

Heard of the King — Met the King

The Scriptures under a testimony — to the conversation between Maria

Lavelle and Bodil Østergreen

Bodil Østergreen



The Scriptures under the Testimony

This document accompanies the video [Podcast — Bodil Østergreen forteller om sitt møte med Jesus](#) from Maria Lavelle's Norwegian channel. Bodil's quotations are faithful English renderings of her own Norwegian words; every Bible passage is given in full from the WEB. The retelling below is a *summarized rendering* of the conversation — the full, unabridged testimony is in the video itself.

This is not an answer to anything — it is a foundation under something. Bodil's story needs no correction; it needs only what it points to itself: the Scripture that carried every step. Here the whole testimony is laid beside the Word, joint by joint — because every turn of this story, from a grandmother's prayers to the four boys, was written down centuries before it happened.

The grandmother who prayed

It begins before she can remember it. Four siblings, mother and father, a home that was not Christian — but good. At eighteen she met Helge and knew he was the one she wanted to share her life with. A house in Ålesund on a fine plot, a job at the bank she thrived in, good colleagues. A life most would call complete. And beneath it all, invisible as groundwater: a grandmother who prayed. No one in the house thought about it; the

prayers went their quiet way regardless. Paul saw exactly this pattern — the faith that lives in a grandmother before it wakes in the grandchild:

It was not a Christian home, but a good home. I had a Christian grandmother who prayed for us all.

— *Bodil Østergreen, Podcast with Maria Lavelle*

Second Timothy 1:5, WEB · having been reminded of the unfeigned faith that is in you; which lived first in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, and, I am persuaded, in you also.

Twenty years of prayer without a visible answer — and then all of it bore fruit in one generation. James knew why it is worth persisting:

James 5:16, WEB · Confess your offenses to one another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed. The effective, earnest prayer of a righteous man is powerfully effective.

The miracle boy

Then came Einar Helge. She had miscarried before, and the boy had to spend his first weeks partly in hospital — but he came, and he lived. "Then such a great miracle came into our lives," she says. And then the sentence that changes the whole arithmetic, spoken almost in passing: it turned out the grandmother had prayed for it. They were not believers themselves; they did not even know anyone had asked. The miracle came anyway — addressed, but unopened for many years. Hannah knew, three thousand years earlier, standing with her own miracle boy:

First Samuel 1:27, WEB · For this child I prayed; and Yahweh has given me my petition which I asked of him:

The emptiness in the middle of a good life

They wanted more children, and it could not be done; they settled into being thankful for the one. The house stood there, the finances were good, the love was real — and still they felt an empty room. They tried to give it a name, the way we all do: perhaps a cabin in the mountains? The cabin only came when they were sixty, she says — so much else got in the way. The psalmist knew whom that empty room was waiting for:

Life was basically good for us, but we felt an emptiness in life.

— *Bodil Østergreen, Podcast with Maria Lavelle*

Psalms 107:9, WEB · For he satisfies the longing soul. He fills the hungry soul with good.

And the Preacher gives the empty room its name: it is eternity itself, set in the heart as a cry for its Maker — a space no cabin in the mountains can fill:

Ecclesiastes 3:11, WEB · He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in their hearts, yet so that man can't find out the work that God has done from the beginning even to the end.

The letter that came to visit

Then the answer walked into the party. Cousin Janne had been a heavy drug addict — thin, worn, someone the family did not ask about at the gatherings. Then, at a new party: there she sat, radiant, twenty kilos stronger and carrying it well — with a black Bible in her bag. Bodil and Helge asked each other: "Can a black Bible really change people so completely? Is that possible?" They did not know it yet, but they had just read their first chapter — not in the book, but in a person:

Second Corinthians 3:2-3, WEB · You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men; being revealed that you are a letter of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tablets of stone, but in tablets that are hearts of flesh.

The night she met the King

The week before Bodil turned thirty, Janne came to visit. Helge was away with work for two weeks. Janne discovered the house had no Bible — so she bought one for Bodil, read from the Gospel of John and underlined. And as they prayed, something happened that Bodil had never felt the like of: a power so strong she physically had to push her chair further back. She was completely overwhelmed. Her own summary of that night has become one of the most beautiful sentences I have heard in a Norwegian testimony:

I had heard of him just as you hear about the king, but it is something entirely different when you get to meet him. And that night I got to meet my King and my Saviour.

— *Bodil Østergreen, Podcast with Maria Lavelle*

Job said the same, almost word for word, more than three thousand years ago — heard of him, and then: saw him:

Job 42:5, WEB · I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees you.

The hunger for the Word

Then came the hunger. The mailbox became unrecognizable — "there was everything named Jesus in it." The music in the car: only worship. A whole sack of books from the Christian bookstore, new subscriptions, nights with only a few hours of sleep — with a small boy at home and a full-time job at the bank. It should not have held together. It held together: "But I was given strength," she says, "and I was starving. I had to have more." Jeremiah knew that appetite:

Jeremiah 15:16, WEB · Your words were found, and I ate them; and your words were to me a joy and the rejoicing of my heart: for I am called by your name, Yahweh, God of hosts.

And Peter says that this is exactly what being newborn should feel like:

First Peter 2:2, WEB · as newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby,

The promise of the Spirit

Janne taught her more: that there is a baptism in the Holy Spirit, and that praying in tongues strengthens. Her charge was as direct as everything else about her:

When you are baptized in the Holy Spirit — and you must be. For there is a battle here between good and evil. And the devil does not want you strengthened.

— *Janne, retold by Bodil, Podcast with Maria Lavelle*

The advice was practical: just practice. So Bodil used her breaks at the bank office — when the boss and colleagues were out — to ask for the Holy Spirit. "There is a promise about it," she said. There is. Jesus himself gave it — and Paul confirms exactly what Janne said about the strengthening:

Luke 11:13, WEB · If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?

First Corinthians 14:4, WEB · He who speaks in another language edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the assembly.

Helge

After two weeks Helge came home — to a wife he had been married to for ten years, who had nevertheless become new. The music was replaced, the mailbox was full of Jesus, the nights were short. It was strange for him. But the changes spoke their own language, and he liked them. Not long after, Helge himself was saved — and the house that had been looking for a cabin had found what it was actually looking for. Peter wrote the recipe almost two thousand years before:

First Peter 3:1-2, WEB · In like manner, wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; so that, even if any don't obey the Word, they may be won by the behavior of their wives without a word; seeing your pure behavior in fear.

Four boys

Then Jan Honningdal came to visit, the worship leader from Youth With A Mission — "God sent him," Bodil says, for she did not know a single Christian and had even called the church without getting further. He asked one question: "What is your greatest wish, Bodil?" The answer came easily: more children. "How many do you wish for?" "Four, like we were growing up." "Then let us pray for it." Two people, one prayer. And then, with all of heaven's calm in a single clause:

And that is what I have received — four boys.

— *Bodil Østergreen, Podcast with Maria Lavelle*

The psalmist called it having your quiver filled — and he was speaking of sons:

Psalms 127:3-5, WEB · Behold, children are a heritage of Yahweh. The fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows in the hand of a mighty man, So are the children of youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them. They won't be disappointed when they speak with their enemies in the gate.

And that it happened when two agreed to pray was no coincidence either — Jesus had signed the outcome in advance:

Matthew 18:19, WEB · Again, assuredly I tell you, that if two of you will agree on earth concerning anything that they will ask, it will be done for them by my Father who is in heaven.

The message that could not be silenced

At work the colleagues saw the change before she had said a word — several came and told HER that she had become a Christian. Then one day she took the message channel that reached absolutely everyone in the bank, from north to south, headquarters in Oslo — the channel otherwise used for red cars for sale and jokes on the edge — and used it for what it was really made for: "I have the world's most important message to tell." The managing director called. Her boss called her in: "You could have lost your job over this." She did not answer a word. And then the boss suddenly says something that belongs in the book of Acts:

You, Bodil — you have gotten yourself a boss who is greater, higher than me now.

— *Bodil's manager, retold by Bodil, Podcast with Maria Lavelle*

She did not lose her job — and they are good friends to this day. She was standing in the same room as Peter and John before the council:

Acts 4:19-20, WEB · But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, judge for yourselves, for we can't help telling the things which we saw and heard."

She was not ashamed — and Paul puts words to why that message cannot be kept in:

Romans 1:16, WEB · For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes; for the Jew first, and also for the Greek.

Signs and wonders

"And we have been allowed to see so many signs and wonders," she says — almost in passing, the way only those speak who have actually seen them. Maria in the studio answers with a calm of her own: no matter who comes and says God is not alive — "it does not help." Mark ends his gospel with exactly that sentence about the signs:

Mark 16:20, WEB · They went out, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word by the signs that followed. Amen.

The one

Then came the ministry. Bodil and Helge got to stand in gatherings where people received Jesus — countless through the years; at the first place alone more than sixty were saved in that period. But it is "the one" she names with the greatest warmth — one is worth more than the whole world. Heaven agrees with her:

Luke 15:7, WEB · I tell you that even so there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

The call at the end

Maria's closing — turn from sin, believe, and say it with your own mouth — is not a formula she invented. It is the letter to the Romans, almost verbatim:

Romans 10:9-10, WEB · that if you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart, one believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

And she does not let you leave empty-handed: in the description under the video there is a link to a series where Maria explains, briefly and simply, how you can be completely sure that things are settled with God. "God has a plan for your life," she says to you who are watching. That is not a figure of speech. It is a signed promise:

Jeremiah 29:11-13, WEB · For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says Yahweh, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you hope in your latter end. You shall call on me, and you shall go and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You shall seek me, and find me, when you shall search for me with all your heart.

If you have just prayed the prayer Maria invited you to, the next step is already written — and it stands in the same sentence as faith: believe, and be baptized. I have written a small book that walks through every baptism in the New Testament, verse by verse: [Believe and Be Baptized](#). Come and see.

How this was made

This is the author's own work. It was composed with [junifye](#) and an AI assistant, drawing its Scripture and original-language work (Greek, Hebrew, cross-references) from [Darash](#) (Hebrew *darash*, “to seek, inquire, study”), a tool and reference work for the Bible in its original languages.

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