

April 24–30

John 7–10

“I Am the Good Shepherd”



The Living Waters and Light of the World

John 7:14-18

What must we do to gain and/or strengthen our testimonies of the doctrine of Christ?

Howard W. Hunter

"Action is one of the chief foundations of personal testimony. The surest witness is that which comes firsthand out of personal experience. When the Jews challenged the doctrine Jesus taught in the temple,... he added the key to personal testimony....

"Do we hear the imperative in this declaration of the Savior? 'If any man will do... he will know!'...

"Merely saying, accepting, believing are not enough. They are incomplete until that which they imply is translated into the dynamic action of daily living. This, then, is the finest source of personal testimony. One knows because he has experienced.... He can say, 'I have lived this principle in my own life, and I know through personal experience that it works. I have felt its influence, tested its practical usefulness, and know that it is good. I can testify of my own knowledge that it is a true principle.'" (CR, April 1967)

The Living Waters and Light of the World

John 7:37-39

How can we partake of the “living water” provided by the Savior?

What permeates from those who have drunken freely from the “living waters”?

Joseph B. Wirthlin

"These latter days are a time of great spiritual thirst. Many in the world are searching, often intensely, for a source of refreshment that will quench their yearning for meaning and direction in their lives. They crave a cool, satisfying drink of insight and knowledge that will soothe their parched souls. Their spirits cry out for life-sustaining experiences of peace and calm to nourish and enliven their withering hearts." (CR, April 1995)

Spencer W. Kimball

“What is it to know of the doctrine? It is an unwavering assurance. The Lord has offered a rich reward but has provided that it can be had only by meeting certain requirements....

“In this case the blessing promised is a knowledge of the divinity of the doctrine. And in this case the law or requirement is that one must do his will.’ Most of us know what his will is, far more than we have disposition or ability to comply.” (CR, Oct. 1944)

Joseph B. Wirthlin

"The Lord provides the living water that can quench the burning thirst of those whose lives are parched by a drought of truth. He expects us to supply to them the fulness of the gospel by giving them the scriptures and the words of the prophets and to bear personal testimony as to the truth of the restored gospel to alleviate their thirst. When they drink from the cup of gospel knowledge, their thirst is satisfied as they come to understand our Heavenly Father's great plan of happiness." (CR, April 1995)

The Living Waters and Light of the World

John 8:12

What do you think it means to be blessed with “the light of life” if we follow Jesus?

Dieter F. Uchtdorf

"What does this mean? Simply this: He who humbly follows Jesus Christ will experience and share in His light. And that light will grow until it eventually dispels even the most profound darkness.

"It means that there is a power, a strong influence, that emanates from the Savior. It proceeds 'forth from the presence of God to fill the immensity of space' (D&C 88:12). Because this power enlightens, uplifts, and illuminates our lives, the scriptures often call it light, but it is also referred to as spirit and truth....

"This profound insight... is as important as it is hopeful. The Light of Christ enlightens and saturates the souls of all who hearken to the voice of the Spirit....

"If you open your mind and heart to receive the Light of Christ and humbly follow the Savior, you will receive more light.... You will gather more light and truth into your souls until darkness has been banished from your life." (CR, Oct. 2017)

The Living Waters and Light of the World

John 8:31-36

Why are we free when we remove from our lives the things that the Lord has told us not to do?

Marion D. Hanks

“This freedom which he taught as being most important to mankind, comes to those who in righteousness have faith in God, learn his law, and seek to understand it, and who, obedient to it, and with responsibility, seek to do his will.

“There are many among us, and throughout the world... who have the idea that freedom can be found in unlicensed liberty. But this freedom which Jesus taught is not the freedom of irresponsibility or unrighteousness, but the freedom which accompanies obedience....

"[We] have the right to choose, but [we] violate [our] agency in choosing that which denies [us] the very freedom which God would have his children enjoy." (CR, Oct 1954)

Jesus is the Good Shepherd

John 9:11,18-28

What indicates that the Pharisees were more interested in discrediting Jesus than understanding the truth?

Jesus is the Good Shepherd

John 9:29-34

Why do you think the Pharisees refused to accept the obvious truth that Jesus performed miracles by the power of God?

Bruce R. McConkie

“The real problem bothering the Pharisees was not whether it was proper for Jesus to heal on the Sabbath day. Nor did it concern them whether or not Jesus was truly the Messiah. The Pharisees felt that their very existence as interpreters of the Mosaic Law was threatened. They demanded that every Jew conform his life to a harsh set of ritual rules and laws, the breaking of which would make him unclean and, therefore, unacceptable to God.” (DNTC 1:482)

Jesus is the Good Shepherd

John 9:35-38

Thomas S. Monson

“Those who have felt the touch of the Master’s hand somehow cannot explain the change which comes into their lives. There is a desire to live better, to serve faithfully, to walk humbly, and to be more like the Savior. “Having received their spiritual eyesight and glimpsed the promises of eternity, they echo the words of the blind man to whom Jesus restored sight: ‘One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see’ (John 9:25).

“How can we account for these miracles? Why the upsurge of activity in men long dormant?... I say, speaking of this new birth, ‘God touched them, and they awakened.’” (CR, Oct. 2004)

Robert J. Matthews

“The shepherd in Palestine lived a lonely life and was noted for his faithfulness and protection to his sheep. At night the sheep would be brought into an enclosure called a sheepfold which had high walls to keep anything or anyone from getting in. At the top of the walls were placed thorns which prevented wolves from leaping into the enclosure. Proper entrance was at the door only.

“Often several flocks were brought into one fold and one shepherd, called a porter, would stand guard at the door during the night while the others would go home to rest. When they would return in the morning, they would be recognized by the doorkeeper, allowed to enter, and each call his own flock and lead them forth to pasture.” (The Parables of Jesus, pg. 75–76)

Jesus is the Good Shepherd

John 10:1-9

What are some of the actions and characteristics of a good shepherd?

What are some of the actions and characteristics of the sheep?

Jesus is the Good Shepherd

John 10:10-15

What are the actions and characteristics of the thief/robber?

What are the actions and characteristics of the wolf?

What are the actions and characteristics of the hireling?

James E. Talmage

“Never has been written or spoken a stronger arraignment of false pastors, unauthorized teachers, self-seeking hirelings who teach for pelf and divine for dollars, deceivers who pose as shepherds yet avoid the door and climb over ‘some other way,’ prophets in the devil's employ, who to achieve their master's purpose, hesitate not to robe themselves in the garments of assumed sanctity, and appear in sheep's clothing, while inwardly they are ravening wolves.” (Jesus the Christ, pg. 417-418)

Jesus is the Good Shepherd

John 10:24-30

Why do some recognize Christ as the Good Shepherd and others do not?

What causes someone to recognize Christ as their shepherd in the first place?

Alma 5:38

Behold, I say unto you, that the good shepherd doth call you; yea, and in his own name he doth call you, which is the name of Christ; and if ye will not hearken unto the voice of the good shepherd, to the name by which ye are called, behold, ye are not the sheep of the good shepherd.

Bruce R. McConkie

“Why do some persons believe in Christ and his saving truths while others do not? Why is it easier for some to believe all of the gospel truths than for others? There is only one rational explanation why selected sheep hearken more readily to the Master's voice; it is the fact that men developed different talents in pre-existence. Spirits sent to inhabit some mortal bodies developed talents for spirituality, for recognizing the truth, for believing spiritual realities while yet in pre-existence; others did not.” (DNTC 1:492)

Jesus the God of the Old Testament

John 8:56-59

Why did His statement, “before Abraham was, I am” made the Jews feel that Jesus should be stoned to death?

Exodus 3:14

And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you

Jesus the God of the Old Testament

John 8:3-11

The scribes and Pharisees state that Moses gave them the Law, but who really gave it to them?

Next Week:

May 1–7

Luke 12–17; John 11

“Rejoice with Me; for I Have Found My
Sheep Which Was
Lost”

