

The Challenge to Become

The Apostle Paul taught that the Lord's teachings and teachers were given that we may all attain "the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (Eph. 4:13). This process requires far more than acquiring knowledge. It is not even enough for us to be convinced of the gospel; we must act and think so that we are converted by it. In contrast to the institutions of the world, which teach us to know something, the gospel of Jesus Christ challenges us to become something.

The parable of the laborers in the vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16) teaches several different principles. For present purposes its lesson is that the Master's reward in the Final will not be based on how long we have labored in the vineyard. We do Judgment not obtain our heavenly reward by punching a time clock. What is essential is that our labors in the workplace of the Lord have caused us to become something. For some of us, this requires a longer time than for others. What is important in the end is what we have become by our labors. Many who come in the eleventh hour have been refined and prepared by the Lord in ways other than formal employment in the vineyard. These workers are like the prepared dry mix to which it is only necessary to "add water"—the perfecting ordinance of baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost. With that addition—even in the eleventh hour—these workers are in the same state of development and qualified to receive the same reward as those who have labored long in the vineyard.

This parable teaches us that we should never give up hope and loving associations with family members and friends whose fine qualities evidence their progress toward what a loving Father would have them become. Similarly, the power of the Atonement and the principle of repentance show that we should never give up on loved ones who now seem to be making many wrong choices.

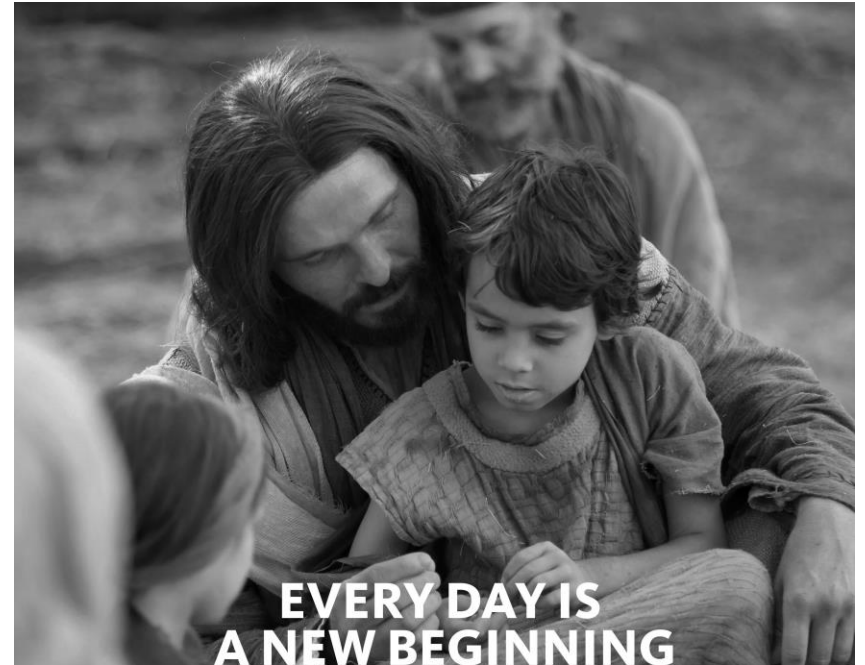
Instead of being judgmental about others, we should be concerned about ourselves. We must not give up hope. We must not stop striving. We are children of God, and it is possible for us to become what our Heavenly Father would have us become.

Elder Dallin H. Oaks
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Skyline Ward

December 31, 2023



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Dallin H. Oaks

Go to the stake website for more announcements:

<https://renostakeinfo.org>



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Reno Stake *Why I Believe* Fireside, Saturday January 14th at 7:00 pm
1095 Golconda Dr. A night of testimonies centered on Jesus Christ

Emotional Resilience Group Meetings for adults and youth starting Sunday, August 20, 3:30-5:00 PM, Golconda Building. Adults will meet in the Golconda Relief Society Room and youth will meet in the Golconda Young Women Room. The Golconda Building is located at 1095 Golconda Way, Reno, NV.

Please note, these classes are designed as a resource for individuals who want to improve emotional resilience in their lives.

Addiction Recovery Group Meeting – Tuesdays 7:00pm, High Council Rm
Family Support Group Meeting-Sundays 7:00pm, High Council Room
Questions? Call Jon Hiatt, High Council at 775-772-354

If you have an announcement, you would like added to the bulletin, send a text to Roy Blackburn at 775-399-0613

Skyline Ward

Russell Stodtmeister, Bishop	775-560-6850
Geoff Norby, 1 st Counselor	609-954-0444
Jeromy Ivie, 2 nd Counselor	775-560-1373
Jason Morris, Executive Secretary	775-343-2429
Aubrey Norby, R. S. Pres.	609-954-0364
William Horn, Elders Quorum Pres.	775-742-4210

Welcome and Announcements

Presiding: Bishop Russell Stodtmeister

Conducting: Bishop Russell Stodtmeister

Organist: Sister Melissa McMurray

Music Director: Brother Jay Chamberlain

Opening Hymn: #208 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Invocation: T.B.A.

Ward Business: T.B.A.

Sacrament Hymn: #194 There is a Green Hill Far Away

Passing of The Sacrament

Speaker: Sister Litchfield

Piano Medley Elder Potter

Speaker: Sister Lyden

Closing Hymn: #209 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Benediction: T.B.A.