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Next Weeks Lesson: "Who Is My Neighbor?" ([Matthew 18](#); [Luke 10](#))

Today's Lesson: "I Will Give unto Thee the Keys of the Kingdom"
([Matthew 15:21-39](#), [Matthew 16:13-19](#), [Matthew 17:1-9](#))

1. Jesus heals the daughter of a Gentile and feeds more than 4,000 people. ([Matthew 15:21-39](#))

21 ¶ Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the ^acoasts^{*} of Tyre and Sidon.

22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, *thou* Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

24 But he answered and said, I am not ^asent^{*} but unto the lost sheep of the house of ^bIsrael.

25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast *it* to ^adogs^{*}.

27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great *is* thy ^afaith^{*}: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

29 And Jesus departed from thence, and came nigh unto the sea of Galilee; and went up into a mountain, and sat down there.

30 And great multitudes came unto him, having with them *those that were* lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them:

31 Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel.

32 ¶ Then Jesus called his disciples *unto him*, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way.

33 And his disciples say unto him, Whence should we have so much bread in the wilderness, as to fill so great a multitude?

34 And Jesus saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven, and a few little fishes.



35 And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground.

36 And he took the seven ^aloaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake *them*, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

37 And they did all eat, and were filled: and they ^atook^{*} up of the ^bbroken^{*} meat that was left seven baskets full.

38 And they that did eat were four thousand men, beside women and children.

39 And he sent away the multitude, and took ship, and came into the coasts of Magdala.

- A. What did the woman from Canaan ask Jesus to do?
- B. Why didn't Jesus grant her request immediately?
- C. Why did Jesus finally heal the woman's daughter?
- D. What can we learn from this woman?



The Savior departed for the Sea of Galilee, traveling through Decapolis ([Mark 7:31](#)). Decapolis was an area east of the Sea of Galilee where many Gentiles lived.

- E. How did the Lord show compassion for the people there?
- F. How did the multitude react?
- G. What miracles in our day have caused you to glorify God?

The multitude stayed with Jesus for three days, and when it was time for them to leave, Jesus did not want to send them away hungry.

- H. What miracle did he perform for them?

This miracle was different from the earlier feeding of the 5,000 ([Matthew 14:15-21](#)) in that many of these people were Gentiles. Elder Bruce R. McConkie explained that with the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus “was laying the foundation for his incomparable sermon on the Bread of Life” ([John 6:22-69](#)). With the later feeding of the 4,000, Jesus was symbolically teaching that in the future, living bread would be offered to the Gentile nations. (*Doctrinal New Testament Commentary*, 3 vols. [1966-73], 1:375.)

2. Peter is promised the keys of the kingdom. ([Matthew 16:13-19](#))



13 ¶ When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, ^aElias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

15 saith unto them, But whom say ^aye that I am?

16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the ^aChrist, the ^bSon of the ^cliving God.

17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon ^aBar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not ^brevealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this ^arock I will build my ^bchurch; and the gates of ^chell shall not ^dprevail against it.

19 And I will ^agive unto thee the ^bkeys of the ^ckingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt

^dbind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.



Jesus left Decapolis and went to the area of Caesarea Philippi, where he asked his disciples, “Whom say ye that I am?” ([Matthew 16:15](#)).

- A. What was Peter’s response? ([Matthew 16:16](#))
- B. What was the source of Peter’s testimony? ([Matthew 16:17](#))
- C. What can we learn from this account about our testimonies?

Jesus said to Peter, “Upon this rock I will build my church” ([Matthew 16:18](#)). The Prophet Joseph Smith taught that the rock Jesus referred to is revelation (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, sel. Joseph Fielding Smith [1976], 274).

- D. In what way is revelation the foundation of the Lord’s Church?

The Savior promised to give Peter the “keys of the kingdom of heaven” ([Matthew 16:19](#)).

- E. What are these keys?
- F. Why are they necessary? ([D&C 128:9-10](#); [D&C 132:46](#))
- G. Who holds them today?



President Joseph F. Smith taught:



“The Priesthood in general is the authority given to man to act for God. Every man ordained to any degree of the Priesthood, has this authority delegated to him.

“But it is necessary that every act performed under this authority shall be done at the proper time and place, in the proper way, and after the proper order. The power of directing these labors constitutes the *keys* of the Priesthood. In their fulness, the keys are held by only one person at a time, the prophet and president of the Church. He may delegate any portion of this power to another, in which case that person holds the keys of that particular labor” (*Gospel Doctrine*, 5th ed. [1939], 136).

H. Why is a conviction that the prophet holds these keys an essential part of our testimonies?

3. Jesus is transfigured before Peter, James, and John. ([Matthew 17:1-9](#))

About a week after Peter was promised the keys of the kingdom, he, James, and John witnessed the Transfiguration of the Savior and received important knowledge and keys. This was one of the most significant events in the New Testament. It helped prepare Jesus for his Atonement and fortified the three Apostles for the additional responsibilities they would soon have as leaders of the Church.

1 AND after six days Jesus taketh ^aPeter^{*}, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,
2 And was ^atransfigured^{*} before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.
3 And, behold, there appeared unto them ^aMoses^{*} and ^bElias^{*} talking with him.
4 Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.
5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright ^acloud^{*} overshadowed them: and behold a ^bvoice^{*} out of the cloud, which said, This is my ^cbeloved^{*} ^dSon^{*}, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.
6 And when the disciples heard *it*, they fell on their face, and were sore ^aafraid^{*}.
7 And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid.
8 And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.
9 And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the ^avision^{*} to no ^bman^{*}, until the Son of man be risen again from the ^cdead^{*}.

A. What does *transfiguration* mean?

B. According to [Matthew 17:1-5](#), what happened when Jesus, Peter, James, and John were on the Mount of Transfiguration?

- (1) Jesus' face shone like the sun, and his clothing became brilliantly white.
- (2) Moses and Elias (Elijah; see footnote 3b) appeared.
- (3) “A bright cloud overshadowed them,” and they heard the voice of the Father bearing witness of his Son.

The name *Elias* is used several ways in the scriptures. In [Matthew 17:3-4](#) it is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew name *Elijah*. In other places (such as [Matthew 17:10-13](#)), it is a title describing someone as a forerunner, or preparer.

Latter-day prophets have taught more about what happened on the Mount of Transfiguration.

C. Peter, James, and John saw a vision of the transfiguration of the earth at the Savior's Second Coming ([D&C 63:20-21](#)).

- D. They were “transfigured before [Christ]” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 158).
- E. They were taught about the Savior’s death and resurrection ([Joseph Smith Translation, Luke 9:31](#)).
- F. They received from Jesus, Moses, and Elijah the priesthood keys they would need to govern the Church after the Savior’s death (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 158; Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, 3 vols. [1954-56], 2:110).

In 1836 Moses and Elijah returned again to the earth. They laid their hands on Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery to restore the same keys given to Peter, James, and John.

- G. Which keys did Moses restore? ([D&C 110:11](#))
- H. Which keys did Elijah restore? ([D&C 110:13-16](#))
- I. How are these keys used today?

Elder David B. Haight taught that Jesus’ Transfiguration “was meant for our spiritual enlightenment as well as for those who were personal witnesses” (in Conference Report, Apr. 1977, 8; or *Ensign*, May 1977, 7).

- J. What can we learn from the Transfiguration to help us when we need spiritual strength?
- K. We should follow the Savior’s example by praying fervently when we need spiritual strength ([Luke 9:28](#)). Speaking of the Transfiguration, Elder Haight said: “Perhaps Jesus felt not only a sense of the heavenly calm which that solitary opportunity for communion with His Father would bring, but even more, a sense that He would be supported in the coming hour by ministrations not of this earth. ... As He prayed to His Father, He was elevated far above the doubt and wickedness of the world which had rejected Him.”
- L. We can have the assurance that Jesus will strengthen us as he did Peter, James, and John. Elder Haight said, “He took His three apostles with Him in the belief that they, after having seen His glory ... might be fortified, that their faith might be strengthened to prepare them for the insults and humiliating events which were to follow.”
- M. We can be strengthened by testimony of the Savior ([Matthew 17:5](#)) and by the doctrines of the gospel. Elder Haight said, “The three chosen apostles were taught of [the Savior’s] coming death and also His resurrection, teachings that would strengthen each of them in the eventful days ahead.”

TRIVIA - Instances when the Father testified of the Son

There are **four** instances recorded in the scriptures when the Father introduced and testified of his Son. One of them is discussed in this lesson. What are the other three, and where are they found in the scriptures.

1. _____
2. The Transfiguration ([Matthew 17:1-9](#))
3. _____
4. _____