



Stepping Up to Leadership Opportunities | An Interview with Jeff Burningham

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hundred people real estate technology of funded most of the incoming startups along the silicon slopes which is a real exciting success. Story here in utah. But i didn't have background and politics. I really came at this. In fact i had a little visit with president. Ballard and i don't remember. Do you remember his talk several years ago in it. He spoke about how good men and women should try to stand up and should run for public office. If they were able to financially able to and time they were able to and felt compelled. I'd say that that really matched. Sally and is feeling as we felt compelled to do it. We're in a position that we could do it so so we stepped up and yeah those are great people is it's it's crazy. Curt is my first political debate. People ask me. How do you ever run for politics before. I was my high school student body president. I don't think that much although that was really fun. And i love my school. Love my friends and those that i served with. But i really don't have a background in politics. I'd been precinct chair here in provo but so my first debate. I'm in it's in. Saint george utah. January twenty twenty really early january twenty twenty. I'm literally to my right. Spencer cox lieutenant governor. Who's a friend of mine but man. He's been a politician for a long time. Kinda climb the ladder and add a ton of experience was the currently governor in to my left was another friend of mine. I've known for business. And a great guy jon huntsman. Who ran for president. And i sit in here in front of a couple of thousand people. This is my first political debate. And here i am sandwiched between these two very season politicians. But i'll tell you what. I had such peace during that debate. I think it went really well. I did really well. I was just happy. I was happy because i was really there. I think for the right reasons. I was just trying to serve that. I think politics. Are you know politicians. There should be a season of service. You get in try to get some good things done and get out and my heart was in the right place. I had gone through a process to get there. And so i had a great time and it was a really interesting experience and oh we could talk about forever. Well it's intriguing for sure. And i don't mean to generalize of the latter day saint experience but when a letter to saint may be wants to have influence and step up like you said we typically think well you know if the lord wants me to serve or have influence will call me as some type of bishop era leaks say president or on the council to have influence or or we turn to be local charities or return to start business life but rarely do we think maybe this means i step up into politics.

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So what encouragement you give to others that. Maybe they want to make a difference but politics is and really. You're speaking to me. That's like the last thing ever wanted to. Yeah well i understand right. And i think everyone would understand. Politics is so ugly. We are so divided as a nation. Right now and i'll be honest. It was heartbreaking for us in a lot of ways we had great friends. Lean in and support us and support us financially and vocally and on social media. But what. I'm actually really saying moore supporters emotionally. Be a shoulder to cry on. Be there for us when things were hard because things were hard my what you just met my beautiful wife ro quickly. She's a sweet soul. We had never. We've had some business success. I've won some awards you know. So we've been in the spotlight a little bit but never like this and so to have arrows thrown at you and the other thing is when you start a startup. You start in 'ambiguities aaron and no one knows no cares when i started quote unquote this startup. i started on the capitol steps. There was tons of media there. I immediately went on a meteoroid show and very quickly. there were kind of arrows. Coming at us that you're not used to and we used to. She wasn't used to so and then there were great. Friends that emotionally supported us. You really need that network but also there were some friends that were not there. They were completely absent. They were

mia whether either because they're too busy or honestly because politics is too scary. That just did not want to take a side in this very divisive time. So let me say first of all. They're probably are easier ways to make a difference but if no one will step up and if if no one who isn't a seasoned politician or hasn't climbed that career political ladder which almost all my opponents had and i had not. Those are the type of politicians. I lie and so if no one has the guts or kerr to step up. What was the point and really kurt. This is one of the reasons iran. I come from kind of silicon slopes and entrepreneurship community. I love entrepreneurs and have invested in hundreds of them with time and money here in the state. I kinda wanted to pave a way little bit and show look. We can do this. You can step up into this. I hope i was a good example. In that regard. I may not have been. I certainly lost so. I hope that wasn't too discouraging. But it's all about being in the arena right and life. Whether it's entrepreneurship or the church or politics it's about being in the arena and bringing the god given gifts that each of us have that every son or daughter of god has into the arena to try to make this a better place. And that's that was my mo in terms of running for governor. And i love that thought that you know leadership isn't necessarily about leading in the arena. But sometimes it's just taking that first step in the arena. Where if we don't do that first. Step you know we. We may not be there when they look for that leader. Mike you said so often the church where we're used to church culture war called right and we don't campaign throw your hat in the ring. You don't say i'm available in fact that's a way to make sure that you probably never really call too much. And that's not what we do so we're not used to say. Generally in our culture obviously politics entrepreneurship. That's different and you step up you step out and you say i'm here. I'm an imperfect person like we all are. Have some gifts like we all do. And i think i have an interesting perspective to lend to this race to lender this business to lender this public service position. And so you've got to be proactive. It's not about being reactive. Think politicians are very often reactive as one of the things that i would have changed is because of who. I am a proactive person. I know what's coming utah. We are in the midst of a magical moment here in utah. The growth that we are seeing and experiencing all the trends that were seen post covid. They were there before covid but what happened with covid nineteen those have all been accelerated. That means massive growth for our state that means change. That means a lot more diversity that means a lot more money. There's a lot more financial success in utah right now than there ever has been. How do we grapple with. This is a state. How do we stay true to our roots. And what's made a special kind of our pioneer heritage but move forward is kind of pioneering two point. Oh i feel like that's where you're as a state and so sorry not to get. I'm not campaigning anymore. I'm not asking for anyone's vote. But that was my vision right. That was my vision in my outlook.

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And i brett. I brought this fresh perspective. Because i had not been a not a political animal and i had not been in that arena before but because i had been so intimately involved in the business community i had that perspective and i know last thing. I'll often have politicians both local and our national representatives. Call me and say jeff asked me about the economy and utah's it really this hot as they're really going to be this much growth. What's going on and i say to them. I always say that you know. Is it really this hot. And i say no. It's actually stronger than even know. There are so many good entrepreneurs in our state. There is so much more capital than has ever been here that are state the state headquarters of the church. Jesus christ latter-day saints is changing in dynamic and exciting ways and we need good

leaders to step up and make sure that we stay true to who we are. Yeah yeah and they'll if you're not a political animal and we need more non-political animals in these in these discussions and whatnot. And just that idea of stepping up. Where i've i've done a lot of writing and sharing this perspective as far as this concept of the spiring and we it's sort of Has this negative. Connotation in the context of the church gets inappropriate. You shouldn't do that. But then it bleeds over to all things in life and we just sorta shrink into our where where we're at. We never step out. Step up to really lead and leading requires that it doesn't always come. Hey we would like to endow you with leadership for roles and whatnot. I love that. I think there's a sweet balance in there right that i'm striving for personally in my life. I'm forty four years old kind of in my mid life or half life. When i was young. I certainly aspired right. I needed to make it. I you know. I really worked hard to make an in business and otherwise but i think there's a sweet spot in people's lives. I spent quite a bit of time with former governor levitt. While i was running for governor some of these other guys who kinda graduated there almost saintly now they don't have a dog in the fight. They're giving advice. They just want the best for the state of utah. And i think that's the sweet spot of service that i'm trying to live in we. Maybe we are. But where. I'm not trying to aspire for anything. You aspire and you become a bishop you have and i have or whatever else you realize. I don't want to aspire for anything. I think very quickly you're like. Wow this aspiring is a lot of work quote unquote so you don't want to aspire but you also don't want to shrink also don't want to shrink from the quote unquote fight from the from the battle from the challenge of life from the the greatness of life. You want to shrink from that. You need to bring all of your energy all of your goodness all of your talents to things that are important to you here on this earth. That's why we are here but you also don't need to aspire and again. I think that aspiring at least in my experience that aspiring gets beaten out of you pretty quickly when you're called as a young bishop when you've done some things in leadership you know that that goes away and i think what emerges i hope is emerging in my life and i think these are the kind of leaders that we want to promote and support. It's just pure desire for service and to have a positive impact on the lives of people whether it's in the state or in the church or in your business or whatever the case may be those are the type of people that we want to follow. That's awesome so let's zoom out a little bit. Usually from i grew up in spokane moved around a little bit as a youngster by spent most of my time in the beautiful pacific northwest. Spokane washington love that. Did you always intend to go into business. Or whatever that your personal life star. Yeah not necessarily. I love basketball growing up. You could probably see from here. I love basketball. And i was a short point guard in college and was pretty good in high school so i love basketball. My first sport. I was a quarterback in high school. So i love sports competitive athletics. I mean that's really where i wanted to be. I was interested in media at the end. Are i might undergrad at. Byu is in communication. So i've always been interested in media. I mean that probably espond podcast now. The ordinary us as you know that i'm really excited about. That's probably kind of lead into that. That interest in media but have also been always kind of been a self starting entrepreneur. I remember funny growing up in spokane washington. We're solid middle class family. My parents were awesome. Had five little brothers and a sister. And as i recollect this story. There is a door to door salesman that knocked on our door and said hey you know there are selling a carpet cleaner. My mom went unanswered. I said mom what was that. They're selling a carpet cleaner. And the kind of the immediate thought that i had was mom we lived across from our elementary school. And i knew you know dentists or doctors in our ward or whatever the case may be. I said let's by that were you buy that carpet cleaner for me. I'll start cleaning carpets. You know at the elementary school.

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The preschool my kids of my my brothers and sister and hopefully pay for these competitive basketball camps and stuff like that so started a little. I guess you could call it business as a youngster cleaning carpets and so. I've always had that proactive inch. Strategic mind in terms of business and finance and started my first tech company as an undergrad at byu and so since then have kind of been starting many businesses. And shortly i'd say after my mission realized i really love business. I love entrepreneurship. I think this is what i would like to dedicate my life to i. I have found that.

Entrepreneurship is an accelerated path of morning. Have you found that your outcome leading this is the startup. Oh yeah i mean. It's grown a lot and it's it pales college. College pales in comparison of what i've learned sort of in the thick of it which you learn day to day in building a business or building leading saints. It is an accelerated path of learning. As soon as i understood that. I said that's the path for me because i want to learn. I want to be better. I want to improve. I want to be challenged. i want to be pushed. I wanna fall down and fail. That's the way that we all ultimately. I believe succeed you now. You know repentance or failure isn't just a part of the plan. Is the plan for us here on earth we all fail. We all make mistakes but hopefully we learn from those mistakes. Get up and and entrepreneurship is certainly not from my life. And i've been so grateful for the opportunities. I've had here in utah to build companies to work with wonderful people to back some of the most up and coming exciting entrepreneurs in the state. It's a blessing and it's cool to just see the skyline change along the wasatch front in provo where it's like this is not the utah county. I remember going to. Byu games as a little boy. You know it's it's transformed. it's awesome. Yeah you saw that just driving down here. Yeah yeah and our firm has been the investor and almost all of those new buildings wanted to go first semester and almost all of those companies that you drove by and so it's been a blessing those entrepreneurs have created thousands of jobs thousands of jobs here in the state of utah and i used to kind of frowned upon money. Or if you're like money was the root of all evil. But now if you do it right i think it's a service if you're creating higher paying jobs for families i view that as service and i and so proud of the entrepreneurs that we backed and the difference. They're making the family's lives that they employ. It's been really fun. Yeah that's at all so tells. The story of being called a bishop. Oh man shoo you want. This is absolutely. I was really young. I was like twenty seven or twenty eight that was in twenty eight to kindred spirits. Sesame are i was in a state presidency as the executive secretary. I'm coming down from meetings in salt lake. We usually we had a counselor who i dearly love. The presidency who was always ten minutes late leadership meetings thursday at seven and i was going to be thereby seven ten. Which is kind of normally start time. But my stake. President called me and said while i'm driving hustling down i fifteen. Hey jeff. it was at seven sharp. Where are you and i said. Oh i'm so sorry president. I'm a couple minutes later. I'll be there in a minute. And he said oh. Take your time. don't worry about it. You know and so i thought that was interesting to come into the meeting at seven ten and they had started already. And what's funny is that we were planning on going back to boston to graduate school at this point. My set president knew that more or less and i sit down and i said sorry to interrupt. Just keep going and and the state present looked to me. I'm trying not to use names but looked at me and said jeff just got a call from the bishop in your war and i knew nothing about this not as good friends my bishop and he said we just got a call from the bishop near ward and he's moving and i was like really i'm really surprised and he just looked at me and he said so jeff who should be the next bishop this is in the stake presidency mean hustle bear. And i'll be. I felt so convicted. Right there on the spot. Of course. I just said by the spirit. I just said president. You've caught me off guard. Can you let me think for a second because there are a lot of

good people and come back to me so they went on some came back to me in five minutes and i listed all the good names and i was the executive secretary so i called five people in to have an interview. I never really even had an interview. And then Those five interviews happened and didn't hear anything months go on and then out of the blue all of a sudden my state president called us in and said hey. You're going to be the bishop. And i didn't even have an interview. I had felt that night. I came home that night late. My wife who's already in bed. And i just told her about the experience and again kind of had a soft witness or feeling that even though we were so young and so inexperienced imperfect this might be is but then again pushed it off.

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Because i didn't have an interview. I never brought up my name. My name was never discussed in front of me. And yes i was called. The bishop is really interesting experience. It was here in provo the provo the original provo utah state kind of by seven peaks if people on some peak the original provo utah so pretty traditional family ward of family ward. Some young students as well not a lot. But some and yeah. It was a really great experience. And i enjoyed being a bishop. I learned a lot of valuable lessons about it. It's a really young too so hop in a time machine and go back to today one and talk to yourself. What are like if you're sitting down with jeff yourself and say all right. Don't don't forget about this. What principles would you would you share with them. Oh kurt i just did this because my brother who lives right outside of chicago who was just a younger brother. Who just called me a bishop. Jeff what do you give me your advice to two main things maybe third kind of stick out number one. I remember and you probably remember this feeling again. I was young bishop. So we're you. I was naive to a lot of what i was hearing are experiencing the sure. Yeah i served as a counselor in the bishopric for several years. I sorta i if you asked me. Then i could have said. I have a pretty good idea what the bishop does in. That was completely different. When i said that's heard so interesting is like my experience. I've been a counselor and several presidencies and bishoprics etc. Like you don't really know what the bishop is doing. You don't know the load may be that he is carrying and this was my number one in first lesson. I'd say about six months into being a bishop. I felt so weighed down curtain. I felt so overwhelmed. I would come home on sundays in the way that i would phrase it to. My wife is and this is a term i coined but like i was like an emotional shock. I don't know. I had just seen person after person. After person old young people. I loved and knew and respected people. I didn't know so well. Whatever that had these big issues. That i was so unequipped to help them with or was not able to help them with because of my lack of experience because i whatever the case may be and i remember one particular meeting with meeting with one of my young women and something really heavy being on our heart mind and there was. I had a picture here of the savior behind us in my bishops office. And as if he was speaking to me you know and he said jeff this is not. These are not your burdens. These are mine like all you need to do is point these people to me so i will say after six months. My job became a lot easier. I had a much clearer. Perspective iowa obviously knew all this right but it's hard to not is essentially the application is completely different. Application is hard. it's hard not to internalize these discussions. That you're having with people and i immediately knew like this is not mine. These are not my burns these or his burns that he will carry. He's already carried for us. And for these people. So i i wanted people to the savior and and what did that look like when you say that i mean in practice for that looked like you know all the normal practices that you might think about. Oh first of all i would say. I'm not an expert here. I am a fellow

traveler with you. And i really. I started calling myself again. I haven't talked about this allowed to find coin these terms or if they're unique or not i start calling myself a repentance coach. I would almost say like you can call me bishop birmingham or whatever that's what am i. I'm a repentance coach. Like i am hoping coach you through the repentance process by the way that you're working out with the savior yeah with me per se at. It can feel so much like that like the bishop 'cause you know we're negotiating repentance here but that's not. I love that putting in the context of a coach. Yeah yeah so. I was a report from the age of twenty eight thirty three. Roughly that may be wrong a year. But i was a repentance coach and i would just try to coach these people through the steps of re patents turning them to the savior obviously to reading to prayer and it was really about their hearts changing right. It's about a changed heart. It's about allowing the atonement to work within. Our hearts individually. I believe that if we when we make mistakes when we feel down we can either get bitter. We can close up. We can cloth to god. We can close off to loved. Ones our spouse our children our father mother etc or we can open up which is painful and we can allow the savior to take. Our heart are broken heart and kind of it and mold it to be more like his more of a perfect and so as i became kind of a witness to that process is i became a coach as myself in that process. It was miraculous and it was really healing so that that's less than number one number two quickly.

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It's all about the youth. What's crazy is. I was kind of a youth myself. I was twenty eight. I don't know if you felt this way. But i was actually closer in age to my priests than i was to most of my ward members and so i remember again six months or a couple of months and doing a fifth sunday lesson and and kind of telling the adults. I love you. I am here for you. We're here for you. You have issues that we need help but do all that you can to handle your own issues with god and let me focus on your kids because your kids need me. Actually your kids. And i knew i had enough experience by that point to know your kids need me and i don't remember the exact year is mid two thousand two thousand five ish. Her remember texting the youth and at that point the parents thought that was so miraculous and cool like our bishop. It was cutting edge. I did. I know it's very routine now. But fifteen twenty years ago it was i. R bishop is texting are they loved it so intimately involved with their children. And i had such a desire to help the youth the young man and the young women and our ward and that was my second piece of advice to my brother. Andy who has recently called a bishop is focus. Tried to set systems up. Try to have your counselors work with adults as much as possible your job with youth. And by the way. I i think we i don't see that modeled. Well oftentimes like the focus that i think we should have on the youth that they need during these trying times. So that's critical lesson. Chances one of a backup a little bit to this repentance. Coach did so sure the xs and os as far as the playbook. When when that person comes in. I mean any advice on being a coach during a repentance process. Yeah i have a high level thought and some tactics talk tactics fat. I but i think the high level thoughts even more important and i wanna see if it resonates with you but number one. Listen make. you're there to listen. You are there number two. Don't pretend to be an expert and something you're not. You have to understand that an every ward of the church everything almost that you can possibly imagine. Good and bad is happening. And there's no way whether you're twenty eight. Forty eight or sixty eight and a bishop. You cannot be an expert and all things. And i'll tell people so don't pretend to be. Don't feel like you have to step up in giving you do step up. But you're stepping up and pointing people to the savior you're stepping up and trying to model.

Maybe what the savior might be like. You're not you don't save anyone and you're not there to save them so i don't pretend right number three i think he really prayerful about individuals and you pray with individuals in your office number four. Obviously i developed over time and a lot of counseling with members. Kind of my go-to readings. Right i'm sure you did the same thing like things that you felt really loved and resonated with them and then we would read those together. We would talk about those together. We would discuss together so they're kind of four tactics. The thought i had kurt. When you ask the question. And i just wanna say this and i want to. I want to say this. Because i know there are people out there. Probably listen to your podcast right now. They're like this doesn't apply to me. Like repentance doesn't apply. I've gone too far. I've done too much. I'm i'm trash. You know what i mean. Whatever the feelings may be. We all feel that way. Sometimes i do. And i would just want to say this about repentance. I was bishop for five years. Everything under the sun happened that you could imagine short hip and there were two times in five years that i remember feeling what i will call the wrath of god or like like kind of hellfire and damnation to times. No take into account. This is like spending twenty to fifty hours a week for five years being a bishop with people so hearing and talking and loving and crying and with people and repenting and going through this repentance kush process there were only two times and he and i've thought about this and here the two one abuse when someone was abusing someway physically or you know and more in whatever way i felt like the but it wasn't even just abuse this was an addict is this is someone that truly had a broken heart and a contract spirit and wanted to change. I didn't even feel like the justice of god or the wrath of god idea it had to be abuse and they were trying to cover that up like they were deceitfully trying to pretend like it wasn't happening they're trying to cover it up. They were lying. They had this plan to abuse people. I felt like the wrath of god.

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Like you are going to hell like we need to help you and my point is other than that. I want to ask if you've had the same experience. Kurt i only. I hope i wasn't doing bishop being wrong. I hope. I really hope i was an i. Don't believe i was. But i only felt mercy and love like all no matter what i heard no matter how outlandish. It was no matter how bad you think it might be what i felt as the bishop and as the repentance coach of this ward for this five year period was the love and mercy of god and the savior upon us. Did you absolutely. Yeah because it is easy to sort of you know you're grappling with this responsibility. Where am i supposed to do. What's my role at. What are the steps you know. There's no training course on repentance. One on one that you go through right and so you're trying to feel a role in your always sure how to do that. So you default to. I think i'm sort of a parole officer. And so what. I'm gonna do is fourteen days probation and come back and no sacramento. We'll talk about it later and comes across as you're you're punishing me. I guess i need to be punished. Like wait time out. The only punishment went to christ and he took one hundred percent of that. And so it's that mercy and love that we need to default to. Yeah that was my again. I hope i didn't bishop wrong. I defaulted to mercy and love like ninety nine point seven percent of the time. And so what did that look like. Was it As i say again for me. I'm speaking. I didn't feel like a pro officer kurt. I that's not how i handled it. Of course there were times where people didn't take the sacramento and there was a plan a game plan to repent and come back. But i it'd be interesting to talk to people in my locker in my ward But i'm fairly confident. They didn't feel like i was a parole officer either. The i just didn't have that lens. My lens was all about

turning people to save my lens was all about mercy and love and using the atonement to heal. Because i'm trying to think. I love the new testament as served a mission in charlotte north carolina. I got challenged in the bible every day of my mission. I came home knowing the bible. Much better than the book of mormon from a mission in the south because every day i would knock on preachers doors and they were like after us and i'm not one to shy away from shying away from anything really obviously running for governor and everything else but and so i was engaged. I was in it. I would go to their churches on sunday. I would stand up and bear testimony in a loving way about trues of our church when they were you know teaching false doctrine or whatever the case may be and so i love the bible and i'm trying to think of a time when the savior called out like a center and shame them or like rebuked them strongly i can think of pharisees and saj sees the leaders among us by the way let this be a warning to the leaders among us including myself and all of us that to save. Your called out was kind of hypocrisy. He didn't call out the woman at the well. He didn't call out the people that needed saving. He didn't call out. I mean he was there for those people he was trying to help. Heal and save those people and so anyways that was my lansing as a bishop. My lens was one of mercy and love and anyways hopefully. Hopefully i tried to. I've never heard that in context that way as far as the saviour after people is tipped typically the leaders of the church air. And and so to me. It's like it puts an extra like emphasis on leaders. Say okay just just take a deep breath here because you're in a position where christ you went after when they were being as we fair six. Because that's why. I kind of said heads up to all of us all of us that our leaders and i know this podcast is about to have been leaders and our leaders now and people that are interested in leadership in the church. I think it has an extra special stewardship to be a leader and to make sure that your biases your prejudices your thoughts and feelings per se. The way you up. Don't become what the recipe for. The ward is the recipe for a successful ward. It's in the scriptures. I'm not even sure. I don't want is not even necessarily in the handbook. Maybe the organization of the ward successes in the handbook. But the ministering of the war. That's not in the handbook kurt. You can't put that in a handbook. Just set it. That's another thing that shocking. When you're called to be bishop you think again young. Bishop i think okay. My stake president the previous bishop. Whoever's going to tell me how to do this no no no no. That's not what happens. You're not given any checklist and the point is that's because there isn't a checklist per se that's the administering part. There might be a checklist. The ministering part there is no checklist. And that's something you figure out as you go.

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That's something where you try to purify your own heart as you're helping others purify there's none of us are there. None of us have arrived and so this is a journey. That will all were all on together. I don't know several apostles. I know several. I don't know these are great people. But whether you're an apostle or prophet or a home a minister in a nursery leader. We're all a lot more like. In my humble opinion. That only are different. Sometimes we let collins almost segregate us or put us in categories or a say classes. Now we're a lot more alike than we are different. We are fellow travelers together on this journey. We need to remember that. Zander's yeah get like this also goes to christ flip some tables. So maybe that's another another layer of pressure for entrepreneurs that out of the temple. Right exactly yeah and that is hard. It's funny and i will say just one thing to that because again i was. I was a young hard-charging entrepreneur. I still kinda. But i'm forty four. When i was sixteen years ago. I was even younger and more hard charging and i had a great my might to counselors my executive secretary. My

young minds present are some of my dearest friends still to this day and they know who they are but i had a counselor who was like twice my age vary season than experience and he. He said to me very early on this is not a business. You didn't do not treat this like a business to not bring your business in here like you know. He said it lovingly say he didn't talk talk but but the point is he was right. This isn't a business. This isn't climbing. This isn't climbing the latter day saints. This is about service and making a difference and so yeah we never. We didn't have any business in our in our bishopric per se and that's a good reminder to for hard-charging business leaders or entrepreneurs. I don't think you run a steak or award in fact. I've had some leaders that have i felt like have tried to run award. Heuristic like a business. It's not a business like this. It's not about business. It's it's not about organization just the box. That's one of the hard things that i see. We are so busy. And i get it. I have felt the pressure. And i have felt overwhelmed and busy. Sometimes i feel like priests leaders. They're just checking a box. You're never checking a box when you're with another soul another son or daughter of god. You're not there to do a job. You're there to minister to this person. Whatever they need that can't fit within your five minute timeframe. sometimes that can't fit with your preconceived notion of how this should go or meet checking something off that needs to be done. You are with the most precious thing in our world right now. Right now soul. That's what you're there to minister to and Sorry to get a little emotional but yeah it's real it's real. That's a really helpful. I'm looking at the list here of things we talked about the. We've touched on the atonement. Anything else you'd add there. Did you cover the the main main parts of the. Yeah i know. I i the toma is something. That's always fascinated me and the reason i'll just give a little more maybe background. Why it's i served a mission in charlotte north carolina and i was challenging the bible every day shortly after my mission i transferred to byu. While i was on my mission. I was trying to play basketball my freshman year. Not at byu. Before my mission but transferred in between. And i want the reason i transfer. I wanted to go to jerusalem. So i was home for about a month in spokane washington. Got my water skiing and wake boarding. And i love that. In the pacific northwest still do and then went literally was home for a month and left to jerusalem to the jerusalem. Byu jerusalem and i studied in the middle east for those four or five months. And i had reflective time every week usually on the sabbath to sit in the garden agai- semi on mount scopus on the mount of olives. And read about the atonement and the saviours the savior's words and he you know he said that life eternal is knowing him and knowing his son and i think that's what life is i think. That's what the thomaz about healing our hearts they get broken. They're mental were meant to come to earth than have our hearts broken repeatedly minus broken often and has been really recently. I'm kind of on a losing streak here running for governor and you know there are other things we could talk about or not but my heart broken and it's open and it's humbled and what i hope is that i'm using the atonement i'm an active participant in the atonement to allow the savior to make my heart a little more like kids to either the in the end we will see him as he is because our heart will be like his or more like his and i think the way that happens is through the atonement and this came to me through studying the new testament ad nauseam in my on mission and then a lot of quiet time in the holy land that i've spent studying pondering praying where jesus walked and thinking about what he really did for each one of us so anyways as something that's always been sold out here pressurize me.

00:40:21 - 00:45:19

It's all about him. Yeah that's right anything else with grace. We haven't touched on. I think again sir my mission and they'd say we're saved by grace and in our church we save we say. Oh yeah we do. We believe in grace. I think of it. That's a word that you hear a lot church do you. Do we believe grace yet to think about i. Guess we do. But there's always a. But so what i would say about graces and what i started saying in my mission to build on common bridges. But i think it's true to obviously. That's why i was saying it no buts we are saved by grace period like now. There may be some other things that we can do. That are good to do but period end of sentence. We are saved by the grace of god. None of us can quote unquote work our way into heaven and so that's something that i'm passionate about something that i think a lot about and that i wish we internalize more as a culture the power of grace and we embraced the word grace and that we used it more in our language that we understood that we are only saved by grace all of us every son or daughter of god whether a southern baptist and charlotte north carolina. Whether you're muslim or jew in the middle east whether you're barring jeff. Kurt utah. We're only saved by grace. That is what we are saved by. And i appreciate you reflecting as far as our culture and whatnot an inside joke with my wife. Sometimes there's a lesson or a talkin. We'll talk about it and say you know it was really good but there is a little bit too much. Do in that talk he covered with. And because it's so easy naturally. We default to this the behaviors of are we really praying. You know is there more we could do. Are we making scriptures priority. Right and at the end of the day. I sit there and say hey listen i agree with you. These are questions worth wrestling with. But i just like want one talk at least a month or at least once a week where somebody just saying. Do you know that you are completely accepted by the savior. Jesus christ he loves us adjusting more. You could do this week. more nothing less. You could do to have them love you less like he just loves you and i just want to sit with that and just be like i feel good. We don't have a couple of that. Yeah sorry in my opinion right and and not necessarily even saying it's our church. It's our culture. I don't know what it is about our culture especially maybe in utah. But i think anywhere. There's a highly concentrated religious aspect. And i'm curious just the you know you talk about the pioneer heritage. We have i mean and just sort of using. Utah's microcosm of the entire church but the entrepreneur spirit like there's this effort of like we're gonna we're gonna set some goals and we're going to work hard and you've been in those situations where your your heads down you're just working and it's like you get the the by and you're like we did it guys like let's party right and so yeah maybe some of that just in our spirit. We naturally reflected onto our religious experience. I don't i love that dude. i'm fine here. you are more fun as even expecting. I love that idea because we have a very what's called entrepreneurship bootstrap mentality and by the way if you were to talk about to silicon valley to new york-based financiers to the thing that utah's known for i'm saying entrepreneurship is bootstrapping. Where you just pull yourself up by the bootstraps ryan. Smith is a great example of this. At quote tricks you know is the owner of the jazz in utah jazz. He bootstrapped quad tricks. Meaning he didn't take outside capital for five six seven eight years. And that's what utah's known for. So now i'm bridging this to what you said. Yes we have we have this mentality. You can't bootstrap yourself to heaven. Click we cannot you may be to bootstrap yourself to entrepreneurial success. We have several. I'm kind of an example of that. We have several other even better examples of that. That's hard to do but doable. What i don't think is doable. And fact i think it's impossible is that we bootstrap our own selves to heaven. Like thank you father. Thank you savior. I got this. That's not how any of us should do it. But i think too much of that creeps into who we are how we behave how we think how we treat others and it's hurtful it's hurtful and by the way it's hurtful. I think it is causes us to go down the wrong path so often we marched down the wrong path just because our language tarot the givens have a great book recently. How about just the power of words and how

puritanical our vocabulary is around religion if we will let some of that puritanical background go and just sit in grace like you said and meditate pray and talk to the savior.

00:45:19 - 00:50:03

I think we'd have a whole different look on how we view our the church our salvation our role the church's role in the world These are all the things. I like to think about. Good and it's cool and i think people listening they want to say jeff. I understand what you're saying. Like i get that. We need the savior but come on. I mean what else we can talk about sending. I mean we gotta make sure that young man's those young men get on missions right like we. Let's make sure we and it's almost this. And i don't know if it comes from the entrepreneur spirit star human nature but there. Is this feeling of expectation. Like if. I don't have expectation. I don't hold expectation for someone else. Then they'll never hold it for themselves and then what you know then it can really go south right but i don't know what your thoughts. Here's my thoughts. I love this relationships versus results. Something that i've grappled with my entire career. I am a very taipei results oriented person like i am trying to wean myself off this. If my wife were saying hair she would laugh and say jeff is crazy type but he has. He's so much better than he used to be. I often thought about in entrepreneurship and church and everything relationships versus results. We often have expectations for people or ourselves or our god that we place on them. These are our expectations and when they win. Those results or expectations are not met. We damage the relationship. We stopped train. We say something unkind to our co worker. We treat our family member with disrespect because they have not met our expectations and therefore the result that we were looking for does not happen. But i flipped this on a ted kurt and again. This is the place. I'm trying like all this word. Sounds so good. Doesn't it application. It's hard so anyone who knows me knows that. I'm not perfect at this but i do hope that this gives a look into my true harder into my heart of who i am. I flipped on its head and realize what is the result we ultimately want. It's the relationship like that's all we want. We want any ternal relationship with our spouse. We want our kids to want to be with us forever to choose to be with us. Because i can't imagine my life without mom or dad we want to know the savior so intimately that his images in our countenance that we reflect who he is and what he is so the result we ultimately want his relationship. So my point. S any expectation that you set up or result or plan that you have the doesn't probably strengthen the relationship or tighten the bond or connection is probably wrong because the result that we all really want ultimately is intimacy in our relationships. And that's what we're going for so often. We miss that because we're too busy. We're too task oriented. Yeah but we got to go on a mission. You've got to check every box right at the right age. You've got gotta look a certain way you know one of the guys. I love that. I had on my podcast. Joseph greenwich new york tyler seller crucial conversations. I've interviewed him. he's great he's awesome great anyways great friend of mine. I think it's like episode four of the extraordinary as podcast but he talks about how we come to church and we overdress in. We're all about appearances. Instead of kinda putting our arm around the person next to us insane and joseph has some experience with this some heartache experimentalist my son's drug addict your son's a drug addict let's just admit it. Lets you say it and let's really help each other. Let's like wrap our arms around each other so that we can survive it and let's figure out how we can help our kids instead of pretending everything's all is well in zion like we all look the same. We all speak the same. We all dressed the same and everything's perfect know life is perfect you know so forget the charade anyways that just came back to me. I love what joseph said that. Yeah on the podcast.

Unity on your list. This is one of my favorite topics so super bowl out another soapbox here about unity. I feel like. I'm preaching man today so and i have been friends for a little bit. And he said hey. Come on the podcast. What are some things. I thought a little bit about what i want to talk about. I gave a list of couple things that i'm passionate about. Unity passion about. We've probably all know the. This is what. I focused on as bishop number one by the way when i was in other corn president you know when i was in a. Byu bishopric i really love unity and again.

00:50:03 - 00:55:09

It goes through some of the things that we spoke about. The church is becoming more diverse. Were becoming more of a worldwide church. That is good. That's was supposed to happen right. Utah is becoming more diverse. I don't know about you. But i think that's a good thing for a lot of people may be will push back against that. I think it's a good thing but regardless of whether you think it's good or bad. We can't stop it's handwriting. You can't stop the diversification of utah. Utah is on the map financially. The quality of life the cost of living the cova concerns on the coast. People are coming here and so how do we have unity. How do we have. Unity is saints. How do we have unity with people that are against us and this is something. I really focused on as bishop. It was kind of the number one thing that we spoke about and we had great unity in our ward. I remember temple nights that we would have something that we're familiar with his latter day saints where we would fill up the entire endowment room with our war and people would be weeping it was so powerful and meaningful because of the unity that we felt and i think we can be unified saints under two main things. I've i've traveled the world. If there's anything i love to do. I love traveling. My wife and i have traveled over fifty countries and was just in the middle east a couple of weeks ago. I love to travel and i've observed this everywhere. Charity looks really similar in provo. Utah is it does in jerusalem integrity. And i can tell a story about that. I remember being the first time. I was in jerusalem going down to the old city and i saw one of the predominant religions. I don't wanna pick on one. But i saw a group of youthful jews really like picking a muslim in the old city and i saw another another jew come up these pre stage in our and kind of have these guys stop harassing him that charity and that looks similar as when you reach out hand to someone in provo. That doesn't look exactly like you. That may be struggling with same gender attraction or maybe as a challenge with the word of wisdom or whatever the case may be like that translates integrity translates around the world. I've seen dishonesty. I've seen honesty here in provo and all over the world. I remember when sally and i were in istanbul. One time we're brand new on the ground we were late to. Something i think are Arrive late change. Some money real quickly jumped on in a cab. Felt a little uneasy about this guy. He got us there. We only had certain bills big bills because we had just quickly changed money. We change the money. It didn't feel good. He tried to get more. You know whatever he gives us some money back. We were not familiar enough with the currency we get out. Try to next of it and use this money. And they're like. Oh this money's been out of print for like a decade like this is bad money so anyways that's dishonesty. I've you know we experienced that here. Pro these principles. My point is these principles. United skirt no matter your race. Ethnicity religion even righteous principles or principles of truth like charity integrity etc. Those look the same anywhere around the world and we can unite around those secondly as latter-day saints. Obviously were. I think we're unified by covenant. No matter where you go in the church when you're baptized the same prayer and covenant. You go through the temple. Rich or poor black or white male or female. The covenants are the same. The covenants are

white unite us as a people and something that i think binds our hearts together and so this is something that i spoke a lot about as bishop you. We all know the probably the famous brigham young quote mike. Living with the saints in heaven is bliss and glory but living here on earth with the saints as quite a different story. You're that that growth. It's quite a different story here on earth but we can be unified in-principle when we treat each other with respect and charity and integrity etc and kindness and then of course we're we're unified via covenant in a unique way and the church. Jesus christ latter-day saints. I don't think there's another church on the earth that has quite this covenant binding aspect that we have on our hearts as a community. It's just powerful. yeah so for. Maybe a bishop out there who's trying to stimulate unity in their word of it because it can feel like going doing these covenant practices in go through the motions like we did our ward temple nights. You know nobody ever really comes or you know and we can stand up and talk about these unifying us but how how can we really like in practice on the ground. Was that look like as far as unifying others. Through these covenants we make. Yeah well on the ground. It looks like preaching that and living that so the reason. I think that we had so many people often at our temple nights and other we had such a feeling of unity in our ward was because we preached it consistently meaning i preached from the pulpit.

00:55:09 - 01:00:05

My release he president my primary president all they were all on board they preached it and then we lived it. It doesn't matter what you preach. If you don't live it so then we'd have activities where we would invite the entire neighborhood. We would have everyone in our neighborhood. Come it wasn't about a church activity. It was about a neighborhood activity and inviting. People have our faith to come. So i think the practices are preaching it consistently and then living people care much more about what you do than what you say. And so if you do those things i think you can. You can create unity. You can create zion so to speak which is why what we spoke about five or ten minutes ago. It was so painful when we compare and compete and trash on each other when we want this unity you know. We don't want disunity disharmony. Yeah yeah that's helpful and and really going back to the message of grace when we preach grace by people want to be a part of that and and when we realized how much grace is in these covenants. It's like i want engage in that rather than it's not a measuring stick or the define one way or the other. We're all saved by grace. We want to be unified in that but like you. So wisely said a little bit ago and white. We all kids experience. So i'm not taking my children out of this or yours but like we experienced growing up. I bet kurt. I don't know your background. But i bet it was kinda like tucking you in. I love you so much like you said. But like i also have these expectations when we let grace really permeate our relationships. But it's about. I love you and i would love for you to take this path because i think it's the best path and this has been my experience but even if you don't choose this path you gotta know i love you regardless period and the sentence if people feel that especially our children i think it needs to get results and i think it's crucial and critical that we have that that's awesome. Fear verse faith anything. We haven't hit on a net to real. Yeah again it's interesting. I was in india. I read a book called sulphur. Happy it's a really good book. I highly recommend it while. I was in india and katmandu and tibet and china. I read this book. And i was on the varanasi river which is like the holy river in india. It's where all hindus go to be baptized like it's kinda like mecca or pilgrimage. They go to our nauseam bar. Nasi is one of the most fascinating by the way places on earth. It's the most densely populated city in the world. And it is just fascinating and you sit there. And i was reading this book for happy looking at these

hindus on my left you had this huge crematorium they cremate themselves and dumping literally seen bodies burn dead bodies burns and then their ashes being swept or pushed into the ganges river though. It's floating downstream in like a hundred yards downstream. There are hindus baptizing themselves in the river. I mean going right into the river. And i just thought about life and death in a whole different way of the than i ever have before and i just realized that so often as latter day saints as people but i think as we let mistakes of the past cloud our judgment and it makes us how bad decisions in the current now. We think i can't come back. Can't repent i can't do this or that. And so we make decisions based out of fear. And that's not good because a mistakes in the past the atonement here for a reason we can let those go and then we also project into the future right. We've been talking about expectations into the future and we have an unknown future. None of us. I had no i. If i would've known that i'd be running. For governor and co a global pandemic was going to hit to make it virtually impossible for a no name for a smaller non named political person to win. I would've never gotten the race. We cove has reminded us that we don't know the future. We don't control the future so while the future is unknown and unknowable per se. I think that we often have. We make decisions based out of fear of an unknown future that again cloud our judgment and have us make bad decisions and so i think that faith is the antithesis of fear and that we need to make decisions based out of faith based on fain not out of fear. Yeah yeah that's helpful and very frequently entrepreneurial world right there's not a lot of certainty their times nafta step into as applicable there. I also think it's applicable to really applicable our church cultures snakes. That's awesome the narrowness of the waivers. Broadening the net for the church. This is a This we go on and on about this but we're working we Some well. I think it's really interesting. You know spencer director of the max wants to was on the extraordinary podcast.

01:00:05 - 01:05:12

My podcast last season and we spoke a little bit about this. I've been about it. Ever since. I want to ask you a question kurt welcome. I'm just curious what's going on here. Oh wait a minute flipping the table. I have a podcast do so if you had to say based on your experience your travels your mission etc etc. Three or four things that the church is most known for. What do you think what. I'm saying in the world's not know what are the things that churches must known for your experience. I would say polygamy temples and underwear. i don't know. I think those are good mitt. Romney maybe throw that. Yeah i would say polygamy which we don't want let's not talk on this podcast but let's put that to the side it's toll. I would say families which is a good one. I maybe went for the more cynical but no but then i'd say the word of wisdom actually again traveling the world you know again. I was just in egypt and jordan. They drink coffee and tea kind of constantly. And so when you don't drink coffee and tea. It's like an anomaly. In very interesting point is there's been members of the church all over the world. And i think that the word of wisdom is something that were really known for and i guess my point and all this is. Unfortunately we didn't say jesus christ the book of mormon i talk a mormon is one but we didn't see jesus christ like that's what we want to be known for so. I think we're on a really interesting moment. That i discuss with spencer and that i think we're all grappling with right now in the church's history. Where we're trying to broaden the net. Were trying to face square our shoulders and reach our mandate in terms of you know helping salvation. Come to all the sons and daughters of god on the earth yet. We really narrow that way via a lot of means including like the word of wisdom. You think the word was i think of what a barrier quote unquote or potential impediment. That is to you know muslims around the world. I'm thinking

into the future that that is just so cultural that they drink coffee tea and it is that really crucial to the gospel of jesus. Christ i don't know i'm not answering these questions. These are thoughts. That i'm having and so i think and of course the most nuanced and important and probably sensitive issue around this right now is obviously same gender attraction church like what is the path for same gender attracted member of the church. What is their path within the gospel within the church plan and i think that's something that we're grappling with. How do we broaden the net to bring in more of heavenly father's children. Wow you know balancing that with what we know from scripture is kind of the narrowness of the way. What are your thoughts on that. I'm curious. Well yeah that's the thing is the reconciling the love and law of it. All right that you know we. Obviously we want to make facilitate the path to the savior as smooth as possible. But there's also the sanctifying nature of standards right like the graces there the justification but then there's that sanctification and and how can we position that so it's more of rooted in the purpose of sanctification. Help us become rather than well. We just have to jump over these hurdles. Because as what we do. Because i think. I'm not a proponent of getting rid of the or changing the the word of wisdom but how can we position it or frame in a way that it's less of a. It's just what we do. But more of a is a covenant relationship where we are finding a deeper purpose to ourselves and becoming closer to god not not because we have some old research study shows. That coffee's bad for you and that's why you know it's not about the health about the covenant yeah and But it is at. And i think this world leaders need to sit with an have these discussions rather than dismiss it like going back to lgbtq latter day saints. It's easy just to dismiss that and say well you are at a sinful life in like when you come around and realize that sinful i i'll be here but instead what if we say. Come sit by me. tell me your story you. I think that's where the answer lies and again. not that. Were a proponent of changing you know marriages or defining it differently. But it's like how do we begin to grapple by inviting them to sit with us rather than dismissing. 'cause that's sinful. Yeah one of the things that i liked that spencer. Our current governor governor cox talks about is becoming proximate with those that are different than so you can take this republican democrat. You become proximate your neighbors or democrats and you sit shoulder to shoulder with them like you said and you realize wait a second. These guys are a lot more like me than i bought or realizing by the way they're not bad. Two of my dearest friends on earth struggle with same gender attraction there members of the church faithful members of the church. You could never convince me based on my shoulder to shoulder experience with me them based on my weeping with them based on my laughing and having life experiences with them that they're if they're not making to heaven.

01:05:12 - 01:10:01

I don't think i am like these are saints in the truest sense and so when we get proximate with people john the shoulder to shoulder with them like you said we see them in a more correct light we see them more like god sees them and realize that this you know that's not what this is about. The reason i was thinking about the word of wisdom. It's just 'cause personally. I had my temple recommend interviews just somebody couple of days ago and i don't remember this from two years ago. Maybe it was changed within the last two years. Or maybe it happened last one. But they've changed that question do you under dino this do you understand the word of wisdom or eddie you strive to keep in the when i gave temporary command interviews and at least since i have in the last couple years. That's a new like. Do you understand my question to saints. Do we understand it. You know. I see the lines at the door at some

of our favorite. I'm not gonna name them because favorite soda places. I see the amount of ice cream that i eat personally or red meat. Whatever the case may be. Do we understand the word of wisdom and are we striving to really live the spirit of the law and the reason i brought the whole thing up like you said. This isn't the purpose here. Podcasts are purpose to change the church per se. But i guess i'm just i think of the word of wisdom and other things as this keeping people away from the gospel of jesus christ or keeping people away from the church of jesus. The restored church and gospel. I think it's gonna be really interesting. As as millennials come into a church leadership continually and as we continue to grow our generation kirk continues to grow older. How will the church change. How will be different. Thank goodness for president. Nelson an inspired and super dynamic and active profit. But i'm just excited to see how we continue to as a culture. And as a church broaden the net so that there are more fish that are attracted to the good things about the gospel. Jesus christ yeah. that's awesome. love that these again. These are worked conversations having and There's a lot of good. They come just being in proximity to some of these things. Also seeking understanding not necessary compliance right. Do you understand the word of wisdom. Do you understand the lgbt. Hugh experience in life and as it relates in proximity with churchill nut so one of my least favorite words in the world. I have a couple. I hate the word fair. But i also hate the word tolerance tolerating toller like. You're tolerating someone. No one should be tolerated. Just celebrated like you're tolerating your sin mistake or you know we were trying to understand you. Were trying to understand your differences. We're trying to love you more perfectly. Were tried to serve. You better not tolerate not anyone using. That's great well. This has been fantastic. Jeff like you mentioned. You have a podcast. I wanna make sure you get a good solid plague here. Because i've listened to it and this isn't who doesn't have a podcast days but you've done a really good job and you got some great connections and interesting people on their a but yeah people can find me at jeff bernie nam on social media social media and then yeah i started podcasting. It's funny so. I announced it the on the capitol steps september twenty nineteen that i was running for governor a lot of people there. It was really fun of beautiful fall morning and i immediately went on the road show circuit. I sat down with boyd matheson. The opinion editor at deseret news at noon. We talked over lunch on. Ksl at the day. I launched in. it's funny. I took my headphones off on like boyd. This is one of the specific things. I learned from running for governor and i said boy i really like radio like i like and so i did a ton of radio. The next year running for governor rural radios really important by the way in rural utah in the rural counties. All across the united states radio is still really important. And after the governor's race such a kostic just hard situation in terms of media and other things in criticism i just wanted some good uplifting content so yeah i launched a podcast extraordinary as podcast and really i see. I'm kinda did trying to do what you're doing but in a totally different way i'm not talking overtly about leading saints but i'm having interesting conversations with like the huntsman. John mary kaye. Huntsman and boyd mathison and coach mark pope and so business leaders government leaders sports figures and just talking about life talking about what they've learned what they've observed and yeah. It's a new up and coming podcast. I would love everyone. To of course. Subscribe to find it wherever. Podcasts are extraordinary us and it's not necessarily a latter day saint podcasts.

01:10:01 - 01:13:33

Though don't shy away from it. It's not allow day. Saint podcast at all. It's been mainly utah. Centric just because i kind of wanted to focus on utah. I coming out of the governor's race. Really what i wanted to

do. Was highlight kurt. Bike all the awesome things and people that are all around us every day. We all take for granted the beautiful place. We live the amazing people that are all around us and again. Having come out of the governor's race where people are throwing arrows and criticizing. I wanted to say man. I just met thousands tens of thousands of honest good working great people all around the state. I want to tell their stories. And so that was kind of the reason in the impetus for the podcast and so there is a utah. Focus but yeah. A lot of non members are on the podcast as well and we're having a lot more guess outside of utah's well so go. Yeah check it out. If if you're interested in. I i appreciate you bringing it up. Yeah absolutely i endorse it fully. So it's a single one last question. I ever jeff just reflecting on your life as a leader both a business leader a political leader for for some time and a church leader. How has being a leader helped to become better follower of jesus. Christ yeah the crucible of leadership right. I think that i failed a lot. And so that failure dusty myself back up getting back up and then looking to the savior to kind of heal and repair my heart like we spoken about making it more like kids. That's what's helped me grow closer to him. And that's what helped me become better disciple. I think discipleship is all about our hearts becoming more like his and when we lead. We're gonna fail. We're going to make mistakes and we're gonna have to rely on jesus and any time. We can rely on him. I think is a good time. And that's what's really helped me. Mostly i think in my discipleship and coming closer to my savior. That concludes this episode of the leading saints. Podcasts we'd love to hear from you about your questions or thoughts or comments you can either leave comments on the post related to this episode at leading saints dot org or go to leading saints dot org slash contact and send us your perspective or questions. If there's other episodes or topics you'd like to hear on the leading saints podcast leading saints dot org slash contact and sheriff's information there and we would love for you to share this with any individual you think this would apply to especially maybe individuals in your council or other leaders that you may know who would really appreciate the perspectives that we discussed and remind you once again to text. The word lead to four seven four seven four seven in order to subscribe to the leading saints weekly newsletter. It came as a result of the position of leadership which was imposed upon us. Either the god of heaven who brought forth a restoration of the gospel of jesus christ the declaration was made concerning the own only true and living church on the face of the earth. We were immediately put in a position of loneliness loneliness of leadership from which we cannot shrink nor runaway and which we must face up with boldness and courage and ability.