

It Began At A Party

by Basilea Schlink

This sermon emphasizes the transformative power of Jesus' love and forgiveness, focusing on the story of Peppy who finds hope, redemption, and purpose in her encounter with God. It highlights the themes of repentance, salvation, the wedding supper of the Lamb, and the joy of being loved by Jesus. The sermon invites all individuals, regardless of their past or struggles, to come back to God, receive His forgiveness, and experience the profound love and happiness that only Jesus can provide.

Scripture: Luke 15:7, Revelation 19:7, 1 John 1:9, John 3:16, Psalm 103:12, Romans 8:38, Isaiah 1:18, Revelation 21:4, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 2:8

Topics: "Transformative Power of Love", "Redemption and Forgiveness"

Description

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Transcript

It's Christmas again. Peppy is 19 years old. She's already experienced the tinsel and meaninglessness of many Christmases.

But this Christmas will be different for her. Why? Smoke of the water, man, that was something mind-blowing. You are funny.

Are you from a church? I'm through with church. Take it anyway. It's a message of hope.

God still loves you. Jesus has come to set you free. Harry, I'm scared of being done.

I'm afraid. Afraid of what? Of everything. Life, death, you.

Of me? Yeah, what if you suddenly decide that you are through with me or everything? Would you like one? Thank you. That hits home. Sure does.

That's what I like about this place. Dark and the volume up. You can get away from it all and just forget everything.

Hey, look at that. Here's something for your heart. I think it's great what you are doing.

I like having a good time. But sometimes I feel half dead. What's it all for anyway? What do you mean what for? You mean sometimes you wonder why we are alive at all.

Why, huh? Because no one aborted us. Too bad, eh? No thanks. Is there something about that? Yes.

Hi, Pepe. All alone tonight? You look sad. Want a lift home? Home? They're glad not to see me.

No thanks. I don't want anybody. Nobody wants me.

Nobody can help me anyway. I'm sick of life. I'm going to end it all.

No one can stop me. And I know how I'll do it too. Hi there.

Take one. It's a personal present for you from God. No, not for me.

Perhaps not now. But you might like it for later. Later? I won't be needing it, and that's for sure.

Wait a minute. What's your name? Pepe. Pepe.

Why don't you read it? It's written by a mother who really cares for you and prays a lot for you all. And if you like, you can get a free music cassette with this coupon. My hang-up was Satan.

What about eternity? What do they mean? As well as being our Redeemer and Savior, Jesus is the Lord of a kingdom which, though still hidden, will one day be revealed to all, a kingdom where joy and peace reign. Satan too is the ruler of a kingdom, a kingdom of torment and horrors, a kingdom of joy and peace. Who can be sure of that? Satan and horrors.

I know what that is all right. Music for the heart? I'd like to hear what kind of music that can make. Funny.

There's no real beat, but it gets through to you. They've got something. I don't know what it is.

Maybe I'll go and have a look at their place tomorrow. I won't let them see me. They'll kick me out like everyone else does.

But I'll give it a try anyway. Would you just look at that. God's heart is full of kindness, a heart of love and goodness, the heart of the Father, and I am his child.

I come ever singing. The very air is ringing. Our Father in heaven is loving.

All love. His heart is full of kindness, a heart of love and goodness, the heart of the Father, and I am his child. Hello.

Hello. Do you want to go in? No, why? What kind of people are they anyway? Oh, they come from all over the world. They love God and are simply happy.

There's nothing to be afraid of. Just go inside. I know them.

They won't mind. They're sure to welcome you. Really? Yes, sure.

Why not go in? No, I can't. Not the way I am. Light and darkness don't fit together.

Maybe some other time. There's light in there. Listen.

Sounds like I'm like a set. A church. You know, they really do seem to be happy.

The light in there is just unreal. But I can't see anyone performing on the stage. All I can see up front is a big cross.

Anyway, they're just crazy. Oh, how do you know? They really seem to have something in life. What about me? Or you? In heaven, all will be joy and gladness.

We will be united with our Lord, our hearts enkindled with love. All sorrow will be forgotten. At the throne of God, we will sing of the joy suffering has brought.

Hello there. You seem to have a great longing for heaven. If they have such a great longing, let them come in.

Perhaps our Lord Jesus awaits them here. Jesus, the heavens are filled with the brilliance of your light. Your love sustains and pervades the whole universe.

Your love is the source of life for everything which was ever created. I think I'll go now. Her, too.

I'm so bad. I don't belong to you. What are you doing here? Everything's so bright.

That's for other people, not for me. Yeah. Won't you stay in here some more, Pepe? I've had enough.

You better watch out, Pepe, or you become a nun yourself. Jesus, sinners are called to be at your side. O my Jesus, I now clasp your pierced hand.

Bind me to you in a covenant of love. My heart, my life, my all belong to you. Bind me to you in a covenant of love.

My heart, my life, my all belong to you. What greater joy could there be? Sinners are called to love God. The Bible tells us of Mary Magdalene, a great sinner.

But then she confessed her sins to Jesus. And in His love, He forgave her everything. He did a wonderful thing in her life.

He made her a bride of the Lamb. Hallelujah! Imagine, we can be a joy for God the Father and all of Heaven when we repent and turn from sin and follow Jesus. Then we will reach the goal, the wedding of the Lamb.

Oh, that reminds me of a letter I got recently. I would like to share it with you. It's about the wedding supper of the Lamb.

And it will encourage you, perhaps our guest too. Dear Mother Basilia, I am writing to say that after watching your film, When God's Heart Breaks with Love, a remarkable thing happened to my son. He was a drug addict.

And there was no way of reaching Him. But when the film was over, he fell into a deep sleep and dreamed about God and the angels and demons. Satan and the demons were yelling, He belongs to us, He belongs to us.

But God and the angels said, No, He belongs to us. Finally the demons had to stop and ran away screaming. His soul was alone there in the light.

And God said to him, Prepare yourself for the wedding supper of the Lamb. Isn't that moving? He is a young man into drugs. And at the loose point in his life.

But then the angels come and fight for him. And what does Jesus say to him? Prepare yourself for the wedding supper of the Lamb. And then he woke up.

And his craving for marijuana and other drugs was gone. And his heart was filled with a great love for Jesus. What a Lord, so full of love, so forgiving.

He calls this young man to the wedding of the Lamb. Or so he was, so far away from God. What did we sing? Sinners are called to enter this covenant with Jesus.

Come to the marriage feast, Jesus is calling. To all those who have given him their lives, their love, their all. See them now hastening to be with their King.

Soon the banqueting hall will be full. What rejoicing there will be when the heavenly bridegroom is surrounded by those who love him. Jubilant songs will be raised.

All heaven and earth will thrill at the sound. The Son of God has given him peace. Do you still want to cook? No, I want to hear the rest of what she's saying.

Who is she anyway? Mother Brasilia. You know children, heaven is not just something we sing about. No, heaven is a real place where festivals are celebrated.

The greatest one is the wedding of the Lamb. All the angels in heaven rejoice and Jesus, the bridegroom, filled with deep joy, celebrates the wedding with his bride. Brides are people whose hearts were full of ardent love for Jesus.

Sinners who found their Savior, their first and foremost love. They were united with him, but not only on earth. They are also united with him in heaven above.

I can hardly believe it. Then we'll never make Jesus sad again with our sinning. And the demons won't be able to get at us anymore.

We just heard in this letter how they are fighting to get us. Yes, the demons wanted to take that young man with them into the kingdom of hell. They tried, but they did not get him.

They're not going to get me either. Jesus wants to save souls. He is full of pity for those who go to hell.

And so Jesus warns us not to give in to sin. Satan tempts us by saying it will bring us happiness and that we will have a good time. But sin will bring us misery, death, and hell.

Jesus had a terrible fire burned there, and we will be cast into it, a fire that will never end. We will be tormented in eternity if we did not repent and turn from our sinful ways. But to think that Jesus goes after us, sins us so long as we are here on earth, and invites us, come to me, bring your sins to me.

I will forgive you, for I shed my blood for you on the cross. I died to set you free from Satan's power. Jesus came to save us and set us free.

We have been set free. Set free, yeah, that's what I'd like to be. It won't work.

I've blown it too many times. What burdens you the most? Come, my child, Jesus is waiting for you. He died for you and has paid the price for your sins.

In the name of Jesus and through his precious blood, I pronounce you free from Satan and his claim on you. Your sins are forgiven and blotted out by the blood of the Lamb. And Jesus says, I have redeemed you.

I have called you by your name. You are mine. And now you too can sing.

With all my heart I rejoice. I am the bride of the King, called to love him. With all my heart I rejoice.

I am the bride of the King, called to love him. Yes, you are called to love him. Jesus, the fairest, the purest, loves us so very much.

You will taste the joy and pureness of his love. And all your longings will be stilled. And he will make a love covenant with you.

And after this brief life is over, you will see Jesus himself. You will look upon his face so full of love and glory. Then you will live in heaven, your eternal home, where there is joy and happiness.

Jesus has prepared this home for you through his suffering and death. But God still needs you here. He has saved you.

Now he is waiting for you to prove yourself in everyday life. He wants to use you to help save others. Your life has a very deep purpose now, my child, doesn't it? Let's now sing to our Lord Jesus of our love for him and bring joy to his heart.

O Jesus, dearest Lamb of God, my bridegroom and beloved Lord, I love you with all my heart. You have blessed my life with joy beyond compare and brought me heaven here on earth. My heart overflows with thanksgiving.

Hi, Pappy, how's it going? Hi, I found it. Found what? Him, Jesus. He's the real God.

He's got a better life for us than what we've been living. No one can make us happy like he can. Yes, Pappy found happiness.

She discovered the purpose of her life, to love Jesus and to be loved by him. But this discovery is not just for Pappy or for us sisters. It is for every young person.

Yes, for everyone, whether young or old, male or female, married or single. Jesus loves each one of you and wants to make you happy like Pappy. So turn around.

Come back home to God. Make a break with your old life. Believe in Jesus.

He is alive. He loves you. Bring him your sin.

He will forgive you and make you a new and happy person. Thank you, Jesus, that you came down from heaven for people like me. Thank you that no one's too bad for you.

Thank you for coming to me this Christmas. This program is also available upon request. Write to Evangelical Sisterhood of Mary, P.O. Box 30022, Phoenix, Arizona, 85046.

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