

# EPISODE 39

Dr. Robert L. Millet



*D&C 106-108*

## *“To Have the Heavens Opened”* **Show Notes & Transcripts**

### **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 Descriptions:**

#### **Part 1:**

Will the Lord return "like a thief in the night" or "as a woman in travail?" Dr. Robert Millet joins the podcast where we discuss the Second Coming, the signs of the times, strengthening our brothers and sisters, and keeping their names and reputations safe.

#### **Part 2:**

Dr. Robert Millet returns to discuss Doctrine and Covenants, Section 107 and the organization of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, the Seventy, and how all members enjoy the benefits of the priesthood on earth. Dr. Millet also shares his testimony of the Savior and what specific gifts for which he prays.

## Timecodes:

### Part 1

- 00:00 Welcome to follow HIM with Hank Smith and John Bytheway
- 01:21 Introduction of Dr. Robert Millet
- 03:38 Background to Doctrine and Covenants, Section 106 and Warren and Patience Cowdery
- 06:36 Warren Cowdery called to Kirtland high council
- 07:46 Imagery of “thief in the night” and “a woman in travail”
- 11:59 We may know the season of His Second Coming
- 14:37 Listen to the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve regarding the Second Coming and personal preparation
- 18:03 Background to Section 108
- 21:14 Lyman Sherman is forgiven for following a prompting
- 26:00 Background on Oliver Granger and Dr. Millet shares story of those saints that are overlooked
- 30:52 The Lord is “mighty to save”
- 35:23 The command to strengthen our brothers and sisters in ALL our conversations, prayers, and doings
- 42:41 Dr. Millet shares story of meeting with an ordained plumber
- 48:28 Background to Section 107
- 49:49 The offices and keys of the Priesthood are discussed
- 54:42 John shares a story of the keys of a Teacher’s Quorum President being utilized
- 55:34 President Hinkley shared his primary job was to oversee doctrine
- 1:01:09 End of Part I

### Part 2:

- 00:00 Welcome to Part II
- 00:07 Discussion of Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthood regarding the office of Presiding Bishop
- 02:10 Who belongs to the Church of the Firstborn
- 06:05 The Ministering of Angels is a gift for all to enjoy
- 08:05 The Office of the First Presidency and being upheld by the prayers and faith of the Church
- 11:55 The Twelve and their calling to be special witnesses to the name of Christ
- 16:54 When a prophet dies, who presides?
- 21:54 Dr. Millet shares story of the passing of President Joseph Fielding Smith
- 26:53 What the powers a bishop is given
- 29:44 General Officers of the Church and the Quorum of the Seventy reorganization
- 33:16 Leadership isn’t micromanaging and is duty
- 37:65 Dr. Millet shares story of an effective leader
- 41:32 The Church and the lay ministry
- 46:52 Sister Bingham is quotes about priesthood power being used, by women, in the home

- 51:05 Dr. Millet shares how and why he decided to study the scriptures and his testimony of the Savior, his appreciation of Joseph Smith and the Restoration
- 1:03:00 End of Part II

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## Biographical Information:



Robert L. Millet, former dean of Religious Education at Brigham Young University, is a professor emeritus of ancient scripture. After receiving bachelor's and master's degrees from BYU in psychology, he earned a PhD from

Florida State University in religious studies. Brother Millet is a beloved speaker and the author of numerous books. He and his wife, Shauna, are the parents of six children.

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## EPISODE 39 • PART I



Dr. Robert L. Millet

*D&C 106-108*



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|----------------|----------|---|
| Hank Smith:    | 00:00:01 | Welcome to Follow Him, a weekly podcast dedicated to helping individuals and families with their Come Follow Me study. I'm Hank Smith.  |
| John Bytheway: | 00:00:09 | And I'm John Bytheway.  |
| Hank Smith:    | 00:00:11 | We love to learn.   |
| John Bytheway: | 00:00:11 | We love to laugh.   |
| Hank Smith:    | 00:00:13 | We want to learn and laugh with you, as together, we follow him.  |
| Hank Smith:    | 00:00:20 | Hello everyone, welcome to another episode of Follow Him. I'm your host, Hank Smith. I am here with my meek cohost, John, Bytheway. John, you are meek.   |
| John Bytheway: | 00:00:31 | What every girl wants. "I hope my husband's meek." You know.  |
| Hank Smith:    | 00:00:35 | Hey, we want to remind everybody, you can find us on Instagram and Facebook. Go to <a href="https://followhim.co">followhim.co</a> . <a href="https://followhim.co">Followhim.co</a> . You might be tempted to put <a href="https://followhim.com">followhim.com</a> . Don't do that. Do <a href="https://followhim.co">followhim.co</a> and you can get show notes, and quotes and things. And of course we'd love for you to rate and review the podcast. |
| Hank Smith:    | 00:00:51 | And it's been a while since I did this, John, but I want to just give another shout out to our Marshall McDonald. He's the one who wrote the song that we use as our intro. And I've mentioned it before, but I want to mention it again. Our friend Marshall, we love your music, Marshall McDonald.   |
| Hank Smith:    | 00:01:08 | John, we have a treat this week, and I know both of us are a little bit nervous because of how much we look up to our guest. So go ahead and take it away. I'll let you stumble over the intro, not me.   |
| John Bytheway: | 00:01:21 | So glad to be joined by Dr. Robert L Millet again. And you heard his bio before, but I'll refresh your memory. He earned  |

bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology from BYU and his PhD in Biblical Studies and 19th and 20th Century Religious Thought from Florida State University.

- John Bytheway: 00:01:39 And before joining the BYU faculty in 1983, Robert Millet worked with LDS Social Services as a marriage and family counselor, and with their Church Educational System, as a Seminary Instructor, Institute Director, and Teaching Support Consultant.
- John Bytheway: 00:01:54 He's the author and editor of more than 30 books and 80 articles. And this could be an old bio I found. So it could be more right now. And book chapters dealing with doctrine and history of the church. I have behind me, the doctrinal commentary on the Book of Mormon. And a few books on Joseph Smith, The Choice Seer, Within Reach, When a Child Wanders, Alive in Christ, and a bunch of other books. Hank, how many did I miss?
- Hank Smith: 00:02:25 Prolific. And if you would've told me, when I was a missionary, that I was going to be on a podcast with John Bytheway and Bob Millet, I would've said, "Why is John Bytheway there? I want to have Bob Millet to myself. I'm just kidding.
- John Bytheway: 00:02:38 I will meekly agree with you right there.
- Hank Smith: 00:02:41 Yeah. I was reading books from a Dr. Millet long before we became friends. And I sometimes can't, I just have to pinch myself, that we are friends. That it really is true, that he knows my name. All right, I think we've gushed, haven't we, John?
- John Bytheway: 00:02:57 Have we gushed and flowed enough? Okay.
- Hank Smith: 00:03:01 I don't know. We haven't done him justice, but welcome, Bob. Welcome back.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:03:05 Thank you. Good to be with you.
- Hank Smith: 00:03:07 Yeah, we love having you here. Let's jump right in to our lesson. This week's lesson is on Doctrine Covenants sections 106, 107, and 108. It is the very end of 1834 and the very beginning of 1835. So Dr. Millet, back us up and what do we need to know coming into these two, three sections?
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:03:38 Let's just do enough history to get by and understand what's going on. 106, the prophet in 1834, and Parley P Pratt are traveling to the east to find persons who can join science camp

with them. And they stop at the home of Warren Cowdrey in Freedom, New York.

- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:04:01 I didn't know where Freedom was. I did a little research. It's 90 miles Southwest of Palmyra. And if you want to know where it stands in the state, it's about 340 miles from New York City. But a little town, Freedom, New York.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:04:19 Warren, of course, is the older brother of Oliver Cowdery. He had heard about his brother Oliver's experiences, wasn't quite sure what to think of the whole thing, except he was so moved by what he heard from Oliver that he wanted to have similar experiences himself. And so he really was a good man. His wife, Patience, that's a great name, and eight children. And so...
- Hank Smith: 00:04:49 His wife, Patience, I like that.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:04:50 Patience.
- Hank Smith: 00:04:52 And Parley's wife is Thankful.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:04:54 That's right.
- John Bytheway: 00:04:55 And he lives in Freedom. This is a great combo here.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:04:59 He joins the church in 1834 and becomes a pretty important person in terms of influence. He's involved, for example, he's the scribe on the dedicatory prayer of the Kirtland Temple. He's the scribe for the April 3rd, 1836 appearance of the Savior, Moses, Elias, and Elijah.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:05:23 So he's someone that really has had an influence in the church. Seemed to be deeply converted. Let's just say that when Joseph and Parley came, they invited a number of people to home. And Joseph and Parley preached, and Joseph in particular. And a large number of people were baptized on that occasion.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:05:53 Warren, again, went through those wonderful in 1836, but unfortunately got caught up in 1838 in the same kinds of things, being critical of the leadership of the church, and thus left the church at about that time, which is sad. But tremendous contributions to the kingdom, good man.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:06:20 By the way, served as that. The section 106 is instructions to Joseph Smith to call Warren Cowdrey to serve, basically, as the Branch President over Freedom, New York branch. Should we dive in?

Hank Smith: 00:06:34 Yes, please.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:06:36 Section 106, verse 1, of course is, "It's my will that Warren should be appointed to serve as a presiding high priest." Let's mention that he really only served in that capacity a little over a year, but did a great job. Because he moved to Kirtland, was placed on the Kirtland high council. Then when many of the saints moved to Far West, he moved with them. He served on the high council in Far West as well.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:07:15 He used to preach the gospel, in verse 2, "Preach my everlasting gospel, lift up his voice and warn the people, not only in his own place, but in the adjoining counties," right? "And devote his whole time to the high end holy calling, which I now give unto him, seeking diligently the kingdom of heaven," and so forth.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:07:36 Where I think it gets interesting, I've said this before I think, and that is, it's fascinating how in some of the revelations that we don't generally think much about, or many people don't even remember, there's some pretty powerful doctrinal instructions contained in them. I'm thinking of James Covill and so forth. This is one of those. Look at verse 4, "And again, verily I say unto you, the coming of the Lord draweth nigh and it overtaketh the world as a thief in the night."

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:08:14 I went back and I just read, drawing upon the same language that Paul used when he wrote to the Thessalonians, this is 1 Thessalonians 5, "Of the times and the seasons," verse 1, "Brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night." We hear that used a lot. I've heard people talk about it in the Church many times.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:08:42 The Lord's coming as a thief in the night. We're not going to know in any way when he's coming. And I want to talk about that. But verse 3, "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh with upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." I think the analogy used here is absolutely fabulous. Let's consider a woman that is nine months and three weeks pregnant, and is just as ready to deliver as she can be. And just wishes the baby would come anytime now. She's so uncomfortable.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:09:21 Well, let's suppose she goes to church one day and someone walks up to her and says, "Hey, when you're going to have that baby anyway?" What if she answered this way? "Oh, I don't know. It could be a week. Might be a year, maybe five years for all I know. I'm not quite sure. I don't know the time."

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:09:40 No, she would never say that. She might say, "I don't know the minute, but I can tell you one thing, it's going to be soon. It's got to be soon." The analogy is really an important one, because if you ask her, "How do you know it'll be so soon?" And she'll say, "The signs in my body are telling me that it's soon." And so I think it's a fascinating illustration, analogy here. And as we'll see, I want to go on and read the rest of this, because we generally, I think, misuse this passage of scripture. "Therefore, gird up your loins," verse 5, "That you may be the children of light, And that day shall not overtake you as a thief."

Hank Smith: 00:10:26 We're back in [Section] 106 now, right, Bob?

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:10:28 Yes.

Hank Smith: 00:10:29 Yeah.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:10:30 Section 106. I'm sorry. Yeah, "Gird up your loins. Be the children of light," that's the same language Paul will use, "so that you won't overtake you as a thief." Here's the key in verse 4, "Verily I say, the coming of the Lord draweth nigh, it overtaketh the world as a thief in the night." It need not overtake the saints if they're paying attention, either to the signs of the times, and more particularly if they're paying attention to what the leadership of the Church are saying.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:11:05 I was thinking of something that you would have studied quite a while back. But if you'll remember the 68th section of the Doctrine and Covenants given to, basically, I guess it was four elders of the Church, Orson Hyde and three other brethren.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:11:22 I'm looking at, I'll read this in context, verse 9 [and 10] of section 68. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, and he that believeth not shall be damned. And he that believeth shall be blest with signs following, even as it is written. And unto you," now these are men that will become members of the first Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "unto you it shall be given to know the signs of the times and the signs of the coming of the Son of Man."

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:11:59 I think that's saying we need to pay close attention to the Twelve and the First Presidency, to the apostles that guide the Church. We may not know the day or the hour, Elder McConkie used the expression, he used to say, but I think we'll know the season. Knowing the exact time, Elder Ballard gave a BYU address some years ago. And he said, "I'm a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. And I do not know when the

Second Coming will be. I do not know of anybody in the Twelve or the First Presidency who knows when the Second Coming will be." He said, "And I would modestly suggest that if we don't know when it is, no one knows when it is." And I think that's a critical point, because it actually is in harmony with that verse.

- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:12:56 We need to pay attention to the Twelve, the First Presidency, and yes, search and read the signs of the times, and not let ourselves get caught up with all these silly groups that seem to have it down pat, "It's next Thursday."
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:13:11 And so that, from Section 106 to me, is fascinating.
- Hank Smith: 00:13:18 Yeah, that is.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:13:20 A short section of the Doctrine and Covenants, and yet that little important detail contained there.
- Hank Smith: 00:13:25 "Overtaketh the world as a thief in the night. ..."
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:13:29 The world.
- Hank Smith: 00:13:29 You don't have to be in that group.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:13:31 No. No, I think that's right.
- John Bytheway: 00:13:34 I'm so glad you brought this up. I actually had a note next to it, because I remember being at a CES Symposium and hearing somebody present this way. "Well, to the wicked, to the world, it'll be like a thief in the night. But to the righteous, it'll be like a woman in travail."
- John Bytheway: 00:13:48 And you pointed us to that. And it's actually footnoted there, 1 Thessalonians 5. And so we kind of have an idea. A woman in travail has an idea. And if we're acquainted with... I love the footnote to Section 68, if we are acquainted, it won't overtake us. Completely out of nowhere we'll be able to say, "Oh, look, this looks like... Yeah, this was supposed to happen. Yeah, this was supposed to happen."
- John Bytheway: 00:14:13 I'm glad you brought that up, because it's a merciful thing the Lord has done. "Oh, you'll know. I'll give you signs."
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:14:20 Do you remember when, in 2 Nephi 25, when Nephi's tried to explain, or provide some keys for understanding Isaiah? One of them is, you'll know when it happens.

Hank Smith: 00:14:32 Yeah.

John Bytheway: 00:14:32 You will-

Hank Smith: 00:14:34 You live in the last days. It's verse 8. Yeah.

John Bytheway: 00:14:37 I think it's saying we ought to be acquainted with, not obsessed with, but acquainted with the signs of the times. And if we are, then there are certain things we'll be saying, "Well, that certainly fulfills that sign of the time." And I think we'll be listening more carefully, I hope, to the First Presidency.

John Bytheway: 00:14:54 I just said this particular First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve, these 15 men have no hesitation about saying that we're trying to prepare ourselves now for the Second Coming of the Savior. Again, I don't know when it is. It's certainly closer than when I was a boy.

Hank Smith: 00:15:12 It was. I think that's safe to say.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:15:20 Yeah, that's right.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:15:21 And so I think this whole thing of the thief in the night is a fascinating idea. And that is, it doesn't need to be as a thief in the night. We can be ready.

Hank Smith: 00:15:27 I want to read a little thought from Elder Holland, September 12th, 2004 at BYU. "The promised Second Coming of the Savior began with the First Vision of the prophet Joseph Smith in 1820." Right? Keep your eyes on the Twelve. They'll tell you when this is happening.

Hank Smith: 00:15:48 I was going to say earlier that even when you're nine months pregnant, it still seems to surprise you a little bit. Right? I haven't talked to my wife about this, but it didn't seem to surprise me. "Wait, what? Right now? I'm not ready for this."

Hank Smith: 00:16:03 "Wait, what? Right now? I'm not ready for this." I saw it coming. She would tell me, "Be ready. I got the bag packed. We got to be ready to go."

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:16:10 You know how many times the Savior says in the Doctrine and Covenants, "I come quickly"? But quickly doesn't really mean suddenly.

John Bytheway: 00:16:15 Yeah. Without warning.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:16:17 It's not talking about time, it's suddenly--without warning. That's right. Except I think the saints, if they're paying attention and are seeking to be in tune, will recognize warnings.

Hank Smith: 00:16:27 Yeah. I think I just wasn't in tune as a husband. I think I was doing my own thing.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:16:33 My wife will tell you she remembers most being very pregnant, and we were living in Tallahassee, and I'm trying to finish a major paper for a class. She says, "I think it's time," and I said to her, "Yeah. Just give me a little while. I'll be" ... We managed to get her to the hospital, and the baby came in 45 minutes. That's one of her sweet memories of me.

John Bytheway: 00:16:57 Yeah.

Hank Smith: 00:17:00 That's funny. "Just give me a second, here." How many of us are going to do that with the Lord when he's ... Yeah. "Just wait. Can you hold off for just a couple of days?"

Hank Smith: 00:17:08 I will say ... I don't know who said it. I've heard it attributed to C.S. Lewis, but I don't think I've ever found the reference for it. But he says, "The Second Coming will not be a day of choosing, it will be a day you find out what you have chosen." It's not a day to now begin to choose, it's a day you find out.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:17:28 That's good. I like that.

Hank Smith: 00:17:29 Right?

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:17:29 Should we go to Section 108?

Hank Smith: 00:17:31 Yeah. Let's do it. Verse six he says, Bob, "Warren Cowdery separated himself from the crafts of men." That's got to be part of not being part of the world, right?

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:17:42 Yeah. It is.

Hank Smith: 00:17:42 Separating yourself from the crafts of men.

John Bytheway: 00:17:46 I was thinking, this is kind of like a Double Stuf Oreo where you've got a 106 and a 108 that are pretty short sections, holding ... I don't know why I'm thinking of an Oreo right now, but ...

Hank Smith: 00:17:58 I think that's what the Lord wanted us to think of, John. He wanted us to think of Oreos right here.

- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:18:03 This is a revelation to Lyman Sherman. Brother Sherman born in 1804, so, what, one year older than the prophet Joseph Smith? Born in Vermont. He and his wife Delcena, D-E-L-C-E-N-A, they're baptized in 1832, January, and other members of the family were also baptized.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:18:29 They moved to Kirtland in mid 1833, and there they meet the prophet Joseph Smith. Lyman was one of those that served successfully and faithfully as a member of Zion's Camp. The stories told that, while the prophet Joseph Smith is in his home at Christmastime, it's the day after Christmas, and Joseph is sitting around with some of the early elders in the church, and they're studying Hebrew.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:18:54 A knock comes at the door, and it was 31- year-old Lyman Sherman who had been moved upon by the Spirit to go to see the prophet Joseph Smith regarding what the Lord would have him do. Section 108 is the response to that. He had been appropriately moved upon. He responded to it, and this revelation comes to him.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:19:27 It's an interesting thing that takes place in his life. We know that, at the time the Quorum of the Twelve is organized, February 14, 1835, within two weeks, first Quorum of the Seventy is established. Lyman Sherman is called to be one of the seven presidents, which is quite an honor. As we know, Zion's Camp proved to be the place where you find the leaders. Joseph knew who he could depend upon after Zion's Camp, and many of those either went into the Twelve or the Seventy. Lyman Sherman was called in 1835 to that capacity.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:20:08 But, interestingly, by 1837, I don't know whether Joseph Smith had realized that something wasn't quite right. What the prophet seemed to have pondered upon is that Lyman Sherman had been ordained a high priest, I guess back in 1831 when the first high priest were ordained, and then he said ... I think the line he used is something like, "It's really not in harmony," or, "It's not in tune with what the Lord wants to do," or, even stronger, "Contrary to the order of heaven for a man who is a high priest to serve as one of the Presidents of Seventy," and so he was released from that appointment.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:20:55 With that in mind, some of these verses will make a little more sense. It's a very tender revelation in the sense that the Lord is very attentive to the feelings of this good man.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:21:09 Should we look at some of the verses?

Hank Smith: 00:21:12 Let's do it.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:21:14 Okay. Verse one. "Verily thus saith the Lord unto you, my servant Lyman: your sins are forgiven you, because you have obeyed my voice in coming up hither this morning to receive counsel of him whom I've appointed." He's followed the prompting.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:21:31 "Therefore, let your soul be at rest concerning your spiritual standing, and resist no more my voice. And arise up and be careful henceforth in observing vows, which you have made and do make, and you shall be blessed with exceeding great blessings. Wait patiently until the solemn assembly shall be called of my servants, then you shall be remembered with the first of mine elders, and received right by ordination with the rest of mine elders whom I have chosen."

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:22:01 I think the solemn assembly being referenced there is what goes on at the time of Kirtland Temple dedication. He was acknowledged then as a member of the Presidency of the Seventy, and received great recognition.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:22:13 "This is the promise of the Father unto you if you continue faithful. It shall be fulfilled upon you in that day that you shall have right to preach my gospel wheresoever I shall send you, from henceforth from that time."

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:22:27 This is one of those verses I went through maybe ten years ago and picked out, just, favorite verses in the scriptures. I wanted a batch to memory. This was one of those. Verse seven. I love this. "Therefore, strengthen your brethren," and sisters, "in all your conversation, in all your prayers, in all your exhortations, and in all your doings."

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:22:51 I love that idea, that what we say, what we speak ought to be a strengthening influence to people. That's the exact opposite of someone who is gossiping or who is telling tales. Strengthen, whether it's in your conversations, or whether it's in your prayers, or whether it's in what you're teaching. Frankly, in all your doing, strengthen people by what you have to say.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:23:16 "And behold, and lo, I'm with you to bless you and deliver you forever."

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:23:20 Maybe one or two more things about Lyman. Throughout the Kirtland Apostasy, he and his family stayed faithful through it all. Wilford Woodruff mentioned that Lyman Sherman was

actually the first member of the Church to speak in tongues, and he did it in a particular meeting, not an unusual meeting, but a regular type meeting in the Kirtland Temple. That's a nice thing to be recognized. His brother-in-law, by the way, was Benjamin F. Johnson, who became a very dear friend of the prophet Joseph Smith. They remain faithful. As I indicated, he's released from the seventy in 1837.

- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:24:12 Anyway, just a good man. Stays faithful. Dies in 1839, the age of 34. In fact, part of the reason he died is that he went to Liberty Jail to visit Joseph and the brethren in jail. While there, caught a cold, and soon thereafter died.
- Hank Smith: 00:24:34 He had to die.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:24:39 It's a great story.
- Hank Smith: 00:24:42 Lyman Sherman.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:24:43 Yeah.
- Hank Smith: 00:24:43 One of the definitely lesser known, but someone we should know about and understand.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:24:53 How often is it the case ... I think I mentioned this the last time I was with you, and that is, often it's what you could call, I suppose, the second-level saints that seem to make such a difference. When you think about the beginnings of the Restoration, the Knights, the Whitmers, you start naming them off, these really important people that came into the Church at just the right time, and they served in ways that blessed the Church. We don't know them like we know Joseph, and Brigham, or Parley or Orson Pratt.
- Hank Smith: 00:25:29 The Whitneys. Yeah.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:25:31 Or the Whitneys. Yes.
- Hank Smith: 00:25:33 The Whitneys. The Partridges, right? The ... Yeah.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:25:34 That's exactly right. People that were instrumental in great things happening through their simple service.
- Hank Smith: 00:25:48 It's wonderful how the Lord acknowledges him here. I think that's the same promise for all of us, right, Bob? Is those of us who are second-level saints who maybe aren't in the headlines, the Lord acknowledges our work.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:26:00 What's the Lord going to say to Oliver Granger back in [Section] 117? "His name shall be had in honorable remembrance from generation to generation." I had somebody who was not a member of the Church, and quite critical, says, "I have never heard of him, and I bet most of your saints haven't." I said, "Look. He made the Doctrine and Covenants. I didn't."

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:26:22 There's a simple man that wasn't well known, basically blind, who went forward, became a helper to the First Presidency, straightening things back out in Kirtland. The Lord said some some pretty remarkable things about him.

John Bytheway: 00:26:39 His headstone is just the north side of that Kirtland Temple, there. It's fun to go there and to read that excerpt from 117.

Hank Smith: 00:26:49 John, what were you going to say?

John Bytheway: 00:26:51 Just, there's a couple of things I love about this. Verse two, how many of us ... Just that question. "Let your soul be at rest concerning your spiritual standing." Just, that question that we all sometimes have. "Am I doing okay? How am I doing?" How many sections of the Doctrine and Covenants ... Nice and convenient to go over to the prophet, "Can you tell me, how am I doing?" A lot of people got that in these early days of the Church, I think, and ...

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:27:20 When I was bishop the first time, I had a sister come in to see me. Wonderful lady, really. Her family was just a great family. She came in for a temple recommend. We had a good visit. She obviously was worthy. She made a comment. She said, "I wish my husband receive greater recognition. He doesn't ever seem to be called to major church positions."

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:27:44 We began to talk about her husband. This was one noble soul. This is a man you could depend on. This is someone who was always there when he was needed. He was someone, you knew if you gave the assignment to him, it would get done and it would get done well. I don't know if he ever served in leadership in the Church, but that just doesn't matter a great deal. The issue is, how faithful were you in your personal life? What kind of a family person were you?

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:28:13 Yeah. Worrying about your spiritual standing. I guess there's another way of looking at that, too, John. I think wonderful, faithful Latter-day Saints who worry they aren't going to make the Celestial Kingdom, that to me is sad. I've met a lot of saints that somehow suppose they're going to end up in the Terrestrial

Kingdom. I try to explain to them, "Look. Are you worthy to go to the temple?" "Yes." "But you plan to go to the Terrestrial Kingdom?" "I don't plan to, it's probably where I'll end up."

- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:28:52 I think that Satan does work on us sometimes in supposing we just don't have what it takes, when, in fact, most of the saints are living the gospel in a way that they're going to make it. While I think we need to attend to our duties and be faithful and true to what we're called upon to do, I don't think the Lord wants us to worry about our standing in the Church. To say, even, if you have the Holy Ghost and if the Holy Ghost is dwelling with you, as Brigham Young would say, "You're living in a saved condition."
- John Bytheway: 00:29:31 I love the ... Our friend, Stephen Robinson, that ... He just had a really nice way of putting it. He looked at Section 25, which we normally think of, "That's Emma Smith and the hymns," but, early in Section 25, "If joined the church, you're in my kingdom." What Stephen Robinson said, "The question really isn't, am I going to make it? The question is, do I want to stay?" That's in his book, *Following Christ*. I thought, "What a beautiful way to put it." You're in the kingdom. Do you want to stay?
- John Bytheway: 00:30:03 I like what you said, Bob. Just stop worrying about it so much. What have you quoted? Is it C.S. Lewis in a less worried way?
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:30:12 Yeah. You move forward, you work at it, but you do so in a less worried way. I think that's beautiful.
- Hank Smith: 00:30:21 I tell my students frequently, Bob, that the Lord is mighty to save. He's good at this.
- John Bytheway: 00:30:29 He's so good at this.
- Hank Smith: 00:30:29 Yeah. He doesn't say, "Just, I don't know if I can do it. I'm trying, but saving someone like you is really hard." No, he seems to be very confident in himself.
- John Bytheway: 00:30:38 Really good at it. He's got this title that actually was ... It was with a capital S, Savior. He's so good at it that He's the only one.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:30:50 Yeah. I think we can rely on Him.
- John Bytheway: 00:30:52 I remember sitting next to an Evangelical Minister on a plane, had just a fascinating conversation. He asked, "If you never go to the temple again, can you be saved?" I said, "The temple is not the Savior. Me going on a mission is not the Savior. Me

trying to keep commandments is not the Savior. Jesus is the Savior." I do those things because I think He wants me to, but he's the Savior, and he's mighty to save. That was an interesting conversation.

- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:31:24 I spoke to a group just a few weeks ago, and they asked me to speak on the idea of who's going to make it, or ... It's an older group. This is a group of people, probably in their mid-to-late sixties. I talked about the importance of the Holy Ghost.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:31:41 I think we've all seen Paul's writings on this, where he says the Holy Ghost is basically the earnest of our inheritance, meaning it's God's earnest money on us. Meaning, when the spirit is with me, it means God is serious about saving me. Just like when I pay that money down is my earnest money, I'm-
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:32:03 When I pay that money down as my earnest money, I'm serious about buying that home. Well, when I have the Spirit with me, it's God's way of whispering softly to me, "You're on course. You're on course."
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:32:13 The other would be a temple recommend that you use. Why? Well, because the temple is God's counterpart to paradise. If you qualify to go into the temple and serve in the temple, you qualify to go to paradise when you die. I remember getting a phone call from a sister when I was bishop, who she and her husband had served five or six missions. I don't know whether it was five or six, but... And in the word, they were just amazing people. So service-oriented, so loving, so kind.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:32:48 Well, he passed away and she stayed in mortalities for about another year. She called me one day, and we knew that she was not far from death. And she said, "Bishop, I've got to get my temporary recommend. It's going to expire, and I don't want to face God with an expired temple recommend." I said, "Oh, okay." So I said, "I'll get the stake president. We'll come over to your house." And so, stake president sitting over here, I'm here, and she's right over there. And I asked the questions, and she of course gave all the right answers. And I said, "Well, do you have any questions or any concerns?" She said, "Yeah, I have a concern." She said... Here's this sweet, pure soul, about as celestial as anybody I've ever known, who then said, "I'm really worried that I haven't done enough."
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:33:47 And I don't know what happened exactly, but feeling came over me and I looked over to the stake president, and he was teary-eyed, and I think it came over him too. And I said, "President, should I?" He said, "Tell her." And I don't know if I was

authorized to do this, but I said, "My dear sister," I said, "your salvation is secure. You've done everything the Lord's asked you to do forever. You've just been the model citizen in the kingdom of God. The least of your worries ought to be whether you're going to make it to the Celestial Kingdom. Some of us may worry if we can do as well as you have."

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:34:33

But I just think that those are sad situations. And of course, Satan would work on us to cause us to worry about our spiritual standing. When in fact, there are a lot of things we're asked and called upon to do in the Church, to be sure. Things can get complicated sometimes. But if occasionally, we'll back off and say, "Well, at least a couple of things I know. I hold a current temple recommend. I'm worthy to do that. And you know what? I feel the Holy Ghost working in my life." And if that's the case, it's like God's token. Or as someone said, it's like God's engagement ring. Meaning I intend to make you a part of an important wedding in days to come. And so I think I love that line, spiritual standing. Don't worry about it.

Hank Smith: 00:35:23

Love that, Bob. I love it. And before we go on to 107, I just have to... Let's talk about verse seven, because how can we... I know both of you do this. I'm not as good as both of you, but strengthening people in the way you talk. Bob, you're a celebrity that makes others feel like a celebrity. John, you're the same way. You're just someone who is strengthening people by the way you talk. Yet in the world around us today, it seems to be a culture of outrage and tear people down.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:35:57

I'll say this, John, and then you need to give the good stuff. My dad was not an educated man by the world's standards, but boy, did he know people. And he had a high school education and was successful in his business. But the greatest thing about him was his personality, his way. I will never forget coming home from a mission, sitting in on a gospel essentials class that Dad was teaching. And Dad asked the question to these young members, "And now, who was it that restored the Aaronic priesthood?" And a hand went up and Dad said, "Yes." And the man said, "Moroni." And I thought, "Oh, this is interesting." And Dad said, "Moroni. I love Moroni. Moroni is one of my favorite people." He talked about Moroni for about five minutes and then said, "Oh, thank you for mentioning. Now actually, Moroni wasn't the one that brought the priesthood, but who was it?" Someone said, "John the Baptist." "Good. But thank you for mentioning Moroni."

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:37:08

I remember thinking that's a good example of... Dad hadn't gone to a class on how to be a good teacher or an effective

teacher. He just knew people. And I watched him as he do what with people, loved being with people, and made them feel better when they went home. And so, I think one thing is to just... I often say to teachers, gospel teachers, sometimes it's a great risk for a person to make a comment in a Sunday School class or a priesthood or a Relief Society class. Consequently, we need to, in an appropriate way, reward them for making a comment or answering a question. And just saying, "Yes, good." That's okay. But I found over the years that when a student, a young student, would make a comment that really was quite good, I'd say, "Say that again." And she would say it again, and I'd say, "Did everybody hear that?"

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:38:13

I remember when I was teaching a freshmen Book of Mormon class, we were in Mosiah 15 with Abinadi's teachings, that difficult first four verses on the Father and the Son. I assigned them to go home that night, and for the next class period, to put together a one page summary of what was being taught by Abinadi. It was fortunate I called on this one young lady. I said, "Cindy, would you read yours?" It was amazing. It was so well done. And I said to her something like, "You wrote this?" She said, "Yeah, I wrote this." I said, "What do the rest of you think?" And they complimented her too. I said, "I've never heard it..." And I hadn't. I'd never heard it explained that well before.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:38:59

And I think letting them know they're appreciated, letting them know that it's worthwhile to make a comment. People need to be complimented. People need to be assured and reassured. What do you think, John?

John Bytheway: 00:39:16

Well, years ago, there was a youth theme. I usually will put together a fireside on the youth theme, and it was First Timothy 4:12, "Be an example of the believers." And one of them is in conversation. And so I loved to go to this verse.

John Bytheway: 00:39:34

And when I was 17-years-old, pivotal experience in my life, though I didn't know it at the time, my bishop called me to be what they used to call Junior Sunday School chorister and now it would be Primary Chorister. And I've... Hank, you've heard me tell this story a million times, but I looked right at him and went, "I'm a boy." And he looked at me like, "Look, you weren't my first choice either, Buster, get in there and do it. I don't know why your name came."

John Bytheway: 00:40:04

And I learned later when I was a missionary in the Philippines, got the amazing opportunity to open an area. And after a couple of weeks, had about 15 kids sitting there in Primary. And

I knew the songs, they were all in my head, and I could... It was an amazing experience. But some of those lyrics... I want to just say this verse seven sounds like Give Said the Little Stream. Listen to this phrase. " I'm small, I know, but wherever I go, the grass grows greener."

John Bytheway: 00:40:37 And I've known people like that. And Hank, don't sell yourself short. You are so good with people that they feel strengthened. And I love the humility. I'm small, I know, but this is what I can do. Wherever I go, I can try to make the grass grow greener. And somebody, if they have an interaction with me, will feel a little bit better. And all your conversation, all your prayers, all your exhortations, all you're doings...

John Bytheway: 00:41:04 In fact, I made a note to what I thought was a very interesting talk. April 1999, Elder [Cree-L. Kofford gave a talk called Your Name is Safe in our Home. I'll just read a paragraph.

John Bytheway: 00:41:19 "What a blessing it would be if all of us could follow that counsel, if each of our names truly could be safe in the home of others. Have you noticed how easy it is to cross over the line and find fault with other people? All too often, we seek to be excused from the very behavior we condemn in others. Mercy for me, justice for everyone else, is a much too common addiction. When we deal with the name and reputation of another, we deal with something sacred in the sight of the Lord. There are those among us who would recoil in horror at the thought of stealing another person's money or property, but who don't give a second thought to stealing another person's good name or reputation. The old adage never judge another man until you have walked a mile in his footsteps is good advice today, as it was the day it was first uttered. Someone once said there is so much good in the worst of us and so much bad in the best of us that it ill behooves any of us to find fault with the rest of us."

John Bytheway: 00:42:16 So that's a great talk, if someone wants to look that up. Elder Cree-L. Kofford, April '99 General Conference. And when I'm looking at verse seven of Section 108, I've got the all underlined. And I think it was Doug Brinley that used to say, "Is that a pretty high percentage?" When he would see the word all in scriptures. So, there's not any wiggle room there.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:42:41 May I share another quick experience? It has to do with making things better for other people by what we say. I was on a flight, I think it was in the days when we were doing Know your Religion programs, and I was going down to Texas. And so I'm on the plane. Another man comes in and sits next to me. He

strikes up a conversation. We began having a nice chat. He asked, "What do you do for a living?" And I told him, "I'm a professor of religion at Brigham Young University. He went on and on and on about BYU, and he was a real fan of our football team. He called us Quarterback U, and we had a good chat. I turned to him at a certain point and said, "Now, what do you do for a living?" And he said, "I'm an ordained plumber."

|                       |          |   |
|-----------------------|----------|---|
| John Bytheway:        | 00:43:30 | Ordained plumber.   |
| Dr. Robert L. Millet: | 00:43:30 | Excuse me?  |
| Hank Smith:           | 00:43:31 | An ordained plumber.  |
| Dr. Robert L. Millet: | 00:43:32 | He said, "I'm an ordained plumber." I said, "I think I've never met an ordained plumber. What is an ordained plumber?" He said, "Well, in my profession, I'm a plumber. But I'm first and foremost a Christian. And my job, I feel like, is to go into people's homes and to simply make their day a better day." I was so moved by that.   |
| Hank Smith:           | 00:43:59 | That's great, Bob.  |
| Dr. Robert L. Millet: | 00:44:00 | An ordained plumber. You could be an ordained lot of things.  |
| Hank Smith:           | 00:44:07 | If we took that charge.   |
| Dr. Robert L. Millet: | 00:44:09 | I'm glad you brought that up, John, that is strengthen people by what we say.   |
| Hank Smith:           | 00:44:14 | I'm going to add to the homework, John. April 2007, the Tongue of Angels by Jeffrey R. Holland. He talks about this. I remember hearing this for the first time, knowing it was going to be a talk that impacted me. And you just have to hear this one line. I hope everyone will go read both talks that John and I mentioned. Elder Holland says, "I have often thought that Nephi's being bound with cords and beaten by rods must've been more tolerable to him than listening to Laman and Lemuel's constant murmuring. Surely he must have said at least once, 'Hit me one more time. I can still hear you.'" Our words matter, right? He says, "No misfortune is so bad that whining about it won't make it worse." |
| Hank Smith:           | 00:44:59 | Just our words are important. Strengthening our brothers and sisters in all our conversation. I'm glad we stopped there.  |

John Bytheway: 00:45:08 Alma 12:14. I tell my students I think this is the scariest verse in the entire Book of Mormon. Alma 12:14. "Our words will condemn us ... our works will condemn us ... our thoughts will condemn us. And in this awful state, we shall not dare to look up to our God; and we would fain be glad if we could command the rocks and mountains to fall upon us to hide us from his presence."

John Bytheway: 00:45:27 And then I say footnoted is the second scariest verse in the standard works. I think it's Matthew 12:36. "Every idle word that men shall speak they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." And then I make it worse. Pack your bags, kids. We're going on a guilt trip. Every idle word that men shall speak or text or blog or post they shall give account thereof. And by that time we're all guilty enough. We have a closing prayer and go home.

John Bytheway: 00:45:52 But this is the opposite. Just strengthen in all, all, all, all. And I think I read in one of the commentaries that conversation in your Webster's 1828 Dictionary was more than just your words. Yeah, it was your conduct. So this expands to more than just our words, but we can apply that in both ways beautifully.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:46:17 Yeah.

Hank Smith: 00:46:18 Yeah, absolutely.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:46:20 Should we go to [Section] 107?

John Bytheway: 00:46:20 Let's do it.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:46:22 Okay.

Hank Smith: 00:46:23 This is landmark, right, Bob? This is huge. Not just for the saints of the time, but for us.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:46:28 Yeah. The Twelve were called, what, a month before? Month and a half before, First Quorum of the Twelve. They've been receiving instructions. They come together. I love the way this preface reads on the date and name, the Twelve met in council, confessing their weaknesses and shortcomings and expressing repentance, seeking the guidance of the Lord. They're about to go on their missions, one of their missions. And so this is an interesting section. A number of the things that are in Section 107 were revealed as early as November 1831. And yet, I think when the prophet put it all together, he put this... This is the section on priesthood. 84 is awfully good, but 107 I think is the

most complete section on priesthood and priesthood government.

- John Bytheway: 00:47:28 Bob, I don't think this is something we've mentioned before that we should probably should, is that sometimes we think of sections of the Doctrine and Covenants as just coming that one day. But these are things that sit in Joseph's mind maybe for years, as you've said here, this is 1835 and some of this is coming in 1831, and he's finally... Maybe he's come to the right moment where it's time to put it all out on paper.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:47:54 Well, yes. I think for the first addition to the Doctrine and Covenants, he determines that there are certain things that have been said about priesthood at different times by the Lord. And we put them into one-
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:48:03 Things that have been said about priesthood at different times by the Lord and we put them into one section. Section 20 is very similar. Section 20 is put together in different ways. Yeah, this wasn't just one revelation. This is several revelations, but he's combined them into one, because it deals with priesthood matters.
- John Bytheway: 00:48:18 I've heard Scott Woodward refer to this as a, "Patchwork revelation." In fact, I think part of Joseph Smith giving a blessing to his father, Joseph Smith, Sr. Two or three verses are in here, right?
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:48:32 Well, the whole thing about, "I saw Adam-on-di-Ahman-"
- John Bytheway: 00:48:35 Yeah, yeah, yeah.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:48:37 That is from a blessing. Joseph blessing his father and his mother, the occasion.
- John Bytheway: 00:48:42 But it's revelation and it's-
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:48:44 Absolutely.
- John Bytheway: 00:48:45 -worthwhile for all of us. So it's all put in here, yeah.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:48:49 You know, even in these opening verses it's interesting, "There are, in the church, two priesthoods, namely the Melchizedek and Aaronic, including the Levitical Priesthood. But that was interesting, "Why the first is called the Melchizedek Priesthood is because Melchizedek was such a great high priest. Before his

day, it was called the Holy Priesthood after the Order of the Son of God."

- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:49:10 This next line is interesting to me, "But out of respect or reverence to the name of the Supreme Being, to avoid the too frequent repetition of his name, they, the church in ancient days, called that priesthood after Melchizedek, or the Melchizedek priesthood." All of that's important, but I'm taken by the fact that refers to the church. The church in ancient days. I think there's always been a church of some kind. It just took different forms at different times.
- John Bytheway: 00:49:44 Boy. Good point an Old Testament church, even.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:49:47 Yeah, an Old Testament.
- John Bytheway: 00:49:48 Yeah. Good point.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:49:49 Let's look at something. Look at verse five. I don't think we pay any attention to verse five and it's deserving. "All other authorities or offices in the church are appendages to this priesthood."
- John Bytheway: 00:50:01 Here's that word "all."
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:50:04 Yes, which sounds like "all."
- John Bytheway: 00:50:09 It's remarkable.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:50:10 I'm thinking about, "All other authorities or offices in the church are appendages." Think about that. An appendage is an extra. Something stuck-on. Listen to what President Joseph F. Smith says in Gospel Doctrine. This is on page 148. "There is no office growing out of this priesthood that is or can be greater than the priesthood itself. It is from the priesthood that the office derives its authority and power. No office gives authority to the priesthood. No office adds to the power of the priesthood. But all offices in the church derive their power, their virtue, their authority from the priesthood. If our brethren would get this principle thoroughly established in their minds, there would less misunderstanding in relation to the functions of government in the church than there is." He goes on and talks about elders and high priests used to debate, which is greater.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:51:14 And he makes the comment "Neither. They operate in different directions," he said. The high priests have certain responsibilities, the elder had certain responsibilities. And so I

think that the offices and the priesthood are appendages. Think for a minute when John the Baptist restored the Aaronic Priesthood, what office did he ordain them to? Well later Joseph Smith in a sermon, very late says, "Ordination Priests." But there's no mention of office in the ordination, is there?

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:51:54

The priesthood was greater than any office that they would have. You can see that officers are important and quorums are important, but the priesthood itself is what it's all about. I'm just going to jump around. Verse eight, "The Melchizedek Priesthood holds the right of presidency and has power and authority over all the offices in the church and all ages of the world to administer in spiritual things."

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:52:22

The phrase "right of presidency," when I see that expressions, ding, ding, ding, goes off in my mind. That is a synonym for keys, the right of presidency. Or if we would say directing power. Directing power. I remember in our ward 100 years ago, it was when my dad was Bishop, I'm exaggerating, it's probably no more than 80 years ago, but dad was Bishop, we had a man in the ward, a very interesting guy, baptize his son and he didn't want anybody from the ward there, including no member of the Bishopric. And dad tried to explain to him, this is done under the keys of the priesthood and you don't hold the keys to the priesthood. Basically it's a delegation to allow him to do that. But I remember the quite... That little debate the man had with dad about that.

Hank Smith: 00:53:18

If I'm a Melchizedek Priesthood holder, the only way I can pass that Melchizedek onto say, my son, is through a priesthood key holder. I just can't choose to do it. I just can't say, well, I have the Melchizedek priesthood, I'm going to pass it on. I need someone who holds the keys to direct me to give that priesthood to someone else, including my own child.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:53:41

And it's so crucial because this is the way the governance of the Church has to operate that that way, or are you going to have chaos. Everybody blessing and ordaining everybody else.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:53:52

I'll just say this, there are certain ordinances that, of course you or I could perform in our home. Blessing our children, blessing our wife. But even during the COVID times with administering the sacrament in the homes. The Bishop was responsible to oversee that. I'm sure there are people say, "Well, gosh, why do I need the Bishop's approval?" Well, because the ordinances of the gospel are under his direction in our ward. The keys.

John Bytheway: 00:54:20 We're sitting in sacrament meeting just a couple of weeks ago, and my wife is nudging me, I think they need some more to go pass the sacrament. And I'm looking at the Teacher's quorum president because that kid's got keys, I don't, I can't jump up and do it.

John Bytheway: 00:54:42 And the other reason is because that kid with the keys was my boy Timothy, and I could see him texting and I knew he wasn't playing a game. He was getting other people to pass. And I was so thrilled to see, "No,, let the kid with the keys, figure out how to get more sacrament passers there." And I love that, that way that we do it. And boy, what a centrally-organized church we have, and this section is so much a part of that. I don't know how, and you probably know better than I do, but you have so many friends and have done so much outreach with our evangelical friends and so forth. If they have a central body, if they have a governing body, I'm not even sure you could maybe speak to that, but look what this section does.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:55:34 Well part of the problem with... I looked up the other day, just how many Christian churches there are in the world as of 2021. And the number that I got was 30,000. Now, how would that happen? Martin Luther introduces the concept of the priesthood of all believers at the time of the Reformation. But he also introduces the idea that every person becomes his or her own interpreter or arbiter of the meaning of scripture. Sometimes we don't think about the value of that priesthood line in terms of determining what is doctrine. I don't know if you remember this when President Hinckley was interviewed, I think it was by Larry King. One of the questions he was asked, "What is your job?" And Brother Hinckley's first answer was, "I oversee doctrine."

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:56:39 And that is significant. Because now I can say this, in the Roman Catholic Church, you're more likely to be able to stay properly connected and things to be done in a certain, because there is a priestly hierarchy. I suppose in the Church of England, that would be true as well. But in Conservative Protestantism, the priesthood of all believers operates, a person feels to be called by God, and then assumes a mission or assumes the right to preach.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:57:17 And the difficulty we have is how do you control for accuracy of doctrine? I was talking with a very dear friend of mine, evangelical friend, who works in Denver, Denver Seminary. And we were chatting about something. I was in Denver and he said, "Well, you see Bob, you got to always be looking over your shoulder to make sure that you get it right." He said, "with me, I

can take a passage of scripture and write a 10-page document on it. And my neighbor down the hall can write a document on it can be vastly different, even contradictory." He said, "that's the beauty of our system." I said, "Well, actually, that's chaos." Because again, it's every man for himself, every woman for herself, in terms of doctrinal understanding. Now that's not even priesthood government so much as it is the value of apostles and prophets. I know for years you've heard us say, or we've said, I've said, we're the only people on the earth who believes God still speaks to man. Well, you know and I know that we have some wonderful Protestant and Catholic and Jewish and Muslim friends that pray for divine direction and they receive it. Of course they do. But what we really mean by that is, we're the only organization on earth that has Apostolic authority by which revelation for the governance of the entire Church takes place. And so right of presidency keys, I think pretty significant.

- John Bytheway: 00:58:54 And one more thing when Elder Christofferson gave that talk called Why the Church? In 2015, I took that apart every little... Why do we have a church? Because my students ask, well, why do we need that? Can I just be spiritual but not religious or something? And one of the points was to keep the doctrine pure, to protect the doctrine.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:59:13 That's a big one. And to make sure that the ordinances of the priesthood are done under proper authorization and best that they're carried out properly, performed properly.
- Hank Smith: 00:59:23 Recently, I had a conversation with a friend, Eric Reyerson who said, "You really have to understand American history to understand the history of the church." And I think with [Section] 107 Bob, wouldn't you say that in Protestant America where Joseph Smith lives, priesthood is not something they're going to be discussing. This is a very Catholic idea and there's not a lot of Catholics around Joseph and the saints.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:59:50 I think that's one of the more interesting things about the early days of the Church is, like you're saying, there weren't many Catholics around the great infusion of Catholic in the latter part of the 19th century and into the 20th century. Yes, Joseph Smith was living in Protestant America. And thus, it's a rather unusual thing. If you're trying to come up with a sociological explanation for Joseph Smith and the Church to have something that sounds very, very priestly, a priestly hierarchy. Well, that's what it is. And so in that sense, I believe the Catholics have it right, in terms of the idea of governance and oversight.

Hank Smith: 01:00:29 I've heard someone say if Protestantism and Catholicism had a child, it would look a lot like the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 01:00:39 We have some things... Let's take it this way, our sacrament meeting would not be too different than a worship service of Conservative Protestants, I'll say. An evangelical meeting. And yet priesthood government, there's an order.

Hank Smith: 01:00:56 And the temple, it looks more Catholic than it does Protestant.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 01:00:59 That's right.

John Bytheway: 01:01:03 Please join us for Part II of this podcast.

## EPISODE 39 • PART II



Dr. Robert L. Millet

*D&C 106-108*



- John Bytheway: 00:00:03 Welcome to part two of this week's podcast.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:00:07 Look over to something that I think we misunderstand. Beginning in section 107, picking up with... Start speaking about the lesser priesthood, the priesthood of Aaron. Verse 14, why it is called the lesser priesthood is because it is an appendage, there's that word again, to the greater, or the Melchizedek Priesthood and has power in administering outward ordinances.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:00:32 The bishopric is the presidency of this priesthood and holds the keys or authority of the same. No man has a legal right to this office to hold the keys of this priesthood, except he be a literal descendant of Aaron. But as a high priest of the Melchizedek Priesthood has authority to officiate in all the lesser offices.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:00:53 He may officiate in the office of Bishop when no literal descend of Aaron can be found, provided he is called and set apart and ordained unto to this power by the hands of the presidency of the Melchizedek Priesthood. Now, I've heard all kinds of people talking about, over the years, "If we could just find a guy that can actually trace his lineage to Aaron, that he has every right to be a Bishop of the Lord."
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:01:21 Well, first of all, it doesn't have anything to do with the word bishop. This is Presiding Bishop. This is talking about the office of Presiding Bishop, which is basically what Edward Partridge was, right? He was the Presiding Bishop. And so that's one thing. 18 and 19 are powerful when it comes to what the blessings of the priesthood are.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:01:43 The power and authority of the higher, or Melchizedek Priesthood is to hold the keys of all the spiritual blessings of the church, to have the privilege of receiving the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, to have the heavens opened unto to them, to commune with the general assembly and church of the firstborn, and to enjoy the communion and presence of God, the father, and Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant. That's pretty heavy. That's heavy.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:02:10 Mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. Well on the simplest sense, that means things that can only be known by the power of the Holy Ghost. But I suppose you could say that our temple ceremony and ordinances, for example, would fall under the category of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. But look what you have the right to, if the Lord so chooses.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:02:32 Commune with the general assembly and church of the firstborn. Church of the firstborn, that's used over in section 76, two or three times. Those who had attained the celestial kingdom, the church of the firstborn, the church of the exalted, those who qualify for exaltation in the celestial kingdom.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:02:54 It's not the church of Jesus Christ. It's in many ways, President Joseph Fielding Smith called it, the inner church. We used to sing a hymn, it's not in our hymn book anymore, Though in the Outward Church Below. We belong to the outward church. The inner church within the veil, there's order and organization there too. And those who constitute that group who are qualified, they've passed the test of mortality. They are the church of the firstborn. The right to hold communion with them...

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:03:28 In the earliest creed that we know of, The Apostles Creed, one of the things that's just mentioned and not commented on is we believe in the communion of the saints. In Hebrews chapter 12, the opening verses there, having talked about all these magnificent men and women who through the years had great faith and you start chapter 12 and you're to keep things continuous.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:03:54 He describes that as the great cloud of witnesses that are a part of us. Verse 19 to me is so encouraging in the sense of teaching us that those on the other side... You just have to ask this, when I pass away, will I lose interest in my family? I mean, no. I'm going to be very-

Hank Smith: 00:04:20 Exactly the opposite.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:04:22 Yeah. I'm going to be very concerned about them. My old friend, Joseph McConkie told me a story where-

John Bytheway: 00:04:29 Is it Oscar McConkie.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:04:31 About Oscar McConkie Sr.

John Bytheway: 00:04:33 Yeah, I remember this.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:04:34 He said that just before Oscar Sr passed away, he called the family together, a little gathering, I guess, and he said something like this. He said, "I'm going to die soon. But when I die, I shall not cease to love you. I shall not cease to pray for you. I shall not cease to minister in your behalf.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:04:53 Well, I'm reminded of the grand address given by president Joseph F. Smith in the presence of the divine, where he talks about those on the other side, who have been here, know the challenges we face, they know our circumstances. They can see dangers that lie ahead. And so they're ever so solicitous for our welfare.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:05:17 Well, of course they are. I mean, I cannot imagine not being very concerned on the other side of the veil for my family or for my brothers and sisters in the church. So I think the promise of being qualified or abled where it's appropriate, where the Lord chooses to allow you to have communion with that group.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:05:39 I guess that doesn't mean you have to be seeing them. It's like angels, you can have the ministry of angels and you don't see anything, or you don't know about it, but someone's whispering from the other side.

Hank Smith: 00:05:54 And Bob, you wouldn't say, "This is just the Lord saying, 'This is just for Melchizedek Priesthood-holders.'" This is for anyone who partakes in the ordinances, right? Of these-

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:06:05 Absolutely. It's like the Aaronic Priesthood. We say the... I've heard many a talk on, "These young men have the right to enjoy the ministry of angels." That's true. But the greater truth is, because there's Aaronic Priesthood, all people can enjoy the ministry of angels, females, males.

Hank Smith: 00:06:24 Right.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:06:24 And that's true with the blessings of the Melchizedek Priesthood as well.

Hank Smith: 00:06:30 Wow. That's beautiful. Verse 19, commune with the general assembly and church of the first born.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:06:36 It's beautiful.

Hank Smith: 00:06:37 That's something you might skip over and not really understand the power of.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:06:40 Yeah. The presence of God, the father, Jesus, the mediator in the new covenant. It's powerful.

Hank Smith: 00:06:46 I'm going to say something. Rein me in here, Bob. Totally fine if you need to rein me in, but I've sat at headstones of my father, my grandparents, and I've thought, "This is not where they are. If I want to be close to these people, I'm going to get myself to the temple where the Melchizedek Priesthood ordinances are in place, because that seems to be where I'm going to commune." And it can often happen in our own lives, in our own homes. I'm sure. But for me, I'm drawn to the temple for that reason, to commune with those who have gone before.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:07:20 When you think of the times you went to the temple often, maybe in trouble times. As a young couple, when we used to wonder where the next loaf of bread's going to come from, we would go to the temple in those times and I don't remember ever coming out with any money in my pocket, but we came out with a perspective that was just a peaceful perspective, "It's going to work out. The Lord's going to take care of you," over and over.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:07:49 Or to go in and maybe it's struggling with a child, a wayward child, the temple became a sacred spot for us. Not only that we could find peace there, but we found perspective there.

John Bytheway: 00:08:06 Absolutely.

Hank Smith: 00:08:07 And that's coming from those, I would say like you've told us here, who are part of this church of the first born and the father and Jesus, right? All of that is coming from these-

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:08:19 Absolutely.

Hank Smith: 00:08:19 ... wonderful souls.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:08:21 Absolutely. Well, let's look at 21,22, this gets interesting. We're now talking about the first presidency. Of necessity, there are presidents who are presiding officers growing out or over or who are ordained of the several offices in the two priesthoods.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:08:37 Of the Melchizedek Priesthood, three presiding high priests chosen by the body, appointed and ordained to that office and upheld by the confidence, faith and prayer of the church form a quorum of the presidency of the church. Interesting things there. Clearly they must be a high priest. The member of the

first presidency must be a high priest. It is not necessary, according to Joseph F. Smith, that they be an apostle.

- Hank Smith: 00:09:05 Haven't we had before people who are not a-
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:09:09 For a time it was J. Reuben Clark-
- Hank Smith: 00:09:11 J. Reuben Clark is who I was thinking of. Yeah.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:09:14 ... who was a high priest in Salt Lake City. Now, he eventually was ordained an apostle and placed in line of authority. But yes, what's necessary is that there be a high priest that is there in a presiding capacity. Joseph F. Smith talks about that in Gospel Doctrine, page 173. But yes, I remember very well when Harold B. Lee was sustained as the President of the church. It was a very tender time.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:09:46 He was one that I think the saints had looked forward to being the President of the church for a long time. Relatively speaking, he was young when he took the office. I think he was 74. And I remember in his address at the Solemn Assembly saying, "Never before in my life has verse 22 meant more to me than now.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:10:09 That is, I must be. I know that I must be upheld by the confidence, the faith, the prayers of the church." We need to have confidence in the brethren. We need to have faith in the brethren. We have to pray for the brethren, and they need that. They pray for that.
- Hank Smith: 00:10:30 When you say brethren, I think we're even kind of honing in on those three, right? Right now in this verse.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:10:38 That's right. I think this is talking specifically about the presidency, the first presidency of the church.
- Hank Smith: 00:10:44 And how quick we are sometimes to criticize, aren't we, Bob?
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:10:48 Well, I've been interested just in recent times with people making decisions to be distraught and upset or leave the church over what I call just piddly, for the most piddly reasons I'm thinking, "Really? Really?"
- Hank Smith: 00:11:04 Really? Yeah.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:11:04 "You're going to leave the church over that?" Yeah. I think Brother Packer used to... I was with him one occasion, Elder Packer, when someone said, "What can we do to help you?"

And he said, "Just take yourselves off our worry list." I mean, they have a lot to worry about and so they don't need any extra. I mean, there are enough challenges the church faces without members bringing problems to the leadership of the church.

- Hank Smith: 00:11:43 Be a low maintenance, low worry, high yield latter day saint.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:11:49 Yeah. Member of the church.
- Hank Smith: 00:11:53 And then comes the 12, right?
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:11:54 The 12.
- Hank Smith: 00:11:54 Next verse?
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:11:55 That's right. The 12 traveling counselors are called to be 12 apostles or special witnesses of the name of Christ in all the world, thus differing from other officers in the church in the duties of their calling. You know how this is almost always said, an apostle is a special witness of Christ. He is. But notice what said really, special witnesses of the name of Christ in all the world. The name of Christ.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:12:23 Years ago, Elder Oaks then wrote a book called His Holy Name. And he talks about the way name is used in scripture. And he said, for example, to be a special witness of the name of Christ in all the world, is to be a special witness of his power, of his divinity, of his divine sonship, of his work or program, or the plan of salvation in other words, and he illustrated how each of those are used in the scripture in a certain way, to be a special witness of the name of Christ in all the world. That's powerful.
- John Bytheway: 00:13:05 I have a statement of Elder Bednar about that from... There's a little periodical called The Religious Educator.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:13:13 Oh, yes. You just go to the religious study Center.
- John Bytheway: 00:13:15 Yeah. And it's great, because if you're a teacher, you'd love this resource.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:13:20 This is an interview I conducted with Elder Bednar.
- John Bytheway: 00:13:23 Oh, this is you. See, I knew I grabbed a good one.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:13:26 I think it is. I talked to him about the role and the office of apostle.

John Bytheway: 00:13:30 Yeah. He said, quote, "The role of an apostle today is the same as it was anciently. Our commission is to go into all the world and proclaim Jesus Christ and him crucified. An apostle is a missionary and a special witness of the name of Christ.

John Bytheway: 00:13:46 The name of Christ refers to the totality of the Savior's mission, death and resurrection, his authority, his doctrine, his unique qualifications as the son of God to be our Redeemer and our savior." So that's the end of the quote from Elder Bednar. And that's something to think about in verse 23, like you just said, "Witnesses of the name of Christ in all the world." It's all of that.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:14:09 Just Elder Holland had only been a member of the Quorum of the Twelve for a short time in 1994 when he called me, I was the Dean of Religious Education, and asked how I was and then he said, "I want to come see you. And I want to come visit with the faculty." He said, "Do you think you could pull them together?" I said, "We could probably work something out.

Hank Smith: 00:14:33 Maybe.

John Bytheway: 00:14:35 We're kind of busy down here.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:14:38 It was on a Thursday or a Friday. I don't remember which, but he said, "I'd like to come on Monday. You still think you can get them." I said, "Oh yeah."

Hank Smith: 00:14:45 I think so.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:14:45 So the faculty was there and it was a... He spoke to us for a while and then just took questions. And I remember I asked this question, I said, "Elder Holland, you've had a testimony of Jesus Christ from since the time when you were a little guy, haven't you?" He said, "Well, at least my boyhood, yeah. My manhood, certainly." I said, "What's the difference with what you have now than what you had then?"

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:15:15 I said, "You had a testimony of Jesus then?" I said, "Does that special witness come by ordination? Or does it come by personal striving for deeper spirituality?" And he said, "A little of both." He said, "In other words, there's some things, some powers and rights and privileges that come with the office itself, but they are still expected," as Oliver Cowdery said when he gave them that first, what? the oath and covenant of the apostleship, when the first apostles were called, "never cease striving until you see the Lord himself."

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:16:01 And so I thought that was an interesting thing. Both. Yes. There are some things that come with the office. And I think in many ways, that's true with almost any office in the church. Let's take the office of Bishop. John you've been a Bishop. You felt that. There were some things you knew and felt and understood because you were the Bishop, it came with the turf, didn't it? But as far as spirituality and gospel knowledge, that was your private assignment to do that.

John Bytheway: 00:16:36 That was still my job. Yeah.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:16:38 Yeah.

John Bytheway: 00:16:38 Yeah. I wish it would've just downloaded a bunch of stuff, a USB port somewhere, and I could just download everything, but...

Hank Smith: 00:16:48 That sounds like the Lord, doesn't it? "No more work involved. I'm just going to give it to you."

John Bytheway: 00:16:51 Yeah.

Hank Smith: 00:16:52 Yeah.

John Bytheway: 00:16:53 Not exactly.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:16:54 There's an interesting thing. Look at verse 24, they, the 12, form a quorum equal in authority and power to the three presidents previously mentioned. That really is only the case in terms of the death of the president, the death of the president of the church. When the death of the president takes place, then what?

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:17:15 The first presidency is dissolved, the members of the first presidency that are living return to their place in the 12 and the Quorum of the Twelve presides over the church at that point.

Hank Smith: 00:17:27 Bob, they're not going to know how crucial this is, in just what? Nine years.

John Bytheway: 00:17:32 Oh, good point. Yeah.

Hank Smith: 00:17:33 They're going to lose the prophet and this is going to-

John Bytheway: 00:17:34 And now what do we do?

Hank Smith: 00:17:34 ... become a very important.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:17:38 Well, and look what happened. They weren't quite sure what to do with it.

Hank Smith: 00:17:40 Right.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:17:41 Brigham for about three years, was it?

Hank Smith: 00:17:43 Yeah.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:17:44 John Taylor, about the same time. Wilford Woodruff tells of how he, about the same time, or a little less, but Wilford Woodruff went to Lorenzo Snow just before Wilford died and said, "I'm going to die soon and you are to proceed immediately without delay to reorganize the first presidency." And as I recall right, he said, "And you're to call George Q. Cannon. George Q. Cannon is one of your counselors."

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:18:19 Yeah, I mean, in the situation of... You've lived through several successions. When I was a new student, a transfer student to BYU... I came in '69, the fall of '69. I was living in Hinckley Hall and Helaman Halls and I remember on the morning of January 18th, 1970, my roommate just woke me up and said, "Hey, President McKay has just passed away." David O. McKay was the only president I'd ever known, and he'd been president for 19 years.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:18:56 And so the concept of succession was not something the church, as a whole, understood very much. I was fortunate, very fortunate that as a young missionary, maybe six months before I came home, Harold B. Lee came frequently to New York City. For one thing, he was on a board, I think it was Union Pacific that he was a member of the Board of directors and he would come, I think for monthly meetings, but he would often come to the mission home and visit with us.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:19:27 And one time we convinced him to have a whole mission conference and speak to the missionaries, which he did. And then afterwards, he came over for dinner and we kept firing questions at him and he said, "Elders," he said, "Let me finish dinner, then we'll go upstairs and we'll talk all you want to talk," so we did.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:19:50 We took him upstairs and my companion asked the first question, "Elder Lee..." Now this is... Let me give you the date. This would've been 1968. "Elder Lee, is there any question in the minds of the other apostles that when David O. McKay passes away that Joseph Fielding Smith will be the president of

the church?" He said, "Oh no, no question whatsoever. That's the order."

- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:20:14 And he talked about the fact that there's no politicking in this system. You look at it and if the Lord doesn't want you to be president, He has a way of dealing with that. He takes you.
- John Bytheway: 00:20:26 Yeah.
- Hank Smith: 00:20:27 He just, "Yep. You've got a different assignment."
- John Bytheway: 00:20:30 I seem to remember Elder Holland, was it during the time of President Hunter, talking about this and talking about, had this been a corporation, the infighting would've been severe type of a thing." But the next heartbeat was that of the new president, Olsen. Does that ring a bell?
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:20:46 It does.
- John Bytheway: 00:20:47 I think It was Elder Holland.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:20:49 It does. I remember, I guess when President Kimball had just become President of the Church, his executive secretary, who had been executive secretary for many of the brethren, Arthur Haycock, came and spoke to the seminary teachers in our area and took questions. And he talked about a sweet moment. That is, as you know, we're talking about President Lee, President Lee becomes president of the church, October '72 conference and dies in December of '73.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:21:27 I remember, we were living in Idaho Falls, looking at the television of his picture and the death date, and I was just... I think the church expected he would be president for many, many, many years. Joseph Fielding Smith was what? 95. And when he passed, Brother Haycock told us a sweet story.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:21:46 He said, "Brother Lee had come back from an assignment and was feeling weak and just didn't feel well and he went into the hospital to have some tests run, and while there had a massive heart attack. "Well, while he was in the hospital and wasn't doing well, Brother Haycock said, "President Tanner, his counselor, was in Arizona with his family, Christmas vacation. President Romney was in town."
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:22:19 He said, "In the hospital room, I was there." Spencer W. Kimball, the President of the 12, the three of them stood there. Brother

Romney, Brother Haycock and Brother Lee over there. And Brother Haycock said-

- Hank Smith: 00:22:36 And President Kimball? Was president Kimball there as well? [crosstalk 00:22:38]
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:22:38 And President Kimball was there as the President of the 12, excuse me. Brother Haycock said... All through this, Brother Kimball kept saying, "What can I do, president Romney? What would you have me to do at this point? Would you like me to do this? Would you like me to do that? How can I help? What can I do now?" And some assignments were made, et cetera. The moment it was announced that President Lee had passed away, Brother Romney turned to Brother Kimball and said, "What would you have me do?"
- John Bytheway: 00:23:08 Wow.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:23:09 It was moving. The keys of the kingdom had just changed.
- John Bytheway: 00:23:13 Wow.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:23:14 And the man, the senior apostle now wore the mantle.
- Hank Smith: 00:23:19 That's section 107 in practice, isn't it?
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:23:22 It really is.
- John Bytheway: 00:23:23 That's a great story.
- Hank Smith: 00:23:23 Right in practice. Verse 25 and 26 is not something that most people, I think, would understand that the 70 make form a quorum equal in authority to that of the 12.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:23:36 Yes. Yes. And it's what it says. And notice too, that you may remember President Hinckley gave a talk once called Special Witnesses for Christ in General Conference. And he talked about the call of two new apostles, I think it would've been Elders, Nelson and Oaks. But he then talked about the 70 and said they also have an apostolic calling to bear that apostolic type witness in that large sense of the word, apostle, those who are sent out under the direction of the 12.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:24:15 We don't need to read this, but it's interesting that in section 107 beginning with about verse, yeah, 39, it's the duty of the 12 and all large branches of the church, who ordain evangelical ministers, as they shall be designated unto them by revelation,

meaning patriarchs. And then the patriarchal line of dissent is given from Adam down to Methuselah.

- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:24:45 It's very interesting. If you read section 84, it's a different line of ascent from Moses to Adam. It goes through Abel. It goes through Abel's line down to Abraham and Moses, same... This is a line of authority, but a different line of authority. These are the patriarchs, the presiding patriarchs, Adam, Seth, Enosh, Cainan, Mahalalel, Jared, Methuselah, Lamech, Noah, those first 10 generations.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:25:18 And then of course, as we said, 53 through 58, the visit or the last conference that was held by [Adam Adelenman 00:25:27]. This came in the 1834, as Joseph was giving a blessing to his parents.
- Hank Smith: 00:25:36 I wonder if those different lineages you talked about in 84 and 107, I wonder, I'm going to have to ask Sister Gardner about this. If we're talking... She knows. She always talks about there's a familial priesthood. There's a priesthood that governs the family and there's a priesthood that governs the church and that they are separate from one another. And I'm going to have to ask her about that. I think that's a fascinating idea.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:26:04 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- John Bytheway: 00:26:05 I've heard it called... There's an Aaronic Priesthood, there's a Melchizedek Priesthood, and there's a Patriarchal Priesthood. Does that sound right?
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:26:11 Well, I think when I asked about that once to somebody in the authority, their response was, "Patriarchal order within the Melchizedek Priesthood." Joseph Smith said there's the Aaronic order, the Melchizedek order. The patriarchal order of the Melchizedek Priesthood falls within the Melchizedek Priesthood. And we enter that through, and I'm sure Barb talked about this, the blessings of the temple.
- Hank Smith: 00:26:39 Right.
- John Bytheway: 00:26:39 Yeah. I've heard it said, "This section starts, there are in the church, two priesthoods."
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:26:44 That's right.
- John Bytheway: 00:26:45 We might say, "In the temple-"

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:26:47 That's right.

John Bytheway: 00:26:47 "... there are three."

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:26:49 Yeah, that's right.

John Bytheway: 00:26:51 Yeah.

Hank Smith: 00:26:51 Excellent.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:26:53 But notice from '85 through '89, this is where we learn what a Quorum of Deacons is, 12, 24, 48, 96 as they go through the quorums. Now, look at 91. Again, the duty of the President of the Office of the High Priesthood is to preside over the whole church and to be likened to Moses. Behold here is wisdom, yea to be a seer, a revelator, a translator and a prophet, having all the gifts of God, which He bestows upon the head of the church.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:27:29 That's a powerful statement about the president has been given all of the spiritual gifts. When you go back and you read about spiritual gifts earlier in the Doctrine and Covenants, and to the Bishop is given the power, for example, an award to discern those that are from God and those that are not. But here you have the president given all of the gifts of the spirit which of course he would have to have that to be able to discern.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:27:58 And then this is very interesting. It's according to the vision showing the order of the 70, that they should have seven presidents to preside over them, chosen out of the number of the 70. And it goes on and talks about the seven presidents and so forth. There's not much said about this, except this appears to be a vision that Joseph Smith had about priesthood government, particularly it sounds like the 70's, right?

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:28:26 Okay. Look at verse 98. Whereas other officers of the church who belong not unto the 12, neither to the 70 are not under the responsibility to travel among all nations, but are to travel as their circumstances shall allow, notwithstanding. They may hold as high and responsible office is in the church. This verse was used when the first assistants to the 12 were called.

John Bytheway: 00:28:53 I remember that Sterling W. Sill, right?

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:28:56 Mm-hmm (affirmative). Sterling Sill.

John Bytheway: 00:28:57 Was an assistant to the 12.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:28:57 ElRay L. Christiansen.

John Bytheway: 00:28:59 Yeah.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:29:00 Gordon B Hinckley. Anyway, the first assistants to the 12, this is the scripture that was used, and this is the scripture that was used when the first regional representatives were called. In other words, they work under the direction. I remember my mission president, Jay Eldredge, I was a zone leader at the time, he went in for a zone meeting and president would be leaving in a matter of days and he was bidding goodbye.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:29:29 And he said, "I've received a new assignment." He said, "I am now a regional representative of the council of the 12 apostles of the church of Jesus Christ of latter day saints." He said, "I have the longest title in the church and the least amount of authority."

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:29:44 Because you'll remember the regional representative, for a time, his job was, not necessarily to supervise, but to provide assistance and help and counsel to the state presidents, because there was never to be anyone in between the state presidents and the Quorum of the Twelve or the Quorum of the Seventy, I guess.

Hank Smith: 00:30:08 Right. And we have general officers of the church. Do they fall under that-

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:30:15 They could, I suppose.

Hank Smith: 00:30:15 ... title as well? Our Sunday school presidency.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:30:20 Yeah. They try [crosstalk 00:30:21] of the world.

Hank Smith: 00:30:21 Our young women, young men's.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:30:21 Yes. Yes.

John Bytheway: 00:30:21 Yeah. Good question. Yeah.

Hank Smith: 00:30:24 John, what are you? You're on the General Young Men's Board. Are you a general officer?

John Bytheway: 00:30:29 I don't think so. Our friend, Brad Wilcox is, and Ahmad Corbitt and President Steven Lund is a general church officer.

Hank Smith: 00:30:39 That's the young men's.

John Bytheway: 00:30:39 Yeah. General Young Men's Presidency.

Hank Smith: 00:30:41 And the young women's?

John Bytheway: 00:30:43 Right. Sister Bonnie Cordon, Becky Craven, Michelle Craig, but-

Hank Smith: 00:30:49 They're general officers of the church.

John Bytheway: 00:30:51 Yeah. They are general officers. I'm on the Young Men's Advisory Council. They used to call it the Young Men's General Board. Now it's Young... So YMAC. So it's like (singing). We were thinking of doing the dance, but...

Hank Smith: 00:31:06 So we have officers who are under the direction of the 70 and the 12. Bob, that seems to fluctuate then sometimes, where sometimes we have assistants to the 12. Sometimes we have regional representatives-

John Bytheway: 00:31:18 Yeah. That's interest.

Hank Smith: 00:31:19 ... which is kind of... It's [crosstalk 00:31:21] right there.

John Bytheway: 00:31:21 As needed.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:31:23 I think that when the first Quorum of the Seventy was reorganized in the mid 1970s the brethren began to feel that it was time to put things into order as it set forth in scripture, right? And for example President Kimball was president of the church when that took place. Later, some developments took place in the days when President Benson was president of the church.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:31:58 Remembering that I was almost ordained as 70 in my state, but I escaped and went to BYU, and so I never was ordained. But I have buddies that were local 70, but the fact is, this 107th section does not set forth rules to govern local 70. And finally, when the decision was made, and it was certainly the right decision, the 70 is the general authority calling. And in the case of the local 70 or the area 70s they have a similar responsibility, but they do not have general stewardship. They're assigned to a particular area.

Hank Smith: 00:32:45 Right. Even President Nelson combining high priest group and Elders' Quorum seems to be part of this let's-get-back-in... No, I shouldn't say get back in line, but kind of a section 107 type move.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:32:59 It is. It is. Years ago a friend and I used to talk about this, wouldn't it be interesting if one day there was just one Melchizedek Priesthood quorum and we talked, "Well, what would it be?" I said, "Well, I guess the Elders' Quorum." So yeah.

Hank Smith: 00:33:15 Then it happened.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:33:16 It happened of course. 99, wherefore, now let every man learn his duty and to act in the office in which he's appointed in all diligence. More than once I heard Harold B. Lee put the emphasis upon let. Let every man learn his duty. What he was talking about was smother leadership, smother leadership. Let the man, or the woman learn their duty. I think there's nothing more uncomfortable than to have the person that's directly over you making all the decisions for you.

Hank Smith: 00:33:53 Micromanage. Yeah.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:33:54 Micromanaging, as we say. And I think this is really important. Many times during... When the correlation program was being developed and put together, Brother Lee had a very strong hand in it. "Many a talk," he talked about this, "allow them, permit them to learn their duty. Don't stand over them and super supervise them." So I think [crosstalk 00:34:21]

Hank Smith: 00:34:20 So they can't learn, right? You can't learn if someone's always there just fixing every little move that you make. Same thing as a parent, right Bob? Let your children learn.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:34:30 Yes.

John Bytheway: 00:34:31 And this is a big part of the new children and youth program to let the young... They've been invited into councils that they weren't invited to before and to let them lead and to be not... Maybe you can sit back and watch and help and direct, but let them experience leadership. Who was it? I saw a talk. I bet you saw it too, Hank.

John Bytheway: 00:34:58 Elder Ballard was saying something like, "In the year 2040, we're going to need bishops. We're going to need Relief Society. We're going to need these. Who are they?" And then he said, "It's you. I'm talking to you. Learn your leadership skills right now." I love our church for that. My mission president used to say, "A good leader trains leaders while he leads," and he would let us lead and mess up sometimes so that we would learn something.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:35:28 Yeah, it's a beautiful thing to work under the direction of someone who wants to give you the latitude and the longitude to go in the directions. And if counsel is needed, great. Step in when it's needed or when requested, but there's nothing more frustrating than trying to work under someone who is micromanaging, as you said. It's frustrating because you can never really learn your duty that way.

Hank Smith: 00:35:54 Or act, right?

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:35:55 Or act. That's right.

Hank Smith: 00:35:55 You [crosstalk 00:35:56]

John Bytheway: 00:35:56 I like that word act too in there, because act in the office it's not, "Okay. You can now sit on your throne and be admired." What does it mean to be chosen? I tell my students, "It's like being chosen to mow the lawn."

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:36:11 I remember the first state presidency I served in, I remember talking to the state president. I said, "Look, I was just a Bishop. What's the difference between being a Bishop and the counselor and the state presidency." He said, "Well, back then you had some heavy assignments and some serious responsibilities. Now, your job is to sit on the stand and look spiritual."

John Bytheway: 00:36:38 That's somewhere here in 107, isn't it?

Hank Smith: 00:36:40 You're right. I think it's verse 100, "He that is slothful shall not be counted worthy."

John Bytheway: 00:36:47 Sit on the stand and look spiritual.

Hank Smith: 00:36:51 Well, Bob, that word, let, that's an important word. I'm glad you pointed that out.

John Bytheway: 00:36:54 Yeah. Me too.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:36:56 He that is slothful should not be counted worthy to stand. Well, that's a fascinating phrase. Worthy to stand. And he, that learns not his duty and shows himself not approve shall not be counted worthy to stand even so. Amen. Worthy to stand. Worthy to what? Stand before the Lord with confidence? Worthy to stand when it comes to difficult times and take leadership responsibility?

John Bytheway: 00:37:26 When I see the word stand, I think of a standard-bearer. Somebody who is holding the flag saying, "This is who I am. This is who I represent." And this is the (singing), right? Worthy to be the standard-bearer type of a thing.

Hank Smith: 00:37:43 Good song, John. That was a good song.

John Bytheway: 00:37:46 We could add some backup to that, maybe. A little orchestration-

Hank Smith: 00:37:49 I think you've sang twice today.

John Bytheway: 00:37:53 Well, we'll get letters about that.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:37:56 When we lived in Florida, we... When I worked under this particular state president, probably one of the most effective leaders I've ever worked under. And it was because he was that, I won't say rare, but that unusual combination of effective administrator and deeply loving man. He loved the people and they knew it. I loved watching him.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:38:27 He was a young state president. Our time, there was only five years in Tallahassee, but they were the most formative years of my adult life in terms of learning the government of the church and the operations of the church and the duties and so forth. I watched him on so many occasions. He loved the people. They knew it, they felt it. And he was a good administrator. And that's not easy to do, to do both of those.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:38:58 And so he was very big on, let people learn their duty. Let them learn it. And that may mean, unfortunately or fortunately, they'll make some mistakes. I remember that one of the things that people used to do in position like with an Elders' Quorum for home teaching, I remember in one ward I was in, you had home teaching assignments, then you had a special couple of home teachers whose job it was to go and pick up on all those that were missed.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:39:36 And there was just something about that that struck me as let's don't assume his responsibility, let's don't take his stewardship in the name of percentages. Do you know what I'm saying? And so-

Hank Smith: 00:39:55 Because how am I going to learn? Right? How am I going to learn if I know you're going to follow right behind me and correct everything that I do that you don't like, or you see as a mistake. It takes away my motivation. It takes away the power

that I feel like I have to get my own revelation and to try new things and to be innovative.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:40:20 Well, those are... There're so many things we miss, but I'll tell you, section 107 has always been a favorite of mine. I've had a fascination with and love for priesthood and the study of priesthood for a long time.

John Bytheway: 00:40:35 I'm looking behind me at these books, Bob, that you've written, Men of Valor, Men of Covenant, and I thought, "He's going to love this section because this is something that he loves." I think that the priesthood has blessed me, not because I asked for any of these callings. I did not, but it has blessed my life. And I guess we would all say that.

John Bytheway: 00:40:59 Elder Holland, August '94, talking about section 107 said, "And all of this given by revelation to a boy, a boy, leading a church then of only a few 100 members yet we still guide nine million in growing, we'll guide 90 million by those same revelations that were given to virtually a child more than 160 years later.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:41:25 That's beautiful. That's beautiful.

John Bytheway: 00:41:27 About this awesome section right here.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:41:32 As I've talked with people of other faiths, they're not unaware of the fact that there's something magical about our lay ministry, that while we may not be as efficient in this or that, while our people aren't necessarily trained for the ministry, if you will, there's something magic about what it does from the time a child grows to adulthood, the experiences you get.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:42:04 When you think about the opportunity to give talks as a primary child, the opportunity to serve in this capacity or that capacity, I don't think we even sometimes appreciate how by the time a person is as an adult, they're accomplished in so many things, so many areas, so many abilities.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:42:25 I'm not trying to draw attention to myself, but this is an experience I had probably now more than 30 years ago. I went to my 20th year class reunion, and I wasn't quite sure what to expect, but I had just been hired at BYU at that point. And I got through talking with some friends that I hadn't seen for 20 years, and they began to ask questions and more questions and more questions.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:42:53 They asked about the church. And I remember thinking, they would say, "Tell us about this and tell us about that." They were absolutely blown away by the idea of a lay ministry, by the idea that our people aren't formally trained, they assume a responsibility. And that night, as I thought back on what I just experienced, I spent about two and a half hours just talking with them about different things about the church.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:43:21 And the thing that welled up in my heart was an appreciation for marvelous teachers, for marvelous priesthood leaders, great advisors that form members of the church in so many ways. Here we can send a person on a mission and they can be competent to go out and teach the gospel as an 18 year old, as a 19 year old.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:43:48 There's just a genius in this system. Now, will there be mistakes? Yes. Will we fall down here or there? Yes. But it's nothing compared with the kind of person that is put together by an organization that is founded on revelation and that helps us grow piece, by piece, by piece. It's really something.

Hank Smith: 00:44:12 It truly depends on people and people who are not prepared-

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:44:16 That's right. That's right.

Hank Smith: 00:44:18 ... it forces you to get prepared.

John Bytheway: 00:44:22 When I was called to be a Bishop, how lonely that felt at first until it became public and I got to call my counselors, and then I got to just watch all of these dedicated brothers and sisters in my ward who served no matter who would've been the bishop, they would've done it.

John Bytheway: 00:44:45 But I felt so supported and marveled at their their testimonies, their determination to serve the Lord. And it was... I exhaled. The world will move forward and look at all these people surrounding me that are lay ministry, but look at how we're all learning this together. It was a great relief.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:45:09 The first time I was bishop in Florida, I think I was a good bishop, but I did way more than I needed to do. I mean, I didn't delegate a great deal. The second time I was called Bishop, I was a new person. I knew there were certain things I alone could do, and those I did, but if it didn't fall into that category...

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:45:36 I can still remember the high priest group leader calling and saying, "Sister, so-and-so's got a problem with this, this and this.

And I just wanted to let you know." I said, "Well, what are you going to do? How are you going to take care of that?" "Well, that's why I was calling you." I said, "Yeah, I know, but what are you going to do to help fix this?"

- John Bytheway: 00:45:51 Oh, I love it.
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:45:53 I just did that over and over and over and I watched the people grow in their assignment. Yeah. The members have to learn we'll make our mistakes and we'll do things the wrong way. But eventually we grow up in our own way, being worthy to stand one day.
- John Bytheway: 00:46:16 And that's the Lord telling the Brother Joe, "Hey, I got in the light. I can't breathe. Well, what are you going to do [Mahan 00:46:22], right? What are you going to do?"
- Hank Smith: 00:46:25 I gave you a brain. Go ahead-
- John Bytheway: 00:46:28 Go figure it out.
- Hank Smith: 00:46:29 ... get that figured out. I know that as my family and I, we're going to study section 107, I have a 17 year old daughter and she is wonderful in every way, and she's going to say, "Where do I fit in section 107? Dad, there's a lot of deacons and priests and teachers and there's a lot of prophets here." And she's going to ask this...
- Hank Smith: 00:46:52 I'm going to read a quote for you and then I'm going to let you take off if that's okay. This is from Sister Jean B. Bingham. "Often we, women, don't realize that the power through which we accomplish much good in our calling and in our homes is an expression of priesthood power.
- Hank Smith: 00:47:15 As a matter of fact, all the good that is done in the world is done through God's power. Knowing that women have access to that priesthood power, strengthens us to be able to do what is asked in whatever responsibilities or assignments are ours." With that in mind, I really like the quote and I wanted to get it in there. How can I help my daughter see where she sits in section 107?
- Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:47:39 That's a good question. I mean, aren't you grateful that in the last, what? several years-
- Hank Smith: 00:47:48 Right.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:47:49 ... we've come alive to the fact that... I can still recall Elder Oak saying, "What other power is there like the power in the priesthood?"

John Bytheway: 00:48:00 Yes. What other authority could it be?

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:48:02 What authority is there when a Relief Society President, or a woman who was then a visiting teacher, and now a sister minister, by what other power or authority do you bless that person? It's the power of the priesthood. I think it's an indication that the leadership of the church had begun to see, and we've all begun to see, that so many of the things we had assumed were male in nature aren't.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:48:38 The illustration I would give is I was teaching Sunday school a while back and just, I had the 84 section to discuss, kind of discussing section 107. But as we came to the oath in covenant and we read versus 33 through 44, I remember asking the class, "Sisters, is there anything that's asked of the men here that does not fit you?"

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:49:10 As you put on one side what man agrees to do, and on the other side, what God agrees to do," I said, "is there any single principle here that doesn't apply to a woman, whether it's, magnify your calling, whether it's, take heed to yourselves, whether it's-"

Hank Smith: 00:49:40 Learn your duty.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:49:41 "... learn your duty. The idea of receive the Lord's servants. I mean, are there any of those?" And I said, "No, there aren't. And that means it applies to you too." And the other thing that's critical is, when you understand the great blessings that come through keeping those kinds of covenants, there's nothing God has in store for a man that he doesn't have for a woman.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:50:07 In fact, the man can never enjoy the highest blessings of the priesthood without someone by his side called a wife. Why? Because the fullness of priesthood blessings are only for a woman and a man together. And so I've just been thrilled with how the leaders of the church, giving us instruction that I think so necessary in the sense that you need not hold an office in the priesthood in order to be a powerful instrument for good and bless people with the power that they can be nothing else, but the authority of the priesthood.

Hank Smith: 00:50:50 That's fantastic. You need not hold an office To tap into the power.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:50:58 And draw upon and utilize that power. Yeah. I think that's what Barb tried to show in her book, so well.

Hank Smith: 00:51:05 Bob, you've made this... What we've just done is your life's work and I don't want to age you, but it's been a couple of decades. How many decades has it been since you started studying these things?

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:51:21 I came home from a mission eager to study. I had a mission president that did something that I now realize was ingenious. The missionaries then would memorize the 27 basic scriptures in the Six Discussions. And that was about it. I had to memorize the discussions too.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:51:40 But our mission president put together a list of 300 scriptures, and they were by category; Apostasy, restoration, atonement, et cetera, et cetera. And we were to commit those to memory. I came home from mission still remembering those. I still remember those 300, but I came home wanting to... I felt like I was in a mind explosion wanting to just learn and grow.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:52:12 I first began to just be driven to try to gain deeper understanding within six months after my mission. I transferred to BYU. I had never had seminary. I had never had institute. Those weren't available to me in Louisiana. And so the idea of having a religion class where we're studying the gospel as part of my curriculum, blew me away.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:52:37 I remember I was in second half of the doctrine and covenants class was the very first class I took at BYU, and I could just feel my mind exploding with knowledge and understanding and so-

Hank Smith: 00:52:52 This very section would've been in.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:52:52 This was part of what I fell in love with.

Hank Smith: 00:52:57 This would have been in there.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:52:57 And I began to get fascinated with priesthood correlation, and I read everything I could find on priesthood correlation. So it began really when I was about 22.

Hank Smith: 00:53:10 And you look like you're 50, but how long ago was that?

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:53:14 51 years.

Hank Smith: 00:53:17 51 Years.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:53:20 Yeah. And those were formative years for me. I sing praise to every great teacher that I had and I had some great ones. We could just name them off, but I won't. Just men and women whose conviction, whose testimony, whose knowledge of the gospel made me want to be like them.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:53:42 When I was set apart as a full-time missionary, back then you were set apart by a general authority, I was set apart by an assistant to the 12 and Brother [Al Masani 00:53:54], very large man, he put his hands on my head. It was interesting. He had a bit of a tremor, and so I could still recall the feeling of his hands moving on my head, but he blessed me with some great things.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:54:10 But one thing I don't think I'll ever forget, he said, "I bless you that from this time forth, you'll not have difficulties remembering the scriptures." I didn't think about that much at the time. I don't think I thought about that. I've thought about it a lot in the last 10 or 15 years. It was a simple blessing. It wasn't anything overpowering.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:54:30 Now, I'm getting older and it's getting a little harder to remember things, but the desire to know the scriptures well enough to answer people's questions, to teach them. The other thing that happened in the mission home, back then most all of the missionaries would be endowed while they were in the mission home.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:54:53 You would go over to the Salt Lake Temple and what would then happen is you would go upstairs to the Solemn Assembly room and Harold B. Lee would be there to take the questions of the missionaries. I don't remember many of the questions that were asked, but I'll tell you what I remember. Every question that was asked, President Elder Lee would say, "Well, let's see what the Lord has to say."

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:55:19 He'd go to the scriptures. Someone would ask a question. "Very good question. I appreciate you. Let's go to what the Lord had to say about that." Or, "Let's go to the Book of Mormon." I thought to myself, "If I could ever be like that..." I knew I never could be like him, but I thought, to be in a position to where you can really assist people because of the price you paid to know the gospel.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:55:48 That experience alone has affected me now for 71 years, watching a man of God, one of the great doctrinal minds, Harold B. Lee, watching him handle himself so easily with questions that were being raised as he would turn here and turn there and read the answer, I just feel like the Lord's blessed me with a lot of sweet opportunities. And my wife and I talk about this a lot, how good the church has been to us? Or frankly, how good the Lord has been to us.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:56:21 Life isn't easy and you have all kinds of bumps along the way and difficult times, maybe you have difficulties with children or grandchildren, but the Lord has been good to us in the sense of the two of us have been blessed with the testimony that I believe is solid and I'd like to believe is unshakable.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:56:43 I began praying years ago that the Lord would remove doubt from my mind of any kind about when it comes to the restoration of the gospel or truthfulness of the church and so forth. And I think there's some prayers God is eager to answer. And my wife and I talk about that often, how grateful we are, A, that we had wonderful teachers, advisors, priesthood leaders, et cetera.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:57:12 B, that the Lord has blessed us both with a conviction that, I think no matter what would be asked of us, we would do. But I look back and I owe all of that to people whose lives affected mine with what they knew, yes, more importantly, how they loved. And that's been all the difference for me.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:57:41 And I still feel a drive. I still feel a drive to learn and grow, and I have a problem. That's I'm a slow reader. My wife can read a book in a day and it'll take me two weeks. But you know what? It's pretty marked up when I'm done.

Hank Smith: 00:57:59 Right.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:58:00 Anyway, I'm just very grateful for whatever understanding I have. I'm grateful for it because, you two know of this better than I do, there's nothing more joyous than being able to share understanding and share witness and conviction and sense that maybe it did some good there.

Hank Smith: 00:58:23 That's exactly right. John and I both have walked out of chapels going, "Well, I hope we did some good there," right? I was just thinking, you have studied the life of Joseph Smith longer than he was alive, right? You studied him for 51 years. He was only alive for 38.

John Bytheway: 00:58:41 Good point.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:58:43 That is good. I hadn't thought about that either.

Hank Smith: 00:58:46 Yeah. If someone knows Joseph Smith on the earth, it's you. It's you, and yet here you are. You love him, you honor him, and yet we have people who, maybe, read something on the side, in a weekend and go, "Oh." They fly to pieces. And here's someone who studied Prophet Joseph Smith for 51 years. I just want to emphasize that. 51 years. There's nothing that Bob Millet doesn't know about the prophet that someone else knows.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:59:19 That's not true, but I have fallen more deeply in love with Joseph Smith as the years have gone by. Do I think he was a perfect man? No. Did he make mistakes? Yeah. He was a human being, but isn't it a beautiful thing that the Lord could work with him and teach him? Look what he could accomplish in those 18 years. It's unbelievable. It's unbelievable what Joseph Smith accomplished.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 00:59:48 And so I read, I read his teachings, his sermons, especially his funeral sermons and I'm blown away by the knowledge that that man gained by studying himself, by revelation. And I may have mentioned this the last time, but one of my greatest joys is to, every morning, repeat this, that Joseph Smith said, and you know the statement.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 01:00:18 He said, "It is my meditation all the day and more than my meat and drink to know how I shall make the saints of God comprehend the visions that roll like an overflowing surge before my mind." And I want to say what manner of man is that?

Hank Smith: 01:00:34 Yeah. My goodness. John, it's another day where we get to say, "It was good to be here.

John Bytheway: 01:00:47 It was good for us to be here.

Hank Smith: 01:00:48 For us to be here.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 01:00:50 Nice for me to be with you.

Hank Smith: 01:00:52 Oh, Dr. Millet, we just can't thank you enough. And I'm sure our listeners are feeling the exact same way. They're saying, "What a great man to give of his time and his knowledge to us these last couple of hours." Thank you. Thank you so much.

Dr. Robert L. Millet: 01:01:08 You're certainly welcome.

Hank Smith: 01:01:09 Yeah. I'm sure there's many, many people who have love in their heart for Bob Millet and for Sister Millet as well. We want to thank you all for listening. You've been wonderful. We're grateful for your support. We couldn't do without you. We have executive producers who we just absolutely love and adore, Steve and Shannon Sorensen and we have a production team, right John? that does all of this.

John Bytheway: 01:01:39 They do the heavy lifting. Yeah.

Hank Smith: 01:01:41 Right.

John Bytheway: 01:01:41 We get to just sit here and talk with our friends and it's so fun.

Hank Smith: 01:01:45 And people come up, "Oh, I just love that podcast." And we're like, "Well, you should probably thank these people." David Perry, Jamie Nielsen, Lisa Spice, Kyle Nelson, Will [Stotton 01:01:55] and Maria Hilton. Those are the ones who deserve thanks for this podcast. And again, thank you for listening. We hope you'll join us on our next episode of followHIM.