

Lessons for Leaders

Teachings to the Apostles following the Transfiguration—Matthew 17–20

Have faith as a grain of mustard seed (17:20)

Use prayer and fasting (17:21)

Do not offend political powers, but remember your true independence (17:26–27)

Be converted and become as humble as little children (18:3–4)

Receive, bless, and care for the little children (18:5; 19:15)

Do not offend or despise even the least of the Saints (18:6, 10)

Seek to find the lost sheep (18:12)

Seek first to resolve disputes in private (18:15)

Involve proper witnesses and disciplinary councils to try to recover lost souls (18:16)

Forgive over and over again (18:22, 35)

Try to keep marriages together, as God has ordained, even if all may not succeed (19:6, 11)

Consecrate your property, sell and give to the poor (19:22)

Remember that with God all things are possible (19:26)

The first shall be last, and the last shall be first (19:30; 20:16)

Know that God will reward all as he sees fit, not as we might think is fair (20:15)

Many are called, but few chosen (20:16)

Be prepared to drink of the difficult cup of struggle and suffering (20:23)

Whoever will be great or chief, let them be ministers and servants (20:26–27)

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Explanation

After the transfiguration, Jesus spent time especially with his disciples, teaching them many important lessons that they would need to learn in order to direct the affairs of the kingdom following the death and departure of the Savior. These lessons were taught in many ways, through object lessons, parables, explanations, aphorisms, and many other challenging and persuasive methods. All leaders in the Church of Jesus Christ today will be strengthened in their callings by knowing and observing the leadership training given by the Lord to the leaders whom he had called. The principles of faith, fasting, prayer, loyalty, humility, not offending the weak, seeking the lost, handling disputes, forgiving, strengthening marriages, giving to the poor, struggling, and keeping perspective apply as much today as they did in the days of Jesus.

Reference

“Teachings in General,” and “Teaching Techniques,” *WRC*, 54–59, 108–9.