

Gospel Doctrine Sunday School Lesson

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Slippery Rock Branch

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Today's Word: transfiguration

April 15, 2007

Are You:

- Building and Sharing Your Testimony?
- Feasting on the Word of God?



Photograph by Joan Ross

Lesson 13:

“I Will Give unto Thee
the Keys of the Kingdom”

Today's Scriptures

Matthew 15: 21-17;9

Next Week:

Lesson 14:

“Who Is My
Neighbour?”

Matthew 18

Luke 10

President Wilford Woodruff:

“When the Lord gave the keys of the kingdom of God, the keys of the Melchizedek Priesthood, of the apostleship, and sealed them upon the head of Joseph Smith, He sealed them upon his head to stay here upon the earth until the coming of the Son of Man. Well might Brigham Young say, ‘The keys of the kingdom of God are here.’ They were with him to the day of his death. They then rested upon the head of another man—President John Taylor. He held those keys to the hour of his death. They then fell by turn, or in the providence of God, upon Wilford Woodruff.

“I say to the Latter-day Saints the keys of the kingdom of God are here, and they are going to stay here, too, until the coming of the Son of Man. Let all Israel understand that. They may not rest upon my head but a short time, but they will then rest on the head of another Apostle, and another after him, and so continue until the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in the clouds of heaven to “reward every man according to the deeds done in the body” (“Gospel Classics: Keys of the Kingdom,” Reprinted in *Ensign*, April 2004, 29.

Elder David B. Haight:

“The Lord taught that his Church was to be built on the rock of revelation, of divine truths revealed by God himself, and that Christ is the Son of the living God; therefore, the gates of hell shall not prevail against his Church.

“The keys of the kingdom were promised to Peter, and he exercised that authority as he associated with the other members of the Twelve and presided over them.

‘There were a number of occasions when the Savior took only Peter, James, and John with him, undoubtedly for additional spiritual experiences and instruction. When Jesus went up into the Mount of Transfiguration to prepare for his coming ordeal, he took these three Apostles with him so that, having seen his glory—the glory of the Only Begotten of the Father—their hearts would be fortified and their faith strengthened as they gazed upon this heavenly event. There they received the promised keys of the priesthood’ (“The Keys of the Kingdom,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1980, 73).

Questions to Ponder

- Why is a conviction that the prophet holds all the keys of the Priesthood an essential part of our testimonies?
- What is the significance of each of the four instances in scriptures where the Father testifies of the Son?



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