

BUY OF ME GOLD TRIED IN THE FIRE

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Grace be to you, and peace, from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Galatians 1:3-5)

Thy Faith Hath Made Thee Whole

Our Lord gave me a special gift during the Christmas season of 1993 that I would like to share with you. Some time ago I asked Him to teach me the meaning of the words He often spoke to those He had healed: “*Thy faith hath made thee whole*” and “*Thy faith hath saved thee.*”¹ It seemed to me that the presence of Jesus Christ Himself was the reason for these healings He performed through the gift and power of the Holy Ghost. Yet, Jesus affirmed that it was the individuals’ faith that brought the blessing they had desired at His hand.

The answer to my question came with power and much assurance while my family and I watched a movie depicting the life of Jesus Christ. We were watching a scene in which a Pharisee named Simon had invited Jesus to his home for dinner. As Jesus and Simon visited together with the others of their company, a woman entered and began anointing Jesus’ feet, washing them with her tears and kissing Him. You know the story. It is found in Luke 7, verses 36-50.

According to the account given by Luke, this woman, whom Simon knew to be *a sinner*,

dared to touch Jesus, the Holy One of Israel. What gall! And Jesus let her touch Him! Would a holy prophet sent from God permit such a one as her to touch Him? This seemed to be the thought that Simon prided himself in thinking:

Now when the Pharisee who had bidden him saw this, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who, or what manner of woman this is who toucheth him; for she is a sinner. (Luke 7:39)

Simon had a problem in his thinking. He apparently felt that the holy God of Israel was above being touched by the infirmities of His people. In fact, Simon must have felt that God shunned those who had failed to keep His commandments. Was not the time ripe for Emmanuel to visit His house and dispel this notion? It appears to me, at least, that Jesus was in the house of Simon the Pharisee that day by God’s appointment to witness to Simon and to everyone that God was and is otherwise minded. That is to say, God is very concerned with the welfare of His people. He was concerned enough to send His only Begotten Son, Jesus

¹ e.g. Mark 10:53 & Luke 7:50

Christ, to atone for **all** sin worldwide and throughout every generation!²

I tell you, No man hath ascended up to heaven, but he who came down from heaven, the Son of man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up; that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish; but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He who believeth on him is not condemned; but he who believeth not is condemned already... (John 3:13-18)

Our Lord is not without compassion. Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of man, and being “touched with the feeling of our *infirmities*” He is prepared to receive the truly penitent unto Himself.³ In this we should take heart and know that we can come to Him for mercy, especially *in time of need*, according to the angel message of “*good tidings of great joy.*”⁴

Jesus came not to condemn but to set at liberty those who are held captive to sin, meaning the whole world.⁵ For since the fall of Adam, the cloud of condemnation and the yoke of bondage to sin have reigned over all Adam’s posterity. Those who come to Christ and abide in Him by exercising faith on His name, as the true light of the world, are redeemed from this condemnation.⁶ Those who do not, however, remain under the condemnation of sin; they remain as if no redemption had been made.⁷

² I John 2:2

³ Hebrews 4:15,16 with Alma 19:105,106

⁴ Luke 2:10 with Mosiah 1:95-107

⁵ Luke 4:18,19 & John 8:1-36 with D&C 83:7f-i & Alma 5:17-22

⁶ Romans 8:1 with John 15:1-17

⁷ cf. John 3:17-19, Romans 5:12-21 & Alma 9:15-32

As I watched this drama of the intermingling of human nature with the divine, my soul was moved with the thought of the great emotions that must have been present in this woman as she came into a room filled with men and stooped down in humiliation before the Master to wash and anoint His feet. What brought her such courage to suffer a public show of her character, especially in this humble act of service and homage?

From a critical point of view, I suppose one might assume that she must have known what others would think of her and the contempt they most assuredly would have for what she was about to do. What could she hope to accomplish with this brash intrusion into the household of Simon the Pharisee – to cross his threshold and interrupt his guests and his special meal? But more importantly, how did she know she would not be rejected by the Master Himself for touching Him in such an intimate way at such an inopportune time and thus suffer even greater shame?

What did she hope to gain? Or rather, as I began to realize, what was she gaining as she came to Jesus to minister to Him? The answer became soberingly real to me as the scene continued. She was receiving peace and comfort and joy with each step she took toward the Master. Joy soon came flooding into my own soul as I contemplated the fulfillment of her long spiritual and emotional journey to Jesus’ feet.

Oh, the blessed triumph of the gospel! She most assuredly was gaining peace and comfort as she drew nearer to Him. The Comforter was drawing her. He was leading her to the one and only sure source to which she could come and receive the everlasting remission of her sins.⁸ Though she had gone astray in the past, she was now following like a sheep of His fold.⁹

Yes, her sins were many.¹⁰ But she had faith. Not an intellectual kind of faith which comes by

⁸ cf. II Nephi 11:48

⁹ cf. John 10:4

¹⁰ Luke 7:37,47

simply assenting to the divine nature of Jesus. She had substantive faith!

She was following the directions of the Holy Comforter at the very moment she was being called to do so! She was exercising **her** faith. That is to say, she was acting upon the assurance that had been given to her by the Comforter for her hope of release from sin.¹¹ And even though the Spirit was leading her “through the valley of the shadow of death...in the presence of [her] enemies,” if you will, she chose to follow. In so doing she obtained the object of her faith: forgiveness and release from the bondage of suffering.¹² In this act of worship and submission, she became a *doer of the word*; her faith was alive, not being without “works meet for repentance.”¹³

Did she come to Jesus begging? Perhaps! But more importantly, she came to worship Him and to serve Him. This was a marvelous display of faith.¹⁴ It was not an act of premeditated thought or some personal plan to free herself. She was responding to the guidance of the Spirit of Christ, i.e. the spiritual voice of the Son of God, who says, “Come, come and partake of the living waters freely.”¹⁵ It is the Spirit of Christ who leads us onward out of sin and upward into all truth, cleansing us and filling us with light along the way until we are filled completely with the light of God through Jesus Christ, *the Way, the Truth, and the Life*.¹⁶

Truly this woman was a daughter of Abraham, who:¹⁷

...against hope believed in hope... and... staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded, that what he had promised, he was able also

¹¹ Hebrews 11:1 with Hebrews 10:36

¹² cf. I Peter 1:3-9

¹³ James 2:17,18, Acts 26:20 & Alma 3:95,96

¹⁴ Hebrews 11:6 & Romans 10:13

¹⁵ cf. D&C 83:7 & 85:17,18 with Revelation 22:17, Isaiah 55:1-3 & John 4:12-16

¹⁶ cf. John 10:4, 14:6 & 16:13,14 with Mosiah 2:2-6

¹⁷ cf. John 8:39 with James 2:20,21

to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. (Romans 4:18-22)

Like Abraham before her, this woman’s action in coming to Jesus, or rather her *work* or “*evidence*” of faith, was accounted to her for righteousness.¹⁸ Her sins were, therefore, forgiven her because of her faith in the Lamb.¹⁹ Yes, through Jesus Christ comes the power and encouragement to be healed. But she had to believe **and** to come to Jesus for healing in a manner designed of God.

And we desire that everyone of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope [faith] unto the end; that ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (Hebrews 6:11,12)

Coming as she did – at what may have appeared to be an inopportune time – in response to the Comforter’s direction and assurance, most assuredly constituted a trial of her faith.²⁰ But her faith held fast in the One who gave it. Her willingness to come to the Master and to place all of her burdens at His feet, in the midst of the persecution suffered through the scorn of others, brought an abundance of blessing according to the Lord’s promise.²¹

This woman was able to overcome the obstacles of fear and persecution because she was not seeking the honor the world offers; but rather she was seeking the honor which comes only from God in Christ Jesus.²² In contrast, the proud who seek the honor that this world offers will never find it convenient to come to Christ when the Spirit calls:

Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which

¹⁸ James 2:20-22 with Hebrews 11:1

¹⁹ Luke 7:48-50

²⁰ cf. I Peter 1:3-9

²¹ cf. Matthew 5:12-14

²² cf. Philippians 3:8-15

testify of me. And ye will not come to me that ye might have life, lest ye should honor me. I receive not honor from men. But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you. I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not; if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. How can ye believe, who seek honor one of another, and seek not the honor which cometh from God only? (John 5:40-45)

No doubt this woman's mind was inundated with a myriad of disturbing thoughts as she passed through the stares and comments of disapproval that must have been directed at her as she came and knelt at Jesus' feet. But she was not looking outwardly for approval of her act of affection. She was being comforted and guided from within according to her hope of forgiveness and her desire to serve her Lord. She was being guided by the hand of a loving Father who knew the great sorrow and despair of her soul. He had been seeking her out and was now ministering to her through His Anointed, His Only Begotten Son.

Jesus came into the world for such as this woman. He indeed came for all of us who are *heavy laden* with sin and the associated distresses of the same.²³ Therefore, the Father drew her to Jesus to heal her.²⁴

God's call to this woman to come to His Son was the ultimate foundation of her faith. But she had to allow herself to be drawn through the gauntlet of ridicule and scoffing to the throne of mercy. And she came. Praise God! She came! According to faith, not sight, she came. In response to the loving invitation of the Spirit, she came.

This woman believed and so she came to the Master to worship and honor Him. She did not allow her heart to be hardened through unbelief in this difficult situation; rather, she responded affirmatively to the loving touch of the Comforter. In so doing, she chose God's honor even

²³ cf. Matthew 11:29,30

²⁴ cf. John 6:44 with D&C 83:7

though it meant dishonor to herself before others.

As Lehi of old, she came to the living waters to drink and to the tree of life to eat.²⁵ Though she had to first pass through a barren waste, as it was, she had come because of the One who came to lead her through to *the sure mercies of David*.²⁶ And, though scoffed at, there she remained.²⁷

And so, by her faith she was healed.

Oh! how the angels must have sung praises to the most high God that day.²⁸ Oh! how blessed is our God who is able to save sinners, to draw them forth out of a world of sin, a world which spurns the weak and the broken, and to lead them in the path of righteousness!

Inasmuch As Ye Have Done It... Ye Have Done it Unto Me

Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, also anointed Jesus with ointment in preparation for His burial, wiping His feet with her hair.²⁹ Judas, who would soon betray Jesus, objected, saying that Mary should have sold the ointment and given the money to the poor. What was Judas' motive? John wrote:

This he [Judas] said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.
(John 12:6)

By selling the ointment more wealth would have been added to the bag he was holding.

Priesthood who withhold their gifts and blessings from the fold of Christ are like Judas of old who held the money bag intended for the poor. The gifts and talents each priesthood member holds are for the benefit of Christ's body.³⁰ Do

²⁵ cf. I Nephi 2:44-53

²⁶ cf. Acts 13:34 with Isaiah 55:3

²⁷ cf. I Nephi 2:68-76

²⁸ Luke 15:10

²⁹ John 12:3-8

³⁰ cf. Ephesians 4:7-16

we of the priesthood hang onto and/or request more blessings of God, while having the eye of a thief, i.e. by withholding all that has been entrusted to us in our calling from those for whom they were intended while desiring more for ourselves?³¹ Or are we like those in the early church who, when the Holy Ghost fell upon them, did not claim as their own that which they possessed, both spiritual and physical wealth?³² Such is the heart of them who are called Zion.³³

When we do not visit the flock or magnify the calling of the office to which we were set apart, we are robbing the poor. The righteous and faithful are prepared *to give meat in due season*.³⁴

Judas was using the poor as a cover for his true motives. He enjoyed the importance of holding the money, i.e. the blessings and honor of place and position. But would he disseminate freely the wealth God had entrusted into his hands (his time and talents) to others? No, he was too focused on his own *place*.³⁵

Oh, my priesthood, saith the Spirit of your Lord and your God, How often I have called you to serve me in humble submission, to carry my gospel to those in need and ye would not. Come to me and I will heal you and restore you as at first when you gave me your firstfruits. Let none hinder you by listening to their jeers or ridicule. It is I, your Master, who doth solemnly call you. Oh, come then and be healed. Come and partake of my goodness. Set no other gods before you which are not gods; for there is no god beside me. Come then. Come quickly and I will own you. Otherwise you have your reward already in the confusion and turmoil of your minds. What shall I say more? Repent and come. For I am without the door and knock. Open to me and I will

³¹ James 4:3 with D&C 63:3,4

³² Acts 4:32

³³ Genesis 7:23 IV & D&C 94:5

³⁴ cf. Matthew 24:51-54

³⁵ cf. Acts 1:25

come in and bring a grand feast to your souls, with all peace and joy and comfort. Come and I will own you and plant your feet upon the solid ground of my Zion. Come and you shall know me. Thus saith the Lord your God, the Almighty One who reigns on high and in the hearts of the righteous. Thus I have spoken it and thus it is so forever without end, for I am without number of days, worlds without end; I pass not away. I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of peace, the eternal God. I am Jesus Christ, your redeemer and friend. Come then and enjoy the words of eternal life and I will give your souls rest in my kingdom, for so it is my pleasure to bless you, if you will but come and partake of all my goodness. Even so, Amen.

Oh! the marvelous revelation of God's word! For this is the word of the Lord which I received while writing this message. Of truth, His word brings a perfect joy to the hungering and laboring soul. Oh, then, my beloved brethren, I commend to you His divine invitation. Please give it your utmost prayerful attention.

He is our Lord and He awaits our response. But brethren, let us not judge each other's response:

Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth; yea, he shall be holden up; for God is able to make him stand. (Romans 14:4)

If we see others fall short, may we strengthen them through the Word of God and the through prayer of faith.³⁶

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. (James 5:16)

³⁶ e.g. Galatians 6:1

Others are now being called to the work. Those who respond to the call of the Master, to impart of their substance in their season, will be greatly blessed at His coming.³⁷ Those who do not, by procrastinating the day of their repentance (by not bringing forth good fruits), will someday find themselves looking up in torment as the rich man who refused to minister to the beggar Lazarus and to his need while he passed by him each day.³⁸

We cannot continue to pass by the needs of others, saying, “I am too busy now; I have other obligations; I’ll get to the Lord’s work later.” My brethren, we must make time now to serve the Lord.³⁹ Living to the will of God means setting aside our own hopes and plans and responding to every impulse of His Spirit.⁴⁰ This is what it means to walk in the Spirit.⁴¹

Every prompting to act that comes of the Spirit of truth which goes unheeded by us is a lost blessing not only to ourselves but also to others. We must respond in the moment the Spirit calls to us, as did the woman who came to Jesus’ feet, even if we must go into places or situations which may seem unfriendly to us. Jesus has promised to go before us into the places where He guides us. May we go where He leads, then, with courage and in faith. But we must be careful not to go according to our own designs or in our own wisdom but as He directs.

Referring back to Mary, she freely gave her most precious ointment to minister to her Master in preparation of His burial. In Mary’s defense Jesus said to her accuser, “The poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always.”⁴² While Jesus is not physically present among us today, we can minister to Him through service to those who stand in need of our support.

³⁷ Mark 13:56,57

³⁸ cf. Luke 16:24-36 & Alma 16:229-236

³⁹ I Peter 4:1,2

⁴⁰ cf. Moroni 7:10-18

⁴¹ Galatians 5:22-26 & John 3:8

⁴² John 12:8

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. (Matthew 25:41)

Consider, for example, the words of wisdom King Benjamin taught his people:

And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings, ye are only in the service of your God. (Mosiah 1:49; see Proverbs 19:17)

As King Benjamin testified, when ministering to others we are only in God’s service.⁴³ Jesus is our example; kneeling at His own disciples’ feet, He ministered unto them and said to do likewise.⁴⁴

I Will Make a Man More Precious Than Fine Gold

Who then will heed the call to come to Jesus Christ and serve Him through faith? Those who give heed will receive the same blessings the woman received at the feet of Jesus, i.e. forgiveness of sins and renewed hope. Why then won’t everyone come? As mentioned above, it is a matter of honor.⁴⁵

Those who seek the honor of the world will always find it inconvenient to come to Jesus when the Spirit calls. Only those who consider God’s honor to be of the utmost worth to themselves and to others will come to the Master where they may gratefully receive and share the riches of eternity. But like the woman, they must first pass through the trial of their faith:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abun-

⁴³ Mosiah 1:49 with Moroni 7:5-9; see also Luke 3:13, John 8:39 & Ephesians 5:9

⁴⁴ Mark 10:42-45 & John 13:1-17

⁴⁵ John 5:40-45

dant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations; **that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ; whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory; receiving the object of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.** (I Peter 1:3-9; see D&C 92:1a)

God's avowed will is to refine our hearts through *the trial of our faith* so that we all might be made partakers of His goodness in the kingdom of heaven.⁴⁶

*Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light; the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. **I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.** Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the Lord of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger. Everyone that is proud shall be thrust through; and everyone that is*

⁴⁶ cf. Revelation 22:1-6 with Psalm 34

joined to the wicked shall fall by the sword. Their children also shall be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses shall be spoiled, and their wives ravished. (Isaiah 13:9-13,15,16; cf. Job 28:12-20 & I Chronicles 29:1-5)

And this He often accomplishes through chastening.⁴⁷ If we endure the chastening of His hand, our Lord treats us as dear children; if not, we cannot be sanctified and received thereby into His kingdom.⁴⁸

While it may very well be easier for us to see the failures of others than our own, we must never point to such failings as reason for our lack of response to the call of the Lord.⁴⁹ Though dealing with our own failings is a much more formidable notion to us, each one of us must come submissively to the Master through the trial of our own faith. Only then will our faith be refined as fine gold. Accordingly, may we pray like King David:

Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalm 139:23,24)

Jesus alone can refine our hearts. He is the author and finisher of our faith and we are the workmanship of His hands.⁵⁰ Therefore, we must all pass through the trial of our faith as He sees fit.⁵¹

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that [faith] not of yourselves; but it [faith] is a gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good

⁴⁷ cf. D&C 92:1a

⁴⁸ Hebrews 12:1-13 with D&C 98:2

⁴⁹ Matthew 7:4,5 with Genesis 3:17 & I Samuel 15:24-26

⁵⁰ Hebrews 12:1-3 with Philippians 1:9-11 & Colossians 1:9-12

⁵¹ cf. Mosiah 1:119-120 & Romans 8:16-25

works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

In fine, we must offer to Him the sacrifice He requires, not that of voluntary humility, but that of humble submission to His will.⁵²

Jesus Christ calls every one of us to take up our own cross and follow Him through the Comforter, as did the woman who entered Simon's house to anoint His feet.⁵³

Many people of great faith have gone on before us; and each of them has had to pass through the trial of his or her own faith.⁵⁴ Like them, we must permit ourselves to be drawn nigh unto the Christ, coming to Him "without the camp" by taking up our cross and offering to Him the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.⁵⁵ Jesus has led the way:⁵⁶

Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. (Hebrews 12:1-3)

There is no other source of redemption. We must come to Jesus to be refined. Otherwise, we will remain in our sins and suffer the wrath of a just God.⁵⁷

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with good, and have need of noth-

⁵² cf. D&C 94:2f & Revelation 3:17-19 with Colossians 2:18

⁵³ cf. Luke 14:16-34 with John 16:13,14

⁵⁴ cf. Hebrews 11

⁵⁵ Hebrews 13:12-16

⁵⁶ II Nephi 13:12-17

⁵⁷ cf. Alma 9:28-32

ing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked; I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten; be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. (Revelation 3:17-22)

The word is **zealous**. God requires our full devotion, and He proves us to know whether we will abide in His everlasting covenant through our love for Him and His Word, the Truth.⁵⁸

What great mercy this is that our God has given us the opportunity to prepare ourselves through repentance and faith in the Lamb before the great and dreadful day of the Lord!⁵⁹ Those who have hardened their hearts and procrastinated the day of their repentance will suffer great loss at that day. But no wrath awaits those who have come to Jesus Christ with broken hearts and contrite spirits, as did the woman who came to Him in Simon's house.⁶⁰

Oh, come then all ye who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest; I will heal and spare not and will restore that which was lost, saith the Lord of hosts. Oh, come and I will heal you. Make haste and you shall know that I live and that I live to set you free forevermore. Be therefore kindly affectionate one to another and I will

⁵⁸ Deuteronomy 13:1-5 & D&C 95:3

⁵⁹ Alma 9:41 with II Nephi 6:44-48

⁶⁰ III Nephi 4:49,50

be in your midst. Come and drink of the life-giving waters. Come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden. Come and find peace to your souls. The Spirit says, "Come," and the bride says, "Come," and let all who hear say, "Come." Come everyone, and ye shall be healed of Me, saith the Lord God Almighty, who is and was and is to come. Even so. Amen.

Our Lord is truly marvelous and most gracious, for this again is His word which came to me as I was writing this message. And as our Lord's words are Spirit and life, I humbly commend them to you.⁶¹ Come to Him, for His word is the promise of healing and of life.⁶²

He that is without strength to respond to the Lord's call, let him cry out the more to Jesus as blind Bartimeus did cry as Jesus passed by him on His way to Calvary. When the crowd tried to silence him and keep him from coming to Jesus, Bartimeus cried "*the more exceedingly, saying, Son of David, have mercy on me.*"⁶³

Brethren, let us cry out to Jesus *all the more exceedingly* today that He may have mercy upon us and all mankind. Cry out and spare not while He is near.⁶⁴ For in doing so, we shall be made whole even as blind Bartimeus was made whole:

*And Jesus said unto him [Bartimeus], Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole.
(Mark 10:53)*

The same One who assured Bartimeus that Jesus, the Son of David, could heal him, speaks to you and me today. Come then, that by our faith in Jesus Christ we may be made whole.

⁶¹ John 6:63 & 14:6

⁶² cf. Jacob 2:8

⁶³ Mark 10:46-54

⁶⁴ D&C 85:16a