

The Atonement of Jesus Christ

Week 17 – March 13, 2024

Notes and Quotes

Forgiveness & Forgiving – Accepting the Atonement for All

Matthew 10:28

Joseph F. Smith, *Gospel Doctrine*, 337.

I feel in my heart to forgive all men in the broad sense that God requires of me to forgive all men, and I desire to love my neighbor as myself; and to this extent I bear no malice toward any of the children of my Father. But there are enemies to the Son of God.... But they are not and cannot become my bosom companions. I cannot condescend to that. While I would not harm a hair of their heads, while I would not throw a straw in their path to hinder them from turning from the error of their way to the light of truth; I would as soon think of taking a centipede or a scorpion, or any poisonous reptile, and putting it into my bosom, as I would think of becoming a companion or an associate of such men.

(Cf. Matthew 5:44-46; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; D&C 98:28-31)

D&C 58:42-43

Richard G. Scott, *Ensign*, November 2004, 18.

Now if you are one who cannot forgive yourself for serious past transgressions—even when a judge in Israel has assured that you have properly repented—if you feel compelled to continually condemn yourself and suffer by frequently recalling the details of past errors, I plead with all of my soul that you ponder this statement of the Savior: “He who has repented of his sins, the same is forgiven, and I, the Lord, remember them no more. “By this ye may know if a man repenteth of his sins— ... he will confess them and forsake them.” To continue to suffer when there has been proper repentance is not prompted by the Savior but the master of deceit, whose goal is to bind and enslave you. Satan will press you to continue to relive the details of past mistakes, knowing that such thoughts make forgiveness seem unattainable. In this way Satan attempts to tie strings to the mind and body so that he can manipulate you like a puppet.... I testify that when a bishop or stake president has confirmed that your repentance is sufficient, know that your obedience has allowed the Atonement of Jesus Christ to satisfy the demands of justice for the laws you have broken. Therefore you are now free. Please believe it. To continually suffer the distressing effects of sin after adequate repentance, while not intended, is to deny the efficacy of the Savior’s Atonement in your behalf.

(Cf. John 8:31-36)

Judgment

Oh thou who sittest in judgment upon thy brethren
and thinkest that thou art above;
Reflect upon the follies that are thine own.
Hast thou not plead for mercy with a broken heart
and sincere desire that thou wouldst be forgiven?
Would thou deny thy brothers that for which thou criest,
in order to cleanse thy soul and find peace?
Child, if thou would obtain the healing balm of Gilead,
Seek first to forgive thy brethren and be at peace with them

Thou canst not be one with me
Whilst thou art in conflict with that which is a part of me.
If thou would have peace with me, first be reconciled unto thy
brethren.

Then shall my love and mercy flow freely unto thee.
Then will the healing in my wings reach even unto thee,
And thou shalt be one with all who have come unto me
In oneness thou shalt find strength;
In unity shalt thou be clothed with charity for all men --
And thou shalt be forgiven.

Forgiveness

Should not I spare Nineveh? I ask of thee.
Should I not show mercy but justice decree?
Thou criest for justice for sins they have done,
But these are my children, whom my Son hath won.
My Son suffered sorrow; His blood shed for all
To redeem and restore all those who would fall.
My anger is kindled; yet if they repent,
It shall turn in a moment because One I have sent.
Should not I spare Nineveh, when they shall turn back?
And spare thee as well, though perfection thou lack?
Thou comest to my table to seek peace and rest
With emblems now broken and humbly blessed
Take now the bread and water of life
And think thou of others caught up in their strife.
These emblems of mercy are not just for thee;
But for all of my children who have wandered from me.
What will you answer, dear child of mine?
Will you allow others my mercy divine?

With head humbly bowed, my answer I give
Please forgive all, that I also might live.
Spare oh spare I humbly plea
Not just Nineveh but also me.

Reconciled

*The veil is parted allowing me in;
The light of God shows what is within.
This hallowed room within my soul,
Where Godliness dwells and I am whole.*

*From the world's call I am free
And I see the me I want to be.*

*On holy ground I ponder long
The path to which I truly belong.*

Am I to be a celestial soul?

Or merely dream of a Godly goal?

*Then He appears and I can see
To be like Him is what I should be.*

*But I see reflected in His eyes
What my soul cannot disguise.*

*The things I've done that marred my soul
I'm less than godly, incomplete – not whole.*

*There comes an ache into my heart –
He knows, He sees, my ugly part.*

I begin to turn my face away –

What can I do, what can I say?

I've tried so hard to heed the call

To follow Him but still I fall.

*With head bowed low I humbly plea,
"Please dear Lord, have mercy on me!"*

Then I feel His love; I see His face

I feel His arms in warm embrace.

Healing light fills my soul

And once again I'm Godly – I am whole.

The Godly child that lies within

Is now pure, and free from sin.

Reconciled to God above

By atoning power and the Savior's love.