

Elder Gary E. Stevenson

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

How can individuals and families model the teaching and celebration of Jesus Christ's Resurrection – the Easter story – with the same balance, fullness and religious tradition as His birth – the Christmas story?

In addition to verses about Easter in the New Testament, Latter-day Saints have “perhaps the most magnificent Easter scriptures in all of Christianity” – the Book of Mormon account of the resurrected Christ's visit to the new world.

“In reality, the Book of Mormon shares the greatest Easter story ever told. Let it not be the greatest Easter story never told. I invite you to look at the Book of Mormon in a new light and consider the profound witness it bears of the reality of the risen Christ as well as the richness and depth of the doctrine of Christ. ...

“The Book of Mormon is ‘Another Witness of Jesus Christ’ because throughout its sacred pages, one prophet after another testifies not only that Christ would come, but that He did come. ...

“His visit as a resurrected Savior, introduced by God the Father, is a most glorious and triumphant Easter message. It will help our families gain a personal testimony of Jesus Christ as our Savior and Redeemer, who broke the bands of death.”



President Bonnie H. Cordon

Young Women general president

When President Cordon's father was diagnosed with ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease, in 2011, he told her something that has stuck with her: “Bonnie, never give up an opportunity to testify of Christ.” This advice impressed on her the importance of drawing close to the Savior in real, personal ways.

When Christ visited the Nephites, His invitation wasn't to stand at a distance, but to draw near to Him. “While we may not enjoy the same physical proximity as those who walked with Christ during His early ministry, through the Holy Ghost we can experience His power every day. As much as we need.”

Personal closeness to Christ grows through frequent temple worship, daily repentance, scripture study, attending church and seminary, pondering patriarchal blessings, receiving ordinances, honoring covenants and testifying of Him.

The adversary can make it difficult to hear the Lord's voice. “Our world, our challenges, our circumstances will not get quieter, but we can and must hunger and thirst after the things of Christ to ‘hear Him’ with clarity. We will want to create muscle memory of discipleship and testimony that will bring into focus our reliance on our Savior each day. ... Look for Christ everywhere – I promise He is there.”



Elder Carl B. Cook

Presidency of the Seventy

When faced with disappointment, painful experiences, personal inadequacies or other challenges, do not “let discouragement overwhelm us.” God will help individuals overcome discouragement and other obstacles if they “look to Him, follow the promptings of the Holy Ghost, and just keep going – with faith.”

When individuals feel weak or incapable, the Lord can strengthen their faith and increase their capacities.

At his first stake conference as an Area Seventy, Elder Cook was accompanied by President Boyd K. Packer, then Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. During the leadership session, Elder Cook was surprised when, after speaking for 15 minutes, President Packer invited him to speak again. Praying, he was blessed with another thought to share. When President Packer invited him to speak a third time, “I was overwhelmed.” Despite wanting to run, “I knew it was time to exercise more faith.” Miraculously, he was able to give another message.

“The adult meeting followed the very same pattern,” and he spoke three more times. Looking back, he is grateful he didn't give up or resist. “In spite of my weakness, I learned that I can serve; I can contribute when the Lord is by my side, if I just keep going – with faith.”



Elder Gerrit W. Gong

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Inspired ministering can bless families and individuals. It can also strengthen wards and branches.

Latter-day Saints might think of their ward or branch as a spiritual ecosystem where the Lord of the vineyard and His servants bring forth precious fruit by binding together the strengths and weaknesses of all the trees. “Together, they bless hearts and homes, ward and branches, through inspired, consistent ministering.” Ministering blesses generations.

“In many places, we can reach out, understand others where they are and build relationships when we regularly visit members in their homes. Inspired invitations change lives. When invitations help us make and keep sacred covenants, we draw closer to the Lord and each other.”

In some places in the Church, there is a ministering gap. More say they are ministering than say they are being ministered to.

The Savior Jesus Christ is the perfect example of ministering.

“Wherever we are in this Easter season, let us reach out and care as our Savior would, especially to those whom we are privileged by love and assignment to minister. In so doing, may we draw closer to Jesus Christ and each other, becoming more like Him and the followers of Jesus Christ He would have us each be.”



Elder Quentin L. Cook

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Heavenly Father desires His children to be safely gathered home. His plan is based on righteousness, keeping His commandments, receiving ordinances and honoring covenants.



President Russell M.

Nelson has repeatedly emphasized the gathering of Israel — a concept that has been greatly expanded by the Restoration of the Church of Jesus Christ and the Book of Mormon.

“Those who accept the gospel of Jesus Christ regardless of lineage become part of gathered Israel. With that gathering and the numerous temples built and announced, we are in a unique position to gather Israel on both sides of the veil as never before under the Father’s plan.”

Members and missionaries across the world are expanding efforts to gather scattered Israel, and growth continues everywhere. “Nevertheless, our commitment to love, share and invite can be greatly expanded.”

“My specific prayer today is for every child, young man, young woman, family, and quorum, Relief Society and class to review how we individually and collectively accept dramatic counsel to help gather Israel that have been issued by the Lord and our beloved Prophet. ...

“The Lord expects those who have received His gospel to urgently strive to be a beacon light example that will help others come to God.”

Elder Allen D. Haynie

General Authority Seventy

Knowing the earth has a living prophet changes everything.

“A prophet is someone God has personally prepared, called, corrected, inspired, rebuked, sanctified and sustained. That is why we are never spiritually at risk in following prophetic counsel.”

World conditions can cause panic, but “as God’s covenant children, we do not need to chase after this or that to know how to navigate through these troubled times. We do not need to fear. ... The key is to follow the living prophet.”

With a sacred charge to prepare the rising generation amid the adversary’s influence, “we cannot be a source of confusion about the importance of following prophetic counsel.”

“Our seemingly small deviations, quiet neglect or whispered criticisms in response to prophetic counsel may result in our only walking dangerously near the edge of the covenant path.” These deviations, magnified with the adversary’s influence, may cause one to leave the covenant path altogether.

But those who fall short in their efforts to follow the prophet can begin again to follow President Russell M. Nelson’s counsel.

“We were anxious to come to the earth at this time, having confidence that we would not be left to stumble when confronted by the adversary’s increasingly darker and more confusing mists.”

**President Henry B. Eyring**

Of the First Presidency

In a time of spiritual turbulence in the world, there is a “miracle of finding personal peace, whatever our circumstances.”

In John 14:15-27, the Savior explained how His disciples and others would feel peace once He was no longer on the earth with them. The Savior taught five principles in those verses.

1. Peace comes after living obediently to His commandments.
2. The Holy Ghost can abide in people.
3. Love of self and others comes through keeping covenants.
4. Keeping God’s commandments requires singular love of God.
5. Obtaining the gift of earthly and eternal peace comes from faith in Jesus Christ and repentance.

“There is reason for optimism: it is that the Light of Christ is placed in every newborn child. With that universal gift comes a sense of what is right, a desire to love and be loved.”

Parents are responsible to nurture children and give an example that will show them how to build their own faith in the Savior. Doing so will help prepare the way for the Second Coming.

“The rising generation will become the nurturers of the generation to follow. ... The Lord’s kingdom on earth will be prepared and ready to greet Him with shouts of hosanna. There will be peace on earth.”



Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles was excused from general conference due to COVID-19.

Elder Dale G. Renlund

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Twice a year, when the sun, moon and earth are aligned, a tidal bore sends powerful tidal waves up the Amazon River, against its natural flow. In Brazil, the phenomenon is known as “pororoca.”

“Unlike the Amazon, we can choose whether we yield to heavenly powers or ‘go with the flow.’”

Going against the flow may be difficult. But by yielding “to the enticings of the Holy Spirit” (Mosiah 3:19) and putting off the selfish tendencies of the natural man or woman, one receives the Savior’s transforming power — the power to do difficult things.

“As you walk the covenant path, from baptism to the temple and throughout life, I promise you power to go against the natural worldly flow — power to learn, power to repent and be sanctified, and power to find hope, comfort and even joy as you face life’s challenges. I promise you and your family protection against the influence of the adversary, especially when you make the temple a major focus in your life.”

By coming to Christ and connecting to Him and Heavenly Father by covenant, something seemingly unnatural happens. “You are transformed and become perfected in Jesus Christ. You become a covenant child of God and an inheritor in His kingdom.”

**Elder Peter F. Meurs**

General Authority Seventy

In 1990, while driving his family home in Australia, Elder Meurs momentarily fell asleep and caused a head-on car accident. His wife was seriously injured and his infant son was initially unresponsive until receiving a priesthood blessing while the ambulance was en route.

With three of his five family members hospitalized, he pleaded with Heavenly Father that his family and those injured in the other vehicle would recover. All were healed over time.

But he faced ongoing deep feelings of guilt and remorse, reliving the horrific events. “I struggled for years to forgive myself and find peace. Then as a priesthood leader, while assisting others to repent and helping them to feel the compassion, mercy and love of the Savior, I realized that He could heal me.”

The Savior’s healing and redeeming power applies to accidental mistakes, poor decisions, challenges and trials of every kind — as well as sins. “As I turned to Him, my feelings of guilt and remorse were gradually replaced with peace and rest. ...

“Whether you are carrying the burden of unresolved sin, suffering because of an offense committed against you long ago, or struggling to forgive yourself for an accidental mistake, you have access to the healing, redeeming power of the Savior Jesus Christ.”

**Elder Randall K. Bennett**

General Authority Seventy

A patriarchal blessing can help navigate challenges with life as it helps a person understand their divine identity and perspective.

“Knowing who I really was helped me understand and desire to do what God expected of me.”

This led to a study of covenants, including the promised blessings in God’s covenant with Abraham. “It gave me an eternal perspective that inspired me to more fully keep my covenants.”

There is also spiritual strength in studying one’s patriarchal blessing.

“I studied my blessing frequently, often daily, which helped me feel the comforting, guiding influence of the Holy Ghost, who helped reduce my anxiety as I followed His promptings.”

This led to an increased desire to “actively invite light, truth and the Holy Ghost” by studying the scriptures and praying daily. “That focus helped me experience great joy, despite my personal circumstances.”

Studying his patriarchal blessing also helped him to “desire to do better and be better,” withstand temptations and have the courage to repent.

“Cherishing my patriarchal blessing while I was young blessed me with courage when I was discouraged, comfort when I was fearful, peace when I felt anxious, hope when I felt hopeless and joy when I needed it most.”

**Elder Craig C. Christensen**

General Authority Seventy

Joy is more profound and elevating than any pleasure or comfort the world can offer. People were created to have joy, but it isn’t cheap or casually given — rather, joy was bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

“If we really understood the value of true, godly joy, we would not hesitate to sacrifice any worldly possession or make any necessary life changes to receive it.”

The idea of repentance as the pathway to joy may seem contradictory, as repentance can sometimes be an uncomfortable or painful process. “It requires admitting that some of our thoughts and actions — even some of our belief — may be wrong.”

But joy follows the repentance process. “Repentance brings joy because it prepares our hearts to receive the influence of the Holy Ghost. To be filled with joy means to be filled with the Holy Ghost. Our joy increases as we work daily to bring the Spirit into our lives.”

There’s also great joy in helping others repent. “Helping others repent is a natural expression of our gratitude toward the Savior; and it is a source of great joy.” The Savior feels joy any time a person repents.



Elder Evan A. Schmutz

General Authority Seventy

The need to trust in the doctrine of Jesus Christ is a topic President Russell M. Nelson taught mission presidents and is applicable to everyone.

“If we are to accept President Nelson’s invitation to have the doctrine of Christ rooted in the marrow of our bones, we must deepen our conversion to the Lord by study, prayer, faithful living and continual repentance. We must invite the Holy Ghost to engrave the doctrine of Christ ‘in fleshy tables of [our hearts]’ (2 Corinthians 3:3) as permanently as it was engraved by Nephi upon the plates of gold.”

Trusting the doctrine of Christ means living by His every word, approaching Heavenly Father every day in prayer, setting aside the shiny things of the world to focus on the Redeemer of the world, following the Savior and covenanting with Him and enduring to the end regardless of life’s challenges.

“In God’s perfect plan, suffering with faith in Christ is linked to becoming perfect in Christ.”

Building “on the foundation of a covenantal relationship with Christ, we are trusting the doctrine of Christ, and, as we come unto Him, we have His promise of eternal life.”

**Elder Benjamin De Hoyos**

General Authority Seventy

The early Latter-day Saints worked and sacrificed for three years to build the Kirtland Temple in Ohio. Since the temple’s dedication by the Prophet Joseph Smith, the spirit of Elijah has inspired people around the globe to search out their ancestors.

The Lord encourages all Latter-day Saints to preserve their family history, learn from ancestors and make the necessary arrangements for them to receive the ordinances of the gospel in temples.

Performing this work is a central part of Heavenly Father’s plan to unite families for this life and for eternity.

Those who don’t feel capable of doing this work are not alone. The Church has made all the necessary tools available in FamilySearch centers and designed them so they are easy to use.

Performing temple and family history work will cause the Spirit to “flood our hearts,” “awaken our faculties” and “guide us as we search for the names of our ancestors.”

“Let us remember that family history is more than just looking for names, dates and places. It is uniting families and feeling the joy that comes from extending to them the ordinances of the gospel.”

**Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf**

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

“My message to all parents is this: The Lord loves you. He is with you. He stands beside you. He is your strength in guiding your children to make righteous choices.”

Accept this privilege and responsibility courageously and joyfully. “Don’t delegate this source of heavenly blessings to anyone else.”

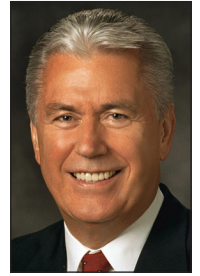
Help children build faith in Jesus Christ and to love His gospel and Church. “The Savior will help you, guide you and encourage you. Seek His help. ... Just as Jesus Christ is the strength of youth, Jesus Christ is also the strength of parents.”

A parent’s love is one of the strongest forces in the universe. Use it to create a rich environment for teaching truth and building faith.

One conversation or good example may not cause change, but the consistency of small and simple things, one drop at a time, nourishes a child much better than an occasional flood.

God is eager to pour out His Spirit to guide parents. “I invite you to accept God’s offer to guide your family by personal revelation.”

Relax. All parents worry about not being good enough, but Jesus Christ is the divine source of help. “Does that mean you and your family will be picture-perfect? No. But you will get better.”



Elder Mark A. Bragg

General Authority Seventy

When family friend and legendary coach John Wooden heard that Elder Bragg had joined the Church, he told him to use his faith to have poise: “Be a good man in a storm.”

“Spiritual poise blesses us to stay calm and focused on what matters most, especially when we are under pressure.”

The Savior is the ultimate example of poise. In the Garden of Gethsemane, He knew who He was and was true to His divine mission. He knew there was a great plan of happiness. And He knew that through His Atonement, all who make and keep sacred covenants will be saved.

Know one’s divine identity. “Knowing who we are and being true to that divine identity are foundational to the development of Christlike poise.”

Know there is a divine plan. “By framing challenging times within an eternal plan, pressure becomes a privilege to love, serve, teach and bless.”

Know the enabling power of Jesus Christ and His Atonement. “The enabling power of Christ, made possible by His atoning sacrifice, gives us the strength to endure and prevail.”

The Savior exemplified poise during the storm on the Sea of Galilee and calmed the seas (Mark 4:35-41). “He is the great man in a storm.”

**Brother Milton Camargo**

Of the Sunday School presidency

Jesus Christ is the solution to even the most difficult problems.

Too often, people concentrate so much on their own problems that they lose focus on the solution – the Savior Jesus Christ. “Our covenants help us focus our attention, our thoughts and our actions on Christ.”

Cleaving unto covenants invites change. “Covenant keeping leads us to seek after whatever invites the influence of the Spirit and reject whatever drives it away.”

The sacrament prayer includes the words “always remember Him.” Thus, renewing covenants during the sacrament each Sunday prompts a refocus on Jesus Christ. “The word ‘always’ is so significant. It extends the Savior’s influence into every part of our lives.”

Focusing on Jesus Christ must also happen in the home, by making the words of Christ in the scriptures a daily part of life. The stories and principles will stay with children like trusted friends. “Over time, your consistency in feasting on the word of God will help your children grow closer and closer to the Savior.”

“The Lord Jesus Christ lives today. He can be an active, daily presence in our lives. He is the solution to our problems, but we must lift our eyes and raise our sights to see Him.”

**Elder K. Brett Nattress**

General Authority Seventy

A young man named Danny got involved with drugs and traveled down a path of addiction – “the light in his eyes had dimmed.”

But one day in sacrament meeting, his younger brother shared his testimony prior to his mission.

“During the meeting, Danny felt something he had not felt for a long time. He felt the love of the Lord. He finally had hope.”

Danny asked, “Can I really be forgiven?” Reading in Alma 36, he learned the “promise of complete and perfect forgiveness is made to everyone – in and through the infinite Atonement of Jesus Christ.”

Danny changed his life, and another miracle occurred when he served an honorable mission. But when he got back, he asked, “Do you think I have truly been forgiven?”

“I said: ‘Danny! Have you looked in the mirror? Have you seen your eyes? They are filled with light, and you are beaming with the Spirit of the Lord. Of course, you have been forgiven!’”

Danny moved forward with faith, married in the temple, returned to school and continues to serve the Lord.

“Danny wasn’t lost, and neither are we to the Lord. He stands at the door to lift us, to strengthen us and to forgive us.”

**Elder Juan A. Uceda**

General Authority Seventy

The Lord Jesus Christ said in John 10:11, “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.” In August 1994, then-Elder Russell M. Nelson said: “We are His true undershepherds. Our privilege is to bear His love and to add our own love to friends and neighbors.”

The role of an undershepherd of Christ is to minister to the one, as He did.

For instance, Luke 15 introduces three stories: The parable of the lost sheep, the parable of the lost coin and the parable of the prodigal son. But Luke refers to these parables in the singular, not the plural.

“It appears that the Lord is teaching one unique lesson with three stories, stories that present different numbers: 100 sheep, 10 coins and two sons. The key number in each of these stories, however, is the number one.”

Although one might be an undershepherd for many, “you always, always minister to them, care for them and love them one by one, individually.”

Latter-day Saints can minister to the one through the Good Shepherd’s assistance: “I testify that with our Savior’s help, we can love His precious sheep and minister to them as He would.”



Elder D. Todd Christofferson

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

At the end of the Last Supper, Jesus Christ offered a sacred Intercessory Prayer, “Holy Father, keep through thine own name [mine apostles] whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are” (John 17:11). He then expanded it to include all believers.

“Where God prevails in all hearts and minds, the people are described as ‘in one, the children of Christ, and heirs to the kingdom of God’” (4 Nephi 1:17).

Paul offers a key to how unity can be achieved in a contentious world: “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ... for ye are all one in Christ” (Galatians 3:27–28).

It’s an effort that starts individually. “Becoming one in Christ happens one by one – we each begin with ourselves.”

Putting on Christ includes “making His ‘first and great commandment,’ our first and greatest commitment” to love God.

“Unity with our brothers and sisters in the body of Christ grows as we heed the second commandment ... to love others as ourselves.”

Unity is more than agreeing that everyone do their own thing – it’s having a common cause.

“Unity does not require sameness, but it does require harmony.”



President Camille N. Johnson

Relief Society general president

When Jesus Christ healed the man with palsy, He gave the man both physical and spiritual relief. And the man’s friends found the source of relief in Jesus Christ. “I testify that Jesus Christ is relief. Through the Atonement of Jesus Christ, we may be relieved of the burden and consequences of sin and be succored in our infirmities.”

Those who partner with the Savior to help provide temporal and spiritual relief for those in need can also find relief in Him.

Each person is carrying a metaphorical backpack, with burdens like rocks inside: rocks because of sin; rocks from others’ poor decisions, misconduct and unkindness; and rocks of illness, grief, disappointment, loneliness and the effects of natural disasters.

But these mortal burdens need not feel heavy.

“Jesus Christ can lighten our load. Jesus Christ can lift our burdens. Jesus Christ provides a way for us to be relieved of the weight of sin. Jesus Christ is our relief.”

Repentance relieves from the weight of the rocks of sin. The Atonement of Jesus Christ gives strength to forgive and unload the burdens caused by others. Partnering with Jesus Christ allows people to provide His relief to all of God’s children. “The relief He offers us is everlasting.”



Elder Ulisses Soares

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Jesus Christ perfectly demonstrated attributes of charity and forgiveness in the events leading to His death. As followers of Jesus Christ, Latter-day Saints are His peculiar people, called to proclaim His virtues and promote the peace available through His atoning sacrifice.

“This peace is a gift promised to all who turn their hearts to the Savior and live righteously; such peace gives us the strength to enjoy mortal life and enables us to endure the painful trials of our journey.”

Today there are some who engage in negative attacks and heated disputes that result in disappointment, wounded hearts and hostility.

“As the Lord’s peculiar people and promoters of His peace, we cannot afford to allow these tricks of the evil one to take place in our hearts. We cannot carry such a corrosive burden that destroys feelings, relationships and even lives. The gospel represents good tidings of great joy.”

Latter-day Saints should consider ways to be uplifting, supporting, understanding and forgiving, as well as look for the good in others.

“I promise you that as we pursue and develop these attributes, we will become more and more cordial and sensitive to the needs of our fellow beings and will experience joy, peace and spiritual growth.”



Elder Kazuhiko Yamashita

General Authority Seventy

Patriarchal blessings are not only for those preparing to serve a mission. “Worthy baptized members may receive their patriarchal blessings when the time is right for them.” There is no maximum age. “Everyone’s spiritual timeline is different.”

A patriarchal blessing contains personal counsel from the Lord and declares one’s lineage in the house of Israel. It is a message from Heavenly Father and will likely include promises and inspired counsel. “A patriarchal blessing is not going to map out your life or answer all your questions. ... A patriarchal blessing is eternal, and if you live worthy, promises that are not fulfilled in this life will be granted in the next.”

Preparation for a patriarchal blessing will help increase faith in Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. “My dear bishops, parents, elders quorum and Relief Society presidents, ward mission leaders, ministering brothers and sisters, please encourage those young men and young women, adult members and new members who have not yet received their patriarchal blessing to seek the Lord’s direction and help in preparing themselves to do so.”

A patriarchal blessing will have different meanings at different times. “It is not that the words change, but we see them in a different way.”



Elder Neil L. Andersen

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

While Alma's mind was "harrowed up by the memory of [his] many sins," he remembered being taught in his youth about Jesus Christ atoning for the sins of the world (Alma 36:17).



Alma's mind "caught hold upon this thought," and he cried within his heart, "O Jesus, thou Son of God, have mercy on me" (Alma 36:18). Acting in faith, and by God's power and grace, Alma was rescued from despair and filled with hope.

"My prayer at this Easter season is that we will more consciously shape, strengthen and secure this preeminent thought of Jesus Christ in the chambers of our soul, allowing it to eagerly flow into our mind, guiding us in what we think and do, and continually bringing the sweet joy of the Savior's love."

Filling one's mind with His power means thoughts of Him are always present. By focusing attention on Him, everything is viewed through love for Him and less important distractions fade.

"As you continue to attentively catch hold of this thought of Jesus Christ, trust in Him and keep His commandments, I promise you not only heavenly guidance but heavenly power — power that brings strength to your covenants, peace to your difficulties and joy to your blessings."

Elder Kevin R. Duncan

General Authority Seventy

Temples bring joy to those who participate in ordinances and make covenants in them. Temple gifts include priesthood authority, families sealed forever and eternal life. These blessings are made possible through Jesus Christ's Atonement.



Because temples are often second nature to Church members, it can be easy to take these blessings for granted. It's sometimes helpful to consider temples through the eyes of someone not familiar with them. "What could become common or routine for us is sometimes seen in its splendor and majesty by those who hear it or feel it for the very first time."

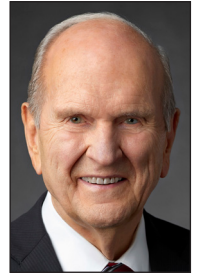
The adversary's power is threatened by temples, which is why he does anything he can to stop temple work. "As each temple is dedicated, the saving power of Jesus Christ expands throughout the world to counteract the efforts of the adversary and to redeem us as we come unto Him. As temples and covenant keepers grow in number, the adversary grows weaker."

Individuals can have power over the adversary by making and keeping temple covenants. On this Palm Sunday, praise God and His goodness. "What do we hear in the gospel which we have received? Truly a voice of gladness."

President Russell M. Nelson

President of the Church

"I am greatly concerned that so many people seem to believe that it is completely acceptable to condemn, malign and vilify anyone who does not agree with them."



Disciples of Jesus Christ are to be examples of how to interact with others — especially when faced with differences of opinion. "One of the easiest ways to identify a true follower of Jesus Christ is how compassionately that person treats other people."

The Atonement of Jesus Christ made it possible to overcome evil, including contention.

"Today, I am asking us to interact with others in a higher, holier way. Please listen carefully. 'If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy' that we can say about another person — whether to his face or behind her back — that should be our standard of communication."

Contention and peacemaking are both a choice. "You have your agency to choose contention or reconciliation." Choose to be a peacemaker.

Charity, or the pure love of Christ, is the antidote to contention.

"Examine your discipleship within the context of the way you treat others. I bless you to make any adjustments that may be needed so that your behavior is ennobling, respectful and representative of a true follower of Jesus Christ."

President Dallin H. Oaks

Of the First Presidency

Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints believe in Christ, worship Him and follow His teachings in the scriptures.

Most of the scriptures reporting Jesus' mortal ministries are descriptions of what He did.

"My message today consists of a selection of the words of our Savior — what He said," including the following:

- "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" (Matthew 5:9).
 - "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you" (Matthew 5:44).
 - "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).
 - "This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you" (John 15:12)
 - "Behold, I have come unto the world to bring redemption unto the world, to save the world from sin" (3 Nephi 9:21).
- "I affirm the truth of these teachings."



President M. Russell Ballard

Acting President, Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Written on the headstone of his wife, Barbara, is a lesson she wanted their children to remember: "What matters most is what lasts longest."

First, what matters most includes a relationship with Heavenly Father and His Son Jesus Christ. "This relationship matters most now and in eternity."

Second, family relationships are among those things that matter most. These include extended family, friends and ward families, which are essential for emotional and physical health and can also offer love, happiness and a sense of belonging.

"Nurturing these important relationships is a choice. A choice to be part of a family requires commitment, love, patience, communication and forgiveness."

Another thing that matters most is following the promptings of the Spirit. "I testify that following the promptings of the Spirit is one of the things that matters most in all our relationships."

Finally, "I testify that being converted to the Lord, bearing testimony of Him and serving Him are also among the things that matter most."

Bear testimony of Jesus Christ more often. "Bear testimony of what you know and believe and what you feel, not just of what you are thankful for." Testify of the things that matter most and last the longest.



Elder Ronald A. Rasband

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Nearly 2,000 years ago, throngs of worshippers stood at the gates of Jerusalem, holding palms and crying "Hosanna!" to Jesus of Nazareth. This first Palm Sunday "marked the beginning of the last week of the mortal ministry of Jesus Christ."

This most important week in human history would close with His Crucifixion and Resurrection, making it possible for everyone to live with Heavenly Father for eternity.

"Jesus Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem and the events of the week that followed exemplify doctrine we can apply in our lives today." The lessons are to "embrace prophecy and prophetic teachings, act on promptings of the Holy Ghost, become a true disciple and seek the healing power of our Lord's Atonement."

The parable of the 10 virgins teaches that members of the Church have lamps representing the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ. "We, like the 10 virgins, have lamps; but do we have oil? ...

"If some of you are looking to fill what some call 'a bucket list,' this is it: Fill your bucket with oil in the form of the living water of Jesus Christ, which is a representation of His life and teachings. ... That bucket list will take you somewhere you want to go — back to your Father in Heaven."



Elder Vern P. Stanfill

General Authority Seventy

There is a temptation in the world and even the culture of the Church to obsess about perfectionism. "Remember that perfectionism is not the same as being perfected in Christ."

The latter is the process, guided by the Holy Ghost, of becoming more like the Savior. "As we accept the Savior's invitation to come unto Him, we soon realize that our best is good enough and that the grace of a loving Savior will make up the difference in ways we cannot imagine."

Never underestimate the Savior's power. "A simple word of kindness, a brief but sincere ministering visit, a Primary lesson lovingly taught can — with the Savior's help — comfort, soften hearts and change eternal lives."

Self-comparison is not the same as emulation. While the former is rarely productive and can be spiritually destructive, "emulating those we respect who demonstrate Christlike attributes can be instructive, uplifting and can help us become better disciples of Jesus Christ."

The Savior will use one's sincere, though seemingly insignificant, efforts to accomplish His work. "If we simply do the best we can and trust Him to make up the difference, we can become part of the miracles that surround us."



Elder Mark W. Bassett

General Authority Seventy

Jesus Christ didn't raise Lazarus from the dead until the fourth day. Before the miracle, Mary and Martha may have thought He came too late. Similarly, individuals sometimes feel like the Savior answers their prayers for divine intervention too late. However, "my witness and testimony is that as we move forward with faith in Jesus Christ, the fourth day will always come. He will always come to our aid or to raise our hopes back to life."



Individuals also have a role to play in their own divine intervention. When raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus could have moved the tombstone and unbound Lazarus from the grave clothes Himself. Instead, He instructed others to move the tombstone and told Lazarus to come forth. "My impression is that the Savior expects us to do all we can do, and He will do what only He can do."

Disciples do all they can do by making and keeping covenants, listening to prophets, repenting and obeying commandments. "While the Lord expects us to 'do all things that lie in our power,' remember that He will provide needed help in all these things as we trust in Him."

Elder David A. Bednar

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Jesus Christ extends to all the same invitation He extended to the prophet Enoch: "Abide in me, and I in you; therefore walk with me" (Moses 6:34). "The word 'abide' denotes remaining fixed or stable and enduring without yielding."

Abiding in Christ is remaining firm and steadfast in devotion to the Redeemer and His holy purposes, taking upon one's self His yoke through covenants and ordinances, strengthening one's covenant bond with the Father and the Son, feasting upon the words of Christ, preparing to participate in the sacrament and serving God's children.

In the Book of Mormon, Alma compared the word to a seed that must be planted and nourished — "the word" being the life, mission and atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ (see Alma 33:22-23). "My beloved brothers and sisters, is the word in us? Are the truths of the Savior's gospel written in the fleshy tables of our hearts?"

To walk in and with the Savior is to obey God's commandments and remember and honor the covenants that connect one to the Father and the Son. "If we abide in Him, He will abide in us. And as we walk in and with Him, we will be blessed to bring forth much fruit."

**Elder Ahmad S. Corbitt**

General Authority Seventy

Jesus Christ had to suffer, die and rise again to redeem all from physical death and give eternal life to all who would follow Him. The steps one must take to follow Him and receive eternal life are called the doctrine of Christ — faith in Christ and His Atonement, repentance, baptism, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost and enduring to the end.

Prophets and apostles have recently taught how the doctrine of Christ can bless all God's children, including youth. "Teaching your beloved child why we all desperately need Jesus Christ and how to apply His joyful doctrine is what will strengthen and heal him or her. Let us turn them to Jesus who is their true advocate with the Father."

In holding up the doctrine of Christ, the Lord's Prophet today is doing the same as Moses did in holding up a serpent of brass — "that he should heal the nations" (2 Nephi 25:20). Whatever the bites or poisons or struggles in this mortal wilderness, "let us not be as those who, anciently and presently, could have been healed but, sadly, 'would not look ... because they did not believe that it would heal them'" (Alma 33:19-21).

**President Russell M. Nelson**

President of the Church

Easter Sunday is the most important religious observance for followers of Jesus Christ.

"Because of Jesus Christ, we can repent and be forgiven of our sins. Because of Him, each of us will be resurrected."

The Book of Mormon records, in 3 Nephi 9, the Savior inviting the Nephites to return to Him, to repent and be converted so He could heal them.

"Jesus Christ extends that same invitation to you today. I plead with you to come unto Him so that He can heal you. He will heal you from sin as you repent. He will heal you from sadness and fear. He will heal you from the wounds of this world.

"Whatever questions or problems you have, the answer is always found in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Learn more about His Atonement, His love, His mercy, His doctrine and His restored gospel of healing and progression. Turn to Him. Follow Him."

Fifteen new temple locations were announced.

"Jesus Christ is the reason we build temples. Each is His holy house. Making covenants and receiving essential ordinances in the temple, as well as seeking to draw closer to Him there, will bless your life in ways no other kind of worship can."

