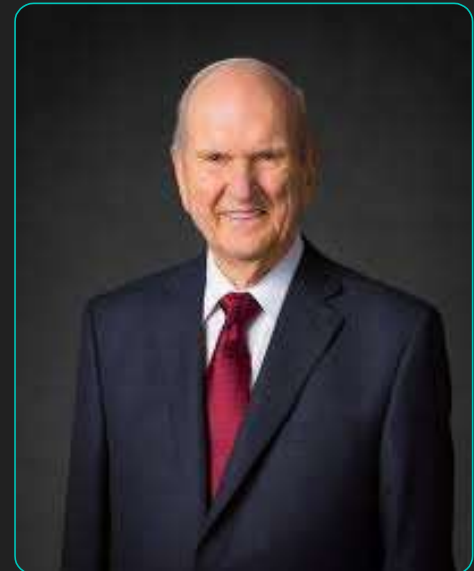


Silver Lake Stake Adult Institute Class

Week Four

Six Questions from a Prophet:

- The question for each of us, regardless of race, is the same. Are *you* willing to let God prevail in your life? Are *you* willing to let God be the most important influence in your life? Will you allow His words, His commandments, and His covenants to influence what you do each day? Will you allow His voice to take priority over any other? Are you *willing* to let whatever He needs you to do take precedence over every other ambition? Are you *willing* to have your will swallowed up in His? (Oct. 2020)



The Fall is a
blessing.

Bible Dictionary, 670

❖ Thinking you are not a good person.

VS.

❖ Knowing you are a fallen person.

Elder Renlund,



October 2020

- As followers of Jesus Christ, and as Latter-day Saints, we strive—and are encouraged to strive—to do better and be better. Perhaps you have wondered, as I have, “Am I doing enough?” “What else should I be doing?” or “How can I, as a flawed person, qualify to ‘dwell with God in a state of never-ending happiness’?”
- The Old Testament prophet Micah asked the question this way: “Wherewith shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the high God?” Micah satirically wondered whether even exorbitant offerings might be enough to compensate for sin, saying: “Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten [thousand] ... rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for ... the sin of my soul?”
- The answer is no. Good deeds are not sufficient. Salvation is not earned. Not even the vast sacrifices Micah knew were impossible can redeem the smallest sin. Left to our own devices, the prospect of returning to live in God’s presence is hopeless.
- Without the blessings that come from Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, we can never do enough or be enough by ourselves. The good news, though, is that because of and through Jesus Christ we can become enough.



April 2013
Conference

Without His Redemption from death and from sin, we have only a gospel of social justice. That may provide some help and reconciliation in the present, but it has no power to draw down from heaven perfect justice and infinite mercy. Ultimate redemption is in Jesus Christ and in Him alone.

***Salvation comes by redemption,
not by assimilation.***

Jesus did more than set an example; he did more than teach ethics, [or a standard and system of living]. With his suffering and his blood, he paid a debt to fulfill the demands of a broken law. He redeemed all living things. **The gospel is a law of redemption from sin and death, not just the assimilation of good habits.**

Robert J. Matthews, CES Symposium

The gospel is NOT the assimilation of good habits or the accumulation of good deeds. The gospel is the redemption of the soul made possible by believing and following the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Elder B. H. Roberts, *Seventy's Course in Theology*, 4:87

The Helplessness of Man in the Presence of Broken Law:

. . . How can satisfaction be made to justice in order that redemption may reach fallen man? Admittedly man, the transgressor of law, is powerless to make such satisfaction. True, it is conceivable that he might, through struggle, maintain himself in righteousness for the future. But that does not reach the past. If he should by struggle maintain himself in righteousness for the future, that is no more than he ought to do. Man owes that duty every day in the present and in the future.

Elder Roberts (cont.)

It is the breach in the law that must be mended. Man is under the sentence of eternal death, spiritual and temporal, for a past transgression of the law of God. Doing what is merely his duty in the present and the future will not make satisfaction for the past. Man is helpless in the presence of that broken law; no act of his can atone for the transgression of Adam or stay the effects of the fall upon the race, or redeem them from the penalty of death.

Elder Orson Pratt, Journal of Discourses 7:251-60

Independent of Christ's Atonement . . . how could fallen man, being fallen and corrupted, atone for his own sins? He could not do it!

[Independent of Christ's Atonement] how could fallen man deliver himself from the power of Satan to whom he had made himself subject? He could not do it!

[Independent of Christ's Atonement] Satan had claim upon man and there was no power in him, in the least degree, to redeem himself from that bondage. This is what we call fallen man, and this is what we call spiritual death.

Elder Richard G. Scott, October 2006 General Conference

Each of us makes mistakes in life. They result in broken eternal laws. Justice is that part of Father in Heaven's plan of happiness that maintains order. It is like gravity to a rock climber, ever present. It is a friend if eternal laws are observed. It responds to your detriment if they are ignored. Justice guarantees that you will receive the blessings you earn for obeying the laws of God. Justice also requires that every broken law be satisfied.

When you obey the laws of God, you are blessed, but there is no additional credit earned that can be saved to satisfy the laws that you break. If not resolved, broken laws can cause your life to be miserable and would keep you from returning to God. Only the life, teachings, and particularly the Atonement of Jesus Christ can release you from this otherwise impossible predicament. [This is according to the law of mercy]

The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37) and the plan of salvation:

The Man who comes down from Jerusalem is Fallen Man—us.

The Thieves represent the wicked world we live in and the injustices of life.

The Priest represents the Law of Moses

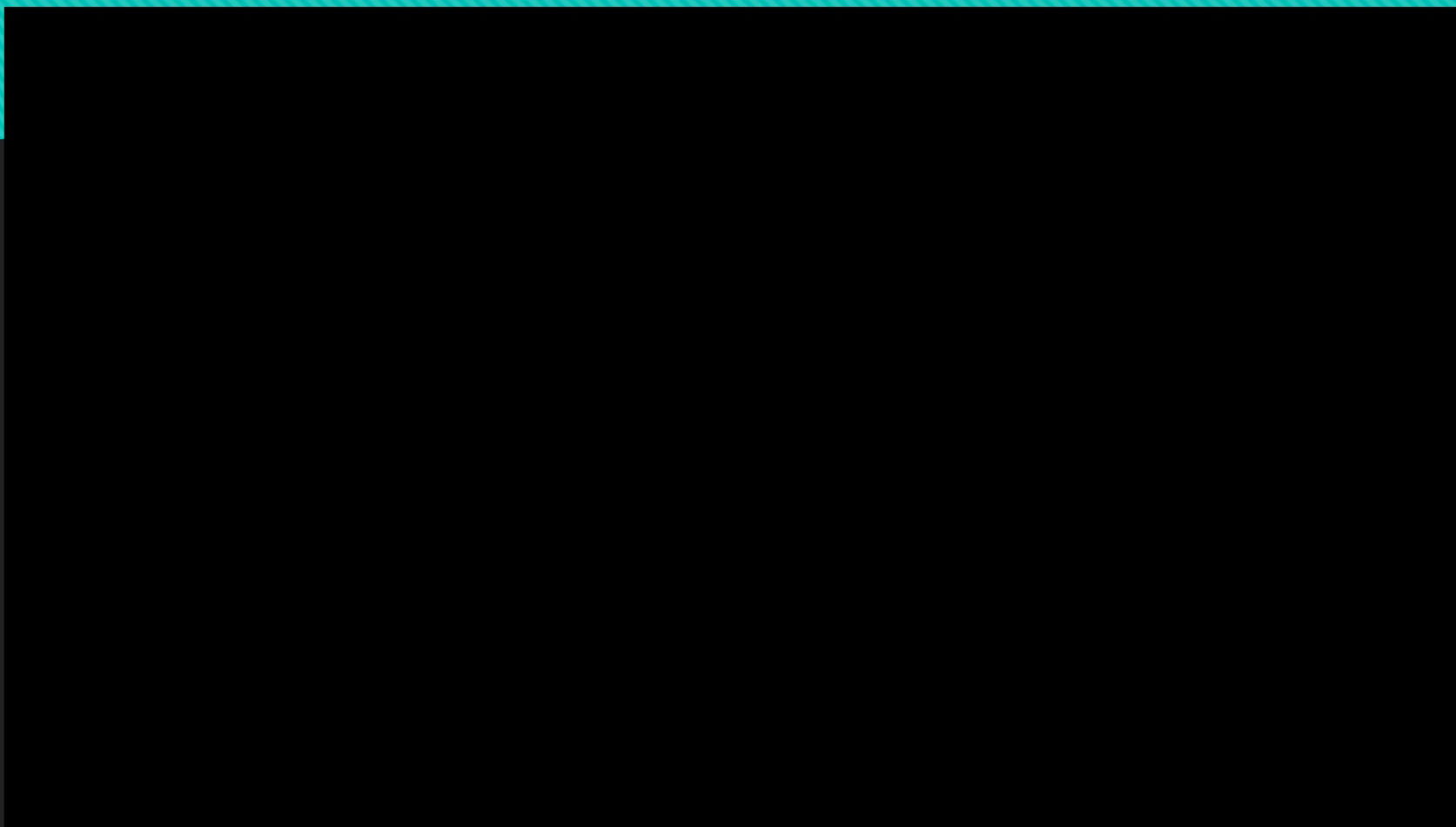
The Levite represents the lesser priesthood

The Good Samaritan is Jesus Christ

The Inn and host is Christ's Church

See: John Welch, *BYU Studies* 38:2; *Ensign* Feb. 2007

The Good Samaritan



Elder Scott (cont.)

The demands of justice for broken law can be satisfied through mercy. . . The Redeemer can settle your individual account with justice and grant forgiveness through the merciful path of your repentance. . . . Through His mercy you can resolve the consequences of broken laws.

(October 2006 Conference)

The Merits of Christ

2 Nephi 2:3-4, 6-8

2 Nephi 31:19

Mosiah 2:20-24

Alma 22:13-14

Alma 24:10-11

Helaman 14:13

Moroni 6:4