



## Elevate – Your Marriage – Message 1

Guest Pastor Erik Lawson

### Announcements

- SERVE Day // Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup> // All Campuses. Register your small group for a project today. Go to [ChurchoftheKing.com/serveday](http://ChurchoftheKing.com/serveday).

### Warm-up

Have you ever surprised yourself at what you were capable of doing? Share a time when you accomplished something you did not think was possible.

This week we launch the new guest series using the theme *Elevate*, encouraging messages designed to help you reach greater and higher levels in key areas of your life.

### Word and Application

Today we take a look at how to take our *marriage* to the next level. If you aren't married, hold tight. This message is going to help you prepare for your own marriage, help in other key relationships, as well as give you the tools to help married couples in your life.

Important areas in our lives require a plan of some sort to grow and thrive. For example, if you want to get in better physical health, it would be beneficial to come up with a fitness and nutrition plan to reach your goal. What are other important areas for which we develop plans?

Marriage goes beyond the feel good fairy-tale fantasies we grew up believing. Marriage is a choice. *Falling in love* just requires a pulse but *staying in love* requires a plan. Do you have a marriage plan? Let's explore some practical steps to implement a relationship plan for your marriage.

### ***How to elevate from surviving to thriving***

**Read John 2:1-11.** What part of this miracle stands out or most resonates to you? It is not an accident that the first miracle Jesus performed was at a wedding. Are there any relationships, marriage or otherwise, in which you need a miracle?

### 1. Invite Jesus Into Your Marriage.

The problem begins when we look at our spouse (and others) to meet our deepest needs that only Jesus can meet. List some needs we all have that only Jesus can fill.

**Read Genesis 30:1-2.** Rachel in this passage had misplaced expectations on her spouse Jacob. She looked at Jacob to make her fruitful instead of looking to God. What current expectation do you have of your spouse, friend or family member that you can lift from them and approach God to meet?

### 2. Prepare Yourself For Problems Ahead.

In marriage there are WOW days and then there are VOW days. Cast a vision over your marriage. See the two of you growing old together. The purpose of marriage is not happiness it is holiness. We refine each other over time.

**Read John 2:3.** In this scripture, the wine can be seen as a depiction of joy. With this thought in mind, how can you prepare yourself emotionally for difficult times in a relationship?

### 3. Present Your Problems to Jesus.

We need to be sure not to get in the habit of telling our problems to all our friends, family and Facebook. While selectively processing with close relations can be helpful, we need to go to Jesus to process and help us through the situation.

**Read John 2:3 again.** Who did Mary go to when they ran out of wine at the wedding? Why did she go to him instead of the parents of the bride and groom? Why should we go to Jesus *first* instead of *last* with our seemingly impossible situations?

### 4. Pour Into Your Spouse.

**Read John 2:6-8.** God reveals to us a powerful underlying meaning from this passage. The number six represents man, the water pots are pictures of us and water is the Word of God. When we serve our spouse we are adding life to them; we fill them. Notice that Jesus gave the servants one instruction at a time. You see when we stop obeying the miracle also stops. Speaking God's Word over your spouse is as necessary as water. What life giving words can you speak over your spouse this week?

Ask your spouse this week, "What are your needs?" then pray for God to show you how you can serve your spouse this week in a way that is meaningful to them?

A great resource and tool on serving your spouse is the free 5 Love Languages quiz. Have you and your spouse (family members or friends) complete the short quiz to help determine one another's emotional communication preference. It's a great way to help you connect at a deeper level. Go to [www.5lovelanguages.com](http://www.5lovelanguages.com).

## Prayer

Thank the Lord for the relationships He has placed you in. Ask God for wisdom and to lead you every step of way in these relationships. Pray for specific needs of the group.