

My Father's House

The House of Prayer

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*And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and found in the temple those who sold oxen, and sheep, and doves, and the changers of money sitting. And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; And said unto them who sold doves, Take these things hence; make not **my Father's house** a house of merchandise. And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thy house hath eaten me up. (John 2:13-17)*

WITH DESIRE

As the time drew near for Jesus to be offered up for our sins, He gathered His disciples together to observe the Passover with them one last time. His opening words that evening were words of remarkable feeling and expression, words that offer us profound insights into His innermost thoughts and motives. "*With desire,*" He said, "*I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer.*"

*And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. And he said unto them, **With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer;** For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled which is written in the prophets concerning me. (Luke 22:14-16 IR¹)*

Jesus had waited long for this miraculous moment. In one sense He had waited from the beginning of time, *from the foundation of the*

world when the plan of salvation was established.² In another, He had waited the three years since He had called these men to be *fishers of men* for the kingdom of God.³

But why exactly was *this passover* so special to Jesus? In His own words, it was *for this cause* that Jesus had come *unto this hour*, to be lifted up so that He might *draw all men* unto Himself.⁴ He had come into the world to endure the cross for *the joy set before Him*, the joy of our redemption and reconciliation to God.⁵

What man of you having a hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine, and go into the wilderness after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbors, and saith unto them, Rejoice with me; for I found my

¹ IR, the *Inspired Revision* of "The Holy Scriptures, Inspired Version."

² Revelation 13:8, Mosiah 2:8-12 & Alma 9:42-61

³ cf. Mark 1:14-18 with Matthew 10:1-38 & 28:17-19

⁴ John 3:14-17, 12:23-34, II Nephi 6:9-15 & III Nephi 12:28,29

⁵ cf. Hebrews 12:2 & Zephaniah 3:16,17 with Isaiah 12:2,3, 65:18,19, Jeremiah 33:11 & Romans 5:6-11

sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, who need no repentance. (Luke 15:4-7)⁶

I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for his sheep... Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. (John 10:11,17)⁷

Now the moment was upon Jesus, and the desire of His heart – to redeem mankind from death and the grave – would soon be realized.⁸ The Passover meal that they were about to partake of together had been instituted in the days of Moses to represent Jesus and His being offered up as the *Lamb of God*, as the Anointed One sent by God to redeem His people from the bondage of sin.⁹

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and the recovering of sight to the blind; to set at liberty them that are bruised; to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. (Luke 4:18,19; cf. Isaiah 61:1-3)

And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you; this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup, after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood which is shed for you. (Luke 22:19,20)

⁶ cf. Matthew 13:46 IR & Hosea 10:12

⁷ cf. John 15:9-13 with John 10:11,17,18

⁸ cf. John 1:29, 13:1 with John 16:24-26 & 17:13; see also I Corinthians 15:55-58

⁹ cf. Exodus 12 & Hebrews 9:8-12 with Mosiah 8:79-81 & Matthew 26:13-17

THE PASSOVER LAMB

Each account of the Passovers Jesus observed teaches us something about our Lord's *desire* to partake of this special feast with and for His *friends*. Each teaches us about His passion for the work to which He had been called by His heavenly Father.

Found in the Temple: In the first observance recorded for us in the New Testament, Jesus, at the age of twelve, traveled with his family to Jerusalem for Passover. Following the observance, Jesus' parents began the long journey home. But after a day on the road they discovered that Jesus was not in the *company* of worshippers returning to Nazareth. Luke tells us Jesus' parents eventually found Him three days later in *the temple* teaching the *doctors*, who were astonished *at His understanding and answers*.

*And it came to pass, after three days **they found him in the temple**, sitting in the midst of the doctors, and they were hearing him, and asking him questions. And all who heard him were astonished at his understanding, and answers. And when his parents saw him, they were amazed; and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? Behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them, Why is it that ye sought me? **Knew ye not that I must be about my Father's business?** (Luke 2:46-49)*

“Knew ye not that I must be about my Father's business?” Though they did not understand this saying, Jesus was undeterred. He would keep His Father's appointments.¹⁰ And the Passover was the great appointment to which His face had been set from the beginning.¹¹

Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me) to do thy will, O

¹⁰ e.g. Luke 19:5 with Mark 1:1,12,13

¹¹ cf. Revelation 13:8b with Isaiah 50:5 & Luke 9:51

God... By which will we are sanctified through the offering once of the body of Jesus Christ... For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified. (Hebrews 10:7,10,14)

With desire Jesus had come to fulfill His Father's will, to be about His Father's business of sanctifying us and redeeming our souls from sin and death.¹² It is no surprise, then, to read of how Jesus would later return to His Father's house and teach daily in the temple, both cleansing and sanctifying it by His presence and His words.¹³

*And Jesus answered and said unto them. Are ye come out as against a thief, with swords and staves to take me? **I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and ye took me not; but the Scriptures must be fulfilled.** (Mark 14:54,55)*

CHRIST OUR PASSOVER

In the gospel of John we find several accounts of the Passovers Jesus observed following His baptism – at which time John the Baptist introduced Him to the world as the Lamb of God.¹⁴

A) John 2:11-25 IR: The first Passover was observed soon after Jesus' first public miracle, in which He turned water into wine at a wedding feast in *Cana of Galilee*.¹⁵ Following this miracle He traveled to Jerusalem for Passover.¹⁶ Upon entering the temple Jesus found *those who sold oxen, and sheep, and doves, and the changers of money sitting*.¹⁷ In response, He made a whip and drove them out of the temple saying, *make not my Father's house a house of mer-*

¹² cf. John 1:29 & Matthew 27:54-58 with & D&C 22:23b

¹³ cf. Luke 19:44-46a, Matthew 23:13-19 & John 15:3, 17:17 with I Corinthians 1:30 & James 1:17, 3:17

¹⁴ John 1:27-37; cf. John 21:25

¹⁵ John 2:1-11

¹⁶ John 2:12-25

¹⁷ John 2:14

chandise.

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As prophesied,¹⁸ Jesus had a tremendous zeal for His Father's house, a zeal that was punctuated by His fashioning a scourge, or wip, and then forcibly driving out those who defiled the temple of God through this offensive practice of making it *a house of merchandise*.

This temple-cleaning zeal sprang from the same desire Jesus expressed with regard to eating the Passover meal with His *friends*.¹⁹ This desire, this zeal, was, in fact, foreshadowed by the Passover itself. It sprang from His intent to purge out the old leaven of sin from the house of God, meaning the church, and fill it with righteous worship.²⁰

*Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me; and **the Lord whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in; behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap; And he***

¹⁸ Psalm 69:9

¹⁹ cf. Luke 22:7-15 with Mosiah 1:97-103

²⁰ cf. Ephesians 2:19-22, 5:9 & Luke 19:44-45 with Luke 12:1, 18:1, 21:36, Romans 14:17, D&C 63:16, I John 3:8, Exodus 12:15

shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. (Malachi 3:1-3)

*Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even **Christ our Passover** is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. (I Corinthians 5:7,8)*

Several years later, as His last Passover observance with the twelve approached, Jesus would once again cleanse the temple in Jerusalem.²¹ Once more He would drive the sellers of sacrificial animals and the money changers from His Father's house. But during this second cleansing Jesus would also drive out those who bought as well as those who sold in the temple.

These two cleansings are in the likeness of our Lord coming into the world, first to atone for sins and second to reward everyone according to their doings.²²

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment; so Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and he shall appear the second time, without sin unto salvation unto them that look for him. (Hebrews 9:27,28)

Wherefore we labor, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that everyone may receive a reward of the deeds done in the body; things according to what he hath done, whether good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men... (II Corinthians 5:9-11a)

²¹ cf. Matthew 21:10-12, Mark 11:17-20, & Luke 19:44-47

²² cf. Revelation 22:12 & II Corinthians 5:10 with Malachi 3:5-7 & Luke 19:10

During His ministry leading up to His atonement for sin, Jesus befriended *publicans and sinners*, those He came to free from the bonds of sin and death, while rebuking the hypocritical religious leaders who had led His people astray.²³

And when the Pharisees saw them, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard them, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. (Matthew 9:12-13)

When He comes again, Jesus will cleanse His Father's house of both errant teachers, those who make merchandise of His gospel, as well as those who have "heaped to themselves" such teachers.²⁴

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing in his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, those who are out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned to fables. (II Timothy 4:1-4 IR)

Lesson: With zeal Jesus came to purge the old leaven of sin and its deeds from the house of the Lord.²⁵ His cleansing the temple in Jerusalem at both the beginning and the close of His ministry with the apostles foreshadowed His first advent to atone for sin as well as His return to reward

²³ cf. John 3:16,17 with Matthew 23:1-41 & John 15:22-25; Matthew 21:35-56 & 23:1-41 with Matthew 9:10-14, Luke 4:18 & 7:34

²⁴ cf. Jude 1-19 & II Peter 2:9-22 with I Timothy 4:1-3 & II Timothy 3:1-4

²⁵ cf. Mark 1:1-6 & John 14:15-18 with Genesis 6:64,65 IV & Acts 2-5

everyone for their deeds done in the flesh.²⁶ Therefore, we must choose wisely whom we serve, either *mammon* (riches) or God; we cannot serve both.²⁷

B) John 6:1-7:1 IR: As the time for the next Passover approached, a great multitude of people gathered to Jesus on a mountain in Galilee because of the miracles He had performed among them.

And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased. And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples. And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh. When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this he said to prove him; for he himself knew what he would do. (John 6:2-6)

Though Jesus knew He would feed the multitude by miraculously multiplying the scant provisions of a lad, prior to doing so He asked Philip how they might feed this crowd to *prove* Philip.²⁸ Similarly, He proves you and me as to whether or not we truly believe His words, that He is the Promised One, the Christ, the Bread of Life who is able to supply our every need, especially our need for eternal redemption and sanctification.

Upon being fed that day with loaves and fish, the people wanted to make Jesus king. But He departed into a mountain to be alone.²⁹

When they eventually caught up with Jesus the next day, He chastised them for seeking earthly bread and not the bread which comes from heaven, the Bread of Life – meaning Himself and His words.³⁰ Speaking as the Passover

Lamb, Jesus testified to them that, “*except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.*” Sadly, many of them were offended at these words and stopped following Him. They failed to understand that Jesus was not speaking about His physical body. Rather, as the incarnate Word of God, He was speaking about His words, which are His spiritual flesh and blood.³¹

It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. (John 6:63)

God declared through Moses, “*man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live.*”³² Jesus is every word of God to us.³³ And so God declares “*This is my beloved Son, hear ye Him,*” that is, hear *the Word* that was made flesh; hear *the Rod* whom God has established; hear Jesus Christ and live by feasting upon His words.³⁴

The apostle Paul assures us that in Jesus Christ dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily and, therefore, we are *complete (perfect)* in Him.³⁵ That is to say, Jesus Christ is our life.³⁶

And now I give unto you a commandment to beware concerning yourselves, to give diligent heed to the words of eternal life; for you shall live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God. 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; and the Spirit giveth light to

²⁶ II Corinthians 5:10,11 with II Nephi 1:116-125

²⁷ cf. Matthew 6:24 & Joshua 24:15 with Romans 6:16

²⁸ John 6:7-14

²⁹ John 6:15

³⁰ John 6:25-63

³¹ cf. John 1:1-16 & 6:63 with I John 5:12

³² Deuteronomy 8:1-3 & 18:15-18 with Luke 4:1-4

³³ cf. John 1:1-16 & Alma 18:12 with Isaiah 55:10,11

³⁴ cf. Matthew 3:46,17:4, John 1:1-16, Micah 6:9, Mark 9:5, Luke 9:53, Acts 3:22, 7:37, I Nephi 7:44, II Nephi 14:4, Mosiah 11:128, 136, III Nephi 5:8, 9:60 & D&C 22:21b

³⁵ Colossians 2:6-10

³⁶ Colossians 3:1-4 & I John 5:12 with John 6:48, John 11:25 & John 14:6

every man that cometh into the world; and the Spirit enlighteneth every man through the world, that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit; and everyone that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit, cometh unto God, even the Father. (D&C 83:7a-c)

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. (II Nephi 14:4)

Lesson: Jesus is the Incarnate Word of God, the One who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.³⁷ We must, therefore, feast upon Him as the Passover Lamb, as God's living Word. In feasting upon Him, as our Passover Lamb, we must take care to eat "*all of it*," that is, we must take care to live by all of His words, to feast upon His *every word* and thereby receive eternal life.³⁸

C) John 13:1 - 18:28 IR: As the third Passover approached, Jesus knew the long anticipated time had come for Him to atone for our sins. What was His motivation for suffering the punishment due us? It was His pure and perfect love, charity, the love that bears all things and endures all things.³⁹

*Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, **having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.** (John 13:1)*

This love was the source of His *desire* to eat *this* Passover with His apostles. He had manifested this same love in the beginning as *the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*⁴⁰ Now,

at the end of His ministry, this love, with which He loved them *unto the end*, was the source of the *zeal* He expressed in cleansing the temple.

Now are ye clean through the word which I have spoken unto you... These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:11-13)

Hereby perceive we the love of Christ, because he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. (I John 3:16)

Earlier in the week, just prior to this last Passover with His disciples, Jesus had been enthusiastically welcomed into Jerusalem by many of the people who had gathered to the Golden City for this holy feast.

On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna; Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord. (John 12:12,13)

Following this triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Jesus went to the temple and *looked round about upon all things.*

*And Jesus entered into Jerusalem, and into the temple. And when he had **looked round about upon all things**, and blessed the disciples, the eventide was come; and he went out unto Bethany with the twelve. (Mark 11:13)*

As noted earlier, when Jesus returned to the temple the next day with His apostles, His *zeal* for the house of the Lord burst forth again and He drove out all those who defiled it, both those

³⁷ I Corinthians 1:30 with James 1:17 & 3:17

³⁸ cf. Exodus 12:8-10 & Deuteronomy 8:3

³⁹ I Corinthians 13:4-8 & Moroni 7:50-53 & 8:18

⁴⁰ cf. Luke 21:15 & John 15:13 with I John 4:9

who sold *and* those bought in the temple (along with *the money changers*).⁴¹

*And they came to Jerusalem. And Jesus went into the temple, and began to **cast out them that sold and bought in the temple**, and overthrew the tables of the money changers, and the seats of them who sold doves; and would not suffer that any man should carry a vessel through the temple. And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, **My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer?** But ye have made it a den of thieves. And the scribes and chief priests heard him, and sought how they might destroy him; for they feared him because all the people were astonished at his doctrine. And when even was come he went out of the city. (Mark 11:17-21)*⁴²

Sadly, those who looked on that day did not fully understand Jesus' actions or sayings, just as His parents had not understood His saying, "*Knew ye not that I must be about my Father's business?*" years before. But, once Jesus had been *glorified*, His disciples would come to understand this zeal. For on the day of Pentecost His disciples were apprehended by this same zeal, this same love, when His baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost came upon them.⁴³ For with this same *zeal* they would go forth to bring glory to God and His house through their testimony of Jesus, beginning in the temple and from there *unto the uttermost part of the earth*.⁴⁴

And it came to pass, while he <Jesus> blessed them, he was taken from them, and carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen. (Luke 24:50-52)

⁴¹ cf. John 2:15,16

⁴² cf. Isaiah 56:7 & Jeremiah 7:11

⁴³ cf. Acts 2:1-47 & 4:31,32 & Matthew 20:21-23 with John 12:16 & John 2:17

⁴⁴ cf. Acts 1:8 & Mark 16:21

*Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee; In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up; and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, **and entered with them into the temple**, walking, and leaping, and praising God. (Acts 3:6-8)*

*And they, continuing daily with one accord **in the temple**, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. (Acts 2:46,47)*

***And daily in the temple**, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ. (Acts 5:42)*

Lesson: Jesus is the Christ and He has a fervent zeal for His Father's house, which is to be known among *all nations* as *the house of prayer*. Our heavenly Father imparts this same *zeal* – this same love – to all who truly follow His Son.⁴⁵

YE ARE THE TEMPLE OF GOD – THE HOUSE OF PRAYER

Jesus Christ's zeal for the temple of God is as real and present today as it was in the days when He drove out all who sold and bought in the temple in Jerusalem. Why? In the words of the apostle Paul, His church is that temple.⁴⁶

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. (I Corinthians 3:16,17)

⁴⁵ cf. Moroni 7:53

⁴⁶ cf. D&C 90:5f

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (II Corinthians 6:16)

Stated another way, our Lord is building us together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.⁴⁷

For we are laborers together with God; ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. (I Corinthians 3:9)

*Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord; **In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*** (Ephesians 2:19-22)

Therefore, even as the temple in Jerusalem was to be called of all nations the house of prayer, so we, collectively, as God's temple, are to be His house of prayer.⁴⁸

And now, my beloved brethren, I would that ye should come unto Christ, who is the Holy One of Israel, and partake of his salvation, and the power of his redemption. Yea, come unto him, and offer your whole souls as an offering unto him, and continue in fasting and praying, and endure to the end; and as the Lord liveth, ye will be saved. (Omni 1:46,47)

⁴⁷ cf. Matthew 16:19 & Ephesians 4:8-16; see also Ezekiel 37:14,26,27 & Jeremiah 30:22, 31:31-34 with III Nephi 7:10, D&C 36:2h,i & 94:5b,c

⁴⁸ cf. Matthew 21:11, Mark 11:19, Luke 19:45, 21:36, Ephesians 6:18, Philippians 4:6, Colossians 4:2 & I Timothy 2:8 with Jeremiah 7:11 & Isaiah 56:7; see also Acts 17:24,25 & Alma 16:235,238

Accordingly, God commands us to *pray always, to pray without ceasing, to be instant in prayer.*⁴⁹

Pray without ceasing. (I Thessalonians 5:17)

*Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; **continuing instant in prayer;** Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.* (Romans 12:10-13)

*And what I say unto one, I say unto all, **Watch ye therefore, and pray always,** and keep my commandments, that ye may be counted worthy to escape all these things which shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man when he shall come clothed in the glory of his Father.* (Luke 21:36)

Why prayer? We are to be the temple of the Spirit of God, and it is through *the prayer of faith* that we receive His Spirit.⁵⁰

...and the Spirit shall be given unto you by the prayer of faith, and if ye receive not the Spirit ye shall not teach. (D&C 42:5b)

*Remember that that which cometh from above is sacred, and must be spoken with care, and by constraint of the Spirit, and in this there is no condemnation, **and ye receive the Spirit through prayer;** wherefore, without this there remaineth condemnation.* (D&C 63:16a)

By His Spirit and by His messengers God teaches us to pray so that His Holy Spirit, the Holy Ghost, might have place within us *by the*

⁴⁹ Colossians 4:2, II Nephi 14:12, Mosiah 11:149, III Nephi 8:47-52, D&C 3:1e, 17:6e, 30:4c, 32:3e, 61:6e, 85:38c, 87:6e, 90:8d, etc.

⁵⁰ cf. I Corinthians 3:16,17 & 6:19,20 with D&C 18:6a, Luke 3:28,29, etc.

power thereof.⁵¹

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. (Romans 15:13)

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. (Romans 14:17)

For if ye would hearken unto the Spirit which teacheth a man to pray, ye would know that ye must pray, for the evil spirit teacheth not a man to pray, but teacheth him that he must not pray. (II Nephi 14:11)

And by so doing, the Lord God prepareth the way that the residue of men may have faith in Christ, that the Holy Ghost may have place in their hearts, according to the power thereof. (Moroni 7:33)

Once present in our lives, the Spirit of our Lord not only teaches us to pray, He prays within us, making intercession for us and other members of the body of Christ and thereby units us into one body.⁵²

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. (Romans 8:26-27)

Therefore, by praying in the Spirit we keep ourselves in His will, and thus in His love.⁵³

⁵¹ cf. Moroni 7:30-34 & Genesis 5:44,45 IR with II Nephi 15:2; cf. John 14:15-18 & II Corinthians 3:17

⁵² cf. Ephesians 4:1-16 & Romans 5:5 with Romans 8:14

⁵³ cf. D&C 46:8; cf. John 15:9-14 with John 10:11,17,18 & Moroni 8:29

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of your Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. (Jude 1:20,21)

He that asketh in the spirit, asketh according to the will of God, wherefore it is done even as he asketh. (D&C 46:8b)

Lesson: We have been purchased with a great price, even the spilt blood of Jesus Christ.⁵⁴ Therefore we are to *glorify God in our body and spirit* by offering ourselves to Him as a living sacrifice, by being a habitation of God through His Spirit.⁵⁵ We are to be the house of prayer. And like Jesus, we are to be about our Father's business, not our own.⁵⁶

THE TEMPLE OF HIS BODY

Just as the Passover lamb was a shadow of Christ, so likewise the temple in which Jesus taught – at the age of twelve and later with the twelve apostles – was a *shadow* or *figure* of a better temple, one not made with hands, that is, *the temple of His body*.⁵⁷

*Then spake the Jews and said unto him, What sign showest thou unto us, seeing thou doest these things? Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy **this temple**, and in three days I will raised it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up, in three days? **But he spake of the temple of his body.** (John 2:18-21)*

Though He was *despised and rejected of men*,⁵⁸ Jesus Christ has *become* the Chief Cornerstone

⁵⁴ I Corinthians 6:19,20

⁵⁵ cf. Romans 12:1,2

⁵⁶ cf. I Peter 2:24 with II Corinthians 5:15

⁵⁷ cf. Hebrews 9:1-10:22, esp. vss.5-20 with John 1:13 & Acts 17:24

⁵⁸ Isaiah 53:3

of the temple of God.⁵⁹

Jesus said unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner; this is the Lord's doings, and it is marvelous in our eyes... Verily, I say unto you, I am the stone... I am the head of the corner... (Matthew 21:44, 51,52)

We become members of this great temple, of which is He is the Chief Cornerstone, by becoming *members in particular* of His body, the church.⁶⁰

Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. (I Corinthians 12:27)

*For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers; all things were created by him, and for him; And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. **And he is the head of the body, the church;** who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. (Colossians 1:16-20)*

As the apostle Peter put it, the members of Christ's church are *lively stones built up a spiritual house*.⁶¹

Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby; If so be ye have tasted that the Lord

*is gracious. To whom coming, **as unto a living stone**, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, **ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house**, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious; and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore who believe, he is precious; but unto them who are disobedient, who stumble at the word, through disobedience, whereunto they were appointed, a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense. For the stone which the builders disallowed, is become the head of the corner. (I Peter 2:1-8)*

Prayer is essential to becoming and continuing as a member of this great temple, the body of Christ.⁶²

*And the first-fruits of repentance is baptism; and baptism cometh by faith, unto the fulfilling the commandments; and the fulfilling the commandments bringeth remission of sins; and the remission of sins bringeth meekness, and lowliness of heart; and because of meekness and lowliness of heart, cometh the **visitation of the Holy Ghost**, which Comforter filleth with hope and perfect love, **which love endureth by diligence unto prayer, until the end shall come**, when all the saints shall dwell with God. (Moroni 8:29)*

*Wherefore, my beloved brethren, **pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love** which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son Jesus Christ, that ye may become the sons of God, that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is, that we may have this hope, that we may be purified even as he is pure. Amen. (Moroni 7:53)*

⁵⁹ cf. Romans 9:32,33

⁶⁰ I Corinthians 3:16,17 & 6:19,20

⁶¹ I Peter 2:5

⁶² cf. II Corinthians 5:17,18

PUT YE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Becoming a member of the body of Christ entails receiving His image into our very countenances such that we become like Him *in this world*.

*And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; **because as he is, so are we in this world.** (I John 4:16,17)*

And now behold, I ask of you, my brethren of the church, Have ye spiritually been born of God? Have ye received his image in your countenance? Have ye experienced this mighty change in your hearts? Do you exercise faith in the redemption of him who created you? (Alma 3:27-30)

How exactly do we receive His image? We do so by clothing ourselves with His very nature, that is by putting off the *old man* of sin and putting on Jesus Christ as *the armor of light*.⁶³

*The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and **let us put on the armor of light.** Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. **But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ,** and make not provision for the flesh, to gratify the lusts thereof. (Romans 13:12-14)*

Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry; for which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the

⁶³ cf. I Corinthians 3:9,16,17, 6:19,20, Galatians 3:20-29 & Hebrews 8:1-5,9:9 with Ephesians 6:10-18, Colossians 1:16-24 & I Peter 2:5

*children of disobedience; in the which ye also walked sometime, when ye lived in them. But now ye also **put off** all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have **put off the old man** with his deeds; and **have put on the new man**, which is renewed in knowledge **after the image of him that created him** ... **Put on** therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do you. **And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.** (Colossians 3:5-14)*

Those who believe in Jesus, those who truly rely upon Him, will receive of His fullness. They will receive power to become the children of God.

He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, only to them who believe on His name... For in the beginning was the Word, even the Son, who is made flesh, and sent unto us by the will of the Father. And as many as believe on his name shall receive of his fullness. And of his fullness have all we received, even immortality and eternal life, through his grace. (John 1:11,12,16)⁶⁴

Lesson: Jesus' cleansing the temple in Jerusalem was a *figure* or *shadow* of the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost, the baptism He came to baptize us with so that we might be clean and holy even as He is Holy.⁶⁵

...but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus,

⁶⁴ cf. D&C 45:2

⁶⁵ cf. Mark 1:6 & I Peter 1:15,16 with Romans 6:1-23 & Galatians 3:27

and by the Spirit of our God. (I Corinthians 6:11)⁶⁶

IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE

Cleansing the temple in Jerusalem, which Jesus called *my Father's house*, was a shadow of Jesus preparing a place for those who love Him and keep His commandments.⁶⁷

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And when I go, I will prepare a place for you, and come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, ye may be also. (John 14:1-3)

Most assuredly, this place which He is preparing for us, meaning this place in His Father's house, will also be a house of prayer. Therefore, let us prepare ourselves now by becoming a house of prayer – by praying always, without ceasing, being instant in prayer.

218 Therefore, may God grant unto you, my brethren, that ye might begin to exercise your faith unto repentance, that ye begin to call upon His holy name, that he would have mercy upon you; Yea, cry unto him for mercy; for He is mighty to save; 219 Yea, humble yourselves and continue in prayer unto Him – Cry unto him when ye are in your fields; yea, over all your flocks; Cry unto him in your houses, yea, over all your household, both morning, midday, and evening; Yea, cry unto Him against the power of your enemies; Yea, cry unto him against the devil which is an enemy to all righteousness; 220 Cry unto him over the crops of your fields that ye may prosper in them; Cry over the flocks of your fields that they may increase. 221 But this is not all – Ye must pour out your souls in your closets

and your secret places and in your wilderness; 222 Yea, and when you do not cry unto the Lord, let your hearts be full, drawn out in prayer unto him continually for your welfare, and also for the welfare of those who are around you. 223 And now behold, my brethren, I say unto you, do not suppose that this is all; For after ye have done all these things, if ye turn away the needy and the naked, and visit not the sick and afflicted, and impart of your substance, if ye have, to those who stand in need – 224 I say unto you, if ye do not any of these things, behold, your prayer is vain and availeth you nothing, and ye are as hypocrites which do deny the faith; 225 Therefore, if ye do not remember to be charitable, ye are as dross, which the refiners do cast out – it being of no worth – and is trodden under foot of men. 226 And now my brethren, I would that after ye have received so many witnesses – seeing that the holy scripture testifies of these things – come forth and bring fruit unto repentance! 227 Yea, I would that ye would come forth and harden not your hearts any longer; For behold, now is the time and the day of your salvation; And therefore, if ye will repent and harden not your hearts, immediately shall the great plan of redemption be brought about unto you; 228 For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God: Yea, behold, the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors. (Alma 16:218-228)

⁶⁶ cf. Isaiah 4

⁶⁷ cf. D&C 46:4b with D&C 6:5e