

# Trusting God in Stead of Man

by Erlo Stegen

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*This sermon emphasizes the importance of trusting in God rather than in man or human strength, and shares personal testimonies and biblical examples to illustrate this point.*

**Duration:** 37:17

**Scripture:** Psalm 118:8, Proverbs 3:5, Isaiah 31:1, Matthew 6:33

**Topics:** "Faith And Trust", "Marriage And Love"

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## Description

In this sermon, the preacher begins by praying for the words spoken to be transformed from water into wine, symbolizing a powerful and impactful message. The preacher then discusses the complexities of marriage, referencing a book by Martin Luther that describes four types of marriages. The preacher emphasizes the importance of choosing a marriage that is based on mutual love and remaining in love after marriage. The sermon concludes with a reminder to trust in God and the example of the preacher's own experiences of trusting in the Lord for financial aid and seeing the impact of their ministry.

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## Transcript

We hope that you will be among us on this wedding day at the wedding of my daughter and her bridegroom. And Lord Jesus, as we mentioned, we ask that like with the wedding at Canaan, you would take the water and change it into wine. May the words that would be read and spoken be changed from water into wine.

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Amen. Isaiah 31, verse 1. Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, who rely on horses, who trust in the multitude of their chariots and in the great strength of their horsemen, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel or seek help from the Lord. The theme of today's service is not to Egypt, but to the Lord.

And it would be wonderful if everybody would grasp this mystery. And those who get married today, this verse would guide them always. So that we can be God's nation and remember it.

May the leaders of this world, the government, understand this mystery. The verse says, Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help. Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help.

Egypt is to fall, to go down. Egypt is to fall, to go down. The Israelites were a small nation.

And they said, we'll never have the strength to stand against the Assyrians. Rather make an agreement with Egypt, a covenant. And there in Egypt there were enough chariots, there were large areas with enough food and food.

They had many chariots, chariots for the war. So they said, if we could depend on them, because horses and chariots in those days were like guns in our day. And those who steered the chariots were strong warriors.

And then it says, Woe to those who trust in Egypt and not in the Lord God. That we decided to bottle water from a well and sell it to use the money for the propagation of the gospel. The problems that we encountered.

And even the people locally and from overseas, Christians said, Erlo, how are you going to start this with, where will you get the capital from? Where will you get the capital? There are so many well-established brands that sell water, like Coca-Cola and what not. How are you, you're just a nothing going to start, you're just like an ant that can be squashed with your thumb. So he advised me to go to them first, to sell it to them and maybe make a cent a bottle.

And then this verse came to me over and over, Woe to those who trust in Egypt. And this verse came over and over that it will be a sin to trust in man and to fear the Syrians and not trust in God. It's not a joke to be confronted with such problems.

So God spoke to me and said, don't fear Syria, don't look at these companies and don't look to Egypt, trust in me. Trust me alone. And they said, well, you've already grown old, you're going to die without reaping any profit off this, rather do something where you get a bit of money now already.

And I prayed and said, Lord, help me to trust in you. Even if I die and go to destruction, then I'm destroyed having trusted in you. Charles Sturt said, rather let me die a thousand times while trusting in God than trusting in man.

And I prayed and said, Lord, help me to trust in you. I'm still here, I did not die. And I prayed and said, Lord, help me to trust in you.

And on the contrary, they are copying us now, the shape of our bottles, the caps that we have. And meanwhile, we knew nothing, we just trusted the Lord. And yet, there is the temptation while we're in this world to drop our eyes and look at the things around us and take them off the one who created us.

2 Chronicles chapter 7, 16 verse 12. There was a king, his name was King Asa. He developed an ailment in his feet.

2 years. And for 2 years, he was tormented by this disease, I don't know whether it was gout or whatever. And it appears as if the disease was progressing and spreading up his legs.

And in those 2 years, we read, the king consulted doctors and did not seek the Lord. Do you hear, you who are sick? Don't repeat the mistake of Asa and seek the advice and the health of the medical profession only and not consult the Lord. Let us all first start with God and then later we can get medical advice.

And let's trust the Lord Jesus. 2 days ago, somebody gave me a letter. And it was actually broadcasted on national television in Egypt.

There is certainly a Muslim man who killed his wife. Unbelievable. For a man to kill his wife.

But if they are still flirting and dating no matter how the parents try and prevent and help them, they can't be separated. Yesterday I read a book of Martin Luther written in 1517 about marriage. He says there are 4 kinds of marriages.

The first one where the man loves the wife and the wife loves the husband. And then the second one where the wife loves the husband but he doesn't love her. And then there is strife and bitterness between them.

And then I said to myself, one day I will be preaching about these 4 kinds. But I do not wish for this couple to marry like any of the first 3 but rather like the 4th one where both of them after marriage remain in love. So did this Muslim man kill his wife? Or did he bury her? Actually they had then 2 children and the small one was still suckling.

The other one was 8 years old. And so this man killed his wife and then buried these 2 children, the one of 8 years and the little one. But he buried the children while they were still alive.

What a horrible thing to bury somebody who is alive. Now 15 days after 15 days somebody else of the family died. And as they dug into the old grave they found these 2 children still alive.

They quickly took them out still alive. And then they asked the father, well what happened to these children? And he said, no it is my younger brother who killed them. And then as they took these children out they said, no you are guilty and they arrested him to be killed.

Took the children, it was spoken of over television. And on television they asked this girl, you girl of 8 years old, how did you and your sister manage to stay alive under the ground for more than 2 weeks? He said this, daily a man with glittering white clothes came to us. And he paid for us.

The incredible thing is he had wounds in his hands. And the blood dripped from the wounds in his hands. And then he actually brought the dead mother to this little one to suckle her.

And that is how she remained alive. Now the Muslim, whoever this was, Yiltamal and Ivar. And the people said, Jesus can do something like this.

Now in Arabic they call Jesus, Isa. And so the people said it is Isa that can do things like that. And even the Muslims say it is a miracle for 2 children to stay alive under the ground for 2 weeks.

But how? Secondly they said because they don't believe that Christ died on the cross. They said well this means that he must have indeed died on the cross. He was crucified indeed and died.

And this incident is going to spread to all the training centres. And all the schools, all the Islamic schools. There is no one who can do such a thing except Jesus.

What a foolishness to turn to people and not to turn to Jesus. And they said, no one can do such a thing. And they said, no one can do such a thing.

And he said, if you are a Jehovah's Witness, you will see that I am a Jew. It is what I wish for you two, hang it around your necks and keep it for the rest of your lives and let us trust the Lord until death. Then you will have a future, whether you are in Africa, Europe, the East or the West.

God help those who trust in Him. I am coming to an end. Elizabeth, you are getting married today.

What I am going to say to you now, I would have said even if your mother was here. Accept your mother-in-law as your own mother who brought you into the world. And your father-in-law as well.

Accept them out of the hand of the Lord as your own husband and your own father. If you want that it will go well with you and that you will receive the blessing of God. You will not even receive my blessing if you do not do it.

Accept that out of the hand of the Lord, that is the only way you will be blessed. You will not even receive my blessing if you do not do it. She should treat them like her own parents.

And I say this before heaven and earth, God and man, the community and the heavenly hosts. And this I am saying before heaven and earth, before God and man and before the heavenly hosts. Maybe somebody is reluctant saying, well you are going a bit too far.

No, I am not going too far. She will be a better daughter for me if she does it than when she would not do it. And I say this before heaven and earth, God and man, the community and the heavenly hosts.

I preached this before you were born and those who do it, with them it goes well. And allow me to ask all the wives here, how do you treat your mothers-in-law and all the husbands, how do you treat your parents-in-law? And I will be happy if they who write it down in heaven, that is how Erlo taught his daughters. And for them he said on the day they were married, that is how they must live to receive the Son of God.

Again for those who do not trust the Lord, not to Egypt, but to the Lord, trust Him, then it will go well. Do not trust silver or gold or your own wisdom, but to the man who is there, then it will go well with your family. Let us pray.

Lord, here are your children. They confess that they trust in you. Not in Egypt.

Neither in the world from where we came. Life in sin without God. But where we live with God and He is the first and the last in our lives.

Lord, enlighten them that they will not trust in Egypt, the country of sin and the world. Bless them with your blessing, Triune God. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father, the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you in your daily life.

Help them Lord, let them grow in faith. That they will live a healthy life where they live. Until when the last trumpet will sound.

When you will meet them in the air and separate them and you will thank them. Amen.

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