

When Jesus Is There

by Erlo Stegen

The sermon highlights the significance of inviting Jesus into our lives and relationships for transformation and blessings.

Duration: 1:11:31

Scripture: Joshua 24:16, John 2:1, John 2:3-5, 1 Corinthians 3:11

Topics: "Miracles Of Jesus", "Humility In Ministry"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher discusses the story of Jesus turning water into wine at a wedding in Cana. He emphasizes the significance of this miracle, highlighting how Jesus chose to reveal his power in a humble community rather than making a grand announcement. The preacher also draws parallels between the reactions of the people at the wedding and the communist ideology, emphasizing the importance of focusing on the present rather than just hoping for future rewards. Additionally, the preacher shares a personal story about a wealthy man who made a donation to a mission, highlighting the contrast between his showy gesture and Jesus' humble approach.

Transcript

We invite you, Lord Jesus, to be with us, to be in our midst, by your grace. Amen. The bridegroom, Daniel, sent me a verse.

Now he says that even though I'm free to preach on any verse I'd like to, but he does have this verse on his heart, which is from 1 Corinthians chapter 3 and it starts from verse 11. The text is verse 11, 1 Corinthians chapter 3. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now the bride also sent me a verse, which is found in the book of Joshua, which is chapter 24.

Verse 16, far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods. It is wonderful how these two verses are so united and so together and mean so much together. I'd like to use these texts together with something else which is on my heart, regarding the marriage in Cana.

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and his disciples were invited to the wedding. And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to him, they have no wine.

Jesus said to her, woman, what does your concern have to do with me? My hour has not yet come. His mother said to the servants, whatever he says to you, do it. Now there were set there six water pots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing 20 or 30 gallons apiece.

Jesus said to them, fill the water pots with water and they filled them up to the brim. And he said to them, draw some out now and take it to the master of the feast and they took it. When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine and did not know where it came from, but the servants who had drawn the water knew, the master of the feast called the bridegroom.

And he said to him, every man at the beginning sets out the good wine and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now. When the guests have well drunk, then the inferior.

You have kept the good wine until now. This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee and manifested his glory and his disciples believed in him. We will read thus far.

To this wedding Jesus had been invited together with his disciples. It is a marriage today. The bride is going to leave where she is from and go to her new home in Chauteng.

Now we do know that the lifestyle up there in Chauteng is not the same as the lifestyle here at the mission. One person even informed me that we need to give more space to them in Chauteng. We need to understand their position that they've got more of the Joburg spirit now being up there in Chauteng and we can't expect them to be like it is down here at Kwasa Zabantu.

Actually, whether you are here or in England or wherever you might live, it doesn't matter. As long as you invite Jesus to be with you, that you walk with him. This wedding in Cana was a wedding with a difference because Jesus had been invited.

The bridegroom's text that he has chosen is the same as the bridegroom's text. The bride's text was that let it be far from us that we should ever serve any other God. I was so gladdened by the fact that even though they have been from completely different areas, one right up there, the other down here, but their desire has been the same.

I was so gladdened by the fact that even though they have been from completely different areas, one right up there, the other down here, but their desire has been the same. I was so gladdened by the fact that even though they have been from completely different areas, one right up there, but their desire has been the same. I was so gladdened by the fact that even though they have been from completely different areas, one right up there, but their desire has been the same.

After all, there are hordes of young people who do the opposite and do not treat their vessels which should be holy unto the Lord. They do not treat these vessels in purity and being careful and to make sure that they are completely holy unto the Lord. And remember, you don't reap immediately.

With some, it's a short while, but with some it's 5, 10, 20 years. With some, it takes a lifetime before they reap the consequences of their action. And remember, you don't reap immediately.

With some, it's a short while, but with some it's 5, 10, 20 years. With some, it's 5, 10, 20 years. Some people are deceived by the present circumstances.

They say, but I don't see any sign of reaping now and I don't see any bad signs and they bound to the present. They are similar to the communist theme where they said, forget about the future, we don't want cake in the sky by and by, we want bread now. And in effect though, what happened was in countries like Russia, all communist countries, not only did they not have cake, they even lacked bread.

And remember, you don't reap immediately. With some, it's a short while, but with some it's 5, 10, 20 years. With some, it's 5, 10, 20 years.

Take for instance the matter of AIDS. People do not commit sexual immorality and then get AIDS and die immediately. No, it can just infect them 5 years later when you see the evidence of it, or 10 years, or 12 years later, till they are so weak that they need to be nursed and helped and they are incontinent.

What we rejoice about in this story we've read is that these people of Cana invited Jesus to be with them at the wedding. We are not told how the marriage continued, but we can be assured that it started in this blessed way and it's spoken of till today all over the world, this wedding at Cana, it must have been blessed. They were embarrassed by the fact that refreshments ran out, the wine came to an end in the middle of the ceremony, and they, whether they were too poor or what it was, but they were blessed by the fact that Jesus was there to correct the situation.

That's the first point, that they invited Jesus. And in the same way, this bridal couple have said, no other foundation, our marriage will be built on the foundation which is Jesus Christ and also the text. Let it be far from us to serve any other gods.

Now the second point, Jesus was invited together with his disciples. Biblically, you could not separate Jesus from his disciples. Those who were his true, genuine disciples, not just speaking about any disciples, just following any person, but those who were his genuine, called disciples.

And for eternity it will be the case that you'll never separate Jesus from his disciples. It is a common saying among Christians to say, well, we just serve the Lord, we're not interested in people, we don't serve man. And I also say, yes, we mustn't serve man, we must serve the Lord Jesus, remembering though that the Lord is not separated from his disciples.

The Lord also said, he who receives you, receives me. And as the Father has sent me, so send I you. Keep in mind then, remembering always that if you have concern for Jesus and love for him, you will have the same attitude towards his people.

You cannot separate Jesus from his disciples. Mark those who follow the fashionable thing of saying, we have nothing to do with man, we just serve the Lord only. Well, you mark those because they are being deceived by this deception of trying to separate Jesus from his people.

In the Bible, the psalmist says that I wish to dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Now he's not speaking there about a building, but he's speaking about his people. And so you cannot say, I'm going to dwell with the Lord, but not with his people.

You are intimately going to be with his people forever. In other words, In other words, it means the intention to be with the Lord and his people, always to be in the midst of those who have God. Of course, not those who have turned their backs on God, but those who are walking with the Lord.

But to the organizers of the wedding, that was burdensome because the Lord came with his people. He came with his disciples. So it wasn't just for the Lord that they had to prepare, but also for his disciples.

Jesus said ever so clearly, what you do to the least of mine, you have done to me. And on the day of judgment, that will be looked at, how you treated those who are the least. Can I continue to another point? Have you grasped that? Don't let these points go lost on you because they are of greatest importance.

If you cannot keep these truths, you will always be dead. Even if you have the name that you are alive, in fact you will be dead. Let's go to a third point.

When they ran out of wine, Jesus' mother came to him saying, they have no more wine. The Bible in Zulu says woman. You could even say mother.

But he wasn't saying woman. But he did not address her as mother, instead he said woman. What does your concern have to do with me? Now just literally translate this in Zulu.

In Zulu it literally means, why do you interfere in this matter which is mine? That's my business. What has that got to do with you? Why do you come into this? There is the occurrence that a person just enters into things that are none of his business. Now she came to him because after all he was her son.

By this time Joseph had probably passed away and so she had been living with him and in the eyes of a mother, a boy never really grows up. And so Mary comes along to Jesus and says, now this is what's happened, they've run out of wine. And the Lord responds by saying, well why do you enter into this business of mine which is none of yours? Probably this was also in front of the others too.

And maybe they thought, well he's really driven by his mother. She just comes and says this without taking him to his side and very confidentially telling him. Just does it in front of us.

And so Jesus also needed to rebuke her before those who were present. The Lord had his particular ways and times of doing things. And so he was saying to her, look, this is not for you to interfere in this matter.

You go to one side and this is not for you to force the issue. There are some who try and make the triune God to be as if though it's a quartet and not just a triune God. And they worship Mary as being divine.

Now I love Mary. I love Mary. I love her purity.

I love her that she was the most blessed of all women called to bear our Saviour. But let Mary fill her position. Let her not go beyond what she was called to be.

In the same way you, the bride, and you the bridegroom. You, you bride and you bridegroom too, you know your different positions, biblically speaking, which the Lord has called you to. And so don't trespass into the domain of another person.

Don't be like one who just tries to rule the roost and dominate over others. That's not your calling. There are some women who try and enter into the sphere of their husbands and rule there.

If you have a wife like that, if you have a wife like that, why don't you suggest that you hand her your trousers and you wear her skirt? Just to make it clear to her that it might dawn on her. Of course she has her position and her help, what she has been called to be, but in the way that is pleasing and appropriate before the Lord. If you have a wife like that, if you have a wife like that, you are a servant.

You are a servant. If you have a wife like that, if you have a wife like that, you are a servant. Now since Jesus has been invited as a guest to this wedding, he does his work.

He's never invited into a person's life without him doing things and changing things, transforming. I cannot believe people who say that they have received Jesus, but they continue on with the old life. There Jesus has just become a doll of their own imagination.

Woman, what does your concern have to do with me? Don't interfere with that which is mine. Allow Jesus, in other words, to do what he can do. Don't try and interfere in his business.

Excuse me using myself as an illustration, but when I got married, I then confided with my wife. I said, we are now joined together. Biblically speaking, I am your head, but I want you to know that I have a head.

He is Jesus Christ, and his authority is greater than mine. Should the Lord Jesus speak to you anything else? If he sends you to China, for instance, you obey him because he is the one who is sovereign. He is the one who has all power.

I said also, of course, if it's another spirit, I will rebuke you. But if it's of the Lord, then you obey what the Lord says to you. She then went back home, went into her parents' room, and she said, Father, Mother, I feel that the Lord has called me.

He has spoken to me and called me into full-time service in China. He said, No, never, because you are our only child, our sole heir, all our farms and businesses will be coming to you. How can you receive all these things if you are somewhere else on the mission field in China? He put his foot down.

He said, No, never, and the daughter obeyed her father. Two years later, she became ill and died. Yes, you may have children that you call yours, but remember, in actual fact, they are not yours.

There is one greater than you, one who is sovereignly Lord over their lives. So be careful and take note always of these words, Women, what have you to do with me? Let the Lord do as he wishes in the life of your child or in the life of your wife or your husband. Don't interfere with the Lord's working in their lives, for he is the sovereign Lord.

So, remember this always. And that was now the A part of this text, this part, Women, what have I, what do you have to do with me? But the second part of it also implies, why do you try and interfere with my timing? Now I'm going to another point. Has this point sunk in or will you go home and you try to rule with another rule which is not from heaven, you try and overrule God? Now we tend to be forgetful, so note it, make a mark in your Bible if necessary, write it down, remind yourself that this is what the Lord said.

Now I'll leave that point. There were also six jars of water pots of stone. They were there for the purification ceremony of the Jews.

It was according to this cultural manner, this practice of the Jews then, that they would have these jars of water that the guests who come in would be able to wash. Now it wasn't for food or for any other liquid, it was just for water and also only for washing. Similar to a custom which the Zulus have, if you sit down in the traditional way they bring you a pot of water.

Here they have these jars, these water pots. That Jesus said, my hour has not yet come. Saying this in rebuke to Mary, he was saying, I only hear from the Father, it's not for you to force the issue, I will do what

They, the leading people, the master of the feast, the bridegroom, they didn't know what had happened, just the servants knew what had happened. There is good special wine and then there is just poor wine.

There is the cheap wine and then the expensive one. There is white wine, there is red wine. There is sweet wine, there is sour wine, many different types of wine in this world.

And this wine of Jesus, this was the first and the last time that such wine was there. His Jesus wine was the most wonderful. And it says, those who witnessed it and his disciples believed in him because of this miracle.

If I had such wine, I would make you all drink of it, that you who are not believers would become believers. I have used this illustration often, but we were with some of our black brethren in Frankfurt in Germany and a car drove by and on it was a sign, an advert, Drink more wine and you will bring happiness into the house. And on this sign board, on this truck passing by was written, drink more wine and in your home all things will be fine.

And they laughed, Germans are fond of wine. Now when you say this particular saying in German, it has a particular emphasis and it means more to them. And then the next thing we saw, a man who was trying to walk and swaying from side to side, and as he approached, we noticed a huge wet patch on the front of his trousers.

Because when you are drunk, you have no limitations and you even wet yourself. And he walked by us and when he walked by and we looked, he was even messed up behind him. Now if that man enters his home, what a luck for his wife and his children.

They have got to clean that mess. So, is that luck? Did that make all things fine? No, not at all with the wife of that drunkard. But what Jesus made caused people who did not believe to believe.

They did not turn into drunkards, but they believed. So Jesus manifested His power and His glory through these people. Jesus made these six stone pots.

Others asked, who is it? They did not know what had happened. And also the significance of the fact that these were water pots of purification and that plain place, ordinary place, Jesus made this so special. And then as people asked, they heard it was Jesus.

This teaches us that we should not impose ourselves, do not force the issue. If you are witnessing to a Muslim, do not tell him, hey, I am a Christian and you are a Muslim and therefore you are on the way to hell. No, give him good wine.

And in the Bible, wine is significant and symbolizes life. Now you have all become westernized, but in the old Zulu culture, if a Zulu woman came home and said to her husband, I have become a Christian and she just forced her way, she would get a stick over her head. She would get a stick over her head and she would say to her husband, I have become a Christian.

She would say to her husband, I have become a Christian. You want to wound your husband by preaching at him and forcing the issue and telling him that this is how it is and if you ever wash out of a husband, of course, but rather bring him good wine. You bring him life.

And as he tastes of that sweet wine and inquires of you and is curious to know what has happened, even if he says, have you become a Christian, you can say, well, not that I have said it. Like one Zulu woman who was so winsome to her husband and so blessed him and so served him that he was proud to announce the fact to his colleagues. So you wives and you husbands, you bring that good wine, let it be to all people so that you make them curious.

Like they ask here, who brought this good wine? Who's done this? Let them be curious and want to know. They didn't know where the wine had come from. Only those servants who had filled the water pots.

And so Jesus manifested his glory through these plain articles, through these simple water pots that were used just for washing hands and feet or washing their faces. But that's where he chose to reveal his glory, not in pots of silver and gold, but in earthenware. And so you bridegroom, remember that there is no other foundation but the Lord Jesus Christ.

And this is the one that we've read of in this story. And you bride as well. You remember that even as you go there to Kauteng, there is no other one but Jesus himself, no other gods that you will serve.

Let's pray as we ask the Lord's blessing. Lord, here are your children who have vowed openly and have vowed themselves to each other. Be with them, Lord Jesus, right till the end, until their soul departs.

Or until the trumpet sounds and you come on the clouds to take us to yourself. We ask you, Lord Jesus, that your grace would be with them always, and that your love would overflow continuously. May your Holy Spirit lead them always, leading them to all the truth and through their marriage bring much glory.

And that people will be able to marvel and say, how does a marriage bring forth such glory? How is this possible? Till it is said that it's been done by the Lord Jesus, that people would finally be able to say, here is the miracle from the Most High. Amen.

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