

# The Wedding of Kovács Emese and Szenci András

15:00 August 14, 2010

*entrance of the wedding party*

*greeting*

*song – 264. dicséret – Áldjad én lelkem...*

*reading from the Bible – Psalm 118*

- <sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.*
- <sup>2</sup> Let Israel say:  
"His love endures forever."*
- <sup>3</sup> Let the house of Aaron say:  
"His love endures forever."*
- <sup>4</sup> Let those who fear the LORD say:  
"His love endures forever."*
- <sup>5</sup> In my anguish I cried to the LORD,  
and he answered by setting me free.*
- <sup>6</sup> The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid.  
What can man do to me?*
- <sup>7</sup> The LORD is with me; he is my helper.  
I will look in triumph on my enemies.*
- <sup>8</sup> It is better to take refuge in the LORD  
than to trust in man.*
- <sup>9</sup> It is better to take refuge in the LORD  
than to trust in princes.*
- <sup>10</sup> All the nations surrounded me,  
but in the name of the LORD I cut them off.*
- <sup>11</sup> They surrounded me on every side,  
but in the name of the LORD I cut them off.*
- <sup>12</sup> They swarmed around me like bees,  
but they died out as quickly as burning thorns;  
in the name of the LORD I cut them off.*
- <sup>13</sup> I was pushed back and about to fall,  
but the LORD helped me.*
- <sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength and my song;  
he has become my salvation.*
- <sup>15</sup> Shouts of joy and victory  
resound in the tents of the righteous:  
"The LORD's right hand has done mighty things!"*
- <sup>16</sup> The LORD's right hand is lifted high;  
the LORD's right hand has done mighty things!"*
- <sup>17</sup> I will not die but live,  
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.*
- <sup>18</sup> The LORD has chastened me severely,  
but he has not given me over to death.*
- <sup>19</sup> Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.*
- <sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the LORD  
through which the righteous may enter.*

<sup>21</sup> *I will give you thanks, for you answered me;  
you have become my salvation.*  
<sup>22</sup> *The stone the builders rejected  
has become the capstone;*  
<sup>23</sup> *the LORD has done this,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.*  
<sup>24</sup> *This is the day the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.*  
<sup>25</sup> *O LORD, save us;  
O LORD, grant us success.*  
<sup>26</sup> *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.  
From the house of the LORD we bless you. [a]*  
<sup>27</sup> *The LORD is God,  
and he has made his light shine upon us.  
With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession  
up [b] to the horns of the altar.*  
<sup>28</sup> *You are my God, and I will give you thanks;  
you are my God, and I will exalt you.*  
<sup>29</sup> *Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.*

## **prayer**

### **reading from the Bible and teaching**

“<sup>1</sup>When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went into the region of Judea to the other side of the Jordan.<sup>2</sup>Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.

<sup>3</sup>Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?"

<sup>4</sup>"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' <sup>5</sup>and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? <sup>6</sup>So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.'" *Matthew 19, 1-6*

*I used to be fond of the chemistry experiments in high school: We could learn all about water and how it works. It is an amazing liquid invented by God to be the source of life, to build up our cells, to be life itself. It is made of the bond of hydrogen and oxygen. Water is a substance completely different from hydrogen and oxygen, which are gases when they are not united. If we just mix them, we get the explosive oxyhydrogen gas. However, if they are chemically bonded, we are given water. What does it have to do with this wedding, though?*

*Marriage is always a bondage created between two different persons. It is true even if they are the same age, even if they have similar fields of interest, literacy and education. They are different, because one of them is a man, and the other one is a woman, different creatures. God created us to be different from the beginning; to be a man and a woman. This difference can be found in babies as well. Not only because one of them is given pink dresses, whereas the other one is given light blue clothes, but because God created them to be different from each other. A man and a woman are different, as they have different physical figure, mental constitution, they have had different experiences and they come from different family backgrounds. Nevertheless, in marriage the two become one. They become a new body, a new organism. If this does not happen in a marriage, it actually is*

*like an explosive gas, it can blow up any time. It is just a question of time. Unity, on the other hand, is God's will and we believe that it is possible through Him.*

*I wish the strongest bondage of love was formed between you. But how is it going to happen?*

*1. First of all, one **has to leave their father and mother**, their old family in which they were brought up, where they had lived so far. They have to become adults. The beginning of a new life together also means the end of their old lives. Breaking away from our old lifestyle and forming a new one together is a challenge. It is difficult even if this old life had been bad, so it is even more difficult if it had been nice and good. Thanks God yours have been the latter. You are loved very much, your family has done the most for you and they also pray for you. This gives you a reason to be grateful and to say "thank you".*

*You are surrounded by your long family: parents, brothers, sisters and friends who are sharing your joy right now. But on your own free will you have decided to choose each other for a lifetime. With "leaving" and "letting go" your family can help a lot as well, so that they would get you back twice (meaning both of you). However, this is mainly an inner decision. When I start planning from now on, I won't do it the way I used to, but I will plan considering my spouse. When I do the shopping, I will buy everything for us, not only for myself. If I have any problems, it won't be solved the way it used to be – by calling a friend or telling my mom about it – but I will have my spouse beside me. From now on he or she is the primary person to talk to, my brother or sister who prays for me. Obviously, our parents will always be our parents, but priority changes. My spouse will be the first.*

*Things have to be left behind. I have to leave my old schedule, my rights so far; if necessary, my careers, my friends, my hobby, even my old service or my community.*

*When the merchant found the pearl in the field, he went and sold all his belongings and bought that field, because he believed that the pearl was worth more than anything else he had had. According to the Scriptures a good wife is like a pearl. If the wife is made to feel like one, it is easier for her to actually become one. You can only guide a boat if you unbound it from the shore. It can be guided towards the goal if the rower faces the front looking forward, and not if he keeps peeping backwards. This verb calls men in particular (not women) to leave their parents, but the main reason for that was that the wife used to move to the husband's house. Both spouses are addressed in this command. From now on, my spouse will be the most important person in the world: I am responsible for him/her I can work for her/his happiness and I have to protect her/him.*

*2. The second point is **to bind/commit myself to my spouse**. This is far from today's way of thinking. Many believe that they can simply change their partners; they don't have to stick to them too much.*

*If I commit myself to something, I look after it, protect it and cherish it as a valuable treasure. When I am given a present I appreciate it not only because it has a high value, or because it just fits the interior of my house, but also because it reminds me of the person who gave it to me. My spouse is given to me by God. There might be plans of mine that he or she doesn't match, but I can always change these conceptions. I bind myself to*

*my spouse not because he/she is like this or that. Any of their characteristics might change with time. The fact that she/he is the mother or father of my children is not the main reason either. What would happen if we weren't given any children or if the children having grown up, left the family home. I would still have to be bound to my spouse.*

*This commitment to each other is an ultimate, eventual, public and legal one. I stick to him/her almost literally. If we were separated, both of us were injured. I believe that God can give us wisdom so that this commitment could actually come true without anybody feeling that they were deprived of their independence and personality. If I feel that this commitment doesn't work, I have to examine my heart: What is wrong? How has the enemy tempted me? What has come to my heart? Then I can pray and ask God to give me clear understanding and more love. Even in that situation, be ready to put more energy in your relationship. Bind yourselves to each other and not to your ideas or to your right. It is my experience that if I insist on my right, it leads to an argument; however, if I bind myself to my spouse, I can give love. A good marriage is reflecting the relationship of Christ and the church. Once I read it in a teaching that a good marriage can be described by the simile of the vine and the vine branch. The branch has to be tied to the vine tightly so that it could start growing. This is the way marriage can become a living organism and can start growing. I talk to my spouse, forgive her/him and I don't let anything shove between us: neither sin, nor unspoken issues, secrets, work, or a person.*

*I commit myself to her/him, and this involves faithfulness and yearning. It means I cannot even imagine that this relationship would not last forever. I am not only faithful to my spouse, but I also demand community and I miss him/her if we are not together; I cannot even imagine being happy without him/her; I am interested in my spouse's opinion, thoughts and feelings.*

3. The third point is that **the two become one flesh**. The order is not accidental. It is time to become one flesh, once the other two have taken place. This order is not suggested by the world, but listening to the world in that always has its bad effects, and it leaves us in need for mercy.

*Decision, leaving, commitment. These three are strongly related. I become one flesh with somebody who I am committed to. Becoming one flesh is God's special gift for us. It is a process beginning with marriage. With time it can be improved and brought to perfection. I am one with my spouse. Álmos Sipos (a well-known Hungarian pastor) used the following example: as it hurts to cut my finger, so does it hurt to upset my wife. God's word says that a man has to love his wife as he loves his own body. By this, meaning the body that everybody tends to cherish, as nobody hates their own body, but they feed it and take care of it. Another message of this verb is that you should love your spouse, since you harm yourself if you don't do so. You are one flesh so when you are not loving your spouse, you are damaging yourself, because it is you yourself who you don't love.*

*We are one flesh, not only in bed when we are physically united, but otherwise as well. I think of my spouse as my own body. Would she/he like it, would it be good for him/her, what would make him/her happy? I don't have private businesses anymore; I don't have any pin-money. Becoming one flesh involves much more than mere sexuality. It is a mental, emotional, spiritual unity, and having experienced that, we can experience physical unity as well. This is the deepest and most intimate relationship. Most of the failures in these areas develop from the absence of "leaving" and "commitment".*

*When Adam first saw Eve he cried: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman' for she was taken out of man". Adam realizes that Eve is part of his body. This is how he names her: he adds a letter to his own name.*

*She is me and I am her. God bless you so that you could always make the most and best of this gift. In marriage I have to give myself fully, not keeping anything, neither my thoughts, nor my dreams.*

*I assume that this can only happen with the help of God, if you have the triple tie, for it cannot be torn easily; it can be realized only if you walk with God, if you walk with Jesus Christ, His Son. Without Him it is impossible. With human power, human love it won't work. I do believe that He teaches all of us how to succeed because it is His love that is never ending. Ours is. The only way of managing "leaving" is if we follow God's guidance. If we do so, it is easier to say that something is worthless and unnecessary; otherwise we tend to cling on anything without being able to differentiate between good and bad.*

*God always gives us strength and guidance to carry our burdens. Nothing works on its own. András, you know it best, since you are the one who helps most of us with fixing our computers.*

*Once being given happiness, we have to fight for it every day. If we don't do that, we voluntarily give it up. Despite the difficulties at work, and at building a career, or despite being weary of raising children always remember to smile, always listen to your spouse and don't let anything or anybody take his/her place in your life. Always aim at making her/him happy, for that is how you will be happy, too. As a closure, let me quote one of Goethe's thoughts from a memorial volume, which has stayed with me since my university years:*

*Happiness can't be received as a present.  
Its secret is to give, and give again:  
A good word, support, smile, faith,  
And lots and lots of unselfish, pure love.*

**choir**

**questions and exchange of vows**

**1)**

"Have you come here freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage?"

"Yes."

"Will you accept children lovingly from God?"

"We will."

"Do you promise that you will bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?"

"We do."

**2)**

"András, before God and the Holy Church will you have Emese to be your wife?"

“I will. – Emese – in the holy presence of God – I take you to be my wife.”

“Emese, before God and the Holy Church will you have András to be your husband?”

“I will. – András – in the holy presence of God – I take you to be my husband.”

3)

My dear Brother and Sister! According to the ancient traditions of our churches, you have come before God and His Church to confirm your wish to get married through vows in God’s name. Holding each others’ right hand repeat the following vows after us.

Pastor: My brother in Jesus Christ, repeat it first.

*I Szenci András | swear onto the living God, | Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, | the Holy Trinity, | one and eternal God, | that I love Kovács Emese | whose hand | I am holding now | in the presence of God. | As a result of this love | and according to God’s law | I take her to be my wife. | I will be faithful to her, | I will find my satisfaction in her | and noone else, | I will live a holy life with her | I will share her trials, | and her sufferings | and I will never leave her | in sickness | or in health, | in good times | or in bad times, | until we both shall live, | but all my life | I shall take good care of her faithfully. | God help me with that. | Amen.*

Pastor: Now, my sister in Jesus Christ, repeat it too.

*I Kovács Emese | swear onto the living God, | Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, | the Holy Trinity, | one and eternal God, | that I love Szenci András | whose hand | I am holding now | in the presence of God. | As a result of this love | and according to God’s law | I take him to be my husband. | I will be faithful to him, | I will find my satisfaction in him | and noone else, | I will live a holy life with him | I will share his trials, | and his sufferings | and I will never leave him | in sickness | or in health, | in good times | or in bad times, | until we both shall live, | but all my life | I shall support him faithfully. | God help me with that. | Amen*

### ***the marriage is declared, cautions***

After the vows the Calvinist pastor warns the couple:

“Through your solemn vows you have declared your intention to enter into marriage before God and his Church.

We ask you and remind you to be faithful to these vows, so that God’s blessings would be with you; and through your pious, unblemished and exemplary marriage and family life His name would be glorified and you would be blessed. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Next the catholic priest addresses the newly wedded.

“In the name of the church I pronounce that you are husband and wife, and I bless your marriage in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The newly wedded answer: Amen.

My brothers and sisters, who are present, be the witnesses of this consent that, according to the words of our Lord Jesus, cannot be broken: "What God has joined together, let man not separate." (Mt 19, 6)"

### ***exchange of the rings***

"Emese, - take this ring - as a sign of my love and fidelity. - In the name of the Father, - and of the Son, - and of the Holy Spirit."

"András, - take this ring - as a sign of my love and fidelity. - In the name of the Father, - and of the Son, - and of the Holy Spirit."

### ***closing prayer***

#### ***the Lord's prayer***

*Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.*

### ***blessings***

***song*** – 395., 1.vsz. Isten szívéen megpihenve...

### ***greetings***

***closing song*** – 134. zsoltár – Úrnak szolgái mindnyájan...

### ***secession***

After the ceremony everybody is welcome for an Agape in the garden and community building of the church.