

LEADING SAINTS

Understanding Priesthood Keys in Leadership | An Interview with Mark Mathews

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as latter day saint leaders. We face very difficult conversations. The put us at risk of saying the wrong thing that can do more harm than good. Many of these conversations relate to lgbtq latter-day saints. Have you had a horde member come out to you about. Lgbt identity. Have you had lgbt neighbors. And you just don't know what to say to them so you ignore them instead. Have you wrestled with balancing love for your fellow man while still respecting the doctrines of the restored gospel. In order to help leading saints. Put the lgbt saints library with more than twenty presentations featuring individuals who have a unique perspective or expertise around this topic. Three of the most popular sessions are available now to watch simply text. The word lead to four seven. Four seven four seven to start watching now or visit leading saints dot org slash. Lgbt the following episode is a throwback episode when that was published previously and was extremely popular to see the details of win this was originally published. See the show notes. Enjoy this throwback. Episode leading saints is a nonprofit organization. Dedicated helping latter-day saints be better prepared to lead and we do that through content creation like this podcast. We have articles at leading saints dot org. You should check out a weekly newsletter. You should subscribe to that also has unique content. So let's jump into this week's episode damn in springville utah sitting down with mark mathews. How are you mark. I'm great thanks. Awesome now give us a little background. What does the audience need to know about mark. Well i don't know if they need to know much about me. But i i grew up in houston texas a born and raised in kingwood. Texas came to byu as freshman and cer- my mission in guatemala and eventually found my wife here at byu typical story exactly singles ward went up to utah state for my phd. Got involved with seminary and institute teaching. Which i've been involved with ever since i've been with the centers. Institutes the church for about fourteen years now and the last year and a half i've been at. Byu byu instructor nice now. When when was the moment you knew like. I'm going to be a seminary teacher. Was that the the length of your vision. I just

wanna show up to a high school every day and teach seminary. Well you know it depends on how long it was story one. I became very interested in my my senior year. In the gospel through several events in my life i became very interested in knowing and understanding the scriptures the doctrines of the gospel and so i went up to two byu. I began to buy all the books i could. I neglected my homework. And read the messiah series by bruce cocky and doctrines of salvation by josephine smith. And the more. I studied the more i just wanted to vote my life to. This and i didn't know that there was a way to do that until i was in the joe smith building one day and i saw this advertisement for seminary teaching night grownup in houston. All i'd known as early morning seminar. You know that you could be a seminary teacher as a profession in work for the church is a teacher and i grabbed whether pamphlets i brought it home. I actually still have that pamphlet. And i just thought this is what i wanna do with my life. I wanted to vote it to studying and teaching and being involved in in the restore gospel. Jesus christ and before. That was going to be an attorney or doctor. I think my mom wanted me to be a lawyer. She thinks i'm good at arguing. And then she also says. I wanted to be a professor. I wanted to buy just didn't know my topic. And so i'm here at byu and and that's my subject bashan so and this is i mean teaching especially going into teaching seminary and things i mean this is like the super bowl mean the nba of when you're a byu and the religion department. I mean isn't that everybody's dream in your industry. Well i don't know if it's everybody's i think many are very content. They enjoy seminary much better. But it was always my dream. Yeah because of the reasons you stated amidst the of the best teachers invest scholars in the church. End up over there. And so i i love being over there. I love associating with such great men and women and as wonderful experience and so would you get your d. n. y. Phd is in education. Nice and is it pretty. I mean if you wanna teach. Byu i mean she's got beyond in your plan right. Yeah yeah you have to have a phd education. The prepares to be what they call a teaching track. Professor typically the the other. You know your real scholarly professors they have. Phd's in near eastern study in bible right so cool and so now you. You teach fulltime at byu. The semester just started and my first interaction with you was at byu education. Week which is to me. I don't feel like when. I don't feel like the church or byu necessarily.

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They're not looking at as a prophet making machine so they're not like over at advertising it but it's sort of this hidden secret. I feel like a lot of people in my generation. Our generation don't know about education week and that's why you get a lot of people in there know retired people there show up seven your perception of education waker. Yeah i agree. I think the other thing is it's like when i advertised it to award. They said well we all have to work and we have kids in school. So i think part of the reason you get the the group that you do is because they are retired and they are just some of the most faithful men and women in the church just there because they want to learn more about the gos- yeah and so i love the group. You're right it's not. It's not always a young crowd but it's a wonderful group yet is is end to me. It's like if y for adults right. I mean there's just so much content and you really. You're only scratched the surface when you're there. There's so many other you know different classes that you just can't make all of them so and you've taught your fourth year there and utah. What was the title about

temples. But what was the general title of your course. Can't where the exact name. But something along the lines of the house of the lord the unfolding development of the purpose in power of temples smile and you're a rockstar on this year. I mean there is like overflow after overflow and they put you in the mar building which doesn't big the ater rooms i mean. They're they're smaller classrooms but hopefully next year. Maybe the mary out center. I dunno will that. That's the first time. I've experienced that kind of interest in my classes. The other classes i have never filled the room before and so yet to fill the room and then have overflow like multiple overflow rooms was still kind of shocking to me. I never quite got used to that. I'd go into the overflow rooms just to kind of say hello to the people because i was so surprised they really were there. That was awesome and he made this comment that you know every year you're going to put temple in the title of your class because obviously draws a crowd and you lived up to the hype as well but what is it about the blind because everybody in there you and myself. I mean i've been bishop and a stake presidency. I mean i've grown up in the church. Many people in the room. I mean they were. The individuals have years and years and the church attending the temple. But there's just something about the temple that we just. I don't know like we sorta look towards scholars like okay. You figure this out. Tell us more what what we're missing in their feel like that's the case with as far as the temple goes in the doctrines of the templars harder to grasp. Yeah i wanna be careful how i say this but but yeah i agree. I think the temple is something that members of the church love me love the experience overall that they have in the temple but because many people are very uncomfortable to talk about what happens in the temple. There's not a lot of discussion so there's not a lot of lessons. There's not a lot of understanding. And i think that's unfortunate because i think there's many things that we can talk about. That happened in the temple that are not. They're not the kind of sacred things that we need to be careful about talking about committee the the the story plot of adam and eve. That's all stuff you can read in the scriptures and many of the principles found in revealed in the scriptures and so the. Because it's the temple. A lot of people are not willing to talk about it and so that kind of leaves it open for a lotta people have a lot of questions a lot of misunderstandings and so. It's a great topic to discuss as long as you don't cross those lines in and talk about things that are inappropriate to talk about outside the temple. Andy field all week full of. There's plenty to talk about your spend more time in doctrine covenants and going through the ordinances and keys. In fact i think another thing that surprises people. Most people think he won't understand the temple. You need to go to the old testament. I believe if you wanna go to the if you understand the temple. The best source is the doctrine countenances. The lord reveals restores. These things. there's plenty of information in the doctrine covenants to help us understand the purpose of the power of temples. Yeah and it's powerful. The way you did. And and i love the way that you went through some of these principles because like you said a lot of time. I feel like the only time i can learn about. The temple is like you know my father leaning over to the celestial room whispering this and this and this oh wow but in reality there's so much doctrine outside of the ceremonies of temple that the brings so much meaning while you're there which celebrity reshifted a few things. I want to spend our time on today through this. Because i sat in your classes filling a lot of like. Oh yeah i forgot about. This forgot about that. All scripture is but then there some doctrines like priesthood keys. For example you went through the whole in the curling temple and the priest accuser or storage smith and oliver cowdery and what those keys were and who restored them and the purpose behind them and

there are just some things like wow. I've never. I've never seen it that way or understood that doctrine or newer to find it and so i want to go through talking about primarily this concept of keys because everybody has called as for example bishop.

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Obviously they're they're giving keys call. His elders corn president or giving keys. Even you know my time as a deacon scorn president teachers compress it. I mean. I didn't even understand. Even have an inkling of priesthood keys. Were and i think we go through it like all the keys. Mean he gets the last say in the meetings or that just means he's in charge and worried that there's a lot of leaders out there that don't grasp the doctrine of keys enough to really understand the authority. They hold and also kind of live up to that potential that they have. So where would you say. Where do we start with understanding. Priesthood keys that's a great question. The point my. I agree with you when i teach it in. Byu class even in a seminary or institute class. I will start with a couple of questions. I ask them. What is the priesthood in. What are priesthood keys. And what is not surprising that almost all of my students can answer. What priest is quick to say. You know priesthood is the power authority of god. I asked him who holds it and they say a worthy male members of the church there very quickly understand priesthood very clearly but then i asked him what priesthood keys are. And there's kind of this. This look in their eyes that they they've heard the concept they've heard the term. They're not really comfortable in defining it and so i would. I help them understand. Is that the best and simplest way to understand what priesthood keys are who holds keys. Priesthood keys are held by priesthood. presidents counselors. Don't hold keys. Priest and presidents hold key so we're talking bishops take presidents coron presidents and as soon as you understand clearly who holds them it becomes obvious what they are. These are the. It's the authority to preside the right to be the president of the right of presidency. It's the power the authoritative power to direct control in preside over the priesthood and the work of the priesthood in the church within jurisdiction and once you realize that that's what priesthood keys are very few men hold priesthood keys. Priesthood keys are what direct work and so understanding what they are particularly. If you hold them helps you recognize. You have special priests authority that very few people hold. And it gives you a right to represent the lord not only acting for the lord but in directing in presiding over how the work of the lord will be done within your jurisdiction. I think that's a very powerful concept. Understand about priesthood keys. A very important one to understand. And obviously we know that in stories of doctrine kevin instead depre- keyser not restored with the priest authority with rude. You know john. The baptist appear james jonbenet came later on in so we can just assume that they're one and the same or there's a clear separation of what is what are the so. I mean some keys. Were were restored when the priest anthony was restored when the ironic produce store he was given the ironic priesthood and the keys of the roenick priestess so that he could preside over the work. Otherwise joe smith couldn't have baptized anybody without asking permission from john. The baptist. John the baptist. If he held the keys and didn't confer them he'd be acting basically as the bishop and injustice would continually turn to his authority but he gave joseph authority and the keys of the iran priesthood. Peter james and john did a similar thing with the milk. Is it appreciate. They

gave the milk Priesthood and what they call the keys of the kingdom which would be the keys to preside over the church to without authority. Joseph smith good organize and lead the church. But you're right in recognizing that angels would later come to continue to deliver priesthood keys. Keys of dispensations keys as we talked about moises. elias. Elijah delivered the deal with temple and temple work and nets Those are powerful stories to the way you broke those down. As far as i love. How you you talked about went through each key. You know this is the first one. It wasn't allies eules. Moises moises came first in the temple and and restore those keys which was that one nation you want to give it to you. Most gives the keys of the gathering of israel which most people just simply think of it in terms of missionary work. But as i pointed out in my class lou. Great purpose of gathering to the church is ultimately together to the temple. That's in fact. Exactly what moises did moises gathered. The children of israel from egypt led them directly to mount sinai which was their temple and so the keys of the gathering of israel. Begin with missionary work and gathering people that church but they culminate in gathering those people to the temple to receive the blessings that the full blessings of the gospel. And you you talked about this concept of. I mean 'cause you just said like the running pre were restored and then comes the question. Well why couldn't they just gone with that and continue in the church going forward but it's all ties down to the the temple ordinances that needed to take place in the temple which are all part of the new nevertheless incumbent right correct.

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I was listening. I asked her tests. Good so what going back to. As far as those. Hold the keys a lot of people. I i feel like you know when i was a bishop. It was clear. What many times the role of my keys. That i have my keys. Allowed the sacramento bee past or or blessed. You know if somebody went on a business trip they can just blessing and particularly sacramen- their hotel room. They would need to reach out to me. And that was an ordinance that i would need to approve under my keys. I mean this is how. I bishop directs right. So what about like ehlers corn presidents or teachers scorn presents deacons Presidents is there more to it than just saying. I like you said the keys of pregnancy. That that you're in charge. We agree question. So yeah i mean with a bishop you see clearly in ordinances like he pointed out the ordinance of baptism. It's seen every week. That a young man administers the sacraments. First thing he does after he's done. Blessing the sacrament before even gets up from kneeling is he looks over the bishop and the bishop nods his head. That's an acknowledgment of keys soon. That while there are many men in the word that can bless the sacrament. They can't do it. Independent of the keys held by the bishop. So that's an obvious one with bishop in ordinances with other corum presidents. they don't have this direct authority over ordinances. But they still have that right. Those priesthood keys. To preside over the console is seen in a variety of ways deacons comb president often unfortunately because they're young often defer to the young men adviser over them but in reality the deacons corum president holds the authority of that deacons courtroom and it's his responsibility to make assignments is simplest. Things like who's going to bring the bread or fast offering routes who's gonna go out and collect fast offerings. But he has the authority the keys to preside over the work of salvation within his corum. Ns important idea. Milk islamic priesthood. Corum presidents like an elders corn president. They also hold that same

Those keys to preside over the work anti had seen primarily through the work of of ministry ministering brothers. They preside over that work. They hold the keys cancel. They make those assignments and they participate in that work and with these new changes the milk. Caac priesthood president. The elders quorum president. He holds a lot of authority now. A high priest group leader held some authority and elders. Corn president used to hold some authority but by consolidating the high priests and elders together. An elders corum president holds basically the keys to preside over every man in the ward except for the bishopric. And he presides over the work of salvation that that elders corum does including ministering in other efforts related to and so it's it's an enormous responsibility is similar to the bishop now. The elders corn president in the work that he's involved with i my bishop. I i sometimes feel like just a male relief. Society president obviously say prisoners keys but there's a greater responsibility as others corporate that now than there was before so if let's say you sit down with a brand new. Deacon you're calling is the deacon scorn president how would you suggest or what doctrine could teacher. Maybe you give them that. Same spill articulated there. How would you empower them in their calling as the deacons corn president and emphasizing the keys that they hold so that's an excellent question in Section eighteen joseph smith and oliver cowdery have just been ordained milk priests that they hold keys of the milk is nick. Price the to preside over the church. And they ordain. There's evidence that they are also ordained david whitmer in. It's this that they're referring to in in verse nine. It says that. They hold the authority of an apostle. Because peter james and john just given that authority and they wanna know about this calling. What are they supposed to do with this. Newly conferred milk priesthood. And the lord's answer to them i think is instructive. I think it's instructive for all callings in the church but particularly for priesthood keys says remember the worth of souls is great in the sight of god. And then he explains the atonement of christ. For behold the lord your redeemer suffer death in the flesh wherefore he suffers the pains of all men that all men my repent coming to him and in that context of explaining the worth of souls price that was paid for those souls by jesus. Christ he famously says that you should labor all your days and crying repentance under this people and bring save it be one soul unto me. How great shelby your joy with him in the kingdom of my father and al joy will be great with one soul that you have brought me into the kingdom of my father cow. Great will be your joy if you should bring many souls into me.

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And i just think that's particularly powerful before the lord explains courtrooms or presidencies or church organizations or open kevin priest before. He teaches any of that. He wants them to understand that. The worth of souls this great and their job is to bring souls to christ and so as i would set a part of new deacons court president. That's what i would want them to understand that as the president of the deacons corum you have charge over these deacons. These deacons are of great worth to the lord and your job is to bring them to christ. That's your job that's your one job. It's powerful to have that clear focus because there's a lot of things in all of our callings. We can be distracted by their so many different things. We're asked to do but in the end we have one job and that one job is to bring souls to christ as you can help. Deacons quorum president understand that that he's got this charge this authority over these deacons

and he's gotta bring souls to christ not only in his deacons corum but in the work of salvation that they'll do in collecting fast offerings in partaking of the sacrament. I mean that's what they're doing as they go out to. The congregation is they're offering them the sacrament. They're bringing souls to christ and if they understand that concept it is empowering to them to know that they have that authority to direct that work bringing souls to christ. I love that and what a great scripture in context share with a new a new President because i remember being a young deacons president feeling like they want me to stand up and start the meeting like welcome to elders. Core alternate over the teacher. That was it right. And but to empower them and keep reminding them of that. Like hey remember. Why we're doing. This is every souls precious. How can we bring them under. Christ and this week i really labeling them that way i think i try to help them think about that. Wickham supplanting mutual activities. I've told him your activity isn't basketball this week. Your activity is bring souls to christ through whatever. The activity is in this case basketball. So how are you going to do that. And they think well you know there's so and so and he's not very active but he loves to play basketball. Okay right but that's your job. That's what we do regardless of our calling. That's our job. That's the responsibility and agassi similar conversation happening with the is. Obviously the stake. President would call the hill president. But you know for the bishop. Keep reminding them member. You have keys. And dr ganz. At we can learn. What's our main focus there to bring people to christ. I think that's a powerful message that keeps people engaged. Because sometimes you can be burned overwhelmed. And so bring him back to the core the root of the purpose of these offices these priests in the keys. I agree and i think that's why it's so profound that that is the lord's initial explanation of priesthood. To these men is they've just received priesthood and this is what he wants them to understand. There is something so focusing. So empowering about understand that simple concept that he is powerful and no coincidence that. That's the lord's first message to these newly ordained priesthood. Holders love anything. We've missed as far as the how priestess keys or manifested in a traditional ward today. No those those would be the main ideas. I think with award also understanding who holds keys helps you understand who you need to follow. And that's an important concept is well that sometimes you might get contradictory messages but you follow those who hold the keys. A so a female member of the word is saying one thing bishops. Saying something else you follow the keys. Even i was putting the position once for the state. Primary president gave one direction. I gave another in put the primary award primary president kind of in a bind and the stake president. Tried to help understand you fall keys. The keys are who have the authority direct working and while that's typically not something that we have to worry about. It is important to know that. And that goes all the way to the top in who holds the keys of the kingdom knowing who holds those keys is the answer to who you need to follow ultimately following the president of the church in the first pressing corner twelve. Who hold those keys over the entire church the keys of the kingdom which is the Christ latter-day saints and we'll hear that phrase line conference. Is they talk about where they do. The sustaining right prophets. Here's revelator in president. Nelson is a person who holds all the keys of the priesthood. Any more context or explain she can bring to that phrase we hear and it's sort of like. Oh yeah that just means. He's he's really really in charge. No that's a great point. In fact i just learned a little bit more about this. Recently other redland wrote a book in which he explained some of this and that was a powerful insight he gave that it's because the apostles each them hold all the priesthood keys that they can service prophets series in regulators.

We've got a lot of general authorities but we only have fifteen prophet series in regulators and what empowers them to be prophets seers revelator. They each of them when they are set. Apart as a member of the corner of the twelve they receive all priesthood.

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Keys to preside over the entire church now they cannot exercise those priesthood keys in full until they become the senior apostle the president of the church but they can still use those keys in their calling in their responsibilities to receive revelation to speak with authority to the church to act as prophets seers in revelers. They must do that in harmony with the other apostles in under the direction of the senior. Apostle who is the president of the church but they all hold those keys and but like the the phrase says in the temple recommend interview. The only man that holds and is authorized to exercise all priesthood. Keys in their full would be the senior possible. The president of the church on the earth and i want to ask because we have visiting authorities of the come to a state conference for example there. Their assignment seventy does not hold keys. But they often use the phrase that they they're the keys have been delegated to them in some aspect. Any is there anything to this concept of delegating keys. It's worth mentioning. But yeah i i think it's important to understand delegated authority a serve as a bishop can authorize my counselor to do much of the things that i do if i give him that authorization. He can't do them independent of me. He can't just take that responsibility to himself or usurp it but if i delegate that responsibility to him he can act through the keys that i hold and he has delegated authority will similarly. That's how the seventy operate the first presidency and the twelve. Hold the keys. But when they are sent by the first presidency and the twelve on assignment they have that delegated authority and so they act as under those keys under that authority and they and they can act as an apostle and represent the brethren the senior brethren in doing so awesome anything as far as looking at it from the context of in the current temple when they are restored that I guess i'm getting to this concept of one thing. I never understood is is more as far as the role of keys as it relates to ceiling power we think of sealing power. Obviously you know we go to the temple. And we are sealed as a family but there's much broader understanding of sealing power. Yeah i agree so you have to kind of catch up to the kirtland temple idea. I mean when. Peter james and john come they give the keys to preside over the church and so for years. Joseph smith has all the authority and organiz in lead the church but there are still some specific works that need to be in the church that haven't been revealed. So when moises elias elijah come they each confer their their priesthood keys. Dealing with the temple. Allowed joseph smith to preside over in direct specific works within the church like we already talked about moises the gathering of israel not only to the church through missionary work but ultimately to the temple. He likes restores. The keys of abraham's dispensation which simply stated or the keys of celestial marriage the celestial marriage covenant which is the hard core of abraham at covenant and. Finally elijah comes and he confers what we call sealing power and sealing power in my experience is many members of the the church have a very limited understanding of what ceiling power is. They look at it as simply being sealed in the temple and so when you tell them that he lies restored the covenant of celestial marriage in elijah restored ceiling power. That seems really redundant today. And

they don't they don't understand that so it's helpful to understand what what prophets and apostles of sad about what ceiling power is. It's much much broader than we often recognize. In fact ceiling power is the authority to preside over and seal all ordinances of the temple and all ordinances the living in the dead already. A couple of statements president boyd k packer said after rely came commenting on it. He said thereafter ordinances. Were not tentative. The permanent the ceiling power was with no authorization. Transcends it in value the power gives substance any terminal permanence to all ordinances performed with proper authority for both the living and the dead in the bible. Dictionary underlie gis as we learn from latter day revelation that elijah held the ceiling. Power of the milk is priesthood. By which things bound or loosed on earth are bound or loosed in heaven thus the keys of this power are once again operative on the earth in are used in performing all the ordinances of the gospel for the living and the dead present. Joseph fielding smith made a similar statement the ceiling power puts the stamp of approval upon every ordinance that is done in this church and more particularly those that are performed in the temples of the lord and so it This authority worked retroactively right. So we performed ordinances in the past up to eighteen thirty six. When elijah comes when elijah gives this authority it puts his joseph feeling smith's at a stamp of approval a seal upon all the ordinances that had been performed previous to this time.

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And what what. These statements are trying to help us understand. is that all ordinances. Need to be eternal and the ceiling. Power is the power by which all ordinances are made eternally permanent. And so all ordinances are performed in need to be performed by sealing power. And when you learn that for the first time you know it sounds confusing because you think well my dad baptized me. And he doesn't hold ceiling power will no. It doesn't but he baptized you under the authorization of the keys of the bishop who operated under the keys. The state president who operated under the keys of the present the church who holds that ceiling power therefore everything that is done under the direction of the president of the church carries that weight of sealing power and so a baptism can be eternal because it's performed under the direction of those keys all ordinances that applies to but the reason it becomes particularly necessary for temple. Ordinances is because it's in temple ordinances for example baptism for the dead that we perform a baptism here on earth and we expected to reach beyond the veil and rescue somebody. That's on the other side. Well that's a clear use of this doing something on earth that has power on the other side and so we see ceiling power operate dramatically in that way likewise with temple marriages where person is sealed for time and for all eternity and so you see ceiling power dramatically used in the temple and so sometimes people think of ceiling. Power is only being something that is used in the temple when in reality ceiling power is much broader than that is the power that makes all ordinances binding eternally permanent for the living and the dead. All ordinances require ceiling power. And because he lied you came all the ordinances we perform in this church. Can that eternally binding permanent power when we keep the covenants associated with them. I love it is. This came last in in this in this experience. Kirtland sort almost like a again. It wasn't just restoring the ceiling so that we can be sealed. It is sort of the capstone of everything that happens. Like you have all the authority now. Now the

ceiling power will will make these things that effective on this side avail and that side of they'll right exactly and i love this problem. New dynamic as a leader in the church where i recognize that as you know as a bishop for example in a baptism is happening. You're not just there as well. I'm the guy who can allow this ordinance to happen but to recognize that it's the ceiling power coming through you as the bishop through those keys. All the way back to the president of the church who holds that ceiling power and. That's like there's also something tangible they're like. Wow this is this is really special stunt to something technologist a a rite of passage that we we want to write in the record books. But there's there's something eternal happening here. Powerfully didn't speak of writing the record. We're coming your in my class. Where joseph smith knicks major point about that part of the ceiling on earth ceiling in heaven is recording so a lot of times. We just kind of think of that as kind of a nitpicky kind of thing to just make sure things accorded right. But the point joseph makes his knowing when they're recorded on earth there recorded in heaven and if we don't keep good records if we don't record these things they didn't happen because when the books are opened you want these things to be recorded on earth and heaven and so that that also makes it much more important than just record keeping that you are keeping in essence a ending to eternal record that will be open judgment day and so it just shows the importance of all these even little administrative seemingly trivial things that we do in the church do have major significance when we went to bishop shows up at that baptism. They are representing the lord. Exercising the keys they have to make this ordinance valid and when they record it or have a clerk recorded it is being recorded in heaven and it it gives power to these like i said seemingly trivial points and i live i just seeing a a great conversation bishop at have with their clerk like listen. You're not just here to like some administrative work. Make sure everything's update in the computer like you understand that this is what you're recording is being recorded in heaven. So let's really make the supreme court to get in and get certificates alga and make that record because it's not just a trivial administrative task. This is this something eternal happening here. I think it gives meaning to what the lord says the dasher kevin's says to me. All things were spiritual you know heaving these seemingly trivial temporal things have spiritual value when you understand it that way barrel anything else as far as the ceiling bowers concern. That would be helpful for leader to understand that we haven't touched on well. We we had some. You asked me about earlier. That we talked about in my class was the nature of of ceiling. Marriage is a lot of times. People have questions about ceilings particularly when a couple has been sealed and then they are subsequently divorced a lot of people because they're upset with their partner they don't want to be with their partner.

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They want immediately have that that ceiling canceled. But a lotta times. I don't understand what that sealing ordinances all about and so maybe just like to touch on that helpful in dr caroline's section one thirty one. It makes a powerful point about celestial marriage. Not only does it say that. It's necessary to receive the highest of the three heavens within the celestial kingdom it's the gateway ordinance to our tation but later says that the word of prophecy means a man's knowing that he is sealed up unto eternal life by revelation and through the ceiling.

Power of the holy priesthood. Many people don't recognize when you are sealed in celestial marriage. You just sealed your partner if you listen carefully to the ceremonies very clear that you are being sealed up to eternal life based on your faithfulness. It's not an unconditional seal. But you are being sealed up to eternal life. All the blessings. Of abraham isaac can jacob all the blessings of the new and everlasting covenant. All the blessings of exaltation are being sealed upon you through that ordinance based on your faithfulness and so within a marriage is dissolved. You don't want to cancel that ceiling until they're ready to renew it again with someone else. Because even if they don't wanna be with their partner they still have made. They've still been sealed up to certain blessings that they don't want to loose this ceiling powers the power ciel on earth and to unseal too loose on earth as it says into to cancel that ceiling is not just cancel the relationship with a spouse. It's to cancel those covenants with god and those blessings that have been sealed upon you. And that's why the first presidency typically waits to cancel a ceiling until a person's ready to be sealed to somebody else because it's not a matter of of them being with that person in the next life that's clearly not going to be the case but because this is a covenant with god and you've been sealed up to eternal life based on your faithfulness so those blessings you wanna keep that relationship with god intact regardless of what happened to the relationship of your spouse. I think people had a better understanding of that too. Often we treat celestial marriage like a very simplistic very romantic way. I wanna be sealed in the temple. Because i want to be with my spouse forever but in reality it's so much bigger than them. This is the gateway ordinance to exaltation you are having eternal life sealed upon you This is a big deal and so the better we understand that. I think the more people will appreciate what this ordinance is all about. And why it's so significant in white matter so much and why we wouldn't want to cancel it until we're ready to renew it and receive it again and these are sometimes. These are very difficult conversations. Have i mean. I remember very as a bishop. Somebody coming in. Who's just is very bitter from a difficult divorce which pan. I can show a lot of empathy there and and appreciation and so they're just looking at. I want this person completely out of my life completely out of my eternity and so i think so helpful to maybe help them step back into may not be in that interview or emotions are high but to work with them and help them understand that lucious remove that other person out of the equation here and realize that you have gone through an ordinance that connection with god. Forget about that guy. That gal i mean. Let's focus on that. And realize as i understand what you're saying that these blessings incumbents you've made will help you in your in your single life as an individual. Absolutely striving to find another person may be to redo that seal with and on your children. Their blessing has it come to the children born in that cabinet. And so you don't want to you want to stand or the umbrella of that. Covenant you don't want to dissolve that kevin until you're ready to renew that kevin. I think many of these issues and questions people would have would be resolved if they just reflected for a moment about what they believe about. God that god is perfectly just perfectly merciful in heaven is heaven for reason. People aren't going to be in miserable relationships that they don't wanna be in god's not gonna force you to be with somebody forever that you don't want to be with so just a little reflection on that i think would help. A lot of people settled down in recognize. Why the policy existed. That exists to wait until you're ready to be sealed in the temple again before those previous ceilings are cancelled. and what. How do you answer as far as far as the concept of ceiling. Eternal families and things. I know a lot of people have some level into going through divorce right now and and he came to

me and ask what about my kids. You know i. I want to be sealed to them. And if we're divorced ceilings cancel. What about my kids. How would you respond to that. I probably respond the way that i just did. I think it's like neef. Classic answer from ni fi when he he was asked a question by an angel. He didn't quite know the answer.

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To of course. I e phi chapter eleven. He famously response when he's asked if if he understands the condescension of god he says i know that he loved his children. Nevertheless i do not know the meaning of all things and seems like it. I kind of a cop out answer but it's an important answer. Had god loves his children. If we can keep that in mind that god loves his children and he wants what's best for them. He wants them to be happy. And if they keep their covenants they will be happy more happiness than they can imagine in the next life if they keep that in mind then they can have the assurance in the comfort in knowing that things are gonna work out even. If we don't have all the answers in a perfect world everybody would get married and stay. Married in. The children would be happy and they would be faithful and it would create this perfect family. Chain that we're trying to create from adam down to the present day but the reality of it is there are divorces. There are separations and other things that complicated deaths where people have to remarry and it really complicates that simple narrative and there are not easy answers to some of those situations and so it requires faith. It requires faith in a loving and merciful. And kind god that you trust. He's your loving father in heaven and he is not going to make your heaven miserable. You're going to have all your losses will be restored to you. you're going to enjoy heaven for all eternity. And i think just having having that principle in mind that god is a loving being. I think helps comfort and solve those problems. Even if it doesn't give a complete answer right now it gives us enough that we can continue on and trust in the lord that hangs will work out. I think that's a powerful scripture us in the bishop's office in in really any question that you could get the. Maybe you don't have a clear or a helpful answer to say. Well at least we know. God loves us right. We can agree with that and so if we know the god loves us. What do you think about that question. I mean it's it's gonna turn out okay because he really does love us even though we don't have the answer every question right. Yeah exactly i remember. I had a student whose family situation had gone through some of these things and she was asking me this question. I was trying to get an answer in and she said i just loved her answer she just simply stated will brother. Matthew i know has called heaven for a reason and i appreciated that simple response. Heaven is called heaven. Parise and i said that's exactly right. And if you believe in heaven and you believe in a loving god evans be heaven. K. you're not going to be forced in consigned to some relationship. You don't wanna be an your children torn apart from you. If you are faithful to the covenants then you will end up in heaven. And you will receive the blessings you see as long as we're faithful to the covenant that we've made great great content there also in latin. I would encourage individuals when they came to this question of what. What about my kids you know. Because as we talk about doctrine the main focal point is that sealing ordinance with spouse someday like well one we know god loves us. We don't have all the answers of how this workout out. But let's focus on creating a life for that kid that someday they'll desire that ordinance says you know in those promises from abraham.

We'll we'll reach them as well and that's our main point and at that point once they're sealed like we're all we're all sealed. It will work out that way. We don't need necessarily worry about if my nine year old his still to me today in more vessels broken was that mean. Let's just keep them focused towards the temple and get them to that. Ordinance is that a fair response. Yeah i think so. I think sometimes we we kind of envisioned heaven like we're all living in this little home in our children. Our little children forever at hand. So it's like well if they're somewhere else. There are still going to have an association with you in. I was able to counsel woman recently. Whose daughter was in a really difficult situation where her husband. Young husband died tragically in an automobile accident near she is. She's she's faced with this question. do i do i- remarry. And if so do i cancel the ceiling. And if i cancel that ceiling will he have no association with his children. She's just feeling really terrible about this choice that she has before and the scripture that i shared with the mother that she says she'd pass on his doctorate cabinets. One hundred and thirty where it says that quote that same sociology which exists among us here will exist among us. They're only it will be coupled with eternal glory glory. We do not now enjoy. And i think that's same. Sociology doesn't just include family relationship friendships as well and so even if some of these ceilings might change the dynamic of a family relationship it doesn't mean you're no never going to see that person again that you're not gonna love them anymore. They have no association with him. I think that's scripture indicates just the opposite that even in some of these complicated situations with blended families parents of children in stepparents have children will still continue that same sociology that same love that same affection that same relationship only will be coupled with the eternal glory which we now enjoy and so.

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I think that's an important concept to have in mind as well that even in some of these complicated situations if you're not sealed directly to a person it doesn't mean that you have no contact with them that you have no relationship with them and no love for them in the next those feelings continue in those relationships continue. Gathering from our conversation is sometimes who've we take the doctrines of the gospel very superficial level. They can be kind of twist in this way. That seems like well. That's kinda mean like godwin and do that like you're talking about families are together forever but then you know you have one family goes way one family member of those wayward and then what and that's very fair right but by understanding these doctrines deeper as a leader allows you to put them in the context cracking understanding then pours out of these. These doctrines as it should. I mean it's so helpful to the better understand these things. Actually as we wrap up by the last thing. I wanted to talk about is in your presentation education you talked about the new and everlasting covenant and i remember the class to turn your partner and i i forget exactly i put a but explain what the new and everlasting covenant is and i remember sitting there. I thought i said to myself. I think it's the sum of all ordinances. Maybe i shouldn't say i'm not sure right and it turns out that i was in the ballpark and so was about. I think this is another way if by understanding the new nevertheless incumbent we can then start frame. These these ordinances in these steps. That just seem like you know. This is what i do when i'm going on a mission. I go through the temple by understanding. The new and everlasting covenant. It brings a lot of power to that conversation and makes it a little

more special. So where do we begin the nevertheless count. Well i i think you begin with an everlasting kevin understanding Section sixty six verse to which says sandia blessed or you for receiving mine everlasting covenant even the fullness of my gospel. So that's your first hand that the new era lasting covenant is broader than we sometimes make it the most common answer. I get when i asked that question. Is they say well. It's eternal marriage. And i point out the doctrine covenants. One thirty two. It refers to eternal marriage as a new and everlasting caldonia likewise in doctrine comments. Twenty two it refers to baptism as a new and in everlasting covenant. And so these individually are new and everlasting kevin's but the new and everlasting covenant is the sum total of all those combined cavenaugh and that's the point the doctrine cabinets section. One hundred and thirty two makes worried. After it explains that marriage is a new and everlasting covenant says in verse six in his pertaining to the new everlasting callanan. He was instituted. For the fullness of my glory so it's the fullness of the covenant for the fullness of my glory in verse seven goes on to say in verily i say and you that the conditions of this law meaning the new and everlasting callen are these all covenants contracts bonds obligations owes vows performances connections associations etc. And so the new and everlasting covenant is the whole thing he it's from baptism through eternal marriage. All the covenants we make with god to receive all the blessings that god has. That's what the new and everlasting covenant is and i think understanding that is powerful for a few reasons not only. Does it help us appreciate all the covenants we need because too often people that focus so much on baptism that they think you know they'd been baptized in that seattle or they kind of know that marriage is important but they don't quite know why understanding this is the covenant. This is the same kevin that was given to abraham covenant that was given to adam. This is the fullness of the gospel. These are the blessings that we had around from the beginning and so they are the new and everlasting counted. So yeah that's what i'd want. People understand the newer lasted cohen. I think understanding it helps you with. The restoration is too often look at restoration from new testament perspective. I know a lot of people that think of it. That way christ came the earth in new testament times. He established his church. It was lost. We've restored it. But that mrs or the major points of the restoration. When crisis came to the earth restoring things that had been around from the days of adam. He wasn't starting something new. He was restoring something very old in appreciating that and understanding that the same gospel covenant. That we have today wasn't just had in new testament times. He was had abraham's time in moses time in atoms time. This is the new and everlasting. Calot this was. What is the plan of salvation. This is what god instituted from beginning of the world.

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This is what he is delivered to us so that we can receive all the blessings of exaltation and become like him. This is his work in his glory. To bring to pass the immortality internal life of man in the way we receive eternal life and all of the blessings of exultation all the blessings of our heavenly parents is through the new and ever lasting covenant which begins with baptism and culminates with eternal marriage. I believe that's probably why eternal marriages so associated with it. As because once you've entered into eternal marriage you've now entered into the full

covenant. And if you are faithful to the covenant you'll receive all of the father has. That's what's been sealed upon you in that ordinance if you continue faithful that full cover along with all its blessings are yours in. We'll be to all eternity. That's powerful basso powerful. So i i mean outside of like you said it's easy to talk about the new nevertheless income in the context of marriage. So would you bring it up at outside of that. Ordinance like when somebody's getting baptized or you know in relation to other ordinances outside of marriage bring more power in meaning to absolutely. I do every time. Yeah i i have it kind of in a a stepping stone. I ask my youth in my ward. My students in my classes. what are the saving. Ordinances the gospel. Because i want them to understand this. This should be clear in our minds that the saving ordinances are baptism. Confirmation priesthood for men endowment temple marriage these five saving ordinances are saving ordinances. Because they it's through these ordinances that we enter into the covenant the covenant is like a contract. I often teach students in the way we signed. The contract isn't by air name by receiving ordinance. that's how we enter into contract this covenant with god can so yeah when when somebody gets baptized. They ought to know this. They're making a covenant with god. They're starting this new in a lasting incumbent. What a young man receives the priesthood. Especially the milk priests they're entering into an oath and covenant of the priest and they need to understand that this is part of receiving all that god has same would be true of eternal marriage and especially endowment especially of celestial marriage that they are entering into the covenant with god to receive all that he has and it comes piecemeal ordinance upon ordinance. But that's how we grow to receive an enter into the full covenant and receive the full blessings based on her faithfulness. And i love that the how the doctrine comes talks about a new covenant. And reminding people you're during baptize. You're receiving a new nevertheless covenant so that we can work towards the new whenever last absolutely and then it helps them understand. This isn't the end you would. We want our investors. Understand that when you get baptized you need to have your eyes for a year later. When you can be endowed and sealed. I heard president russell m nelson one say endure to the endowment is the way he phrase because you got to have that clear in your mind and in the same is true of youth taught seminary for over a decade and it would break my heart. I see some of these young men and young women that would get baptized. They've received the erotic priesthood and then they would never go on to receive their endowment or temple marriage or milk his priesthood and so they kinda entered into a portion of the covenant. but because they didn't continue faithful in receive the full covenant and could therefore never receive the full blessings. God has to offer us. The reason we came to this earth is to enter into that full covenant. And so you don't want to stop it. Baptism or stop. You know as a deacon in iran briefs did you wanna go forward and receive these blessings. Yeah i think sometimes it can again on this the superficial level it can just be like oh well. If you're in the mormon club you got to do these things. But this is these are ordinances. These are things that we just don't do just because they are connecting us to become to become exalted. I mean that's i guess. The key buzzword there is is to receive exultation become like our family parents absolutely. And that's something that i know of. Many students have not quite understood when when they find out in section one thirty one that eternal marriage is necessary to receive the highest heaven. Some of them look at that like it's this hoop that they're supposed to jump. Yeah and so. I try and help them understand. Is this isn't some who this is literally would open the way for us to become like our heavenly parents. We have any terminal father eternal mother. The reason why

they are eternal father and mother is because they are sealed in eternal marriage. If you want to become like them enjoy that kind of relationship in the power that they have you can only get it the same way. It's through this ordinance that they're inviting you to receive their sharing these blessings with you and so these couples to jump through. These are what make possible. Our entrance into god's presence the same thing would be true of baptism. This isn't just some who joined to jump through. it's through baptism. And the covenant that you make that you are cleansed of your sins so that you can be in god's presence and so forth all these ordinances the aren't just you know these arbitrary requirements. These are the things that prepare us to enter god's presence to become worthy to enjoy the relationships in the blessings that he enjoys awesome last question.

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I typically ask people on it and just wanting from the context of your experiences of bishop. I guess has been six months so you've almost got to figure it out. So that's your your performed first wedding today so that'll be one more thing right as you look begging and can be in the context of being ver- other leadership roles that you've played how his being a leader made you a better follower of jesus christ so i've had many leadership experiences throughout my life and i think that's a great question. How is a leader named me. Better follower i think in a few ways one is when you're leader. You appreciate those who are willing to follow. You recognize that you're not perfect and you're doing your best to be inspired to do with the lord wants you to do. Sometimes that makes hard choices are decisions and you got. I think three kinds of members. You've got some that will maybe balki your decision in and not be willing to follow it. You gotta silent group. That will just kind of go along with it. And then you've got a group that expressed you their willingness to follow and they expressed that loyalty in a way that just not only comforts you but it inspires you. There are people that that are willing to follow and having been in that position. It makes me want to show that same loyalty to those above me. I've always wanted to show my state president that i'd wanna show the prophets and apostles that that i'm not just kind of go along with it but i love them. I appreciate them. I sustain them. I support them. I want them to feel that. No that because when a leader feels that in knows that they have. I think greater likelihood of receiving inspiration. Feel the same thing in a in a classroom. Being a teacher isn't the same as being a leader but there are many similarities. When you have a group of students there just kind of halfway there kind of paying attention. You may be teaching decent. Lessen the when you have students that are. They're actively learning. they're they're they. They're they wanna learn. They're asking questions they're participating. He pulls out better teaching from you. You get inspiration that you wouldn't have otherwise the holy ghost helps you because the holy ghost wants to reach them. And so the holy ghost magnifies you better. Because of the faith and the efforts of the students you're teaching the same thing is true in leadership when you have people that show they want to follow. They trust that the lord can inspire you than it pulls inspiration out of prison. I talked about this recently in a conference. Talk where he talked about a young man that when he was serving as a bishop who would come to him for council and the first time he came. He gave him as an hiring said. Frankly lousy council in were and so the young man returned said you know. That didn't work. But i believe in you. I

believe you can give me. This inspired counsel had he comes back and hiring talked about how that touched in this man would trust him because of his office and it made him dig deeper and find that inspiration to be able to help him. Why i think that's that's true principle and so when we're good follow words. We make our leaders better. It makes me always want to be a good follower. And i i just. I believe in that principle the best in the church. The best leaders are those that are the best followers. Those that lead the church today. I mean what makes president nelson such inspiring powerful leader is because it is hard hearts. All he wants to do is follow. Jesus christ and do what the lord watson to do. That's what makes him such a powerful leader and it's hard sometimes because the lord might want you to do something that's not popular or say something that's not popular in the temptation is to say what people are gonna like. Say something that's to be nice but maybe not kind something that is going to make people like you. But isn't necessarily what they need to hear and have that submissive obedience to the lord digest. Say i will say what you want me to say. I'll do what you want me to do. Give me the message. And i'll declare it regardless of what people think regardless of what people do that willingness to follow the award is what makes powerful leaders. And i know that's true by my own experience i've ever witnessed that. That's and that concludes. This how i lead interview. Hope you enjoyed it. And i would ask you. Could you take a minute and drop this link in an email on social media and text wherever it makes sense and share it with somebody who could relate to this experience and this is how we develop as leaders just hearing what the other guys doing trying some things out testing adjusting for your area and that's great leaderships. Discover right so we would love to. Have you share this with somebody in this calling or a related calling and that would be great and also if you know somebody any type of leader who would be a fantastic guests on the how i lead segment reach out to us.

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Go to leading saints dot org slash contact. Maybe send this individual nemo letting them know that you're going to be suggesting their name for this interview will reach out to them and see if we can line them up so again. Go to leading saints dot org slash contact and there you can submit all the information and let us know and maybe they will be on future how i lead segment on the leading saints podcast. And that concludes this throwback episode of the leading saints. Podcast get came as a result of the position of leadership which was imposed upon us by the god of heaven who brought forth a restoration of the gospel of jesus christ and when the declaration was made concerning the own only true and living church on the face of the earth. We were a leave 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.