

Two Observations from this Week

Brian Mundy, when he contacted me about this Discussion/Class said this to me.

- He shared with me his experience about the classes that he had while in Africa. He passionately shared again with all of us yesterday that experience in Africa about what God told him needed to happen.
- Brian asked that I share what it means "to sanctify your oil" as related in the message to the priesthood at Kirtland.
- Do not be hypothetical, but commit to things.

Jason said; 'Not to walk away from one another, and repeated this again saying, *'Not walking away when we disagree.'*

- John 6:65-66 *"And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except he doeth the will of my Father who hath sent me. From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him."*
- In Lehi's vision. 'And it came to pass that there arose a mist of darkness; yea, even an exceeding great mist of darkness, insomuch that they who had commenced in the path did lose their way, that they wandered off and were lost.' They did not cling to the rod of iron, which is 'the word of God' (1 Nephi 3:68). Jesus is the Word made flesh (John 1:1-5), and the Scriptures are the record of the word.
- Before Jesus appeared to the Book of Mormon people, like us they had disputations. All things were resolved and they became one.
- The rich young ruler story from Mathew 16-24. When the young man was asked by Jesus to sell what he had and give it to the poor, he 'went away sorrowful'. He departed from Jesus.
- In Luke 22:23-24. During the Lord's Supper the disciples had strife amongst themselves over who was the greatest. They were not one, but they would become one and do a mighty work.

What was the last interaction of Judas with Jesus? He kissed Jesus in betrayal and then departed from him.

Judas was not there with Jesus in Gethsemane. Judas was not there at Calvary. Judas was not there to witness Christ's resurrection. All for 30 pieces of silver. We have seen those in our day who have separated from the body for even less.

In these examples we see what happens when we walk away from Jesus, and the gospel. We see what happens when we walk away from each other. Those who have departed have suffered great loss. The Lord continues to reach out to those who are lost such as the 'lost sheep', or 'the prodigal son'.

Do we commit to the Lord right now that we will not leave Jesus and the gospel?
Do we commit that we will not depart from one another, but seek to become one.

Do we agree and acknowledge that we can only become one in Christ!

During the Elders Conference of 2023 some of the prayers that have been offered have included the petitions of;

"that we might be taught from on high"

"We pray for His power"

"Listen to that good Spirit that will give us understanding and compassion"

"May we speak with freedom and with boldness"

Does God Have a Plan?

Does God have a plan? What is His plan, and what has He told us about it?

Does our plan for life, match God's plan for us and His people? Is it big enough?

Does our plan that we see have specific details about what we must do, when we are to do it, and how we are to accomplish God's plan?

How does sanctification come? (Rev. 12:9-12) (Helaman 2:31) (D&C 97:4c-d)

Do we listen to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit? Are we obedient?

Parable of the Ten Virgins

- 1) What are the Ten Virgins likened unto?
- 2) Were the five wise virgins, good stewards? (lamp, wick, oil, time...)
- 3) Did the ten virgins have time to prepare?
- 4) How were the ten virgins alike, and what was different about them?
- 5) What were the characteristics of the five unwise?
- 6) What were the qualities of the five wise?

What do we do now?

Are we listening for God's voice? Are we focused on Jesus in our spiritual walk, as suggested by our theme?

We have the picture on our badges and notebooks that shows two disciples in Jesus' day walking to Emmaus. They were talking about Jesus, and walking away from Jerusalem.

While the two men were communing together in their journey, Jesus drew near to them and asked them the question why they were so sad. These disciples did not recognize who they were talking with was Jesus.

They had been talking about Jesus. They told Jesus of four things that they were pondering over about Jesus and what they meant.

- The betrayal of Jesus
- His crucifixion.
- His burial.
- His Resurrection that certain women, and Peter and John that when they went to the tomb, on the third day, Jesus was not there. They testified to these two disciples that angels said to them that Jesus was alive, and the two became astonished!
- Instead of walking away, these two disciples returned to Jerusalem, and bore witness that Jesus was indeed alive.

So now what?

On September 27, 2020 a Solemn Assembly was held. Thousands of Saints from around the world participated. The people came to the Lord to repent before the Lord that they might become clean before him.

On September 24, 2022 the Priesthood met in the Kirtland Temple. There were 153 Melchizedec, and Aaronic Priesthood. This gathering was called the Priesthood Gathering at the Kirtland Temple. The purpose of the gathering was for according to Joel 2:17, *“Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare they people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach...”*.

A message was given that called for God’s people to listen to Him, and He would lead them. This included two stewardships to work on, which would include taking the Holy Spirit as their guide, and to become one.

On September 25, the priesthood assembled again in the Temple to pray. The Spirit of God was so strong that the men of the priesthood prayed nonstop for God’s power and to ‘spare the people’. Presiding over the service was simply allowing the Holy Spirit to lead and not get in the way.

This was not the end.

In April of 2022, Howard Parker and Richard Neill received a call from a woman who was isolated from the Saints, living in Topeka, Kansas. Sister Connie Liable was asking for two elders to come and administer to her.

We came to the home and visited. She shared about her isolation. She shared many things and that she had followed the Solemn Assembly.

Towards the end of the visit, we set up a chair for the administration. I asked her if there was something she wanted to say to us before placing our hands upon her head.

She began to speak, and she said there was one thing that she wanted to say. She said there was one thing that she was disappointed about in regards to the Solemn Assembly, and that was that there was not an invitation to have the opportunity to repent as a people, only the invitation to repent on an individual basis.

I said to Sister Connie that she was very astute. Along with High Priest Steve Bohall, and High Priest Marlin Guin, I was part of the presiding team for the Solemn Assembly.

I told her that we met for many hours in regards to presiding, and that we had talked about repentance as a people. We felt that it was important to first focus on our personal relationship with the Lord. I shared with her that the Coordinating Council and Chairman had just felt directed, at that time, for the priesthood to take the next step and pray as has been mentioned to 'Spare thy people, O Lord'.

I wish to propose something for the Conference and leadership to consider.

I have given this much thought and prayer. I suggest calling for a third Assembly to be for the Saints. For this gathering to be in Independence MO. That Saints be invited once again from around the world to participate.

The model for planning would be similar to the Solemn Assembly. That this Assembly would be held on Saturday, April 6th, and be held at Waldo Ave./CPRS and satellite locations. Easter/Resurrection Sunday is March 31, 2024.

This would be done in conjunction with the CPRS School Board and the Waldo Branch for making arrangements.

In light of the ever-concerning conditions of the world and our nations, and the condition of the Church that the purpose for this Assembly would be to cry our repentance unto the Lord for our condition and pledge our commitment to God.

We have evidence in the Scriptures of a people repenting and making covenant with the Lord. I will quote the covenants made by the people of King Josiah in the Old Testament, and King Benjamin from the book of Mosiah in the Book of Mormon.

King Josiah was a good king whose reign is found in II Kings, chapters 22 and 23.

I will only quote from Josiah 23:3 in regards to the covenant of the people. *“And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.”*

This covenant would be in the Spirit of the covenant that King Benjamin and his people made in Mosiah 3:1-6. I include verse six, and then verses two and three.

“And we are willing to enter into a covenant with our God, to do his will, and to be obedient to his commandments in all things that he shall command us, all the remainder of our days, that we may not bring upon ourselves a never ending torment as been spoken by the angel, that we not drink out of the cup of the wrath of God.”

And they all cried with one voice, saying, Yea we believe all the words which thou hast spoken unto us,

And also, we know of their surety and truth, because of the Spirit of the Lord Omnipotent, which has wrought a mighty change in us, or in our hearts, that we have no more disposition to do evil, but to do good continually.”