

HIS NATURE COMPELS US TO SAY YES TO HIM

A couple of weeks ago, I was conducting a session with one of the high schools in Tembisa and we were going to deal with the issue of honesty. To kick start the conversation, I asked the guys a question – “if tomorrow was going to be your wedding day, what is the top quality would you want your spouse to live up to”. To my surprise, the guys had very high expectations of their spouses ranging from being faithful, honest, trustworthy, fun to be around, understanding and caring. This was coming from high school students – this said something to me; each of us know what makes a good or a great person.

Today, If I am to ask you the same question; what would be your answer, if you are in a relationship, what would be a deal breaker. What would make you say yes to a marriage proposal? For most of you, you might have the same answers as these high school students but out there, people will not say yes to a marriage proposal unless the guy drives, has a house, comes from a certain tribe, comes from the right side of the tracks. Some will not say yes to a marriage proposal unless the lady has a certain figure, has certain looks, has flowing hair, has long nails etc.

When it comes to the church, the bible refers to her as the bride of Christ and Christ as the bridegroom.

Ephesians 5:23 -32

For a husband is the head of His wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of His body, the church. 24 As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything. 25 For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up His life for her. 26 to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. 27 He did this to present her to Himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. 28 In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. 29 No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. 30 And we are members of his body. 31 As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." 32 This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one.

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My question this morning is this; why should we say yes to Jesus and that brings me to the title of my message: **HIS NATURE COMPELS US TO SAY YES TO HIM.**

The yes I am talking about, is twofold; the first yes brings you to a place of salvation.

- Unless you have a revelation of the lover that stands before you, you will likely mistake Him for all the other lovers you have come across.

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and dine with him, and he with Me.

The second yes brings you to a place where your heart remains open to Him and to His love. When life happens, you can come to a place where you resent God

Mt 11:6 "And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."

Hebrews 3:7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Oh, that today you would listen as he speaks! 8 "Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of testing in the wilderness. 9 "There your fathers tested me and tried me, and they saw my works for forty years. 10 "Therefore, I became provoked at that generation and said, 'Their hearts are always wandering and they have not known my ways.' 11 "As I swore in my anger, 'They will never enter my rest!'

How do you know if you are no longer saying yes to Jesus:

- Your heart becomes insensitive to the Divine voice and correction.
- Your conscience becomes seared and insensible
 - truth makes no impression
 - preaching is listened to without interest
 - the mind is unaffected by the appeals of friends.

Lets go to our main text the morning:

John 4:1-17

Jesus knew the Pharisees had heard that he was baptizing and making more disciples than John 2 (though Jesus himself didn't baptize them—his disciples did). 3 So he left Judea and returned to Galilee. 4 He had to go through Samaria on the way. 5 Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired

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from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. 7 Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." 8 He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food. 9 The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?" 10 Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water." 11 "But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket," she said, "and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? 12 And besides, do you think you're greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?" 13 Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. 14 But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life." 15 "Please, sir," the woman said, "give me this water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to get water." 16 "Go and get your husband," Jesus told her. 17 "I don't have a husband," the woman replied. Jesus said, "You're right! You don't have a husband— 18 for you have had five husbands, and you aren't even married to the man you're living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!"

- Samaria was directly between Judea and Galilee. But few Jews ever took this direct route.
- The region of Samaria was so despised by the Jewish people that they often took a very roundabout route through Perea to get north into Galilee.
- It was despised because the Samaritans were considered as impure – half Jew and half pagan.
- In other words, Jesus had no business to go through this city.
- The answer to the question why He did this lied in His nature – there was a woman in His mind who needed help.
- Jesus was prepared to go against everyone's view in order to meet up with the Samaritan women.
- Jesus pursues us, irrespective of what we have done – you might have disappointed Him so many times, but He still pursues after you.

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1. Jesus pursues after you

John 4: 3 So he left Judea and returned to Galilee. 4 He had to go through Samaria on the way. 5 Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

- You need to understand that Jesus pursues u relentlessly – He does it in an intentional manner.

2Chronicles 16:9 The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him. What a fool you have been! From now on you will be at war."

- Even when He risked to be rejected, Jesus left the glory of heaven and came down to earth in pursuit of you and me

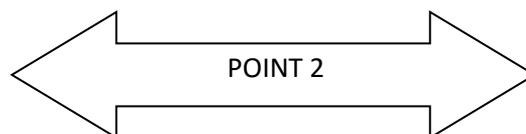
John 1:11 He came to His own people, and even they rejected Him. 12 But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God.

- Our lack of appreciation has often times led us to refuse the hand of Jesus

Matthew 23: 36 Truly I tell you, all these things will come upon this generation. 37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those sent to her, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were unwilling!

- His love for you and me brought Him to the cross – the bible says He died the death of a sinner.
- When we were dying in our sins, we did not call for Him to come but He came never the less.

Romans 5:6 When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. 7 Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. 8 But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.



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John 4: 5 Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime.

- Jesus had walked close to 40km from Judea to Samaria and the bible says “and Jesus was tired from the long walk”
- I don't know what this means to you, what it means to me is that Jesus the pursuing bridegroom was human.
- This means that He understands human nature.
- One of the greatest needs in any relationship is to be understood and I am to say to you that Jesus understands you.
- Like we would say today; He gets you.

2. He understands human nature

- It does not make sense to refuse a lover who understands your weaknesses, one who bears with you when you are down
- There is nothing that you can bring to Jesus that would shock Him.

Hebrews 2:16 We also know that the Son did not come to help angels; He came to help the descendants of Abraham. Therefore, it was necessary for Him to be made in every respect like us, His brothers and sisters, so that He could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then He could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people.

Heb 2:18 Since He Himself has gone through suffering and testing, He is able to help us when we are being tested.

Hebrews 4:15 This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for He faced all of the same testings we do, yet He did not sin. 16 So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

- Jesus identifies with all the human emotions

Luke 7:11 Soon afterward Jesus went with His disciples to the village of Nain, and a large crowd followed Him. A funeral procession was coming out as He approached the village gate. The young man who had died was a widow's only son, and a large crowd from the village

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was with her. When the Lord saw her, His heart overflowed with compassion. "Don't cry!" He said. Then He walked over to the coffin and touched it, and the bearers stopped. "Young man," He said, "I tell you, get up." Then the dead boy sat up and began to talk! And Jesus gave him back to his mother.

- There is nothing as attractive as that – when you don't expect to be forgiven, Jesus treats you with understanding when you come to him.
- This reminds me of the parable of the prodigal son. One of the themes that come from that parable is the father heart of God Luke 15:11-32

Luke 15:20 "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring[a] out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. 23 And bring the fattest calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; 24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

- Just before the crucifixion, Jesus looked for the strongest of His followers to come and pray with Him. Instead of them praying with Him, they slept – what a let down
- But look at how Jesus dealt with them:

Matthew 26: 40 Then Jesus returned to the disciples and found them sleeping. "Were you not able to keep watch with Me for one hour?" He asked Peter. 41 "Watch and pray so that you will not enter into temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

- He understands the nature of man because though he was God, yet he was a son of man