

April 10–16
Matthew 15–17; Mark 7–9
“Thou Art the Christ”



Revelation

Matt 16:13-18

By what means did Peter know that Jesus was the Christ?

What is the “rock” upon which God will build His church?

Robert L. Simpson

“Peter was the recipient of personal revelation! And in like manner this same sweet confirmation of testimony can permeate the hearts of all truth-seeking, conscientious Latter-day Saints the world over. This great gift of personal revelation is unmistakable; it is direct. It is a more sure communication than the audible spoken word, for that which we hear through mortal ears is sometimes distorted, so often misunderstood. This precious gift of spirit speaking to spirit is infallible and direct and, in the case just cited, came from a loving Heavenly Father to his faithful disciple Peter.”

(CR, Oct. 1965)

Howard W. Hunter

“This is a very significant statement. The Lord in effect said to Peter that this knowledge that Jesus was the Christ did not come to him from mortal men or from the reasoning or learning of men, but by revelation from on high, that is, direct, divine revelation of the divinity of the Master.... The Lord then added, 'and upon this rock I will build my church.' Upon what rock? Peter? Upon a man? No, not upon a man, upon the rock of revelation, the thing which they were talking about. He had just said, 'flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.' This revelation that Jesus is the Christ is the foundation upon which he would build his Church.” (CR, Oct. 1965)

Revelation

Matt 16:19-20

Why was it essential that Peter and the other apostles receive the keys of the kingdom of heaven?

Merrill J. Bateman

“Near the end of His ministry, Jesus promised Peter ‘the keys of the kingdom,’ knowing that Jesus would soon leave and that priesthood keys were needed by the Apostles if they were to direct the work after His ascension. In order for them to receive the keys, Matthew records that Jesus took ‘Peter, James, and John... up into an high mountain’ where He ‘was transfigured before them’ and Moses and Elias ‘appeared unto them’ (Matt 17:1–3). Shortly after this event, the Savior declared that the Apostles now had the keys to direct the ministry. The Prophet Joseph Smith states that ‘the Savior, Moses, and Elias, gave the keys to Peter, James and John, on the mount, when they were transfigured before him’ (TPJS, pg. 158).” (CR, Oct. 2003)

Follow Christ

Matt 16:24-26

What does it mean to “take up [your] cross”?

What do you think Jesus means when He states, “whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it”?

JST Matt 16:25-29

25 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

26 And now for a man to take up his cross, is to deny himself all ungodliness, and every worldly lust, and keep my commandments.

27 Break not my commandments for to save your lives; for whosoever will save his life in this world, shall lose it in the world to come.

28 And whosoever will lose his life in this world, for my sake, shall find it in the world to come.

29 Therefore, forsake the world, and save your soul; for what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

David O. McKay

“Self-mastery comes through self-denial of little things. Christ in these singular words said: ‘... whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.’ Whenever you forget self and strive for the betterment of others, and for something higher and better, you rise to the spiritual plane. If, in the moment of quarreling, in the moment of temptation to find fault with another, we will lose our self-centered self for the good of the Church of which we are members, for the good of the community, and especially for the progress of the gospel of Jesus Christ we will be blessed spiritually, and happiness will be our reward.” (CR, April 1967)

Follow Christ

Luke 9:57-62

What is the Lord's message to those who would become one of His disciples?

Howard W. Hunter

"Three men had expressed their willingness to follow him and become his disciples.... It was necessary that the men who were called and set apart for the work should devote their time and attention and forego worldly affairs.... The Master made it clear that the work of the kingdom was to take precedence over all other things....

"Not one of the three was willing to follow him without first returning to their worldly affairs. The answer of Jesus is one of the great aphorisms of biblical literature. 'No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.'" (CR, April 1961)

Mount of Transfiguration

Matt 17:1-3

What was Peter, James, and John given at this time?

Joseph Smith

“The keys were first given to [Adam], and by him to others. He will have to give an account of his stewardship, and they to him....

“The Priesthood is everlasting. The Savior, Moses, and Elias [Elijah], gave the keys to Peter, James, and John, on the mount, when they were transfigured before him....

“How have we come at the Priesthood in the last days? It came down, down, in regular succession. Peter, James, and John had it given to them and they gave it to others.” (History of the Church, 3:385–88)

Mount of Transfiguration

Matt 17:4-9

What do we learn about the Godhead in verse 5?

In all of these instances where The Father introduces The Son what does He command us to do?

Spencer W. Kimball

“It was He, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who was introduced to surprised listeners at Jordan, at the holy Mount of Transfiguration, at the temple of the Nephites, and in the grove at Palmyra, New York. And the introducing person was none other than his actual Father, the holy Elohim, in whose image he was and whose will he carried out.” (CR, Oct. 1977)

Russell M. Nelson

“Above all, God’s children should learn to listen, then listen to learn from the Lord. On several sacred occasions in the world’s history, our Heavenly Father has personally appeared to introduce His divine Son with a specific charge to, ‘hear him.’” (CR, April 1991)

Faith

Mark 9:17-24

What can we learn about faith by the comment of the father and Jesus' reply?

How can increase our faith?

Joseph Smith

“If a man has not faith enough to do one thing, he may have faith to do another; if he cannot remove a mountain, he may heal the sick.” (HC 5:355)

Jeffrey R. Holland

"This man's initial conviction, by his own admission, is limited. But he has an urgent, emphatic desire in behalf of his only child. We are told that is good enough for a beginning. 'Even if ye can no more than desire to believe' Alma declares, 'let this desire work in you, even until ye believe' (Alma 32:27)..... In response to new and still partial faith, Jesus heals the boy....

"Observation number one regarding this account is that when facing the challenge of faith, the father asserts his strength first and only then acknowledges his limitation.... In moments of fear or doubt or troubling times, hold the ground you have already won, even if that ground is limited....

"Furthermore, you have more faith than you think you do because of what the Book of Mormon calls 'the greatness of the evidences.'" (CR, April 2013)

Larry S. Kacher

"Please consider a few questions posed by God's prophets as you strive to climb your ladder of faith:

"Am I stripped of pride? (Alma 5:28)

"Do I give place in my heart for the word of God? (Alma 32:27–28)

"Do I allow my afflictions to be consecrated for my gain? (2 Nephi 2:2)

"Am I willing to let my will be swallowed up in the will of the Father?
(Mosiah 15:7)

"If I have felt to sing the song of redeeming love, can I feel so now?
(Alma 5:26)

"Do I let God prevail in my life? (Russell M. Nelson, "Let God Prevail,"
Ensign, Nov. 2020)

"If you find your current path in conflict with your faith in the Savior,
then please find your way back to Him. Your exaltation and that of your
posterity depend on it." (CR, April 2022)

Faith

Matt 17:18-21

What do we learn about faith from Jesus reply to His disciples?

What did Jesus tell them they must do to have enough faith to cast out this evil spirit?

Russell M. Nelson

"The Lord understands our mortal weakness. We all falter at times. But He also knows of our great potential. The mustard seed starts small but grows into a tree large enough for birds to nest in its branches. The mustard seed represents a small but growing faith.... The Lord does not require perfect faith for us to have access to His perfect power. But He does ask us to believe.

"My dear brothers and sisters, my call to you this Easter morning is to start today to increase your faith. Through your faith, Jesus Christ will increase your ability to move the mountains in your life, even though your personal challenges may loom as large as Mount Everest." (CR, April 2021)

James E. Talmage

“The Savior's statement... indicates gradation in the malignity and evil power of demons, and gradation also in the results of varying degrees of faith. The apostles who failed on the occasion referred to had been able to cast out demons at other times. Fasting, when practiced in prudence, and genuine prayer are conducive to the development of faith with its accompanying power for good.... Have you some besetting weakness, some sinful indulgence that you have vainly tried to overcome? Like the malignant demon that Christ rebuked in the boy, your sin may be of a kind that goeth out only through prayer and fasting.” (Jesus the Christ, pg. 395)

John to Not Taste Death

Matt 16:27-28

John to Not Taste Death

John 21:22-23

22 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.

23 Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?

John to Not Taste Death

DC 7:3

Verily, verily, I say unto thee, because thou desirest this thou shalt tarry until I come in my glory, and shalt prophesy before nations, kindreds, tongues and people

3 Nephi 28

6 ...Ye have desired the thing which John, my beloved.... desired of me.

7 Therefore... ye shall never taste of death....

Next Week:

April 17–23

Matthew 18; Luke 10

“What Shall I Do to Inherit Eternal Life?”

