

#2: Atonement, Roles, and Attributes of Christ

Monte F. Shelley, 25 Jan. 2009

Quotes

- Some days you are the statue. Some days you are the pigeon.
- Life is one fool thing after another.
Love is two fool things after each other.
- Look unto me in every thought; doubt not, fear not. (6:36)
- Seven days without prayer makes one weak.

1. The D&C testifies of Jesus Christ

The testimony that is given of Jesus Christ—his divinity, his majesty, his perfection, his love, and his redeeming power—makes this book of great value to the human family and of more worth than the riches of the whole earth. (D&C Preface)

^{76:22} And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him: That he lives! ²³ For we saw him, even on the right hand of God; and we heard the voice bearing record that he is the Only Begotten of the Father—²⁴ That by him, and through him, and of him, the worlds are and were created, and the inhabitants thereof are begotten sons and daughters unto God.

2. The Atonement of Jesus Christ

Elder Packer: The Atonement of Jesus Christ “is the very root of Christian doctrine. You may know much about the gospel as it branches out from there, but if you only know the branches and those branches do not touch that root, if they have been cut free from that truth, there will be no life nor substance nor redemption in them” (*Ensign*, May 1977, 56).



3. Christ's Suffering in Gethsemane

^{19:16} I, God, have suffered these things for all, that they *might not suffer if they would repent*; ¹⁷ But if they would not repent they must suffer even as I; ¹⁸ Which suffering caused myself, even God, the greatest of all, to tremble because of pain, and to *bleed at every pore*, and to suffer both body and spirit—and would that I might not drink the bitter cup, and shrink—¹⁹ Nevertheless, glory be to the Father, and I partook and finished my preparations unto the children of men.

4. “I command you to repent” (D&C 19:15)

I command you to repent—repent, lest I smite you by the rod of my mouth, and by my wrath, and by my anger, and your sufferings be sore—how sore you know not, how exquisite you know not, yea, how hard to bear you know not.

5. We will all be resurrected

^{88:14} Through the redemption which is made for you is brought to pass the resurrection from the dead. ¹⁵ And the spirit and the body are the soul of man. ¹⁶ And the resurrection from the dead is the redemption of the soul. ¹⁷ And the redemption of the soul is through him that quickeneth all things, in whose bosom it is decreed that the poor and the meek of the earth shall inherit it. ¹⁸ Therefore, it must needs be sanctified from all unrighteousness, that it may be prepared for the celestial glory;

6. I can be forgiven IF I repent

^{18:11} The Lord your Redeemer suffered death in the flesh; ... [and] suffered the pain of all men, that all men might repent and *come unto him*. And he hath risen again from the dead, that he might bring all men unto him, on conditions of repentance.

^{58:42} He who has repented of his sins, the same is forgiven, and I, the Lord, remember them no more.

7. I can be forgiven IF I forgive others

^{64:8} My disciples ... *sought occasion against* one another and forgave not one another in their hearts; and for this evil they were afflicted and sorely chastened. ⁹ Wherefore, ... ye ought to forgive one another; for he that forgiveth not his brother his trespasses standeth condemned before the Lord; for there remaineth in him *the greater sin*. ¹⁰ I, the Lord, will forgive whom I will forgive, but of you it is required to forgive all men. ¹¹ And ye ought to say in your hearts—let God judge between me and thee, and reward thee according to thy deeds.

^{88:124} Cease to *find fault* one with another;

8. Christ knows how to help me

^{88:6} [Christ] descended below all things

^{62:1} Hearken ... saith the Lord your God, even Jesus Christ, your advocate, who knoweth the weakness of man and *how to succor* them who are tempted.

^{Alma 7:11} He shall go forth, suffering pains and afflictions and temptations of every kind; ... And he will take upon him death, ... and ... their infirmities, that his bowels may be filled with mercy ... that he may know ... *how to succor* his people according to their infirmities.

^{122:8} The Son of Man hath descended below them all. Art thou greater than he?

9. Receiving the gift of the Atonement

^{88:33} What doth it profit a man if a gift is bestowed upon him, and he receive not the gift? ... He rejoices not in that which is given unto him, neither rejoices in him who is the giver of the gift.

10. Seek the face of the Lord always

“*Seek the face of the Lord always*, that in patience ye may possess your souls, and ye shall have *eternal life*.” (101:38)

“Verily, thus saith the Lord: It shall come to pass that every soul who forsaketh his sins and cometh unto me, and calleth on my name, and obeyeth my voice, and keepeth my commandments, shall *see my face* and *know that I am*.” (93:1)

11. The Savior's Roles and Attributes

- a. 6:20–21 (If we are faithful and diligent, the Savior will encircle us in the arms of His love. He is the light that shines in darkness.)
- b. 6:32–37 (He offers to protect, comfort, and bless us when we remember Him and obey His commandments.)
- c. 19:1–3 (Having done the will of the Father, He has subdued all things and retained all power. He will destroy Satan and his works. He will judge all people according to their deeds.)
- d. 29:1–2 (His arm of mercy has atoned for our sins. If we hearken to His voice and humble ourselves, He will gather us as a hen gathers her chickens.)
- e. 38:1–3 (He is the Creator of the world, and knows all things.)
- f. 43:34 (He is the Savior of the world.)
- g. 45:3–5 (He is our Advocate with the Father.)
- h. 50:44 (He is the Good Shepherd and the Stone of Israel, a sure foundation upon which we can build.)
- i. 76:5 (He is merciful and gracious to those who fear Him, and He delights to honor those who serve Him in righteousness and truth to the end.)
- j. 93:5–19 (He is the Only Begotten of the Father. He “continued from grace to grace” until He received a fulness of the glory and power of the Father.)
- k. 133:42–52 (When He comes in power at the time of His Second Coming, those whom He has redeemed will mention His loving-kindness and goodness.)
- l. 136:22 (His arm is stretched out to save His people.)

Timeline: Martin Harris

05/1783: Martin Harris was born.

1808: Martin married Lucy and lived on a farm in Palmyra. He was known as a gentleman, respectable farmer, and patriot.

1820: Joseph's first vision

09/1823: Moroni's visit and Joseph sees gold plates.

1824: Martin hired father Smith and Hyrum.

09/1827: Joseph received plates and persecution began.

12/1827: Joseph and Emma moved 150 miles away to Pennsylvania with the help of \$50 from Martin.

12/1827—04/1828: Joseph told Martin that the Lord said he'd help Joseph translate and publish the Book of Mormon. Martin said, "I retired to my bedroom and prayed to God to show me concerning these things, and I covenanted that if it was his work and he would show me so, I would put forth my best ability to bring it before the world. He then showed me that it was his work, and that it was designed to bring in the fullness of his gospel to the gentiles to fulfill his word. ... He showed me this by the still small voice spoken to the soul. Then I was satisfied that it was the Lord's work, and I was under covenant to bring it forth." (Harper 31)

02/1828: Martin took transcript of characters to Charles Anthon.

04-06/1828: Martin went to Pennsylvania to act as scribe and helped Joseph complete 116 pages. His wife told neighbors that Joseph had tricked him to get money. He knew Joseph had a gift, but wanted his family and friends to know. Martin persuaded Joseph to let him take the pages home.

06/1828: Martin left with 116 pages. The plates and Urim and Thummim were taken from Joseph.

06/1828: Martin broke promises to Joseph and Lord by showing pages to unauthorized people. He lost the 116 pages.

07/1828: D&C 3 received. It refers to Martin as "a wicked man."

Summer/1828: D&C 10 Martin referred to as a "wicked man." Some additions to this section may have been made in 1829.

09/1828: Joseph got back the plates and interpreters.

03/1829: Martin told Joseph's father-in-law that he "must have a *greater* witness, and said that he had talked to Joseph about it." The next day, **D&C 5** was received. Martin is referred to as "my servant" and as "the man that desires the witness." He would be one of the witnesses IF he would humble himself in sincere prayer, acknowledge wrongs, and covenant to keep commandments and exercise faith in Christ.

06/1829: Martin as one of the three witnesses saw the plates, etc.

8/25/1829: Grandin agreed to print 5000 copies for \$3000. Martin put up his 240 acre farm as collateral. He had 18 months to repay the debt, hopefully with proceeds from book sales, or enough property would be sold to pay the debt.

01/1830: Joseph and Martin agreed to share profits until Martin's mortgaged was paid.

03/1830: At a public Palmyra meeting, people agreed to boycott the Book of Mormon. "Martin became alarmed. ... Arms full of books, a distraught Martin told Joseph, 'The books will not sell for nobody wants them.'

'I think they will sell well,' Joseph responded.

'I want a commandment,' Martin demanded. ...

'Fulfill what you have got,' replied Joseph ... [**D&C 5**]

'I must have a commandment,' Martin said increasingly anxious." (Harper 68)

The next morning, Martin again demanded a revelation. Later that day **D&C 19** was received.

03/26/1830: Printing finished

04/06/1830: Church organized. Martin was present and baptized.

02/1831: Printer's debt was due.

04/1831: Martin sold 150 of 240 acres at \$20 an acre to pay debt. "When the property was about to be sold, [Martin's wife] left him, taking their children, and never again returned to live with Martin Harris." (JF McConkie 153)

06/1831: Martin was called to Missouri with Joseph, Rigdon, and Partridge (52:24)

08/1831: (58:35) Martin was commanded to be an example by consecrating property. He was first to consecrate.

11/1831: (70:3) Martin, Joseph, Oliver, and others were to be stewards over the revelations to be published as the D&C.

05/1834: Martin marched of Zion's Camp to Missouri. After the march, Martin become one the apostles.

09/1837: Martin was disfellowshipped "for speaking against the prophet," but never excommunicated. He separated himself from the church for the next 32 years.

1870: Martin traveled to Utah and was rebaptized.

07/1875: Martin's final testimony was recorded by a grandson. He died the next day.

Quotes

Elder Holland: "When ... difficult times come to us, we can remember that Jesus had to descend below all things before He could ascend above them, and that He suffered pains and afflictions and temptations of every kind that He might be filled with mercy and know how to succor His people in their infirmities (see D&C 88:6; Alma 7:11-12)" (*Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 69)

Elder Maxwell: "'It becomes increasingly clear both logically and scripturally that the only real *veneration* of Jesus is *emulation* of Him. Indeed, striving to become like Him is a special way of bearing and sharing our testimony of Him. Jesus has told us that if we truly love Him, we will keep His commandments and keeping and doing His commandments surely puts and keeps us on the lengthy pathway to perfection. (*Even As I Am*, 1)

Elder Packer: "I am asked occasionally... "Have you seen Him?" That is a question that I have never asked of another. I have not asked that question of my Brethren in the Council of the Twelve, thinking that it would be so sacred and so personal that one would have to have some special inspiration—indeed, some authorization—even to ask it. Though I have not asked that question of others, I have heard them answer it—but *not* when they were asked. I have heard one of my Brethren declare, 'I know, from experiences too sacred to relate, that Jesus is the Christ.' I have heard another testify, 'I know that God lives, I know that the Lord lives, and more than that, I know the Lord.' I repeat: they have answered this question not when they were asked, but under the prompting of the Spirit, on sacred occasions, when 'the Spirit beareth record.' (D&C 1:39.)" ("The Spirit Beareth Record," *Ensign*, June 1971, 87)

Elder Packer: "I was on le Shima, a tiny ... island off the northwest coast of Okinawa. ... One calm, clear, moonlit night I sat alone on a cliff, high above the beach. ... I had a burning witness of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. I had some knowledge of the scriptures from ... months of study. ... It has been 59 years. ... I do not know now any more surely that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, ... than I did as a soldier boy, sitting on the cliff. ... There is one difference. Now, I know the Lord. I bear witness of Him and invoke His blessings upon you." (*Boyd K. Packer: A Watchman on the Tower*, 59-60, 279)

Questions

1. How do these things apply to me now in my circumstances?

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