

Follow Him

Episode 4

Guest: Dr. Gerrit Dirkmaat

Doctrine and Covenants 3-5

“My Work Shall Go Forth”

Show Notes

Podcast General Description

Follow Him: A *Come, Follow Me* Podcast with Hank Smith & John Bytheway

Do you ever feel that preparing for your weekly *Come, Follow Me* lesson falls short? Join hosts Hank Smith and John Bytheway as they interview experts to make your study for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' *Come, Follow Me* course not only enjoyable but original and educational. If you are looking for resources to make your study fresh, faithful, and fun--no matter your age--then join us every Sunday.

Podcast Episode Description

Episode 4

Part 1:

Have you made a mistake that takes 2400+ years to repair? How did the stolen 116 pages affect the relationship between Joseph Smith, Lucy Mack Smith, Lucy Harris, and Martin Harris? Join us for Episode 4 as Dr. Gerrit Dirkmaat dramatically shares details about Emma's brush with death, Joseph and Emma's first baby's passing, and why the pages were stolen and not lost--stolen!

Part 2:

Dr. Gerrit Dirkmaat is as exciting a storyteller as his name is difficult to spell! He tells us about the Redemption of Martin Harris, explains how one of the smartest men in the Church gets from Manchester to Pennsylvania, and why we no longer have the plates. Join us for Part II for one of our most dramatic episodes yet.

Bonus Episode:

Dr. Gerrit Dirkmaat explains how historians use various sources, how audiences should examine them, and why this matters. If you have ever encountered some disturbing piece of historical information from a friend, foe, or the internet, this episode is for you.

Timecode:

Part 1

- *(00:02) Intro*
- *(00:55) Dr. Gerrit Dirkmaat Introduction*
- *(02:08) Background about Martin Harris*
- *(03:07) Farming Competency*
- *(07:01) Lucy Harris Shows Interest in the Plates*
- *(08:48) Joseph and Emma have Eloped and Move Back to Pennsylvania*
- *(09:51) Why the Lost 116 Pages Should Be Called the Stolen Pages*
- *(12:00) Why Joseph Lends the 116 Pages*
- *(18:36) Emma Delivers Their First Baby--Who Dies.*
- *(25:26) Martin Reports the Stolen Pages to Smith Family in Palmyra*
- *(29:35) The Plates are Returned*
- *(34:18) The Lord Forgives Joseph*
- *(35:47) The Second Coming Cannot Be Thwarted by Man*
- *(37:27) Section 3 and Section 10 Should Be Read Together*
- *(42:47) Lessons from D&C 3*

Part 2

- *(00:05) Intro*
- *(00:12) Joseph Trusts His Father*
- *(05:03) The Smith Family Affected by Alvin's Funeral Address*
- *(08:41) Oliver Cowdery Moves in with the Smith Family*
- *(11:18) D&C 4 Didn't Start as Missionary Section*
- *(14:42) Joseph Prays for a New Scribe*
- *(20:15) Martin Continues to Help but Joseph Accused of Fraud*
- *(26:02) Martin's Marriage Troubles*
- *(30:02) The Nature of Miracles and Belief*
- *(34:45) Why the Lord Speaks in Parables*
- *(39:39) Why the Lord has Us Try Difficult Things*
- *(42:50) Awkward Moments in the Scriptures*
- *(46:32) How Martin, Joseph, and Emma Persevere Through Tragedy*
- *(55:12) The Redemption of Martin Harris*

- (1:00:13) *Dr. Dirkmaat's Testimony*

Bonus Episode

- (00:28) Sources are Not All Created Equal
- (01:30) A Non-Historian's Guide to Evaluating Sources
- (03:23) Religious Truth Claims (of Every Religion) Can't Be Proven or Disproven
- (06:39) Historians and Multiple Versions of an Event
- (08:37) Who is Qualified to Make Historical Arguments
- (11:35) Saints Fall Victim to Pseudo-Scholarship
- (13:25) Evaluating Sources

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Biographical Information:

https://religion.byu.edu/gerrit_dirkmaat

Gerrit J. Dirkmaat is an associate professor of Church history and doctrine at Brigham Young University. He received his PhD from the University of Colorado in 2010, where he studied nineteenth-century American expansionism and foreign relations. His dissertation was titled “Enemies Foreign and Domestic: US Relations with Mormons in the US Empire in North America, 1844–1854.” He worked as a historian and writer for the Church History Department from 2010 to 2014 with the Joseph Smith Papers Project and served as a volume coeditor/historian for *Documents* volume 1, the lead volume editor on *Documents* volume 3, and has continued to work as a volunteer editor for the Joseph Smith Papers project on *Administrative Records, Council of Fifty, Minutes, March 1844–January 1846* and *Documents* volume 8. He is the coauthor, along with Michael Hubbard MacKay, of the award-winning book *From Darkness unto Light: Joseph Smith’s Translation and Publication of the Book of Mormon*, published by the BYU Religious Studies Center and Deseret Book in 2015. He is also the author of dozens of academic articles as well. In 2015 he published a groundbreaking analysis of the differences between the originally recorded Utah-era sermons of Brigham Young and other Church leaders and those later published in the *Journal of Discourses*. This article, “The Prophets Have Spoken, But What Did They Say?: Examining the Differences Between George D. Watt’s Original Shorthand Notes and the Sermons Published in the Journal of Discourses,” won the 2016 Article of Excellence Award from the Mormon History Association. Before his work at the Church History Department, he served as the senior assistant editor of *Diplomatic History* from 2003 to 2009. He currently serves as editor of the academic journal *Mormon Historical Studies*, published by the Mormon Historic Sites Foundation, and on the Church History editorial board for *BYU Studies*. He and his wife, Angela, have four children.



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