

Brothers and Sisters, my talk today is about forgiveness, but in order to focus on the aspects of forgiveness that I want to, I must first talk about a few appendages to forgiveness, and being forgiven by God. The first appendage is the Character of God himself. Jesus Christ said in John 17:3:

"And this is life Eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

The reason why knowing him, and knowing them is the Key to Eternal Life, is not because a simple knowledge of someone has the power in itself to save us. It is because, if we know him, we will want to run back to him, and we will relentlessly seek him, and wish to please him. I am going to make a statement and then back it up with scripture. The statement is this: "Our heavenly Father looks upon us humbly, knowing that if he was given the same strengths and weaknesses as us, he would make many of the same mistakes, if not a combination of similar ones. He looks on us with hope and true humility!" That's my statement, and I will back it up here in a moment; but just let me say that when I have said this in the past to various individuals, I have almost universally been met with confusion. They will say, "But God has all power and all knowledge what does he have to be humble about? We need to be humble towards him only, because he is infinitely greater, he doesn't need to be humble!" However look what Jesus Christ says, keeping in mind that he is the perfect image of God, having the same character, and the same feelings for us. He says in Matthew 11:29:

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

Someone who is truly humble is not simply someone who won't admit that they are humble if you ask them directly—that is a false worldly way of trying to see if someone is humble. Joseph Smith in the "Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith" by Joseph Fielding Smith squashes that idea as well. Forgive my paraphrasing of Joseph Smith, because I don't currently have a copy of the T.P.J.S., but he says that he has no problem telling people that he is humble citing the scripture that I just gave you in Matthew 11:29, and goes on to say that true humility is accepting someone's person, being willing to eat their food, stay in their accommodations, and seeing them with the lens of hope, grace, forgiveness and appreciation. When a parent looks upon their children in humility, hope, and patience, it's not because their not stronger, smarter, and wiser; they are stronger, smarter, and wiser! They look on their children humbly, and even hope that they will be better than they are, because they have hope in them, and they know that they were once children. The same thing applies to an all powerful, all knowing, and all wise God. He knows who he once was, he knows who he has become, and he doesn't simply love us, he has hope in us, because he sees the end from the beginning and he knows who we can become. How much more does he see what we can become by the lens of Christ's grace, seeing that His Son has suffered, and felt, and been through everything we have experienced and will experience. D&C 133:53:

"In all their afflictions he was afflicted. And the angel of his presence saved them; and in his love, and in his pity, he redeemed them, and bore them, and carried them all the days of old."

No best friend would or could do that, except for Jesus Christ, and Heavenly Father. We love people who are humble toward us, who look on us with hope and expect the best, and are patient with the worst, and appreciate us, and like us. If you knew how humbly heavenly Father looks upon you, you would run to him, and you would be inseparable. You would long to be with him more than anything, because we don't experience enough people like that in this life, and no one with those personality traits to the degree that heavenly father has them—and has them for us. I testify that he looks upon us like that! He is Approachable!

- ▶ The third appendage to forgiveness that I wish to talk about is having faith that we are forgiven after we repent. In order to be worthy, we must have enough faith to believe and know that we are worthy. It's a similar idea to what is in Moroni 10:22, "And if ye have no hope ye must needs be in despair; and despair cometh because of iniquity."
- ▶ The hope and faith necessary to come out of despair is not only necessary to repent, it is also necessary to have the faith to apply the Atonement, and wash ~~our~~ garments in the blood of the Lamb. Hebrews 10:35-36 says, "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise."
- ▶ Faith strong enough to give you confidence is the faith necessary to be worthy. In 1 John 5:13, it says, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have Eternal Life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."
- ▶ We have to know by faith that we are cleansed after all we can do to repent. And finally 1 John 1:9, says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- ▶ Think about that, faithful to forgive; no human who is mortal is like that! Faithful to forgive us just like someone who loves their spouse is faithful to love them? That is crazy! Everyone on earth has limits where it is hard to forgive, at least without much sorrow, and pain, and working slowly through it. But God forgives us and applies the Atoning blood of Christ to us just as soon as we repent, on our time, not on his. He is ~~wanting~~ to forgive us, and when we repent He forgives us instantly! Which just goes to show what I was first trying to explain, God looks on us humbly with a love we have never experienced in this life. If you knew him, you would run to him, and you would never doubt, for one moment, that he has forgiven you, — conditioned on repentance. He must condition it on repentance because he is just, but he wants us to come back to him more than any loving humble person you have met here in this life.
- Quickly how to be forgiven —
1. 1 • Pray and ask to be forgiven
 2. 2 • Apologize to anyone you have hurt if possible.
 3. 3 • Pay restitution if possible; if impossible the power of Christ will physically make all things right and make it up to them in the Resurrection.
 4. 4 • Confess your sin, for us President Thomas. I'll vouch for him, he is an excellent BP.
 5. 5 • Never do that sin again
 6. 6 • Renew your covenants and keep the Commandments, enduring to the end on the straight and narrow path, to Eternal Life.
- [Bear your Testimony: about what you do have a testimony about clearly.]
I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Dear John,

4/30/23

- I love you! I just gave this talk and it went great! I even had a local church leader say that he had never thought about Heavenly Father being humble before, but that it is clearly right. He was really impressed! I also just received your Messages #81, and 82, they were great, thank you so much! I agree with everything you wrote about Moses, and the Book of Enoch. It is very peaceful around here. That timeline date is interesting!
- P.S. Now you don't have to prepare your next church talk, you can just use this one. 😊
- P.S.S. I think you have had that inspiration about your heavenly mother before... I will write more soon. I love you!
- May Benbanuh Be With You!