

WEDDING

MR. AND MRS. TAMER JACKSON  
(nee Gudrun Tastad)

DATE

June 28, 1958

TIME

PLACE

Skudesnes Lutheran Church

### WEDDING MESSAGE

"And Pharisees came to him and tested him by asking, 'Is it lawful to divorce ones wife for any cause?' He answered, 'Have you not read that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one?' So they are no longer two but onne. What therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder."

Matthew 19: 3-6

It has been said that familiarity breeds contempt, and so it often is with marriage. The institution of marriage is so common that we take it for granted- like the sun and the air and the rain. There are so many examples of it that we do not see the wonder of it. There is so much of earth in it that we do not understand how much of heaven it embraces, too.

Two mature adults suddenly deciding to turn their backs on the lives they have known, and pledge their faith instead to things as yet unseen. Two thoughtful and intellectual individuals suddenly abandoning the polite distances of friendship and throwing themselves into the intimacies of the new home which they establish. Two wholly separate personalities suddenly resolving to be no longer two but one. This is the sheer wonder of marriage, and it is into such a comradeship of mystery and glory that every man and woman walk as, entering the doors of the church, they stand before the altar to

be joined in holy matrimony.

The marriage ceremony begins, "Inasmuch as marriage is a holy estate ordained by God". This is a tremendous fact which cannot be escaped in any thought of Christian marriage. It is not merely an estate, it is a holy estate. It is not simply matrimony; it is holy matrimony. It is not an estate instituted by man; it is an estate instituted of God. It is not regulated by man's commandments; it is regulated by God's commandments. "What therefore God has joined, let not man put asunder.

In marriage we must not only remember the florist, the photographer, the decorator, - and Emily Post - we must also remember God. For in Christian marriage it is God Who matters most of all. For the wedding is performed in His presence; and the estate is made possible by His institution. And the relationship is regulated by His commandments. No wonder, therefore, that it is "to be held in honor among all men". No wonder that "it is not by any to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, discreetly, soberly, and in the fear of God.

It is a glorious thing to stand before the altar of a church and there in the presence of God, be joined in holy matrimony, but every privilege involves its own corresponding obligations. And so it was that our Lord through his apostles instructed those who entered this relation to cherish a mutual esteem and love, to be patient with infirmities and weaknesses, and to remember the need for comfort in sickness, trouble, and sorrow, and the need to provide for each others welfare in the temporal and spiritual concerns of their household.

This is a holy estate in which these two people have come to be joined, and I would entreat you both to enter seriously and sincerely into this union ordained by God.

Today you approach the altar and before God promise to live with, love and honor one another in good and evil days until death do you part. Do not forget that the days may be evil and trying - for into each life some rain must fall. But alongside this, do not forget either, that you have a Savior, Who is not only ABLE TO SAVE YOU FOR ETERNAL LIFE, BUT IS ALSO able to save your marriage from unrest, discontent, and unhappiness. Husband and wife, who can in unity of Spirit center their home around Christ, who can together turn to Him in prayer for mercy, help and forgiveness, can indeed consider themselves fortunate and blessed. Prayer is a power which is able to unite you in a much closer bond of love than any physical union can.

Mutual faith in God, mutual devotion to the Spirit of Jesus Christ, and mutual dedication to the ideal of a Christian home are the binding ingredients that can make any marriage strong enough to live through the crises that arise.

And so today when the ceremony ends and you leave the chancel and disappear down the aisle toward the door of the church, I earnestly hope that you may have in your hearts through the passing of years, a sense of patient understanding, a sense of deep and abiding love, a sense of spiritual communion, and a sense of having consummated a union ordained by God Himself.

This sacred occasion will shortly be ended. When the afternoon and evening meet, it will be only an unalterable memory. So let no unkind word, no careless, doubting thought, no guilty secret; no neglected duty; no wisp of jealous fog becloud its passing. For you belong to each other - to have and to hold- and you must be determined not to lose the keen sense of appreciation which God has given you. "To have" is passive, and is made complete on this, your wedding day, to hold is active and can never be quite finished as long as you both shall live and so as you go through life together,

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serving and being served, loving and being loved, blessing and being blessed, you shall make a happy peaceful home, where hearts shall never fail, and you shall learn to face life joyfully, fearlessly, triumphantly, so long as God shall give you grace.

The Lord bless you!

-Rev. Sandness-