



## “How was the wedding?”

I’ve fielded this one countless times in the last couple of weeks.

You probably know that “the wedding” being asking about was our daughter Becca’s. On September 20, I had the awesome privilege of officiating Becca’s wedding to a wonderful guy - Thomas (Tom) O’Flanagan. Many of you know that the original plan was to hold a small ceremony on the island of Santorini in Greece. But, as with so many things, due to COVID restrictions the plans had to be changed. The alternate plan was to just have an even smaller ceremony on a beach somewhere along the central California coast. With the wildfires and other closures in California, that plan didn’t seem like a sure-thing either until a couple weeks before.

You can listen to the 9-27 sermon for some of my observations from the wedding. Here are a couple more. (I could take up the whole newsletter answering the above question, but I won’t.)

All the uncertainty and changes in plans really served to highlight one of the things I’ve found to be indispensable in a marriage (or any other relationship): The ability to be flexible! I was greatly impressed at how willing Becca and Tom were to adjust their plans. To the point that the day before the wedding we still didn’t know exactly where the ceremony was going to be! (I wish you could see the looks I get when I tell people that!) We only knew it was going to be somewhere overlooking the ocean along a 35-mile stretch.



The original plan was for them take their vows on a beach. But Tom’s grandpa needed a wheelchair, and sand and wheelchairs don’t mix well. They scouted out several different options and found a gorgeous site overlooking a rocky bay that Tom’s grandpa could get to via a long boardwalk.



I had to be a bit flexible as well. When Lori (Tom’s mom) asked what “the pastor” thought of that option, I wanted to respond, “There’s absolutely no way I want to stand at the edge of a cliff with the very real possibility that a gust of wind could carry me off to “sleep with the fishes!” (It was very windy that day). But instead I said, “It matters not one single bit what ‘the pastor’ thinks. It’s whatever works best for Bex and Tom.”

The next day - wedding day - the wind was nowhere to be found! One of many answers to prayer we witnessed. (Not the least of which is God providing such an amazing, godly man as Tom for our daughter to marry!)

Tom’s grandparents were still able to get only as close as forty feet away from the “cliff” where we were holding the ceremony. (Now, forty feet isn’t very far when you’re indoors with microphones and amplifiers and speakers, but outdoors with waves crashing in the background is a totally different story.) So, more flexibility was needed.

I said, “Would it work to have them listen in on a phone?” It did. I hadn’t envisioned the phone being in my pocket,

but that's the location that best picked up the vows and message. So, this was the first (and probably last) wedding I've conducted with a "live" phone in the pocket of my shirt. Grandma Bonnie turned on the speaker-phone on her end, and her and Grandpa Ron were able to hear every word!

In short, it was an unforgettable day! And it could not have been better!

Thanks for Asking,  
Pastor David

Send your questions to [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)