

“Draw Near unto Me”

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“Faalatalata Mai ia te A’u”

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Fesoasoani Lua i le Au Peresitene Sili

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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

E alofa Iesu Keriso ia i tatou taitoatasi. Na te ofoina mai le avanoa e latalata atili atu ai ia te Ia.

Ou uso e ma tuafafine, o se fiafiaga mo au lo tatou faatasi ma outou i lenei konafesi aoao a Le Ekalesia a Iesu Keriso o le Au Paia o Aso e Gata Ai. O Lana Ekalesia lenei. Ua tatou faapotopoto i maota ma aiga i le lalolagi atoa i Lona suafa.

Ua tatou tauaveina i o tatou luga Lona suafa ina ua tatou ulufale mai i Lona malo e ala i feagaiga. O Ia o le Alo toetu ma le mamalu o le Atua. O tatou o tagata i le tino nei, e noatia i le agasala ma le oti. Ae, i Lona alofa mo i tatou taitoatasi, ua Ia valaaulia ai i tatou ia latalata atu ia te Ia.

O Lana fetalaiga lenei: “Faalatalata mai ia te au ma o le a Ou faalatalata atu ai ia te outou; saili mai ia te au ma le filiga ma o le a outou maua ai au; ole mai, ma o le a outou maua ai; tuitui mai, ma o le a tatala atu ai ia te outou.”

E i ai taimi e tatou te lagona ai le latalata atu i le Faaola o Iesu Keriso. Ae ui i lea, i le taimi o o tatou tofotofoga i le olaga nei, tatou te ono lagona ai sina mamao ese mai ia te Ia ma moomoo ai mo se faamautinoaga e faapea e Na Te silafia mea o i o tatou loto ma alofa ia i tatou taitoatasi.

O le valaaulia a le Faaola e aofia ai le ala e lagonaina ai lena faamautinoaga. Faalatalata atu ia te Ia e ala i le manatua pea o Ia. Saili ma le filiga ia te Ia e ala i le suesueina o tusitusiga paia. Ole atu e ala i le tatalo mai le loto i le Tama Faalelagi ina ia lagona le latalata atili atu i Lona Alo Pele.

E i ai se auala faigofie e mafaufau e uiga iai. O le mea lea e te faia pe afai na oulua valavala mo se taimi ma se uo pele. O le a e sailia se ala e te talanoa atu ai ia te i latou, o le a e talia soo se savali e

message you received from them, and you would do all you could to help them.

The more that happened, the longer it lasted, 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.

te maua mai ia i latou, ma o le a e faia mea uma e te mafaia e fesoasoani ai ia i latou.

O le tele ona tupu soo o lena mea, o le umi atu foi lena ona i ai, o le loloto atili foi lena o le a faamalosia ai le sootaga o le alofa, ma o le a outou lagonaina ai e outou lava le latalata atili o le tasi i le isi. Afai e tele se taimi e alu e aunoa ma se toe faatauaina o fesoootaiga ma le avanoa e fesoasoani ai le tasi i le isi, o le a faavaivaia ai foi le sootaga.

E alofa Iesu Keriso ia i tatou taitoatasi. Na te ofoina mai le avanoa e latalata atili atu ai ia te Ia. Faapei ona faia i se uo alofa, o le a faapena foi ona e faia, e ala i le fesootea i le tatolo i le Tama Faalelagi i le suafa o Iesu Keriso, faalogologo mo se taitaiga taua, ma auauna fafia atu i isi mo Ia. O le a le pine ona e lagonaina lea o lena faamanuiaga o le faalatalata atili atu ia te Ia.

I lo’u talavou, sa ou oo ai i aafiaga o le olioli o le latalata atu i le Faaola atoa ai ma Lona latalata mai ia te au e ala i nai faatinoga faatauva’a o le usiusitai i poloaiga. A’o o’u laitiiti, sa faia le faamanatuga i le taimi o se sauniga o le afaifi. Ou te manatuaina pea se tasi po, i le silia ma le 75 tausaga talu ai, ina o pogisa ma malulu fafo. Ou te manatua le lagonaina o le olioli ma le alofa i le falelotu i lo’u iloina lea ua ou tausia le poloaiga ia potopoto faatasi ma le Au Paia ina ia taumamafa i le faamanatuga, osifeagaiga ai ma lo tatou Tama Faalelagi ina ia manatua pea Lona Alo ma ia tausia Ana poloaiga.

I le faaiuga o le sauniga na matou usuina ai le viiga “Iesu, Se’i E Faatasi Mai,” faatasi ai ma na upu e le mafaagaloina: “Iesu, ia e faatasi mai, ua oo mai le po.”

O nei upu na aumaia ai se lagona lofituina o le Agaga ia te a’u, e ui o se alii talavou. Sa ou lagonaina le alofa ma le latalata mai o le Faaola i lena afaifi e ala mai i le mafanafana o le Agaga Paia.

I le tele o tausaga mulimuli ane sa ou manao e toe faamumu lagona lava ia e tasi o le alofa o le Faaola ma Lona latalata mai lea na ou lagonaina ia te Ia i lena sauniga faamanatuga i lou talavou. O lea sa ou tausia ai le isi poloaiga, sa ou sutesue i tusitusiga paia.

I le tusi a Luka, sa ou faitau ai e uiga i le aso lona tolu i le mavae ai o Lona faasatauroga ma le falelauasiga ina ua o ane auauna faatuatuaaina, i le alofa mo le Faaola, ina ia faauu i Lona tino. Ina ua latou taunuu ane, sa latou iloa ai ua fuliese le ma’a mai le tuugamau ma vaaia ua le o i ai Lona

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,

“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

tino iina.

Sa tutu ni agelu se toalua i talaane ma fesili atu pe aisea ua latou fefefe ai, ma faapea atu:

“Se a le mea tou te saili ai le ua soifua i e ua oti?

“E le o iinei o ia, a ua tu: ia outou manatua i lona fetalai atu ia te outou ina o i Kalilaia o ia,

“Ua faapea atu, E tataua ona tuuina atu o le Atalii o le tagata i lima o tagata agasala, ma ia faasatauroina, ma toe tu mai i le aso tolu.”

I lena afiafi po, e toalua ni soo sa savavali atu mai Ierusalema i le auala i Emau, ma sa faaali atu le Alii toetu ia i la’ua ma savavali faatasi ma i la’ua.

O le tusi a Luka ua mafai ai ona tatou savavali faatasi ma i latou i lena afiafi.

“Ua la fetautalatalaa’i, ma fesueai, ona faalat-alata mai ai lea o Iesu, ua o faatasi ma i laua.

“A ua punitia o laua mata, o lea ua le iloa ai o ia e i laua.

“Ua fetalai atu o ia ia te i laua, O a ea ia upu ua oulua felafolafoai ai, o oulua o savavali, ma ua mata faanoanoa?

“O le tasi o i laua e igoa ia Kaleopa, ua tali mai ia te ia, ua faapea mai, Pe na o oe ea lē aumau i Ierusalema ma le le iloa o mea ua tutupu ai i ona po nei?”

Sa la tau atu ia te Ia lo la faanoanoaga ina ua maluu Iesu ae sa la talitonu o Ia o le Togiola o Isaraelu.

Atonu sa i ai se naunau alofa i le siufofoga o le Alii toetu a o Ia fetalai atu i nei soo e toalua faanoanoa ma le faavauvau.

A o faaauau ona ou faitau, na o’o mai ai upu nei lea na faamafanafanaina ai lo’u loto, e pei lava ona ou lagona ai i le taimi o se tama itiiti:

“Ua latou faalatalata atu i le aai ua latou o i ai; a o ia ua aga atu peiseai a alu loa.

“A ua la pulunaunau ia te ia, ua faapea mai, Tatou te nonofo ma i maua nei: aua ua taugagaifo le la, ua lata i le afiafi. Ona ulufale atu lea o ia, latou te nonofo.”

Sa talia e le Faaola i lena po le valaaulia e ulufale atu i le fale o Ona soo. Sa Ia taumafa faatasi ma i laua. Sa Ia tago i le areto, faamanuia, ona tofofi lea, ma tuu atu ia i laua. Ona pupula ai lea o laua mata, ua la iloa o Ia. Ona mou ese lea o Ia mai le la vaai.

Sa tusia e Luka mo i tatou ia lagona o na soo

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 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

faamanuiaina: “Ona la fetalatalaai lea, E lei mu ea o ta loto i totonu ia i taua, ina ua fetalai o ia ia te i taua i le ala, ina ua faamatala mai foi e ia o Tusi ia te i taua?”

Ona toe faataalise atu ai lea o ia soo e toalua i Ierusalem e tau atu i Aposetolo e toasefulutasi lea mea ua tupu ia i laua. A o la fefaasoa’i o la aafiaga, na toe faaali atu foi le Faaola.

Ua tu o Ia i o latou luma, ma “ua fetalai atu ia te i latou, Ia outou manuia.” Ona Ia toe iloilo ina lea o valoaga o Lana misiona e togiola mo agasala a fanau uma a Lona Tama ma motusia noataga o le oti.

“Ua fetalai atu foi o ia ia te i latou, Ua faapea ona tusia, e faapea foi ona tataua ina tiga o le Keriso, ma toe tu nai e ua oti i le aso tolu:

“Ina ia talai’iina foi le salamo ma le faamaga-loina o agasala i nuu uma i lona igoa, e amata mai i Ierusalem.

“O molimau foi outou i nei mea.”

E pei lava o Ona soo pele, o le a maua e fanau uma a le Tama Faalelagi o e filifili e ulufale mai e ui mai i le faitotoa o le papatisoga le feagaiga i lenei olaga faaletino e avea ai ma se molimau o le Faaola ma ia tausia i latou o e lē tagolima. O lenei tautinoga sa aumai manino mo i tatou e le perofeta o Alema o le Tusi a Mamona i le tele o seneturi ua tuanai i le Vai o Mamona:

“O lenei, ona ua outou manana’o e o mai i le saogalemu o le Atua, ma ta’ua o ona tagata, ma outou loto e fefaasoa’i ona tauave o a outou avega ina ia mama ai;

“Ioe, ma outou loto e faanoanoa faatasi ma e e faanoanoa; ioe, ma faamafanafana atu ia te i latou o e e manaomia le faamafanafanaga, ma tutulai o ni molimau a le Atua i taimi uma ma i mea uma, ma i nofoaga uma atonu tou te i ai, seia oo lava i le oti, ... ina ia mafai ona togiolaina outou e le Atua, ma ... ina ia mafai ona outou maua le ola e faavavau.”

A o outou faamaoni i nei folafolaga, o le a outou iloa ai e tausia e le Alii Ana folafolaga ina ia tasi faatasi ma outou i la outou auaunaga, ma faamāmā ai a outou avega. O le a e iloaina o Ia, ma e oo mai le taimi o le a avea ai oe e faapei o Ia ma “faaatoatoaina ia te ia.” I le fesoasoani ai i isi, o le a e iloa ai ua e faalatalata atu ia te Ia.

O le toatele o outou o loo i ai ni ē pele o loo fesetasi solo i le ala i le ola e faavavau. E te mafafau po o le a se isi mea e mafai ona e faia e toe faafoi mai ai i latou. E mafai ona e faalagolago i le

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, 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.

Alii ia faalatalata atili atu ia i latou a o e auauna atu ia te Ia i le faatuatua.

Tou te manatua le folafolaga a le Alii ia Iosefa Samita ma Sini Rikitone ina o malaga ese i laua mai o la aiga i Lana galuega: "A'u uo o Sini ma Iosefa, o loo manuia o oulua aiga; ua i ai i latou i o'u lima, ma o le a Ou faia ia te i latou e pei ona lelei ia te a'u; ona ua i ai ia te a'u le mana uma."

A o e fusifusi i manu'a o i latou o e mafatia, o le a lagolagoina oe e le mana o le Alii. O loo faaloaloa atu Ona aao faatasi ma ou lima e fesoasoani ai ma faamanuia le fanau a lo tatou Tama Faalelagi.

O i latou uma o auauna-osifeagaiga a Iesu Keriso o le a maua Lana taitaiga a o latou faamanuia ma auauna atu i isi mo Ia. Ma o le a latou lagonaina Lona alofa, ma maua le olioli o le faalatalata atili atu ia te Ia.

O au o se molimau o le Toetu o le Alii ma le mautinoa e pei sa ou i ai iina i le afiafi a lena e tasi faatasi ma soo e toalua i le fale i le ala i Emau. Ou te iloa o loo soifua o Ia.

O le Ekalesia moni lenei a Iesu Keriso. O le a tatou tutu atu, i le Aso o le Faamasinoga i luma o le Faaola, e faafesaga'i. O le a avea o se taimi o le olioli sili mo i latou, i lenei olaga, o e na faalat-alata atu ia te Ia i Lana galuega ma e mafai ona sagisagi ma le naunau atu e faalogo i upu nei: "Ua lelei ia, le auauna lelei e, ma le faamaoni."

Ou te molimau atu ai o se molimau o le Faaola toetu ma lo tatou Togiola, i le suafa o Iesu Keriso, amene.