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Next Weeks Lesson: "This is Life Eternal" ([John 16-17](#))

Today's Lesson: "Love One Another, As I Have Loved You" ([Luke 22](#); [John 13-15](#))

1. Christ's Last Sermon



A. There is much discussed and written about the various sermons that Christ delivered. I have come to believe that the last sermon that he delivered to his apostles on the last week of his life was his most significant and meaningful for us as members of "The Church of Jesus Christ". Like many of the Saviors teachings, his final sermon's importance isn't found on the surface, but requires considerable study and prayer to discover its "deep-rooted" meanings.

2. Let's start our journey of knowledge in [2 Nephi 2:25](#) "Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy."

A. When asked what this scripture means, most members of the church understand the first part concerning the fall of Adam very well because it is portrayed vividly each time they attend the temple. It is the last half of the scripture that is widely misunderstood. The most common response to "and men are, that they might have joy" is "the Lord wants us to be happy in this life. There is soooooooooooooo much more hidden in this verse.

3. [John 15:10](#) Christ sums up his sermon by stating: "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and *that* your ^ajoy might be full." It appears the meaning of the word "joy" is the key to understanding what the Savior is talking about. Let's explore the different levels of "Joy".

A. Levels of Joy

Level #1 Fun – Children discover the infant word "fun" as they play with their toys and laugh with brothers and sisters. Teenagers discover deeper forms of "fun" as they play sports, dance, attend movies, and play video games. These forms of joy include excitement, thrills. Laughter and temporary satisfaction. "Fun" requires additional visits to its chambers to experience satisfaction, and often also requires increased thrills.

Level #2 Pleasure – Once we have experienced various forms of “fun” we learn to narrow down our choices to those which satisfy us the most and then concentrate on them. I refer to this as “filtered fun”. Participation in these activities brings pleasure to the participant and those around them. An example of such pleasure would be visiting your favorite vacationing spot each year and renewing memories from the past. This form of “joy” requires external stimuli to satisfy its cravings. When such experiences are not forth coming, the opposite of pleasure, depression, can set in.

Level #3 Happiness – Happiness includes filtered fun and pleasure, but adds two very important elements. The first element is pleasure for the spirit. Our spirits have existed for many more years than our bodies, and it too delights in being happy. The second element is that of adding “love” to the mixture. When we learn to mix our forms of enjoyment with satisfaction of spiritual needs and the love of our fellowmen it takes on a completely different dimension. Now our happiness is centered in our eternal salvation and in our fellowmen along with pleasurable objects or places. Strong bonds of friendship are developed that last well beyond the “happy” moments spent together. We also learn from the Saviors words in [John 14:15](#) that true love includes: “If ye love me, keep my [c^ommandments.](#)” At level 3 we learn that true happiness only comes in living the commandments of Christ. Often, we as human beings, attempt to find happiness outside the bounds that the Lord has set, but our conscience soon spoils our “fun” by causing guilt to the repentance stage.

Level #4 Joy – At the highest level of lasting enjoyment we add the element that the Savior is speaking of in [John 14:1-17](#)



1 NOW before the feast of the [a^opassover](#), when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he [b^oloved](#) them unto the end.

2 And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the [a^oheart](#) of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;

3 Jesus [a^oknowing](#) that the Father had given all [b^othings](#) into his hands, and that he

was [c^ocome](#) from God, and went to God;

4 He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

5 After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to [a^owash](#) the disciples' feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel wherewith he was girded.

6 Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?

7 Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.

8 ^aPeter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I ^bwash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

9 Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also *my* hands and *my* head.

10 Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash *his* feet, but is ^aclean every whit: and ye are ^bclean, but not all.

11 For he knew who should ^abetray him; therefore said he, Ye are not ^ball clean.

12 So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?

13 Ye call me ^aMaster and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

14 If I then, *your* Lord and ^aMaster, have ^bwashed your feet; ye also ought to ^cwash one another's ^dfeet.

15 For I have given you an ^aexample, that ye should do as I have done to you.

16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

17 If ye know these things, ^ahappy are ye if ye do them."

- B. I would ask the same question: "Know ye what I have done to you?" The element that the Christ adds to our "joy" is service to our fellowman. The only true and lasting "joy" that can be experienced on this earth is through seeing other people change as they embrace and live the gospel of Jesus Christ. [D&C 18:13-17](#)

13 And how great is his ^ajoy in the ^bsoul that ^crepenteth!

14 Wherefore, you are called to ^acry repentance unto this people.

15 And if it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and bring, save it be one ^asoul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father!

16 And now, if your joy will be great with one soul that you have brought unto me into the ^akingdom of my Father, how great will be your ^bjoy if you should bring many ^csouls unto me!

4. Elements of Love that the Savior teaches us in John

A. [John 13:34-35](#)

34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye ^alove one another; as I have loved you, that ye also ^blove one another.

35 By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have ^alove one to another.

B. [John 14:15](#)

14 If ye ^alove me, ^bkeep my ^ccommandments.

C. [John 15:12-15](#)

12 This is my commandment, That ye ^alove one another, as I have ^bloved you.

13 Greater ^alove hath no man than this, that a man lay down his ^blife for his ^cfriends.

14 Ye are my ^afriends, if ye do whatsoever I ^bcommand you.

15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you ^afriends; for all things that I have ^bheard of my Father I have made ^cknown unto you.

D. John 15:1-11

1 **I AM the true ^avine**, and my Father is the husbandman.

2 Every ^abranch in me that beareth not ^bfruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he ^cpurgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4 ^aAbide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the ^avine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without ^bme ye can do nothing.

6 If a man ^aabide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned.

7 If ye ^aabide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ^bask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

8 Herein is my Father ^aglorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

9 As the Father hath ^aloved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

10 If ye ^akeep my commandments, ye shall abide in my ^blove; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and *that* your ^ajoy might be full.

5. Final Element of "Joy" (Moroni 7:43-48)

43 And again, behold I say unto you that he cannot have faith and hope, save he shall be ^ameeek, and lowly of heart.

44 If so, his ^afaith and hope is vain, for none is ^bacceptable before God, save the ^cmeeek and lowly in heart; and if a man be meek and lowly in heart, and ^dconfesses by the power of the Holy Ghost that Jesus is the Christ, he must needs have charity; for if he have not charity he is nothing; wherefore he must needs have charity.

45 And ^acharity suffereth long, and is ^bkind, and ^cenvieth not, and is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily ^dprovoked, thinketh no evil, and rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

46 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, if ye have not charity, ye are nothing, for charity never faileth. Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail—

47 But ^acharity is the pure ^blove of Christ, and it endureth ^cforever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with him.

48 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, ^apray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love, which he hath bestowed upon all who are true ^bfollowers of his Son, Jesus Christ; that ye may become the sons of God; that when he shall appear we shall ^cbe like him, for we shall see him as he is; that we may have this hope; that we may be ^dpurified even as he is pure. Amen.