

Disciple Training on the Mountain



- **REXBURG, Idaho—** In what botanists around the world are calling a “nice surprise,” a research team comprised of BYU-Idaho faculty and students announced in a press conference yesterday the creation of *Prunus redenbacunae*, a new species of apricot that produces delicious popping corn in lieu of its usual succulent fruit.
- Jennifer Christensen, a senior studying horticulture and one of the project leaders, told reporters that she could vividly recall the moment she realized the experiment had been successful.
- “I came into the lab very early one morning and looked out the observation window, and what did I see? Popcorn, popping on the apricot tree!” Christensen said.
- “There are many applications for this new species of *Prunus armeniaca*,” Arnold said. “For instance, I could take an armful and make a treat. A popcorn ball, which as you can see, has a very sweet aroma. This is just one of the numerous uses I anticipate for this new foodstuff.”



The Setting...

Matthew 5
3 Nephi 12



Elder Holland

In the most famous sermon ever given, Jesus began by pronouncing wonderfully gentle blessings which every one of us want to claim—blessings promised to the poor in spirit, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and the meek.¹⁰ How edifying those Beatitudes are and how soothing they are to the soul. They are true.

But in that same sermon the Savior went on, showing how increasingly strait the way of the peacemaker and the pure in heart would need to be. “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill,” He observed. “But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother ... shall be in danger of the judgment.”¹¹

Obviously as the path of discipleship ascends, that trail gets ever more narrow until we come to that knee-buckling pinnacle of the sermon ...: “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”¹³

What was gentle in the lowlands of initial loyalty becomes deeply strenuous and very demanding at the summit of true discipleship. Clearly anyone who thinks Jesus taught no-fault theology did not read the fine print in the contract!

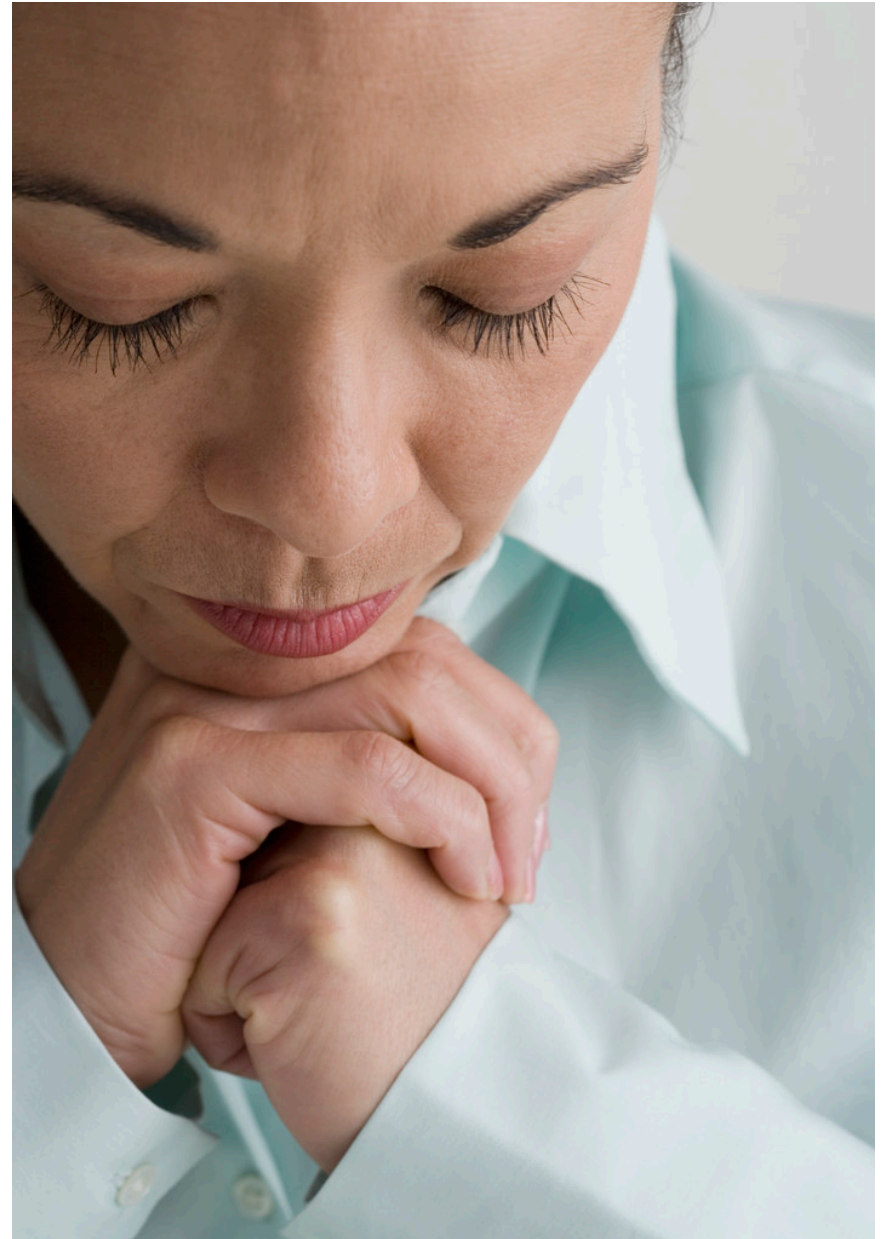
No, in matters of discipleship the Church is not a fast-food outlet; we can't always have it “our way.” Some day every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is the Christ and that salvation can only come His way.¹⁴

D&C 58

- “For after much tribulation come the blessings. Wherefore the day cometh that ye shall be crowned with much glory; the hour is not yet, but is nigh at hand. ...
- “Behold, verily I say unto you, for this cause I have sent you—that you might be obedient, ***and that your hearts might be prepared to bear testimony of the things which are to come;***
- “And also that you might be honored in laying the foundation, and in bearing record of the land upon which the Zion of God shall stand; ...

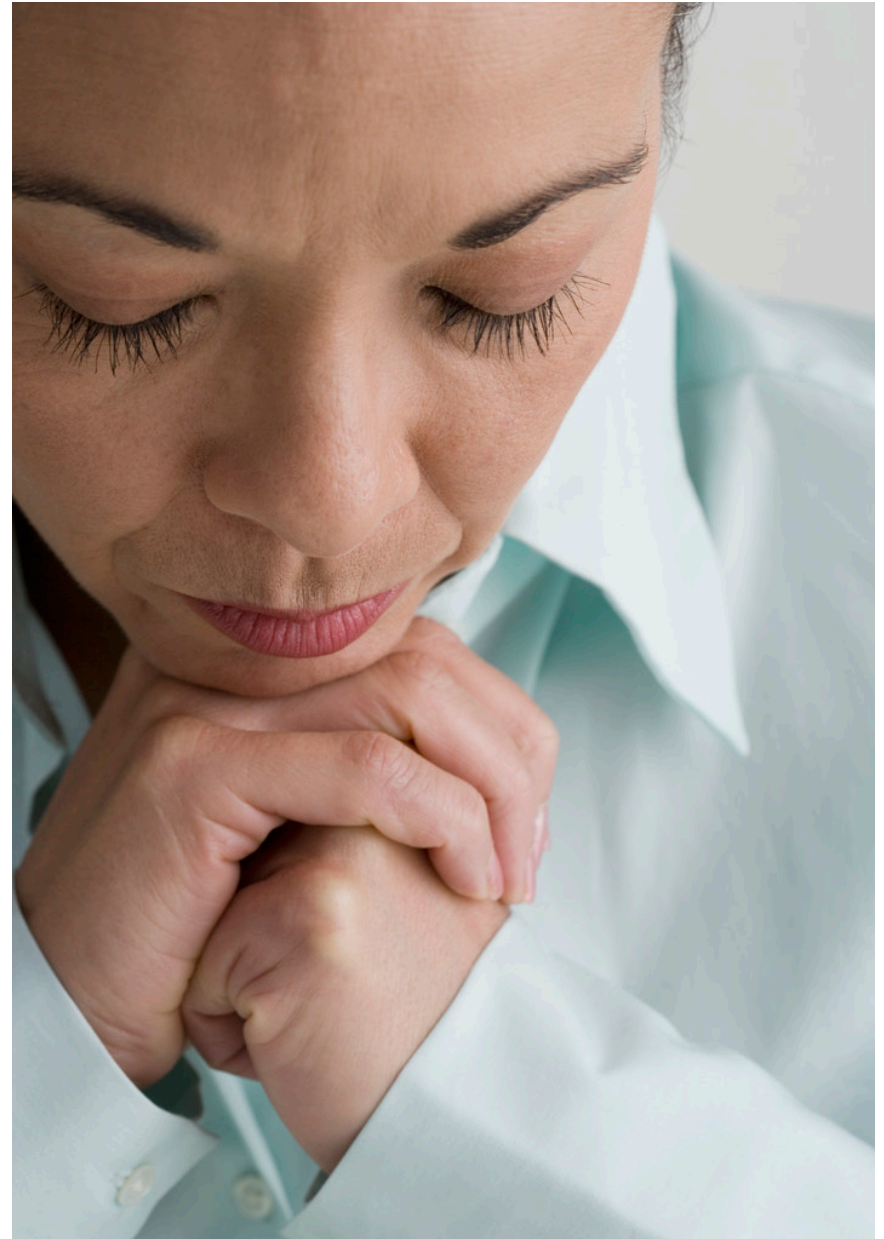
The State of our Heart

Matthew 5: 3-6



The State of our Actions

Matthew 5: 7-16



President Spencer W. Kimball

- Zion can be built up only among those who are the pure in heart—not a people torn by covetousness or greed, but a pure and selfless people, not a people who are pure in appearance, rather a people who are pure in heart.
- Zion is to be in the world and not of the world, not dulled by a sense of carnal security, nor paralyzed by materialism. No, Zion is not things of the lower, but of the higher order, things that exalt the mind and sanctify the heart.
- Zion is “every man seeking the interest of his neighbor, and doing all things with an eye single to the glory of God.” ([D&C 82:19](#).) As I understand these matters, Zion can be established only by those who are pure in heart, and who labor for Zion,

(March 1985 Ensign)



Light

**Matthew
5:14-16**