

April 17–23

Matthew 18; Luke 10

“What Shall I Do to Inherit Eternal Life?”



Service

Mark 9:33-37

What helps define someone as being great in Kingdom of Heaven?

What is it about children that we should emulate?

Bruce R. BcConkie

“True greatness in the Lord's earthly kingdom is measured, not by positions held, not by pre-eminence attained, not by honors bestowed by mortals, but by intrinsic merit and goodness....

“Those who seek personal honors and glory rather than the welfare of Zion, and the triumph of the Lord's own purposes, are not chosen of God to be first, but by him they are cast out and made last and least of all. But those who put themselves last, and become the servants of all for the sake of Christ and the gospel, shall be accounted by him as the first, and they shall gain eternal life.” (DNTC 1:415)

James E. Talmage

“Christ would not have had His chosen representatives become childish; far from it, they had to be men of courage, fortitude, and force; but He would have them become childlike. The distinction is important. Those who belong to Christ must become like children in obedience, truthfulness, trustfulness, purity, humility and faith. The child is an artless, natural, trusting believer; the childish one is careless, foolish, and neglectful. In contrasting these characteristics, note the counsel of Paul: 'Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.'" (Jesus the Christ, pg. 387-388)

Mosiah 3:19

For the natural man is an enemy to God, and has been from the fall of Adam, and will be, forever and ever, unless he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man and becometh a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father.

JST Mark 9:40-48

40 Therefore, if thy hand offend thee, cut it off; or if thy brother offend thee and confess not and forsake not, he shall be cut off. It is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands, to go into hell.

41 For it is better for thee to enter into life without thy brother, than for thee and thy brother to be cast into hell; into the fire that never shall be quenched, where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

42 And again, if thy foot offend thee, cut it off; for he that is thy standard, by whom thou walkest, if he become a transgressor, he shall be cut off.

43 It is better for thee, to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell; into the fire that never shall be quenched.

44 Therefore, let every man stand or fall, by himself, and not for another; or not trusting another.

45 Seek unto my Father, and it shall be done in that very moment what ye shall ask, if ye ask in faith, believing that ye shall receive.

46 And if thine eye which seeth for thee, him that is appointed to watch over thee to show thee light, become a transgressor and offend thee, pluck him out.

47 It is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God, with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

48 For it is better that thyself should be saved, than to be cast into hell with thy brother, where their worm dieth not, and where the fire is not quenched.

Walter F. González

"Our exposure to doctrine and its principles will continue to be enhanced if we also hearken to the Lord's admonition about bad influences. It is very likely that there are people who pressure us to act or think in a way such that future quakes will find us inappropriately prepared. Regarding this, the Savior gave us a key which will help us better prepare today for the coming vicissitudes. He said, 'Therefore, if thy hand offend thee, cut it off; or if thy brother offend thee and confess not and forsake not, he shall be cut off.'"

"Fortunately, the Savior Himself taught the meaning of cutting off our hand. It's not about self-mutilation but rather about removing from our lives today those influences that keep us from preparing for tomorrow's earthquakes. If I have friends who are bad influences for me, the advice is clear: 'It is better for thee to enter into life without thy brother, than for thee and thy brother to be cast into hell.'" (CR, Oct. 2007)

Forgiveness

Matt 18:21-35

How much do others owe us compared to how much we owe the Lord?

What can happen to the Lord's gift of mercy if we don't follow His example always?

Mosiah 3:19

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Bruce R. McConkie

“Sooner or later all face an enforced rendering of accounts, all are subjected to temptation, trials, and impending death, and all are rewarded with mercy or justice as their situations merit. Mercy is for the merciful; justice, retribution, and punishment fall upon those who have dealt harshly with their fellow servants. 'With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again' (Matt 7:2). 'Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors' (Matt 6:12).” (DNTC 1:429)

The Seventy

Luke 10:1-3

What were the Seventy called to do?

Levi Edgar Young

“When Jesus was concluding his missionary labors in Galilee, he summoned his followers together, and out of them chose seventy to prepare his way. The mission of so many to go before him, two and two, and prepare for his arrival in every place which he intended to visit, implies for this last journey an important event. The instructions he gave them closely resembled those which he had issued to the Twelve.... The Seventy, going two by two, were announcing his divine teachings.” (CR, Oct. 1945)

The Seventy

Luke 10:17-21

How did Jesus bless the Seventy and help them accomplish their work?

How would you compare the Seventy of Jesus' time to the missionaries of our day?

Levi Edgar Young

“They came to give him an account of their successes. Their hearts were filled with astonishment and exultation.... He bade them feel sure that good was eternally mightier than evil, and that their victory over Satan would be achieved. He gave them assurance that they would be protected from harm because he had set his love upon them. Their names had been written, and stood un-obliterated in the Book of Life.”
(CR, Oct. 1945)

Levi Edgar Young

“To Jesus it was a provocation of purest happiness that God had chosen these men, unlearned and simple men, in preference to intellectual and aristocratic leaders. Throughout his ministry, peasants and fishermen, the unlearned and landless were called and he rejoiced that their mission had been sealed by God: that through the faith of the Twelve and the Seventy they had been invested with mysterious gifts of his Spirit.” (CR, April 1949)

Love Thy Neighbor

Luke 10:25-29

What is the reason given for the lawyer asking this question?

H. David Burton

“A lawyer chose to challenge the Savior on a point of doctrine. Attempting to entrap Jesus, he asked, ‘Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?’ Jesus responded with a question of his own: ‘What is written in the law? how readest thou?’ The response of the lawyer, as recited from the law, was perfect.... Jesus acknowledged the answer and then replied: ‘This do, and thou shalt live.’

“Having failed to confound the Master, the lawyer was embarrassed. He sought justification by making a further inquiry, ‘And who is my neighbour?’ We should be very grateful for the lawyer’s second question. From it came one of the most insightful of the Savior’s parables.” (CR, April 1997)

Love Thy Neighbor

Luke 10:30-37

Why was the Samaritan the true neighbor?

Hugh B. Brown

"[On the occasion when] the Master was asked who is my neighbor, he replied with the parable of the good Samaritan, which teaches the lesson that all who need our help, all whose lives we touch are our neighbors, whether they live across the street, over the fence, across the continent, or over the ocean. Our neighborhood has become world-wide." (CR, Apr 1963)

Following Christ

Luke 10:38-42

Today, are we "troubled about many things"?

What was the "good part" that Mary had chosen and the "one needful thing" we should focus on?

Bonnie D. Parkin

"The Savior's response strikingly clarified what mattered most. On that evening in Martha's home, the good part was not in the kitchen; it was at the Lord's feet. Dinner could wait.....

"Like all of you, I have to choose. We all are trying to choose the good part which cannot be taken from us, to balance the spiritual and the temporal in our lives....

"Jesus did not dismiss Martha's concern, but instead redirected her focus by saying choose 'that good part.'... The one thing that is needful is to choose eternal life. We choose daily. As we seek, listen, and follow the Lord, we are encircled in the arms of His love." (CR, Oct. 2003)

Next Week:

April 24–30

John 7–10

“I Am the Good Shepherd”

