

“Draw Near unto Me”

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»Kom nær til mig«

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Andenrådgiver i Det Første Præsidentskab

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Jesus Christ loves each of us. He offers us the opportunity to draw closer to Him.

My dear brothers and sisters, it is a joy for me to be with you in this general conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This is His Church. We are gathered in buildings and homes all over the world in His name.

We take His name upon us when we enter His kingdom by covenant. He is the resurrected and glorified Son of God. We are mortals, subject to sin and death. Yet, in His love for each of us, the Savior invites us to come closer to Him.

Here is His invitation to us: “Draw near unto me and I will draw near unto you; seek me diligently and ye shall find me; ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.”

There are times we feel close to the Savior Jesus Christ. And yet, sometimes during our mortal trials, we feel some distance from Him and wish for an assurance that He knows what is in our hearts and loves us as individuals.

The Savior’s invitation includes the way to feel that assurance. Draw near Him by always remembering Him. Seek Him diligently through scripture study. Ask through heartfelt prayer to Heavenly Father to feel closer to His Beloved Son.

There is a simple way to think about it. It is what you would do if you were separated for a time from dear friends. You would find a way to communicate with them, you would cherish any message you received from them, and you would do all you could to help them.

The more that happened, the longer it last-

Jesus elsker hver enkelt af os. Han giver os mulighed for at komme ham nærmere.

Mine kære brødre og søstre, det glæder mig at være sammen med jer ved denne generalkonference i Jesu Kristi Kirke af Sidste Dages Hellige. Dette er hans kirke. Vi er samlet i hans navn i bygninger og i hjem over hele verden.

Vi påtager os hans navn, når vi, igennem pagter, træder ind i hans rige. Han er den opstandne og herliggjorte Guds Søn. Vi er almindelige dødelige, der er underlagt synd og død. Alligevel opfordrer Frelseren os, i sin kærlighed til os hver især, til at komme ham nærmere.

Her er hans opfordring til os: »Kom nær til mig, så vil jeg komme nær til jer; søg mig flittigt, så skal I finde mig; bed, så skal I få; bank på, så skal der blive lukket op for jer.«

Der er tidspunkter, hvor vi føler os tæt på Frelseren Jesus Kristus. Og alligevel føler vi nogle gange under vores jordiske prøvelser en vis afstand til ham og kan ønske en vished om, at han ved, hvad der er i vores hjerte, og at han elsker os individuelt.

Frelserens indbydelse omfatter en anvisning på, hvordan man kan føle den vished. Kom ham nær ved altid at erindre ham. Søg ham flittigt gennem skriftstudium. Bed gennem inderlig bøn vor himmelske Fader om, at I kan føle jer tættere på hans elskede Søn.

Der er en enkel måde at betragte det på. Det er, hvad I ville gøre, hvis I for en tid var adskilt fra kære venner. I ville finde en måde at kommunikere med dem på, I ville værdsætte enhver besked, I modtog fra dem, og I ville gøre alt, hvad I kunne for at hjælpe dem.

Jo mere det skete, jo længere det varede,

ed, the deeper the bond of affection would be strengthened, and you would feel yourself drawing ever nearer. If much time passed without the cherished communication and the opportunity to help one another, the bond would weaken.

Jesus Christ loves each of us. He offers that opportunity to draw closer to Him. As with a loving friend, you will do it in much the same way, by communicating through prayer to Heavenly Father in the name of Jesus Christ, listening for cherished guidance from the Holy Ghost, and then serving others for the Savior cheerfully. Soon you would feel that blessing of drawing nearer to Him.

In my youth, I experienced the joy of coming closer to the Savior—and of His coming closer to me—through simple acts of obedience to the commandments. When I was young, the sacrament was offered during an evening meeting. I can still remember one specific night, more than 75 years ago, when it was dark and cold outside. I remember a feeling of light and warmth as I realized that I had kept the commandment to gather with the Saints to partake of the sacrament, covenanting with our Heavenly Father to always remember His Son and keep His commandments.

At the end of the meeting that night, we sang the hymn “Abide with Me; ’Tis Eventide,” with the memorable words “O Savior, stay this night with me.”

These words brought an overwhelming sense of the Spirit to me, even as a young boy. I felt the Savior’s love and closeness that evening through the comfort of the Holy Ghost.

Years later I wanted to rekindle the same feeling of the Savior’s love and the closeness I had felt to the Lord during that sacrament meeting in my youth. So I kept another simple commandment: I searched the scriptures.

In the book of Luke, I read of the third day after His Crucifixion and burial, when faithful servants had come, out of love for the Savior, to anoint His body. When they arrived, they found the stone rolled away from the tomb and saw that His body was not there.

Two angels stood by and asked why they were afraid:

“Why seek ye the living among the dead?”

“He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,

desto stærkere ville kærlighedens bånd blive, og I ville føle, at I kom hinanden endnu nærmere. Hvis der gik lang tid uden den dyrebare kommunikation og muligheden for at hjælpe hinanden, ville båndene blive svagere.

Jesus elsker hver enkelt af os. Han giver mulighed for, at vi kan komme ham nærmere. Som når det gælder en kærlig ven, vil I gøre det på nogenlunde samme måde, nemlig ved at kommunikere gennem bøn til vor himmelske Fader i Jesu Kristi navn, lytte efter skattet vejledning og med glæde tjene andre for Frelseren. Snart vil I føle velsignelsen ved at komme ham nærmere.

I min ungdom oplevede jeg glæden ved, at jeg kom Frelseren nærmere – og at han kom mig nærmere – ved enkle handlinger i lydighed mod befalingerne. Da jeg var ung, blev nadveren omdelt ved et aftenmøde. Jeg kan stadig huske en bestemt aften for mere end 75 år siden, hvor det var mørkt og koldt udenfor. Jeg husker en følelse af lys og varme, da jeg indså, at jeg havde holdt befalingen om at samles med de hellige for at tage del i nadveren og indgå pagt med vor himmelske Fader om altid at erindre hans Søn og holde hans befalinger.

Ved slutningen af mødet den aften sang vi salmen »O bliv hos mig i denne nat« med de mindeværdige ord: »O, Frelser, bliv i nat hos mig.«

Disse ord gav mig en overvældende følelse af Ånden, selv som dreng. Jeg følte Frelserens kærlighed og nærhed den aften gennem Helligåndens trøst.

Flere år senere ønskede jeg igen den samme følelse af Frelserens kærlighed og den nærhed, jeg havde følt til Herren under det nadvermøde i min ungdom. Så jeg holdt en anden enkel befaling: Jeg studerede i skrifterne.

I Lukasevangeliet læste jeg om den tredje dag efter Frelserens korsfæstelse og begravelse, hvor trofaste tjenere i kærlighed til ham var kommet for at salve hans legeme. Da de ankom, så de, at stenen var blevet rullet væk fra graven, og de så, at hans legeme ikke var der.

Der stod to engle, som spurgte, hvorfor de var bange:

»Hvorfor leder I efter den levende blandt de døde?

Han er ikke her, han er opstået. Husk, hvordan han talte til jer, mens han endnu var i

“Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.”

That evening at dusk, two disciples walked from Jerusalem on the road to Emmaus, and the resurrected Lord appeared to them and walked with them.

The book of Luke allows us to walk with them that evening:

“And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.

“But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.

“And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?

“And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?”

They told Him of their sadness that Jesus had died when they had trusted He would be the Redeemer of Israel.

There must have been affection in the risen Lord's voice as He spoke to these two sorrowful and mourning disciples.

As I continued to read, there came these words that warmed my heart, just as I had felt when I was a little boy:

“And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further.

“But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.”

The Savior accepted that night the invitation to enter the house of His disciples. He sat at meat with them. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they knew Him. Then He vanished out of their sight.

Luke recorded for us the feelings of those blessed disciples: “And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?”

The two disciples then rushed back to Jerusalem to tell the eleven Apostles what had

Galilæa,

og sagde, at Menneskesønnen skulle overgives i syndige menneskers hænder og korsfæstes og opstå på den tredje dag.«

Den aften ved skumringen gik to disciple fra Jerusalem på en vej til Emmaus, og den opstandne Herre viste sig for dem og gik med dem.

Lukasevangeliet giver os mulighed for at vandre sammen med dem den aften:

»Og det skete, mens de gik og talte sammen og drøftede det indbyrdes, kom Jesus selv og slog følge med dem.

Men deres øjne holdtes til, så de ikke genkendte ham.

Han spurgte dem: »Hvad er det, I går og drøfter med hinanden?« De standsede og så bedrøvede ud,

og den ene af dem, Kleofas hed han, svarede: »Er du den eneste tilrejsende i Jerusalem, der ikke ved, hvad der er sket i byen i disse dage?«

De fortalte ham, at de var sørgmodige over, at Jesus var død, eftersom de havde sat deres lid til, at han skulle være Israels Forløser.

Der må have været ømhed i den opstandne Herres stemme, da han talte til disse to sorgfulde og sørgende disciple.

Da jeg fortsatte med at læse, kom disse ord og varmede mit hjerte, ligesom jeg havde følt, da jeg var en ung dreng:

»De var næsten fremme ved den landsby, de var på vej til, og Jesus lod, som om han ville gå videre.

Men de holdt ham tilbage og sagde: »Bliv hos os! Det er snart aften, og dagen er allerede gået på hæld.« Så gik han med ind for at blive hos dem.«

Frelseren tog den aften imod invitationen til at gå ind i sine disciples hus. Han sad til bords sammen med dem. Han tog brød, velsignede det, brød det og gav det til dem. Deres øjne åbnedes, og de genkendte ham. Derpå forsvandt han for deres åsyn.

Lukas beskrev disse vidunderlige disciples følelser for os: »De sagde til hinanden: »Brændte vore hjerter ikke i os, mens han talte til os på vejen og åbnede Skrifterne for os?«

De to disciple skyndte sig derefter tilbage til Jerusalem for at fortælle de elleve apostle, hvad

happened. As they were sharing their experience, the Savior appeared again.

He stood in the midst of them and “saith unto them, Peace be unto you.” He then reviewed the prophecies of His mission to atone for the sins of all His Father’s children and to break the bands of death.

“And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

“And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

“And ye are witnesses of these things.”

Just as His beloved disciples, every child of Heavenly Father who has chosen to enter through the gate of baptism is under covenant to be a witness of the Savior and to care for those in need throughout our mortal lives. This commitment was made plain for us by the great Book of Mormon prophet Alma centuries ago at the Waters of Mormon:

“As ye are desirous to come into the fold of God, and to be called his people, and are willing to bear one another’s burdens, that they may be light;

“Yea, and are willing to mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort, and to stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places ... , even until death, that ye may be redeemed of God, ... that ye may have eternal life.”

As you are faithful to these promises, you will find that the Lord keeps His promise to be one with you in your service, making your burdens light. You will come to know the Savior, and in time you will come to be like Him and “be perfected in him.” By helping others for the Savior, you will find that you are drawing nearer to Him.

Many of you have loved ones who are wandering off the path to eternal life. You wonder what more you can do to bring them back. You can depend on the Lord to draw closer to them as you serve Him in faith.

You may remember the Lord’s promise to Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon when they were away from their families on His errands: “My friends Sidney and Joseph, your families are well; they are in mine hands, and I will do with them as seemeth me good; for in me there is all power.”

As you bind up the wounds of those in need,

der var sket. Da de fortalte om deres oplevelse, viste Frelseren sig igen.

Han stod midt iblandt dem og sagde »til dem: »Fred være med jer!« Han gennemgik derefter profetierne om sin mission, som var at sone for alle sin Faders børns synder og at bryde dødens bånd.

»Og han sagde til dem: »Således står der skrevet: Kristus skal lide og opstå fra de døde på den tredje dag,

og i hans navn skal der prædikes omvendelse til syndernes forladelse for alle folkeslag. I skal begynde i Jerusalem,

og I skal være vidner om alt dette.«

Ligesom hans elskede disciple har hver eneste af os, som er vor himmelske Faders børn, som har valgt at træde gennem dåbens port, indgået pagt om at være et vidne om Frelseren og tage sig af dem i nød hele vores jordiske liv. Denne forpligtelse blev gjort tydelig for os af den store profet Alma i Mormons Bog for århundreder siden ved Mormons vande:

»Eftersom I ... nærer ønske om at komme ind i Guds fold og at blive kaldt hans folk og er villige til at bære hinandens byrder, så de bliver lette;

ja, og er villige til at sørge med dem, der sørger, ja, og at trøste dem, der står i behov for trøst, og at stå som Guds vidner til alle tider og i alle ting og på alle steder ... ja, indtil døden, så I kan blive forløst af Gud ... så I må få evigt liv.«

Når I er trofaste mod disse løfter, vil I opdage, at Herren holder sit løfte om at være ét med jer i jeres tjeneste og lette jeres byrder. I vil lære Frelseren at kende, og med tiden vil I blive som ham og blive »fuldkommengjort i ham«. Når I hjælper andre for Frelseren, vil I opdage, at I kommer ham nærmere.

Mange af jer har nære og kære, der er kommet væk fra den vej, der leder til evigt liv. I spekulerer over, om I kan gøre mere for at bringe dem tilbage. I kan stole på, at Herren kommer dem nærmere, når I tjener ham i tro.

I husker måske Herrens løfte til Joseph Smith og Sidney Rigdon, da de var ude i hans ærinde og væk fra deres familie: »Mine venner Sidney og Joseph: Jeres familier har det godt; de er i mine hænder, og jeg vil gøre med dem, som det synes mig bedst; for i mig er al magt.«

Når I forbinder sårene hos de nødlidende, vil

the Lord's power will sustain you. His arms will be outstretched with yours to succor and bless the children of our Heavenly Father.

Every covenant servant of Jesus Christ will receive His direction from the Spirit as they bless and serve others for Him. Then they will feel the Savior's love and find joy in being drawn closer to Him.

I am a witness of the Resurrection of the Lord as surely as if I had been there with the two disciples in the house on Emmaus road. I know that He lives.

This is His true Church—the Church of Jesus Christ. We will, on the Day of Judgment, stand before the Savior, face to face. It will be a time of great joy for those, in this life, who have drawn close to Him in His service and can eagerly anticipate to hear His words: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

I testify as a witness of the risen Savior and our Redeemer, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Herrens kraft støtte jer. Hans arme vil tillige med jeres være udstrakte for at bistå og velsigne vor himmelske Faders børn.

Alle Jesu Kristi tjenere i pagten vil modtage hans vejledning af Ånden, når de velsigner og tjener andre på hans vegne. Og da vil de mærke Frelserens kærlighed og finde glæde ved at komme ham nærmere.

Jeg er et vidne om Herrens opstandelse, lige så sikkert som havde jeg været der med de to disciple i huset på vejen til Emmaus. Jeg ved, at han lever.

Dette er hans sande Kirke – Jesu Kristi Kirke. Vi vil på dommens dag stå foran Frelseren, ansigt til ansigt. Det vil blive en tid med stor glæde for dem, der i dette liv er kommet ham nærmere i hans tjeneste og med spænding kan se frem til at høre hans ord: »Godt, du gode og tro tjener.«

Jeg bærer vidnesbyrd om det som vidne om den opstandne Frelser og om vor Forløser. I Jesu Kristi navn. Amen.