

## FIRESIDE DECEMBER 27 2020

### MICAH'S NOTES

#### BLAKE'S NOTE

#### **Doctrine/Truth/Spirit/Light:**

Questions: What is doctrine? How is doctrine received by an individual? Where is it found?

A gospel doctrine is a truth of salvation revealed by a loving Heavenly Father. Gospel doctrines are eternal, do not change, and pertain to the eternal progression and exaltation of Heavenly Father's sons and daughters...A gospel doctrine answers the question "why?" Elder David A. Bednar, Act in Doctrine

D&C 84:45 For the word of the Lord is truth, and whatsoever is truth is light, and whatsoever is light is Spirit, even the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

D&C 93:24 And truth is knowledge of things as they are, and as they were, and as they are to come;

Doctrine is revealed by the President of the Church OR to the First Presidency and Quorum of the 12 acting in council together.

Doctrine is received by us when we read the standard works or the words of living prophets/apostles.

The doctrine is taught by all 15 members of the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve. It is not hidden in an obscure paragraph of one talk. True principles are taught frequently and by many. Elder Neal L. Andersen

2 Timothy 3: 12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. 13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. 14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; 15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Isaiah 28: 9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: 13 But the word of the Lord was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken. Isaiah 29: 24 They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine.

Ephesians 4: 4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. 11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of

Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive

Question: Who can change doctrine?

As doctrines “do not change”, no one, including the prophet of God, can change them. The prophet of God couldn’t come out tomorrow and say “Jesus isn’t the Christ and we are no longer going to teach that as doctrine”. We do not believe in supersessionism or abrogation, unlike the Catholics or Muslims etc. who believe a pope really can stand up and simply say “purgatory no longer exists” and \*poof\* it’s literally gone, and the next pope could stand up and simply say “purgatory is back” and \*poof\* it’s literally back.

Question: Can a prophet “make revealed truth into unrevealed truth?”

Yes. Can a prophet change “revealed truth into OTHER revealed truth”? No. A prophet of God absolutely can make revealed truth into unrevealed truth, or simply say “we don’t know why \_\_\_\_\_ is any longer”. This is almost entirely done because of the wickedness of the people and their inability to accept the doctrine. This was done with Moses on the Mt, what we got instead were the “10 Commandments”, and was done in our time period with the doctrine surrounding “why certain individuals couldn’t hold the priesthood”, it was changed from “revealed doctrine” to “don’t teach this anymore”; these items were NOT changed to “another doctrines” and won’t be, they simply will remained “unrevealed” until they are “revealed” once again.

Question: Should we steer clear of “deep doctrine”?

Trick question, there is no such thing as “deep doctrine”, only “revealed doctrine vs unrevealed doctrine” and if it is revealed doctrine that is accessible to you, you are expected to learn it and will be held accountable for it, regardless of if you learned it or not, it is based on if it was available to you or not.

## **Wisdom/Discernment/Understanding/Counsel/Experience**

Question: What is wisdom?

Wisdom is a revealed and applied knowledge of truth. It is custom tailored knowledge an individual receives of how to apply revealed truth or doctrine in a specific circumstance.

2 Nephi 31:3 For my soul delighteth in plainness; for after this manner doth the Lord God work among the children of men. For the Lord God giveth light unto the understanding; for he speaketh unto men according to their language, unto their understanding.

Jacob 4:10 Wherefore, brethren, seek not to counsel the Lord, but to take counsel from his hand. For behold, ye yourselves know that he counseleth in wisdom, and in justice, and in great mercy, over all his works.

Alma 37:12 And it may suffice if I only say they are preserved for a wise purpose, which purpose is known unto God; for he doth counsel in wisdom over all his works, and his paths are straight, and his course is one eternal round.

1 Corinthians 7: 6 But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment. 7 For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.

“It was a constant custom of the more conscientious rabbis, to make a difference between the things which they enjoined on their own judgment, and those which they built on the authority of the law (doctrine).”

“Speculation” would also fall into the category of “wisdom” or “personal judgement”

Question: How do we obtain wisdom?

It is when we consciously choose to receive intelligence/truth/light as revealed through the medium of Spirit by the Holy Ghost. A person can learn wisdom by studying and identifying the words of wisdom in the scriptures with the aid of the Holy Ghost. This knowledge has already come because others have acted in faith on revealed truth/doctrine. A person can also obtain wisdom directly for themselves by acting in faith on revealed truth/doctrine.

D&C 88:118 And as all have not faith, seek ye diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; seek learning, even by study and also by faith.

Words of wisdom are appropriate to use when counseling someone else. (see 2 Nephi 28:29-31, D&C 121:42 (there the phrase used is “pure knowledge”). However, remember that wisdom should not be given **by command**. It is **shared**. The person being counseled still retains agency to accept and act upon the words of wisdom or not. No special relationship or authority is required to counsel someone, however, words of wisdom often are better received and have a greater impact on someone when they themselves invite the counsel.

Words of wisdom can be and should be adapted to the capacity and circumstances of the individual being counseled. For example, the words of wisdom “you should seek forgiveness” probably isn’t appropriate counsel to give someone who is grieving the loss of a child. A better phrase to use in this situation would be “as you seek truth and comfort from God, He will bless you to understand His plan for your child”.

Church Handbook, 18.14.1 Melchizedek Priesthood holders may give blessings of comfort and counsel to family members and to others who request them. These blessings are typically given by family members,

ministering brothers, or priesthood leaders... A Melchizedek Priesthood holder does not need to seek approval from a priesthood leader to give a blessing of comfort and counsel or a father's blessing.

Question: what is the difference between doctrine and wisdom?

Wisdom is revelation and understanding of how doctrine applies in a specific situation/circumstance **and constantly changes based on the situation**. Doctrine is generally applicable to all people in all circumstances at all times **and it** doesn't change.

### **Commandments/Commands/Direction/Laws/Charge/Will of God**

Question: What are commandments?

An explicit and specific order or directive to do something, not do something, or to act at a later time. Commandments are given by those who hold authority over a person. Those authorized to give commandments for everyone are the Godhead. In the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, those authorized to give commandments are those who hold priesthood keys for a specific person or group of people.

2 Nephi 32:3, 5 Wherefore, I said unto you, feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do. For behold, again I say unto you that if ye will enter in by the way, and receive the Holy Ghost, it will show unto you all things what ye should do.

Question: Do commandments change according to the circumstances or the person?

Yes, depending on the circumstances and person. To Moses, God said "Thou shalt not kill". To Nephi, the Holy Ghost said "Slay him". Commandments can be given and rescinded.

**Galatians 5: 18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.**

Question: What relationship do commandments have to wisdom?

Wisdom may be acted upon without the need for a formal commandment. Wisdom, however, often does lead to obeying commandments already given. When we offer words of wisdom, we may encourage, exhort, or persuade others to obey commandments already given.

D&C 58:26-28 26 For behold, it is not meet that I should command in all things; for he that is compelled in all things, the same is a slothful and not a wise servant; wherefore he receiveth no reward. 27 Verily I say, men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness; 28 For the power is in them, wherein they are agents unto themselves. And inasmuch as men do good they shall in nowise lose their reward.

Question: Based on the above, is it enough to simply obey the commandments?

No. One must obey the commandment **and then on top of that** they must follow wisdom, doing good as best they know how. This does not mean neglect the commandments or ignore them, it means build your life of wisdom on top of the foundation of the commandments- it is an “in addition to” not a “in replacement of”.

Question: Who can give commandments or who can change them?

Those with the keys to do so over the spheres their keys entail. Those with the keys over his family can't give commandments that are in conflict with the commands to enter the temple, for example, the commands are specific to the keys over which they apply.

Question: Can single apostles give commandments to the church?

No. We, when getting our temple recommend acknowledge that only one has all those keys active in the 15 and that is the President or acting prophet of the church.

Question: If a single apostle gives a “command” such as “you should wear masks”, is that a command?

No. That is “wisdom” as he doesn't hold the keys active to make such a declaration broadly to the church.

### **Procedure/Culture/Policy/Guidelines**

Question: What is procedure?

A more specific or detailed instruction on how to apply or obey commandments, ordinances, or doctrine that has been revealed.

Question: Do procedures or policies change?

Procedure/Policies can change and are adapted to the time, place, and circumstances of the group charged with following the procedure.

Question: Can policies/procedures themselves include words of wisdom or commandments?

Yes.