here to the sins of his people. It's not speaking here about general sinners, those who are not Christians but about God's people and their sin.

If we don't have revival, why is it? Why is there no revival? Not because of the sin of the ungodly but because of the sin of Christians, those that are called by God's name. You as a Christian, it is your own sin which blocks the path for revival and for the Lord to work and save people because of you holding on to your own sins. Jesus spoke in the sermon on the mount where he said, you've heard it said of old, you shall not kill.

But if I say to you, if a man calls his brother a fool, yes that person ends up in hell. He's murdered him through his words. For remember, we will still give account for every single idle word which we have spoken, we'll give account before God.

The Lord also said, that if you come to the altar with your offering and then you remember that your brother has ought against you. Now he's not speaking there of outsiders and Pharisees but a person who is a brother who's got something against you. Leave your gift at the altar for God does not want it.

First go and make right and be reconciled. God wants no offerings from you if you are not right with your brothers. If there's something between you and your brother in Christ, a Christian, God doesn't want your gift.

You go and make peace with him first and if you gossiped about him and he's a child of God and walking with God. It doesn't mean that Jesus had to go to the Pharisees and the scribes and make right with them. That's the devil's gospel.

But God's gospel, your brother in Christ, if you gossiped about him, did something bad, spoke about him behind his back. God is not interested in that what you are doing for him. You may say, I'm serving God.

He's not interested. He says go and make peace, make right first and then you bring your offering. These sins of Christians are the cursed thing that grieves the Holy Spirit and stop him from working.

You all understand. And Jesus said, you've heard it said of old, do not get divorced. But I say, anyone who's married, looks lustfully at another woman, he has already sinned and committed adultery with her, with his eyes.

He's divorced before God. And these are the sins of God's people, which they must make right so that God can work in this world. That God should be free to work.

These are the sins that need to be dealt with. And Jesus said, if your right eye stumbles you, pluck it out, cast it away. Better to enter into heaven with one eye than to go to hell with both eyes.

So if your right eye stumbles you, pluck it out, cast it away. If your left eye stumbles you, pluck it out, cast it away. Christian have these sins then you remain behind you need to get right with God for God is applying this to you directly.

The cross has two beams the one vertical beam and the other a horizontal beam the cross indicates reconciliation with God that vertical beam between us and heaven between us and God and at the same time the horizontal beam must be there that we are reconciled with our brethren too. Remember that person from Johannesburg who couldn't walk because of an accident from Pretoria. Reverend Chauge the one who had been crippled he met with a certain white man saying look the cross means that we must be at peace both with God and our fellow man but this man responded and said well it's fine for you to handle a horizontal part but as for me I only work with the vertical beam between me and God only.

There in central Africa where there's a population half of them being of the Christian denomination half of them being Islamic because as you go up further north in Africa you find Muslims. It had been a Christian area but Christianity was annihilated and Islam took over. As you come further south you find it's more 50-50 half of them being of a Christian background and half being Islamic.

This boy was exposed to both faiths Christians and how they lived and Muslims and he thought now who shall I believe because both claim that they have the only truth. So he thought let me do it like this. For six months I'll work with Muslims and for them and then six months I'll work for Christians.

So he went to the Muslims seeking employment. They gave him a job and he worked for six months. After another six months he went six months then to the Christians where he got employment.

After that he went to the missus who he was working for and said I'm leaving. Why are you leaving us? She said you've worked so well. We've worked so well with you.

You've been such a good worker. He said you don't know why I'm really here and what has called me to do this. I'm from a very rural forest area where we are heathens.

But I'd heard about these faiths and I wanted to know who really has the truth, the Muslims or the Christians. And he told her that I decided to work for both groups six months at a time and then I would see where my allegiance should lie. And so he said I worked for them for six months and then he said after that I came for six months to you Christians.

And she as a Christian said but why are you leaving us and deserting us now when you've worked so well with us? He said no I am going because I've been seeking truth. I've been seeking the truth of heaven. Because I thought well let me see how these religions look like.

I would see for myself how you live as families. Whether you get upset, whether you fight, whether you get angry with each other and I would experience it for myself. And I'm now satisfied that the way of the Muslims is much better and that they are on the way to heaven.

I've seen what you Christians are like. I'm becoming a Muslim. Now time has gone by there's so much more I could have said.

Because they got angry in the home they would get upset with each other. They would be friction. And they would say things afterwards when a person went afterwards muttering bad things.

The Lord will require the blood of that boy at the Christians hands. Those Christians that he was with for he did not find them to be God the holy way. God holy one.

There's no other God. If you walk with God you walk a holy life and if you don't walk a holy life you don't walk with God and you're a liar and you're on your way to hell. One young man got lost because he looked at the Christians life.

Then I think of Mahatma Gandhi. He says I don't know the truth. He say I go to the Christians.

I'll go to the other faiths and then I'll see where the Christian lies. And Mahatma Gandhi didn't become a Christian. What the Christian people of his time will say on the day of judgment I don't know.

But woe to you if a person says I won't become a Christian because of this man. Time has gone. We'll be closing in prayer but I need to leave now promptly and we'll then close.

Let's bow and pray. We thank you our heavenly father for speaking directly to us. You've applied your word and aimed it at us.

Lord we thank you that you love us so much that you speak to us even Lord if we're in a sinful state you've spoken to us as a people who may have sinned and you've called us to repentance and you want us to accept it as the word for us. Thank you Lord for your precious word and the Holy Spirit which brings light with it and makes us alive as we hear it. And as we obey it.

So Lord we ask you that you'd give us a willing heart and obedience to fulfill what you have commanded us to do. That we would be fully accountable to you and each other and that we will not find ourselves one day with the blood of others on our hands. Lord Jesus we ask you to continue with us, bless the singing of the choir and bless us as we depart.

Give us the grace that we wouldn't part from you but that you would be with us. Amen.

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