

Raw Transcript

Charity and Sacrifice Talk

one thing I have learned in life is that love or charity is much more a verb than a noun much more what we do than what we feel I would argue that our feelings of love come from our actions and the actions of those who love us the Lord uses love as a verb he told his disciples if ye love me keep my Commandments and to Peter he said Simon son of Jonas lovest thou me he saith unto Him yea Lord thou knowest that I love thee he saith unto Him feed my sheep the scriptures are very clear about the importance of love or charity Moroni said wherefore my beloved brethren if you 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 Moroni 7:46 Peter professed and above all things have fervent charity among yourselves for charity shall cover the multitude of sins that's good to know 1st Peter 4:8 Nephi wrote behold the LORD hath forbidden this thing wherefore the Lord God hath given a commandment that all men should have charity which charity is love and except they should have charity they were nothing that's in 2nd Nephi 26 30 and Paul in his first epistle to the Corinthians is stated and now abideth faith hope and charity these three but the greatest of these is charity so the greatest thing that we can attribute we can develop is the attribute of love or charity now in mortality Jesus gave us many examples of how to live with love and charity one great example is that he loved those who were not loved

he sat and with the sinners when those preaching righteousness would have nothing to do with them
it was president Kimball who gave a definition of charity as love the sinner hate the sin and of course we are all sinners Jesus also stopped at Jacob's Well and asked a Samaritan woman for water despite the objections of his own disciples John 4:9 says then saith the woman of Samaria unto Him how is that how is it that thou being a Jew ask us drink of me which am a woman of Samaria for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans and then we have several parables and teachings from Christ about the Samaritans who were hated among the Jews as sinners and as lesser than them is not the chosen people you had the parable of the Good Samaritan of course where it was the Samaritan above all else whether it was priesthood holders or other Jews that actually held out the man that was on the side of the world helped out the man that was on the side of the road and of course when we think about the commandment to love your neighbor from Christ we think about where he comes from Jesus lived in Galilee Galilee is north of Jerusalem and is surrounded by Samaria and by Samaritans and so love your neighbor takes has a little bit more of a meaning when you understand that his neighbors were the Samaritans other examples of love and charity and his teachings include the parable of the prodigal son who came back made all the mistakes but who was loved by the father when he came back or the lost sheep you know being the one that needed to be found by the shepherd
Christ was accepting and loving to all his ire was directed at those who judged and excluded through a false filter of righteous superiority Jesus saw all men

and women for who they really are sons
and daughters of God and his brothers
and sisters

John chapter 5 is the allegory of Jesus
as the vine and his disciples are the
branches and basically showing how Jesus
as the vine is the source of strength
and the branches then are drawing from
the vine for that strength Jesus then
goes in and ties the allegory of the
vine directly to the principle of love
and charity in John 15 9 he says as the
father hath loved me so have I loved you
continue ye and my love and then in
verse 12 he says this is my commandment
that you love one another as I have
loved you Lehigh does the same thing in
his famous vision he partakes of the
fruit something similar to the vine is
The Tree of Life in in Lehigh's vision
he protects to the fruit which is the
love of God the greatest gift and then
desires others to partake of it he
accepts the love of God and then loves
others similar to how the disciples
might be the branches to the vine they
accept the love of Christ and then are
to go out and to love others but the
greatest example Jesus gave of love
crowned by his atoning sacrifice was his
willingness to live a life of sacrifice
and therefore a life filled with love
and charity he sacrificed his own
desires because he loved the father he
sacrificed his own needs because he
loved us elder Tanner equated sacrifice
with love when he said I quote if we are
to have this love of which the Savior
spoke in which he emphasizes as being
the most important thing in life it must
begin in the home and there and then
carry into our daily lives sacrifice for
one another make one another happy
sacrifice is a constant theme in the
life and teachings of the mortal Messiah
overcoming the trials and tribulations

of this world by living a higher law of love and charity

Jesus was in fact restoring a higher law a higher law as part of his mission living that higher law is what we call sacrifice and his synonymous with love when Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden of Eden they were given a set of laws as well as taught the gospel of Jesus Christ they were to begin to till the ground to labor for their food in them and the Book of Moses states that they had been commanded to build an altar and offer sacrifices unto the Lord in short they were commanded and taught to sacrifice living the lower laws of a new fallen world by living the higher laws it was to be that living a life of sacrifice would be the only way to point them and to guide them back to the presence of God this would require a love of God family and neighbor the ritual act of sacrifice pointed them to the anticipated great sacrifice of Jehovah it required them to participate and it taught that it was through the law of sacrifice that the atonement could take effect in their lives to better describe the concept of sacrifice we can look at the word as it came to us from the Greek New Testament - via Latin that is *Sasha*

Vasari or sacrifice or *e* to make holy above the entrance of every temple are the words holiness unto the Lord as members of the Covenant would bring their sacrifices to the temple they were committing themselves to holiness that is to live a life consecrated or a life set apart from this world they were as the Savior did through his atoning sacrifice making themselves and others holy sacrifice was an act of love for God and Allah of love for others one of our hymns gives us an example of how we can participate with the Lord in loving

others one of my favorite men of all time President David all McKay taught us all something about living a life of love for others when he suggested a modest one word change in the anthem Battle Hymn of the Republic the original words were as he died to make men holy let us die to make men free the inspired changed taught a significant lesson as you know the phrase now reads as he died to make men holy let us live to make men free in other words let us do as the Savior did follow his example and live a life of love and charity to make men free through the gospel of Jesus Christ Jesus Christ our brother has given each of us the opportunity to live lives of love and charity to grow and progress to lift others to be happy and how was this done it was possible only through the love of our older brother these poignant words by Jesus are perhaps the greatest example on the topic of love in Scripture an example of how to live and bring down the blessings of heaven are uttered by Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane I quote o my father if it be possible let this cup pass from me nevertheless not as I will but as thou wilt even the Savior had to go through the process of sacrifice with all of its determination courage and Trust in his father and in the eternal principle of love and charity these are words directed at each of us we too might think act and live not as I will but as thou wilt each week we are in a sense partaking of his sacrifice and in a smaller way committing to do the same by taking upon us his name and remembering his example always I think that a Malachi speaks of what we offer when we partake of a sacrament in Omni 1:26 he states I would that she should come unto Christ who is the Holy One of

Israel and partake of his salvation and the power of his return
yay come unto him and offer your whole souls as an offering unto Him sacrifices in the Old Testament including those offered by Adam and other sacrifices that were instituted with the law of Moses were done away with when the Savior offered himself a sacrifice for sin for the consequences of the laws of this world those sacrifices looked forward to his sacrifice but always required the participation of the individuals or families but a certain sacrifice has always been required by God of man this is the time of Adam 2 today and that is the sacrifice of ourselves by offering a broken heart and a contrite spirit upon the altar of God again that love or charity along with humility to God as it states in Psalms 51 17 the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit a broken and contrite heart now if we go back further to the Hebrew of the Old Testament we get the word Corbin which is translated sacrifice it provides an additional understanding of the word sacrifice and how it ties to love and charity Corbin literally means an act of moving closer to God in the great sacrifice that is often referred to as the atonement God was moving closer to us in fact condescending below all of a fallen mankind it was the greatest act of love that ever was and ever will be in return he asks us to love him and move toward him by acquiring charity this is what is meant by atonement being at one with God or covenant to come together love is of course not a one-way street so to speak it is not only the part of the atonement of the Savior to have charity but it is also our part our choice our act to follow the example of love for God and others set by the Savior and to move

toward him David puts it plainly in Psalm 73:28 but as for me nearness to God is good this is the economy of God sacrificed by us brings us closer to God a broken heart and a contrite spirit and the highest of all godly attributes charity is the path back to our Heavenly Father and away from this fallen state it is the key that opens the door to individual family and more broadly to human progress and to elevating ourselves above the fray of this mortality with its baggage of lower laws and lower consequences the Savior again in asking us to follow his example of love and ever adhering to his role as a teacher gives us this personal teaching in John 6:38 about sacrifice and how to live when he stated I quote for I am came down from heaven not to do mine own will but the will of him that sent me that of course is why all came down from heaven all of us to do the will of the Father

I would like to make what I believe is an important point I talk on just about any subject can produce a list of things to do and not to do I have consciously stayed away from that but charity and the gospel are only secondarily about two do's and primarily about our hearts that is true charity and love toward others produces good works this was the Lord's primary message to the ruling parties of his time focusing on a list produces important acts but it is the focus on our hearts and on love and charity and on the hearts of others that changes men and women a list alone can show us what we are accomplishing but it also gives us a constant reminder of what we are not doing always falling short of perfection

we might put ourselves in two categories those who demand too much of themselves and those who do not demand enough of

themselves they have a common issue both types of people show a low tolerance for pain one tries to ignore it while the other tries to run ahead of it but both reflect the prominence of self and perhaps a lack of understanding the atonement the issue at hand for both is the readiness to offer the Lord a broken heart and a contrite spirit and follow the example of the Savior in loving God our neighbors and all men and women neither the perfectionist nor the slacker knows that the course they pursue is pleasing God and both lack in an attitude of love and charity and therefore are limiting their ability to bring down the power and blessings of heaven perfectionists can believe that there is only perfect and not perfect blemished and unblemished Nephi almost certainly a perfectionist gives us a glimpse of himself when he declares notwithstanding the great goodness of the Lord in showing me his great and marvelous works my heart exclaiming Oh wretched man that I am I am encompassed about because of the temptations and the sins which do so easily beset me nevertheless and this is key I know in whom I have trusted and then he ties together this trust and the blessings of a life filled with love toward others by saying may the gates of Hell be shut continually before me because that my heart is broken and my spirit is contrite though he knows he falls short ultimately he trusts in the Lord he partakes of the fruit of the tree from Lehigh's vision and understands that it is the love of God and in turn his love for others that waxes strong his confidence it was King David in the twenty-third Psalm that so eloquently described his trusting in the Lord that brings him not to say that his cup is half full but

that it runneth over
the message and example of our brother
is clear live a life full of love by
living a higher law through love toward
God and our fellow man this is how we
get closer to God and by helping others
do the same
through the enabling empower principle
of love when asked which is the great
commandment to the law Jesus replied
thou shalt love the Lord thy God with
all thy heart and with all thy soul and
with all thy mind this is the first and
Great Commandment and the second is like
unto it thou shalt love thy neighbor as
thyself on these two Commandments hang
all the law and the prophets it has been
my experience that I as I have been put
into situations where I have had to
extend myself to sacrifice my self and
to bear the burdens of others and to put
my arm around them and to help them when
that opportunity arises I firmly believe
that that charity is required of all of
us and it is what enriches our lives and
these mortal laws this mortality that we
live in gives us the opportunity to
exert that and to develop that charity
and I say these things in the name of
Jesus Christ