

I Will Show Forth All Thy Marvellous Works!

by Erlo Stegen

The sermon highlights the transformative power of faith and personal example in praising God and influencing others positively.

Duration: 1:25:08

Scripture: Psalm 9:1-3, Matthew 6:33

Topics: "Miracles"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher shares the story of a woman named Guluduba who had a difficult life as the breadwinner of her family. Despite having to walk long distances to work and facing physical pain, she remained faithful and asked for prayers for her husband. The preacher then reads from Psalm 9:1-2, emphasizing the importance of praising God with a whole heart and sharing His marvelous works. The preacher also shares a personal experience of witnessing God's guidance in Guluduba's life, highlighting her ability to receive heavenly revelations while on earth.

Transcript

Lord Jesus, at the wedding in Cana, you took plain water and made it into sweet wine, something heavenly. Now Lord, we're here at this funeral where we will be bearing this body, which is just the earthly tent that your child lived in. She herself has her new body in heaven.

So we will just be burying her earthly tent that she lived in here on earth. Through your spirit, Lord, pour oil on the wounds, take away the pain, wipe away the tears, that this will be a memorable day in eternity. Amen.

And I'd like us to turn to a word in Psalm chapter 9. Verses 1 and 2. Some Bibles make it 2 and 3. You'll just see where it is, but in Zulu it's 1 and 2. I will praise you, O Lord, with my whole heart. I will tell of your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in you.

I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. When my enemies turn back, they shall fall and perish at your presence. I will praise you, O Lord, with my whole heart.

And in German it says, with all my heart, Lord, I will praise you. And it goes on to say, I will tell of all your marvelous works. Now I won't be able to share with you all the marvelous works that the Lord has done in the life of his child.

I will praise you, O Lord, with my whole heart. I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. These days, I said I won't even be able to speak of half, nearly half of everything that one could speak about.

But what I do want to share, I hope will be a lesson to you, because Gulu Dube's life was a lesson not just to the Church, but to the whole world. And may God reveal through his Holy Spirit his secrets to you, as her son-in-law said, that she was like a barn full of treasures. I'd been preaching the gospel for seven years when I got to Mapumulu.

I'd gone many places. And then at that time I met up with a magistrate at Nsuse, who was there at the time of Bambata's rebellion. And the magistrate asked me to come to Mapumulu.

He said it's a difficult place, very hard. The people drank so much alcohol and were full of crime. And he said, please come and preach the gospel there.

And I said, yes, I will. And he said, I don't know how to preach the gospel there. And I said, I don't know how to preach the gospel there.

And he said, I don't know how to preach the gospel there. And so we held services there daily for two weeks. And after the two weeks, the authorities there said, look, this is actually a community hall, not a church.

It's not appropriate that we just hold services here. Then I said to the magistrate, I said, well, if that's the case, I don't mind. We can just pitch a tent and continue with services.

Now, during those services, a young lady approached me, and it was this lady who we're here to remember. She came crying, said, I'm troubled. Please pray for me.

I've got an unhappy marriage. My husband beats me. He drinks.

People say he's a hard worker, and yet I am the one that has to tend to the family and support it. He was a businessman, and he traded and things, sold them, and he would go and earn money. But he would, on his way home, go and drink and be totally intoxicated before he even got home.

Sometimes he'd sleep up in the mountains. He wouldn't even make it home. He would be wet with dew in the morning, and there's this place not far from here that's called wet with dew, but it's pronounced in the way the Swazis say it.

The S was a T, like the Swazis today. The money he didn't spend on booze, as he was up in the mountain in his drunken stupor, and sleeping, they would pickpocket him and take away the rest of what he had, even the suitcase with the things that he was selling. She said, I have a tough life.

I am the breadwinner at home. She said, I have to walk many kilometres just to get to work in the morning, walk home again in the evening, all those kilometres. Because very often her children would meet her on the way with lanterns that she could see the way.

And even the doctors had advised her to change it because they said you cannot survive all this walking because her feet were suffering severely from it. Then she said, please, pray also that God will work in the life of my husband. She said, I've had eight children, but three of those children have been buried.

They died from malnutrition because they didn't get enough for the proper food. At that time I was a lot younger than I am today. At that time my answer to her was, Mama, forget about your husband and about his sins and about his problems, just focus on your own for now.

She said, but I'm not the problem, he's the problem. At that time he had a terrible temper as well. And if he'd come home in his drunken state, when he was still far away from the home, he'd start cursing and swearing and shouting.

Everyone feared him, even the cats and the dogs ran away when he approached. She said, you can even look at my children, you won't find one that does not have a scar because he'd come home, he would hit and beat everything in his way. Often they even had to go and sleep outside in the mini-fields.

And I said again to her, I said, I understand, but remember when he dies, he'll die alone, he'll stand alone before God and so will you. So focus on your own life and sort out your own life. And I said, Mother, maybe I can help you in this way.

And maybe I can give you some advice. Now when he comes home in his state and he's shouting and treating you that way, do you back-chat him or give it back to him? She said, well, I do. She said, well, I do admit that when he comes home drunk and he's not so steady on his feet, I do give him a nudge just that he does fall over, but you can be sure that the next morning he'll get me back properly.

Then I said, well, now that you've admitted your own wrong, then now I can pray for you. Because if you admit your own wrong, God can help you first and then he can start working in other people's lives through you as well. And I said, well, now that you've admitted your own wrong, then now I can pray for you.

Make sure that your life is in order, that your life is right, and then other things will start coming right themselves. God can then use you and work through you. Remember always, if you want to achieve anything, make sure that your own life is right with God.

Don't blame others for things that are going wrong. You must overcome evil with good. So she went home.

Her husband was away, going and boozing. So she went home. Her husband was away, going and boozing.

So she went home. Her husband was away, going and boozing. So she went home.

Her husband was away, going and boozing. So she went home. Her husband was away, going and boozing.

So she went home. Her husband was away, going and boozing. So she went home.

Her husband was away, going and boozing. So she went home. So when she got home, she got out some clean linen, she made up his bed properly, and then even opened it for him.

When he got home, he couldn't believe what he saw. He said, what is happening? It's like I'm living in a hotel here. Remember that time, she didn't even have proper bedding.

She had nothing that was not torn in some way. Now while he was still in his amazement, he sat down on the bed, couldn't believe what was happening, and while he was still in this state, not knowing what to say, So here she came in with a dish full of warm water, with a towel over her arm and soap in the other hand,

And then she said, look, these people have just arrived on the bus from Stenger and there's someone on the bus who's hungry, who hasn't got any food. Could you just loan me just a little bit of money that I can go to the tearoom and buy some food for that person? And so she went to the tearoom and bought a whole plate of food and gave it to this person to eat. And then I asked her, I said, but just tell me, where did you know this person from? Who is this person after all? And how did he even know he was hungry? She said, I'll tell you a secret.

Just between us though. She said, look, and it was actually a lady, a woman, this person that she had given the food to. She said, no, you know, that woman is actually the one who's got an affair with my husband.

When he's gone to drink, he doesn't come straight home. He goes past her place. I said, she's a woman.

And I was amazed. And I thought she's an unusual person, extraordinary person, because that's very unusual that if you know that your husband's involved in an affair, you know how you react and that hatred that comes up. But she came from a totally different angle and approached it totally differently.

And I said to her, mother, I honor you and respect you. And I get the impression you're doing it God's way. And she worked in that store and she was faithful.

And the owner of the store loved her because of her faithfulness and her trustworthiness, because her husband there was very sharp and even came to the shop and spoke to her very sternly and told her, if you ever steal here, you're in trouble because I'll send you straight back to your family. One day a man arrived, he had a bag full of Muti and he said, tell me, woman, what kind of a life is this that you live? Where do you get this from? And he said, look, I'm a man who uses spells, I cast spells on people and everyone else that I have to deal with in business and who work in the shop, I can cast a spell on them, I go to them and I can rob them in broad daylight. And he said, with you, I can never get it right.

What is this that you've got? And I continued learning respect for this woman. And then another day, another man arrived, her husband. Now, at that time he was still into his drinking, but he came to me and he said, you know, I'm starting to gain some respect for my wife.

I've noticed something. When she speaks, I listen very carefully and take note of what she says. Now, I know that as well about her.

I've known her, what's it, 50 years or more. And I know her also to be someone who just said something once. And the amazing thing about her, she never raised her voice.

And it's not just I who've experienced this. There were others as well. Mrs. Zimzila and Mrs. Zimzibande and others who can testify, could have testified to it.

She wasn't one to argue and debate a point. She just stated her case and you accepted it or turned it down. But she wouldn't try and push her, ram it down your throat.

The husband would say, I'm sure that that's God. She asked him in a nice way, do you think it's right if you go there? And she said, and then he responded very harshly, said, look, I'm the man here. I won't be told by a woman what to do.

She went home with that money and presented it to her husband. And the husband couldn't believe it. He said, now I can see that God actually cares for his children.

So you must now understand why she was always amazed when someone came claiming to have been called by God into his service. But then saying, well, God's called me, but I don't know what I live from. I don't know how I'll make a living.

And she said, but I don't understand you because if God has called you, he will also care for you. And she said, I can't understand if someone says God's called him, but then he is concerned about her, how he'll make a living and he goes around even asking for money because she says, I in my experience have seen God caring for me. If I need something, I go into my bedroom and I pray and ask God for it.

So you can see it's difficult in one service to say everything. I wish I had two or three services to share all these experiences. So we came here in 1970.

At that time, there was nothing here. It was just a bush and there were wild pigs and monkeys. That was all that was here.

The first kitchen that was built here, I built myself with my own hands out of mud, like you build a hut and there was no window, no door. There wasn't even a floor and I said, Lord, I don't mind if it doesn't have all these things, as long as your presence is here. Now in those days, at that time, there were only a few people that we were preaching together with.

Some of the co-workers approached me and said, look, you've got to preach, you've got to counsel, you pray for the sick, and then you've still got to care for their physical needs with the food and everything. We'd like to assist you and take over some of those responsibilities of caring for the people like food. And I said, well, do you realize what you're asking for, to care for a hundred people on a daily basis, three meals a day? And then she started crying.

She said, well, perhaps I don't understand. And maybe the others here don't understand. Maybe we don't have that experience, but really we were just fully trusting the Lord that he would provide for our needs, that he would send us heavenly manner.

And I said, well, just apart from that, where will you get food from? She said, look, one of the things we thought of doing is that we'll take from the produce that we produce at home, like sweet potatoes and potatoes and beans and matumbes, we'll take from that and we'll bring it here and we can share it with the people here. And I had known that they don't have much at home either, but they wanted to even take of that and share it with the people here. I didn't say it to them, but in my heart, I thought, well, they obviously don't realize what they're letting themselves in for.

Well, they took over that responsibility and from that day on they took it over. We didn't miss a meal after that. Every day the Lord provided.

Just one day. I remember they came in the morning. They said there's no food left.

They went out into the field and were just looking for something they could pick there and to cook. And while they were out there, a white man arrived with his baki and on the baki were beans, potatoes, and mealy meal. And that's how the Lord provided.

This man came from far away. He didn't know about the need. They had been on their knees.

They prayed and told the heavenly father about the need and that's how he provided. And then one day we were out to preach in a far away place. In those days, there were no tar roads.

And I remember we're driving in a big American car that had a bench seat. So you could sit three in front and three at the back. At that time, my brother bought that car for us and said that car is for your use for the gospel.

That day was extremely hot. We went down across Kronslop into the valley across the other side. We traveled for many hours.

It was terribly hot. When we were up on the other side coming out the valley on the other side in those mountains, we were terribly thirsty. And I was sorry that we didn't take something to drink along in a flask.

And then when we got to the other side where I could, I thought well, let me just try and go faster. It was a bad road and I were traveling along at about 60 miles an hour. And as we were going along at that speed, I heard someone speaking in the back and I didn't hear properly what she said and then she was speaking in and just in a soft voice asking whether we could stop.

Now, you can imagine a big car going at that speed. It's like a train that takes time till you get to a stop till you eventually stop. Well, we stopped and this was in a foreign place.

We didn't know it. She was sitting at the door and she opened the door. As she opened the door, where the door opened right next to her, the door almost knocked into it was a water tap.

When we opened the tap, nice fresh cold water came out and I said, but how did you, I said to her, I said, how did you know that there's a water tap here? She says, no, I didn't. I just felt prompted inside that we should stop and I was amazed at the way God could reveal heavenly mysteries to her while she was here on earth and she had an ear to hear. Now I've spent all this time.

We're still speaking about her. I could have still spoken about Mr. Dubé as well, speaking about God's wondrous works in their lives. That's what it's like when someone lives for God, his life is worth gold.

It's not just cheap. Now on another occasion, Uncle Joe was right down there in the old Transkei and he phoned and he said, could you please come down and take services here in this area? So he didn't go into much detail. He just asked that we should come.

I said to him, look, I think it's impossible. I don't think I can come all that way. This was in, it was in 1972.

I just got married and there were visitors that had come all the way from Cape Town, had made a special effort just to visit us. Now what I didn't know and what he didn't tell me that for three days, he had already been going around in that area with a loud halo, a loudspeaker system, making announcements in all area that Mfundu Stegen will be coming on a certain day to take a service and we'll be praying for the sick as well. They can bring them all for prayer.

And I spoke to Mama Dube and the other co-workers. I said, I'm in a predicament. I've been asked to come and take the service there, but I've got these visitors here and I really don't know how I can just leave them.

And I left them and after a while she contacted me and she said, you know, I don't know, but I think maybe it would be the right thing for us to go down to the Transkei. I said, well, what about the visitors? I said, well, let me approach them and just hear how they feel about it. But it was interesting how even at that time she put no pressure.

She just said what she felt and then left it at that. When I went to those visitors, I said, look, I know you've made the special effort to visit us here at Cesar Bantu, but now I've been invited for the service down there. I don't know what I should do.

They said, please feel totally free to go. We'll stay here with your wife. You go.

And it was about four o'clock in the afternoon and I said to the others, well, let's get ready. Let's go. Now the trip from here to there is about eight hours.

So leaving at four, we would have been there at twelve. So we got ready and off we went. We got there at midnight.

So when we got there, it was midnight as the lights of the car shone onto the tent, people just streamed out of the tent. They were jumping for joy, praising and thanking God. I said, what's going on? They said, we've been waiting for you because tomorrow morning Uncle Joe has announced that everyone can come tomorrow morning for a service and for prayer.

And for me, it was so wonderful to be supported by people, by co-workers who are in contact with God and whom God can reveal his heavenly mysteries to. Like the psalmist said that I may dwell in the house of the Lord forevermore. Now that doesn't mean living in a physical temple.

That is living in the presence of children of God, God's people who are in contact with him. And if you're not in their presence, you'll be with the wrong people. Now, when Uncle Joe was younger, he was a very fit and strong man.

He used to saw huge trees and natural forests. He used to tame wild horses. Someone even said if the horse backed him off, he'd fly through there, but he'd always land on his feet.

He could run like a deer. And then he said, well, let's first thing in the morning go and see the Nkosi. And that's when we also found out that there was going to be a big meeting there where one of the government ministers would be present and address the people.

So the next morning I had to try and keep up with this fit man and off we went to that meeting. And when we got there, they welcomed us and actually got me eventually to sit in the seat that had been prepared for this minister. One side, someone else on the other.

While we were sitting there waiting for the minister to arrive, someone did arrive with a message to say that the minister cannot make it. It had rained a lot. Bridges had been washed away.

It was amazing that we had even made it, but they came with a message that he would not make it to the meeting. And then we waited and then Nkosi arrived. And then Nkosi said to Mpundi that the minister, government minister, cannot make it.

He would have spoken to the people. He can't. Will you please rather address the crowds? And I said, oh Lord, what will I say? Help me now to say what's on your heart.

And then Nkosi told the people, here's Mpundi Steg and he will speak. And I could get up. I took the Bible and I started speaking.

It was amazing. They listened so attentively. You could have heard a pin drop.

And after I spoke, Uncle Joe got up and announced that there would be a service now in the tent. Anyone who wanted to could join us there. And he said, bring the sick as well.

They'll be prayed for. On the way from there, a man approached on a horse and he was blind. And Uncle Joe spoke to him and said, go to the service.

There'll be prayer for six people. You go there as well and God will open your eyes. And I was amazed.

I said, how can you say that? This was now before the service. I was busy preparing in a small tent and someone arrived and told me that this man, this blind man that was on the horse had arrived for prayer. And I didn't know what to do.

And I thought, hey, Uncle Joe really put me into a predicament. Should someone else pray for this man? And I said, how could you have just told him so blatantly God will open his eyes? He says, well, I don't know either. I just, this suddenly came to me to say.

And I thought, well, then I played for time. I said, well, has he confessed his sin? Because before you pray for someone, he has to first cleanse his life. And they said, no, he's already made right.

And then they said, well, let's take him somewhere where he can be prayed for. Well, I went there and we pray and on the way, I just said, Lord, please intervene work. And we went there.

We prayed for him and God did a miracle. He opened his eyes. And well, of course, we were all overjoyed and Uncle Joe as well.

And I said, well, child of the Lord, you got me into a corner, but I think God was in it. It's wonderful to have co-workers who are connected to God, whom God can reveal his mysteries, his secrets. If it's no longer like that, you can work for your worth.

It will be in vain. Now I often said to her, I said to her, Mama Duba, you can't leave us yet. We still need you.

And I was so happy one day when I went to her. I said, and she said to me, no, I know the Lord has shown me my house where I'll be staying. But it's not quite ready yet.

And I said, well, wonderful praise the Lord. It's not ready yet. So she'll still be with us for a while.

But recently she got us all together with the co-workers and she said, I want to tell you that the Lord has shown me my house, my heavenly house. It's wonderful. And now it's ready.

And I thought, well, I can believe it must be a wonderful house because something that the Lord builds himself must be glorious. So we praise God that she is now in that glory and we are left behind. Let us be faithful.

We don't know who will fill her gap. Gifts are different, of course, but you just be faithful with that gift that God has given to you. Now, forgive me for keeping you so long, but I just wanted to share some, a few

points just to give you that they may be lessons to help you in your life as you continue.

Let's stand and pray. We thank you, Lord, for what you've done through your child. Thank you for the life she lived amongst us and on all the nations.

She was a signboard that pointed people clearly to the Lord Jesus. For a long time, she's longed to meet with you and now she's in your presence. We thank you, Lord.

Amen.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/22/SID22110.mp3>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/erlo-stegen/i-will-show-forth-all-thy-marvellous-works/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net