

If Ye are prepared ye shall not fear

This paper is written in conjunction with my work on the parable of the 10 virgins as well as my temporal salvation paper. I up to this point in time wrote papers but they were kept between friends, family and missionaries until someone suggested that I publish my work and sell it. I personally have a big problem with anyone inside or outside the church (including seminary teachers) who make a living and/or money teaching or preaching the word of God. I personally have a big problem with this. I believe that the scriptures are crystal clear on this- anybody who does this is practicing priestcraft. Because of this I was unwilling to sell my papers, but due to the demand I began publishing them for free on my website and now on youtube. Since I began publishing my work online I started looking around to see what the intellectual state of the Saints of God was currently at.

Being frank and honest with you, I have to say I was not pleased. But what frightened me even more were certain topics, phrases, and talking points that kept cropping up over and over again and I couldn't figure out where people were getting them from. I did however find some signs of life among certain a very few, for example Hyrum Andrus whose work was published on the channel Light and Truth, but the vast majority of what I found was not only wrong but was scary wrong. Like I said, I kept seeing themes and talking points crop up over and over again and I couldn't figure out where they were coming from. Not only that, they all seemed to be borrowing the same slides from the same source. So I searched around and found Jake Hilton and I watched some of his videos (some were as long as 8 hours). Jake Hilton is an openly proud excommunicated member of the Church. It is painfully obvious that 75%+ of "LDS channels" teaching "LDS doctrine" are parroting Jake (knowingly or unknowingly) and not only that but are stealing and using his very slides (ie. Blood moon tetrad, "X" marks the spot etc). I could have told you years ago that Jake was headed for trouble when he said such things as "I don't accept callings, revelation, inspiration, direction etc from the keys of God unless God himself tells me personally." Joseph Smith taught that ANY MAN who belittles, besmirches, disregards etc the keys of the priesthood is on the high road to hell and apostasy. I had a lady the other week who sent me a message and said "you teach people not to follow the prophet?! You are a dime a dozen and are going to hell!" I completely agree with this woman- if you teach people not to follow the keys of God you ARE on the high road to hell and apostasy but I have never and I will never condone such doctrine on any occasion in my house or in my presence.

David was being chased by Saul (who was to David what we might call his bishop) and Saul was trying to murder him. David decided to sneak into the camp of Saul and cut the emblem of his priesthood office from his clothes and then in the morning presented it to the army camp to which the Lord rebuked David for attacking the keys of the priesthood. Trying to murder somebody in your ward, as bishop, is pretty bad. But yet David was still supposed to respect the office and the keys, not what Saul was doing. You can on one hand say that we are not all perfect and thus specific actions of bishops, stake presidents, apostles can be wrong, and you can acknowledge that they are wrong, while on the other hand, at the same time, confidently say that if the keys of God told me to move a mountain I could. For example, your bishop could have a vendetta against you to the point that he is trying to kill you and you can say "stop trying to kill me please! That's bad!" but yet if that same bishop said "everyone in my ward needs to do 10 jumping jacks a day" and you refuse to heed the call of the keys because of this vendetta with the bishop (which may even be a justified vendetta) you will be held accountable as though you disobeyed the voice of the Lord himself. Period.

Why is any of this important? Because a lot of members are parroting this idea that your relationship to Jesus is a separate matter to your relationship between you and the keys of the priesthood; that you could be right with Christ while being at wrong with the keys of God. This is incorrect and not only that, it is dangerously incorrect. "By the mouth of myself or the mouth of my servants it is the same." If one had a relationship with Christ, a real relationship with Christ, if they were a real "slave to Christ" they would by necessity also be a "slave" to the keys of the priesthood- they are one in the same. If you have a problem with this it is because by your very nature you are a prideful individual pitting your will against that of the Lord's will, for the Lord's will is to make His will known through the keys; He designed it that way! You don't like it? Take it up with Jesus. It is not man made and this pattern goes all the way back to Father Adam. Once again, like I said in my video "5 things that I wish the LDS people would take the time to learn and gain a testimony of" is Amos 3:7 "surely the Lord God will do nothing but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." The story that comes to mind often in my life when discussing this very subject is the story of Brigham Young addressing the other apostles deciding whether or not Joseph Smith had become a fallen prophet- Brigham Young stood and said "you cut the thread that binds you to the prophet and you sink yourself to hell!" If the keys of God tell you to do something in the name of the keys of God, speaking using their title, even if it is something you know to be "wrong" or a bad decision (ie. Wearing masks) you do it. If you get harmed or die etc following the keys of the priesthood the Lord will justify such; if you choose to follow your own path you have no such promise. The problematic question isn't "do you follow the keys of God when they speak?"- the answer to that question should be obvious to anyone who has a relationship to Jesus. The real problematic question you need to ask yourself is "what do I do when the keys aren't speaking?" Meaning, if the keys of God aren't specifically telling you to do anything and because of that you take no actions in your life, the Lord said of such "you are the slothful servants, you are the unwise servants." Joseph Smith said of such Saints that they who rely entirely on the prophet to tell them everything to do will become darkened in their minds and then once darkened in their mind they will join hip to hip with Babylon and start smiting their fellow members who not only follow the prophet but are also "anxiously engaged in good causes, and do many things of their OWN FREE WILL, and are bringing to pass much righteousness" (D&C 58:26).

What does any of this have to do with being prepared? When my wife and I were first married we lived in Winnipeg Manitoba. There we had a bishop, who will remain unnamed, who had a disagreement with me over temporal preparedness. His argument was that people only needed to be prepared spiritually and the Lord would provide the physical protection they needed. I quoted the Book of Mormon "we are saved by grace after ALL we can do" meaning the Lord makes up the difference, not the totality. If you have the means of providing self defense, food storage etc. for yourself and you do nothing grace is not a certainty/given to you or Christ is a liar. Needless to say my bishop and his wife strongly disagreed although they could not provide a counter argument. I told the bishop "if you don't do everything within your power to protect your family physically, the Lord gives you no such guarantee." He responded "I guess we will see." Right hand to the square I testify what happened next is true: within a week my bishop's house was broken into and thousands of dollars worth of stuff was taken including his wife's wedding rings (she was pregnant at the time and the rings couldn't fit her finger so she had taken them off.) The next time we came over to their house they had installed new locks on their windows and doors as well as a security system. I said to my bishop "I guess that settles it" and he said "settles what?" and I said "the Lord gives no guarantee He will protect you if you don't make an effort to protect yourself!" He responded with "that's not what happened..." and he changed the subject and never

brought it up again. We moved shortly after. This whole event reminded me of the story of the man caught on his roof in the middle of a flood who prayed to God for help and while he was pouring his heart out to God a rescue boat showed up- to which the man turned back to prayer and said “nevermind God, a boat has shown up, I don’t need your help anymore.” The first and most important thing you need to understand with “the righteous, the prepared, need/will not fear” is that the guarantee of grace will not be applied to you until after ALL you can do is done:

2 Nephi 25:23

23 For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.

So Saints that believe that they can go into debt to buy a house, a car, a new flatscreen tv and have no food storage or have no emergency funds etc etc and that the Lord in an emergency will just provide “manna from heaven” will find themselves dead. I do not mean simply spiritually dead, though such individuals are spiritually dead, I mean you will be destroyed both temporally and spiritually as spoken of by the angel in 1 Nephi 14 “when the real days of tribulation become sore.” For unto such is given much, much is required, but unto he that is not given much, not much is required. If you are struggling to make ends meet and you are living in a studio apartment and you bike everywhere and you don’t own a cellphone and you are still having trouble making ends meet, the Lord will take care of you. If however, you have one foot in Babylon and one foot in the church and you think that once the tribulations start you can fully jump into the Lord’s camp you will be sorely disappointed. Isaiah spoke of such a group to come, comparing them to livestock that spent their entire lives giving milk to the neighbor but then when trouble started tried to jump back over to the Lord’s hill. The Lord’s response was basically “you didn’t provide anything for me- what make you think I will let you eat in my pasture now that your time for milking and producing is past?” I go over in my paper/video “Temporal Salvation” just how easy and inexpensive it is for people in the United States and Canada to store a year’s supply of food. Can the Lord still protect, still save those that did not do all that they could? The answer is yes, yes he can and he might. But as the Lord said, “if you keep a commandment I am bound but when you do not keep the commandment you have no promise.” Meaning if you don’t do everything in your power to secure a year supply of food you have no promise from the Lord that he will protect and save you and “provide manna from heaven”- he might but you have no promise. What is that called? That is called uncertainty. And what does uncertainty cause? Fear. The reason why those that “are prepared” don’t fear? Because if the food storage goes bad for some fluke or a meteor hits your grain silo and blows it up, even if all your best laid preparations come to naught, they know that they have the Lord’s word, the Lord’s promise, that because they did all they could, they will be taken care of. There is a guarantee for these people; if the Lord has to provide manna from heaven to make it so, so be it. Fear flees from such a relationship. You will be afraid and you should be afraid if you have not done everything in your power commanded by the Lord. And the command from the Lord to provide, take care of, prepare, your temporal salvation is one of the first commandments the Lord ever gave to Adam and Eve.

The second and last thing you need to understand with regard to “the righteous not fearing” is:

D&C 29:34-35

34 Wherefore, verily I say unto you that all things unto me are spiritual, and not at any time have I given unto you a law which was temporal; neither any man, nor the children of men; neither Adam, your father, whom I created.

35 Behold, I gave unto him that he should be an agent unto himself; and I gave unto him commandment, but no temporal commandment gave I unto him, for my commandments are spiritual; they are not natural nor temporal, neither carnal nor sensual.

So what do we learn from this? The Lord gave two commandments when Adam and Eve were driven from the garden: to multiply and replenish the earth and to work for their own bread. Some mistakenly will break all commandments into one of two categories- spiritual commandments and temporal commandments. And then they will label those that they deem to be spiritual commandments as those being of greater worth and the temporal commandments being of lesser worth. So looking at the command that the Lord gave Adam and Eve some would mistakenly say are temporal commandments of little import to the Lord, they are “subjective” and don’t hold a candle to that of the “spiritual commandments.” Once they make this false justification they then proceed to go into debt, not get a food storage and only have one or two kids. If any member points out or teaches the doctrine those people become wroth (“don’t judge me!”) It is crucial to understand that ALL commandments from the Lord are given for a spiritual reason- the act of doing them with faith in the Lord has an actual effect on the spirit of the individual. There are not “temporal commandments” like the Word of Wisdom and “spiritual commandments” like thou shall not covet with one weighted more than the other. They are one in the same. When the keys tell you to jump, when the keys tell you to go home a shave your beard, the act of not doing it or doing it transcends the physical and becomes spiritual. Ezra Taft Benson addressed these individuals in the Church who sought to separate commandments from the Lord into two different spheres (temporal and spiritual) and then justified not doing what they deemed to be “temporal (worldly) commandments” based on the grounds that the commandments they put into the spiritual sphere were much more important when he said:

“Now Satan is anxious to neutralize the inspired counsel of the Prophet and hence keep the priesthood off-balance, ineffective and inert in the fight for freedom. He does this through diverse means including the use of perverse reasoning.

For example, he will argue, “There is no need to get involved in the fight for freedom – all you need to do is live the gospel.” Of course this is a contradiction, because we cannot fully live the gospel and not be involved in the fight for freedom.

We would not say to someone, “There is no need to be baptized – all you need to do is live the gospel.” That would be ridiculous because baptism is a part of the gospel.

How would you have reacted if during the War in Heaven someone had said to you, “Look, just do what’s right, there is no need to get involved in the fight for free agency.” Now it is obvious what the devil is trying to do, but it is sad to see many of us fall for his destructive line.” (Our Immediate Responsibility. BYU Devotional, October 25, 1966)

Likewise, those that say “I just need to keep the commandments and the Lord will provide me manna, I don’t need to worry about a food storage” are saying “I don’t need to be baptized, I just need to live the gospel of Jesus Christ.” You cannot claim to be living the gospel of Jesus Christ, you cannot claim to be a

“slave” of Jesus Christ, you cannot claim to be living the commandments and thus you don’t need to worry about “your temporal salvation”; for your “temporal salvation” is synonymous with your “spiritual salvation.”

In summary, we as Latter-Day Saints have been commanded for almost 200 years to get out of debt, to live within our means, to be “modest and comely” in our apparel, to garden, to have a food storage, and we have even been commanded to know how to make our own clothes! These are not “temporal commandments” they are “spiritual commandments dealing with our temporal salvation.” But the commandments have been in effect since the Ancient of Days, Father Adam. Those that do ALL that they can to keep ALL of the Lord’s commandments have the promise from the Lord that despite unforeseen problems that may or may not come He will take care of them. And because of that relationship, the righteous, the prepared, do not fear. However, those that do not keep all of the commandments, those that do not do ALL that they can do but rather they:

29 ... doeth not anything until [they are] commanded, and [they] receiveth commandments with a doubtful heart, and keepeth it with slothfulness, the same [are] damned.

30 Who am I that made man, saith the Lord, that will hold him guiltless that obeys not my commandments?

31 Who am I, saith the Lord, that have promised and have not fulfilled?

32 I command and men obey not; I revoke and they receive not the blessing.

33 Then they say in their hearts: This is not the work of the Lord, for his promises are not fulfilled. But wo unto such, for their reward lurketh beneath, and not from above. (D&C 58)

Such individuals, when they find that manna is not sent from heaven, when they find that “payday (redistribution of wealth)” does not occur, they will deny the faith and blame it on the Lord not fulfilling His promises. But the Lord warns such individuals that “your reward lurketh beneath, and not from above.” Their reward will not be manna from heaven- it will be something coming from beneath.

There will be those that say they have heard something different than this being taught. To those individuals I quote Ezra Taft Benson:

“Sometimes from behind the pulpit, in our classrooms, in our Council meetings and in our church publications we hear, read or witness things that do not square with the truth... Now do not let this serve as an excuse for your own wrong-doing. The Lord is letting the wheat and the tares mature before he fully purges the Church. He is also testing you to see if you will be misled. The devil is trying to deceive the very elect.” (Our Immediate Responsibility. BYU Devotional, October 25, 1966)

President Nelson:

“The time is coming when those who do not obey the Lord will be separated from those who do (see Doctrine and Covenants 86:1–7: “Wheat and the Tares”).

D&C 45:56-57

56 And at that day, when I shall come in my glory, shall the parable be fulfilled which I spake concerning the ten virgins.

57 For they that are wise and have received the truth, and have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide, and have not been deceived—verily I say unto you, they shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire, but shall abide the day.

As I said clearly at the start of this, there is a difference between people identifying leaders doing wrong things and that of choosing to not listen to the keys. Ezra Taft Benson was not telling members that its okay to ignore the keys when they tell you to act. He is however saying that there are tares in the church and they are teaching incorrect doctrine but that will not be an efficient excuse for you if you heed it. My mission president always used to say “we are called into positions in this life to either exalt us or condemn us” we are the ones to make this decision, not the Lord. Ezra Taft Benson in the same talk said basically the same thing:

“As members of the Church we have some close quarters to pass through if we are to save our souls. As the Church gets larger some men have increasing responsibility and more and more duties must be delegated. We all have stewardships for which we must account to the Lord.

Unfortunately some men who do not honor their stewardships may have an adverse affect on many people. Often the greater the man’s responsibility the more good or evil he can accomplish. The Lord usually gives a man a long enough rope and sufficient time to determine whether that man wants to pull himself into the presence of God or drop off somewhere below.

There are some regrettable things being said and done by some people in the Church today. As President Clark so well warned, ‘The ravening wolves are amongst us, from our own membership and they, more than any others, are clothed in sheep’s clothing because they wear the habiliments of the priesthood.... We should be careful of them.’ “ (Our Immediate Responsibility. BYU Devotional, October 25, 1966.)

Brothers and Sisters, we know the commandments, we know the players, we know the teams and we know the final outcome. The only decision we make is which team we wish to play for. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord, and because of that, we will not fear. Amen.