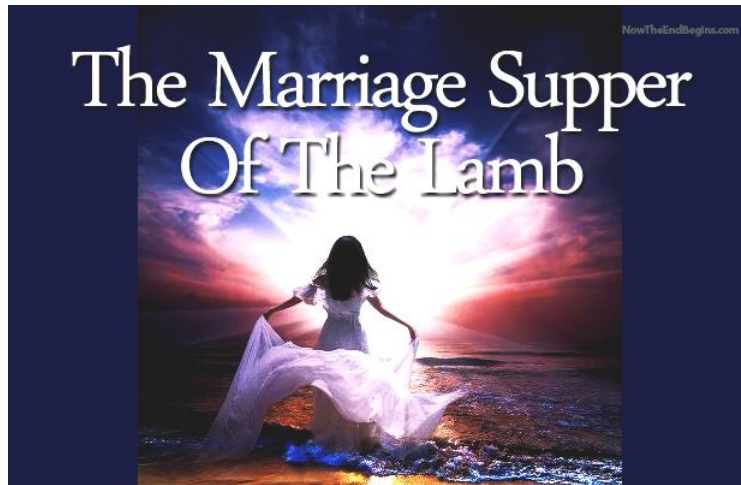


September Week #2 Devotionals & Consideration



"Repent and Come Unto Me"
Taken from a sermon by Vim Horn

2 Nephi 12:41 Nevertheless, I will be merciful unto them, saith the Lord God, if they will repent and come unto Me; for Mine arm is lengthened out all the day long, saith the Lord God of hosts.

3 Nephi 5:66 And behold I have given you the law and the commandments of My Father, that ye shall believe in Me, and that ye shall repent of your sins, and come unto Me with a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

His grace, while extended freely, does exact a response from us. It is this response that we as individuals, and we as a people, need to embrace as we prepare for the coming times.

Alma 3:59-60 Yea, come unto me and bring forth works of righteousness, and ye shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire; For behold, the time is at hand that whosoever bringeth forth not good fruit, or whosoever doeth not the works of righteousness, the same have cause to wail and mourn.

Let me recall a time when Christ called His people with thunderous effect because His people didn't respond to His invitation willingly.

* Time when the people were looking for the sign prophesied by Samuel the Lamanite that there would be darkness for three days.

3 Nephi 4

* At Christ's death there came a storm and great destruction.

3 Nephi 4:10-11

* In the space of three hours the landscape was totally changed.

3 Nephi 4:17

* There was darkness for three days.

3 Nephi 4:20-21

* There was much pain and despair and the people could be heard crying.

3 Nephi 4:23-25

* In the midst of all this a Voice is heard – Christ's Voice.

3 Nephi 4:26-30

* He gives reason for destruction of the wicked.

3 Nephi 4:39-40

* Christ then speaks to those who were remaining.

3 Nephi 4:41-52

Christ Shares His Gospel

A 41 O all ye that are spared, because ye were **more righteous** (not righteous, but more) than they, **will ye not now return unto Me**, (come unto Me) and **(One) repent of your sins, and be converted, that I may heal you?** (Promise)

B 42 Yea, verily I say unto you, **If ye will come unto Me, ye shall have eternal life.** (Promise)

C 43 Behold, Mine arm of mercy is extended towards you, and **whosoever will come, him will I receive;** (Promise) and **blessed are those who come unto Me.**

Christ moves from pleading with us to come to Him – to sharing with us who He is.

D 44 Behold I am Jesus Christ, the son of God. I created the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them are.

45 I was with the Father from the beginning. I am in the Father, and the Father in Me; and in Me hath the Father glorified His name.

Talks about how He has come to Us—and we rejected Him.

46 **I came unto My own, and My own received Me not.** And the scriptures, concerning My coming, are fulfilled.

E 47 **And as many as have received Me, to them have I given to become the sons of God; and even so will I to as many as shall believe on My name, for behold, by Me redemption cometh,**

F and **in Me is the Law of Moses fulfilled.**

G 48 **I am the light and the life of the world.**

Center of All - Christ is the great “I AM” - He calls us to “Come Unto Him”

G’ **I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.**

F’ 49 **And ye shall offer up unto Me no more the shedding of blood; yea, your sacrifices and your burnt offerings shall be done away, for I will accept none of your sacrifices and your burnt offerings; and ye shall offer for a sacrifice unto Me a broken heart and a contrite spirit.**

E’ 50 **1 And whoso cometh unto Me with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, 2 him will I baptize with fire and with the Holy Ghost, 3 even as the Lamanites, because of their faith in Me, at the time of their conversion, were baptized with fire and with the Holy Ghost, and they knew it not.**

D’ 51 Behold, **I have come unto the world to bring redemption unto the world, to save the world from sin:**

C’ therefore **whoso repenteth and cometh unto Me as a little child, him will I receive;** for of such is the kingdom of God.

B’ 52 Behold, **for such** I have laid down My life, and have taken it up again;

A’ therefore **repent, and come unto Me ye ends of the earth, and be saved.**

- All who have made a covenant with our Lord
 - Remember that at the heart of the covenant, at the central core lies our response to His invitation “To Come Unto Him.”

- **Coming unto Christ cannot be on our terms, our conditions; it must be on His.**

He accepts us where we are at, but He desires to transform us into new creatures:

- Creatures that take on His image.
- Creatures who are redeemed through His sacrifice.
- The price of discipleship is the sacrifice of pride.
- It requires a contrite spirit and a broken heart.

When we are in this condition, we are in a redeemed state; we are ready to be used by our Lord in mighty ways.

- **Coming unto Him entails repenting of our sins.** It means that all of us need to look closely at ourselves and evaluate our current condition.

- We need to be honest with ourselves.
- We need to understand how we are rebelling against God and His holy purposes and repent of that rebellion.
- Each of us is guilty and we all stand in need of His saving grace.

1 John 1:8-9 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- **Coming unto Him requires a broken heart and a contrite spirit.** It requires us to humble ourselves and to become as a little child before Christ.

Matthew 5:5 Yea, blessed are the poor in spirit, who come unto Me; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

-- **If we come unto Him**, He will show us our weaknesses that we may become humble; and **If we humble ourselves, then will He make the weak things strong**

Ether 5:27-29

-- **If men come unto me**, I will shew unto them their weakness.

-- I give unto men weakness, that they may be **humble**; and My grace is sufficient for all men that **humble** themselves before Me; for if they **humble** themselves before Me, and have faith in Me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them.

-- Not only must we humble ourselves before Christ, but we must humble ourselves before each other.

Romans 12:10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another.

- **Coming Unto Christ**, requires us to reconcile with each other.

3 Nephi 5:71-72 Therefore, if ye shall come unto Me, or shall desire to come unto Me, and rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee, Go thy way unto thy brother, and first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come unto Me with full purpose of heart, and I will receive you.

- **Coming unto Him requires doing His will.** We must acknowledge this daily. We must be willing to sell all that we have for His sake, for His work, for His people.

If we come unto Him, under His conditions, we will see His face and know with a surety that He is the Christ, the true light of the world.

D&C 85:18b Therefore, sanctify yourselves that your minds become single to God, and the days will come that you shall see Him: for He will unveil His face unto you, and it shall be in His own time, and in His own way, and according to His own will.

Armed with the knowledge that Christ lives, we are compelled to deny ourselves, to take up our cross daily and to follow Him. We have the ability to go where many fear to tread and to do works of wonder that many say are impossible.

Armed with the companionship of the Holy Ghost, we can bring forth works of righteousness and He will make us participants in this great and marvelous work. He will make us fishers of men.

If we come unto Him, He promises us that when we are heavy laden from our labor that He will give us rest.

If we come unto Christ, we will be perfected in Him, we will be sanctified in Him and we will become holy and without spot through the shedding of His blood.

Moroni 10:29-30 Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in Him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is His grace sufficient for you, that by His grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in no wise deny the power of God. And again, if ye, by the grace of God, are perfect in Christ, and deny not His power, then are ye sanctified in Christ by the grace of God, through the shedding of the blood of Christ, which is in the covenant of the Father, unto the remission of your sins, that ye become holy without spot.

COME UNTO ME

By William Baxter

"Come unto me," the Saviour cries,
All ye by sin oppressed;
Confess My name before the world,
And I will give you rest.

Assume My mild and easy yoke,
And by obedience prove,
Your heart's devotion to My cause,
Your gratitude and love.

In meekness strive to do My will,
All other teachers flee,
Lay every earthly trust aside,
And learn alone of Me.

The stores of wisdom all are Mine,
And to each trustful heart,
Treasures of knowledge, deep and pure,
I gladly will impart.

I am of meek and lowly heart,
And those who follow Me,
Must cast all lofty pride away,
And learn humility.

Through life, then, humbly follow on;
In death, lean on My breast;
Fear not the dark and gloomy grave,
Beyond it lies your rest.

[The Millennial Harbinger (October 1851): 600.]