

Episode 21

Legacy

BRIGHAM YOUNG, PART 2

[BEGIN MUSIC]

NATHAN WRIGHT: One of the most remarkable aspects of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, is its unique history. Throughout the world great stories from faithful church members have only added to that history. This program shares some of these incredible stories of faith, perseverance, hope, and inspiration. You're listening to Legacy. I'm your host, Nathan Wright.

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NATHAN WRIGHT: Throughout the world, Brigham Young is more widely recognized than the Prophet Joseph Smith. Year after year, the pioneer leader is listed among the most influential Americans. Although the name “Brigham Young” is widely recognized, the man himself might be listed among the most misunderstood. Welcome back to Legacy on the Mormon Channel. In studio today are Chad Orton and William Slaughter. Let's talk a little about Brigham's relationship with the Prophet Joseph. He seemed to be rather...

BILL SLAUGHTER: Taken by him.

CHAD ORTON: No not taken, that's the wrong word. No, he feels...

NATHAN WRIGHT: Shall we say devoted?

CHAD ORTON: Devoted.

BILL SLAUGHTER: I would say that is absolutely true, and there were times when some of Joseph's most important lieutenants looked up against him. I don't know that Brigham ever did. Brigham was there for Joseph thick... I just absolutely believe that he felt nothing but thankfulness for Joseph the Prophet, as well as, Joseph the man because he understood that difficult role of Joseph's and also what Joseph introduced to the world was the Lord's gospel, and as we just talked about it, it changed Brigham's life forever and deeply.

CHAD ORTON: There are few individuals, we all have them, where we just seem to click and that seems to be Brigham and Joseph because in some ways they serve as counterpoint to each other. Brigham comes from this upbringing where there are certain things you didn't do if you were a minister in certain positions and here we meet Joseph, who's an individual, who goes out and plays ball with the children, who wrestles with individuals – completely

opposite of something that Brigham experienced.

BILL SLAUGHTER: Fun loving

CHAD ORTON: Fun loving. So, Joseph is able to help Brigham Young bring a different perspective into his life, but more than that, as much as that, he was a prophet and he knew he was a prophet. Brigham Young had talked about in his youth he would be willing to give anything he could to meet a prophet, and he would later, he would be willing to crawl around the world if he could meet a prophet. And so, when he has the opportunity, he goes and meets Joseph Smith and theirs is a very great symbiotic relationship. Joseph Smith teaches Brigham Young and Brigham Young says that no individual studied the Prophet more than he did who came to understand Joseph Smith. One of the statements I love about Brigham Young is he would say, I listened to everything Joseph Smith had, I tried to incorporate it, and I am his witness as far as what he teaches.

BILL SLAUGHTER: That's very important, what he teaches. Because, like you said, Brigham Young did learn through Kirkland, through Zion's camp, Missouri, getting kicked out of Missouri, going to England to begin the gathering, all the way to supporting Joseph Smith in his serious bid for the Presidency of the United States, and then that moment when he realizes that Joseph Smith is gone and that now this huge weight is now upon the shoulders of the Twelve to keep the gospel going on earth, to keep the Church moving forward and not be swallowed up as the enemies had hoped it would happen. But, at that moment when he realizes Joseph Smith is in fact gone and dead, he does feel prepared because he has literally learned at his knees, through experience, and through watchful, and through the study.

CHAD ORTON: Yeah, one of the things that we alluded to earlier that impresses me about Brigham Young that I think helps earn him the nickname, the Lion of the Lord, is how much he did stand up for Joseph Smith. Bill talked about it as a defender of the Prophet during the dark days of Nauvoo, of Kirkland, and then later at Nauvoo. When the enemies of the Church arose, Brigham Young had seemed to go to great lengths to put himself between the Prophet and danger. One of the stories I think is great because late one night there's an individual going down the streets of Kirkland saying Joseph Smith's a fallen prophet and Brigham Young has enough and he goes out in the middle of the night and tells this guy, he says something to the effect that we have the Lord's Prophet sleeping we don't need the devils prophet braying in the street, [LAUGHING] and you can either quit your noise or I'll help you quit. And you know, I think that's somewhat the man Brigham Young, in that regard. The great statement Brigham Young makes is, I feel like shouting Hallelujah all the time to think that I ever knew the Prophet Joseph Smith.

BILL SLAUGHTER: That's right.

NATHAN WRIGHT: I love that quote.

BILL SLAUGHTER: I love that quote, too. And, I, boy, he just, uh, he becomes this different man. He knows

his life has improved and when he says, I feel like shouting Hallelujah, you can almost sense the weight of the dreariness of the world come off his shoulders.

NATHAN WRIGHT: Knowing what it's all worth.

BILL SLAUGHTER: Yes! Exactly!

NATHAN WRIGHT: Even though he has the weight.

BILL SLAUGHTER: Exactly! And, you know, it's such a powerful story. And most people, most Saints, and I, dare say, myself included, before doing this book with Chad, we all sort of know Brigham Young from 1845 on.

NATHAN WRIGHT: And mostly from the few pictures that we have seen of him. Which to me makes it look like we know him as a grumpy old man sitting in front of a camera.

CHAD ORTON: And you know from looking at this book, we have a good sampling of photographs from when he was a long haired 50-year old and looked pretty (speaking as a 57-year old now) I look at his pictures of him in his 50's, I think he looks pretty good! [LAUGHING]

BILL SLAUGHTER: I think, in knowing his background, it makes us one, (not in any special order) one, appreciate those who do convert to Mormonism. That it is a big deal, especially if you've been a Mormon for awhile or all your life. That there are, you know, like we talked about, he knew the consequences of what his conversion would do and said I'm willing to face it. Well, we need to acknowledge when people make a conversion to the gospel, they are going to have changes in their life, good and bad. And, we also should understand that believing in this gospel, practicing this religion is, as Brigham Young pointed out, it's meant for everyday. It's all encompassing. And, I think that's part, that's a big deal for people, too. And, I think the very idea that he was, a desire to shout Hallelujah is something that we should all be doing. Look what we have. Look what I've become so use to...the gospel! It is an amazing thing! And, Brigham Young gives us the example that we should be darn happy about it. As President Hinckley said, we should be so darn happy people are wondering why we're smiling so much. Anyhow, I think Brigham Young, more than people realize, went through a huge meaningful transformation. Not that he was a bad guy before, actually, he was a very good guy, he just, as you pointed out, was lacking something.

NATHAN WRIGHT: Life changing.

CHAD ORTON: One of the things that I love about Brigham Young and Joseph Smith before we move on, is the fact that Joseph said that Brigham Young was one of only two individuals among the leaders of the Church that didn't lift up their heel against him. Brigham had his doubts about Joseph Smith in terms of the Kirkland Safety Society Bank, but I think there are some lessons to be learned here that he kept the doubts to himself and worked and he prayed. And, there are two things that came out of that that I think are significant: one, he

said I realize that Joseph Smith had faults, but he was the Lord's prophet and not mine so I wasn't going to worry about his faults, and the second, he came to realize part of this happiness that he experienced through Joseph was that, again he's the Lord's prophet and if the Lord wants to speak with him, that's fine, but if he doesn't want to speak to me, that's fine as well. I will just have faith that he is the Prophet and the Lord is leading him.

BILL SLAUGHTER: Okay, there's a great transition, faith. Faith, that's our chapter seven because...I don't know, you may have something else you want to go to, but...

NATHAN WRIGHT: It's listed as his most dominate characteristic, is what you say in chapter seven.

BILL SLAUGHTER: That's right. That's right, and...

CHAD ORTON: As we're looking, it came to me that that is probably as much that defines Brigham Young as anything.

BILL SLAUGHTER: Because as we were doing 70 ways, 100 ways, 240 ways, back down to 40, we, yeah, Chad figured this out that because we were actively looking, what is really dominating his life, dominates his life, really what he's an example of, what he lives by, he makes mistakes by, and he does the right things because of. And, I absolutely believe it's faith! I have faith in that! But, that is a really really important issue and it starts right with what Chad talked about and that...

CHAD ORTON: You know, when he moves to Kirkland, he tells a story that, again he's poor, he says if anybody moved to Kirkland with less than I had, it's because they had nothing. He had to barrow clothes to get there and when he gets to Kirkland it's winter time, there's not much work to be done, and all the good cheer of the Saints are leaving Kirkland to go look for work elsewhere. And, the Prophet Joseph Smith says, stay here, build up Zion and the Lord will bless you. And, Brigham Young takes Joseph at his word. Now, he later says, I didn't get rich, but we never went without things to eat. And, Joseph would say to me, Brigham Young how did you survive and he said, well, I did my best and the Lord did the rest. And, he learned that lesson early on. I think that's an important lesson for all of us to trust in the Lord. You know, there are also other blessings in his life. During this time, Brigham Young when shortly after his first wife joined the Church, she died. When Brigham Young moved to Kirkland he's a widower and there he meets his Mary Ann Angel who became his second wife. It was during this period where he showed faith in the Lord. And time and time again, you can see Brigham Young having faith that the Lord will make things right for the Saints, as a group and for him individually.

BILL SLAUGHTER: It's powerful! That's absolutely correct. I think in our chapter that is what resonates is really when things go wrong, not to say he sits passively by, but he very much, there's an assumption on his part that things will work out. There is a reason even though he may not understand it. And, there's also that when you are not, you may not have the knowledge that you've been told something, if you act on it, you will probably gain a sense of the reality of that situation or that point or that belief or that revelation or why

things are going the way they're going. I think that's really was filled with that. Everything he does has to do with the gospel, the Church, and faith that this is the gospel.

CHAD ORTON: You know, early on – kind of combing all these – Brigham, you know, Joseph Smith had prophesied that the Twelve, when they went to England, would leave from Far West Missouri on April 26, I believe, but they had been driven from Missouri. And Brigham has the faith, he's the Lion of the Lord that it's up to them to fulfill his prophecy and they go back and they're able to leave, start their mission from the temple site from Far West. But, again and again, Brigham has faith that the Lord is directing them so things will work out. When they left for the Salt Lake Valley the reports that they got were that this wouldn't sustain a large group of people. People, Jim Bridger, we're not exactly sure what took place in that meeting, but "what are you doing taking people to that valley?" "We don't know it will grow anything." At which Brigham says, "If the Lord has sent us here, it will grow things." "I have absolute faith in that." One of my favorite quotes from Brigham is on the way to the Salt Lake Valley he writes his brother and he says, "We have been driven from Nauvoo here but the hand of the Lord is in it. Visible as the sun shining this morning, it is visible to my natural eyes, it is alright, and I expect when we see the result of all we pass through in this probationary state, we will discover the hand of the Lord in it and shout 'Amen, it's alright'." And there've been many times since I've read that in my own life where I've had challenges where that thought keeps coming back to me, that I needed to have that faith that Brigham had.

NATHAN WRIGHT: Amazing faith, in fact, as you were saying that I was reminded of when he used his cane to mark the temple site in the Salt Lake Valley, he says "it was as clear in his vision as if it was there."

CHAD ORTON: Yeah, "I never asked the Lord what kind of temple because the Lord showed it to me".

NATHAN WRIGHT: Exactly.

CHAD ORTON: And time and time again, Brigham calls upon this faith and part of that that amazes me is how is Brigham able to get all these saints to do what they are able to do. You know, leave your home, you know, we leave Nauvoo because we have to, we've been driven out, but once we get to the Salt Lake Valley, you build a home in Salt Lake and, okay, now Brigham calls you to go to Logan or Saint George or where ever it may be, how do you understand this, why are you willing to do this? And that's a question that is frequently asked and part of it is this idea that we have faith that God is leading us, that God is directing us and that as a result things will work out. This is God's will.

NATHAN WRIGHT: I am reminded of the transformation of Brigham's face during his address to some of the people to the look of the Prophet Joseph. How much do you think that had to do with the people actually believing he had been called, what's the right word I'm looking for...

CHAD ORTON: You know, at the time, this is a very interesting story, this transformation of Brigham into Joseph or Joseph into Brigham; there are a lot of people confused and concerned at the

time about how the Church should be lead. And...

BILL SLAUGHTER: A lot of people giving alternative ideas

CHAD ORTON: You know, what's interesting is Brigham Young never mentions this. I've never been able to find where he mentions this at all. These are mentioned by other individuals where they see this, and we're not sure what happened, there are cases where people report this, but we know they weren't there. So, the story has been told, but there's something there that causes people to understand to get it. That Brigham Young is the successor – not Brigham Young as the man, but the Twelve because they hold the keys. You know, Brigham is on a mission when Joseph dies. He's back east, he first gets this on June 27th when Joseph is martyred (Joseph and Hyrum) he says this foreboding comes across him that he doesn't understand. And he says it's a few days later when he gets word that the Prophet has been martyred that he understands what's been going on. And, Brigham, by this time, is President of the Quorum of the Twelve and he is wondering what's going to happen with the Church. The critics of the Church have said if we can kill Joseph we will destroy the Church. And Brigham says that he's leaning back in his chair, (he's in Peterborough, New Hampshire) leaning back in his chair wondering what has Joseph done with everything that the Lord has given him, and then all of a sudden, Brigham says "it hits me," that Joseph had spent several months prior to his martyrdom making sure that the Twelve had all the keys that he had. And he says he brings his hand down on his knee and says, "The keys to the Kingdom are right here." And Orson Pratt is sitting next to him and he turns to him and says, "Brother Orson, everything is going to be okay, we've got the keys!" Well, as Bill talked about that yes, they understand that the Church is going to go on, but Brigham also understands that a 25 ton weight has been placed upon his back. But, one of the things that I love about Brigham, and again this is part of the faith, part of the Lion of the Lord, is that when he gets to Nauvoo, if you read the talk that he gives this same day that Sidney Rigdon gets up, the day that people see him transfigured, he gets up and says something to the effect, "I don't care who you follow, okay Saints, it doesn't matter who you follow, but this you need to know, that we as the Twelve have the keys and we're going to go into all the world and build up the Church in all the world, but other than that you're free to follow whomever you want." [LAUGHTER] So, there may have been a crisis among some, but for Brigham there was no crisis at this time. The Twelve had the keys. You know, it took awhile both for the Twelve to fully understand what they had and also for the Saints there to get it, to fully understand. And, I think this transfiguration helped some of those who may have been on the fence. It's one of the tender mercies of the Lord towards them.

NATHAN WRIGHT: How do you think Brigham Young saw himself? Everybody saw him as a gruffled guy from the outside. People from the inside love Brother Brigham because he got things done.

BILL SLAUGHTER: One reason we wrote this book and we did the forty ways is because there are different aspects of Brigham: he is a family man, he is a polygamist, he's also a renaissance man, he's a man who is ahead of his time in understanding the role of a steward over God's

creations, the earthly creations. To answer that question, I think that he saw himself, you know I'm fudging here because we've took so much time writing this book of how others saw him, but I think he saw him as the person, he had been put in a position, and he had to carry through it and by gum, he would. But, I also think he was very interested in life. He was curious about life. He wanted to live life as fully as he could. But, I think he very much understood his role as carrying on the teachings that Joseph and the Lord...the teachings the Lord had given Joseph and to carry those forward. I think he is always beholden to Joseph and he makes sure everybody knows that this comes from Joseph. I think he's pretty comfortable with himself.

CHAD ORTON: One of the things that, I think he was, he came to understand that if he had the mantle the responsibility then the Lord used who you were. Whether you had your strengths, whether you had your weaknesses, and he did have weaknesses. He readily acknowledged some of his problems; his temper was one that...

BILL SLAUGHTER: Temper and tongue

CHAD ORTON: Temper and tongue frequently got him into trouble. But there are aspects of Brigham that, I think, are just amazing in that his kindness. If you talked to him he would tell you there's a difference between the Brigham, the pulpit personality, who's up there putting forth the word of the Lord to all those who come in contact with, and Brigham, who is kind, who is loving, who is caring...

BILL SLAUGHTER: Gives gentle advice, caring advice. Critics would say that was hypocritical if they, but I think he understood the dual role there, that when you give a speech, now also when he gave a talk he was warned by his friends and advisors that his sarcasm (apparently can be very sarcastic) [CHUCKLES] came across rather flat on the printed page. And, that did tend to get him in trouble. Yeah, this is a man who can be very passionate. And, passionate means you can be a roaring Lion and on the other hand say "I understand what you're going through" and "let me give you this advice, let me help through this."

CHAD ORTON: You know, there are several things about Brigham that tend to go the way we generally perceive him. This is an individual who, this pulpit personality, he's kind of ruff, "this is what you need to do," but you would find him frequently showing great kindness to individuals and condemning those who wouldn't be generous or kind to their neighbors, to their enemies. One of the stories of Brigham I love is he kept getting up there and talking about the bed of crusties. Which is the old Greek mythology, that there was a bed and everybody had to fit the bed exactly and if you're too short they would pull you out till you fit the bed and if you're too long they would cut off your feet until you fit the bed. For Brigham, that was never what this gospel was about. The gospel we were to...the net was going to catch all types of fish – and we shouldn't say well they're not all the same type here – we have got to have everybody here and rejoice in the difference, rejoice in the opportunities that this gospel brings to us. To work with people of different cultures, difference races and I love that caring, that kindness for him.

BILL SLAUGHTER: I think that one thing he didn't understand was a person giving up on the possibilities of the gospel in their lives. I think he generally was befuddled by that and whether he would be compassionate about it or he roar about it, I think there was a feeling in him that if you were giving up on the gospel you need to give it a little more time, a little more effort. And, I think he got frustrated, the older he got the more frustrated he got with people who gave up on the gospel.

CHAD ORTON: For Brigham understood there was nothing else really to – “what is there?” I mean he asked several times in your life. If it's not for the gospel what is there?

BILL SLAUGHTER: And, I don't think that's just a phrase there. I think he really meant it.

NATHAN WRIGHT: I read somewhere to him there was no difference between temporal and spiritual. It was all, everything was the gospel.

BILL SLAUGHTER: One of the things that really stand out to me is Brigham's feeling that in addition to an eternal life one of the purposes of you being here on earth is leaving it a better place than you found it. And, you can only do that by following the Lord's plan. And, if you do that then all of life is meaningful and that's really right. It's like man, if you don't have this, what have you got? And he knew the answer. He felt the answer would be greed, base living, I mean you could just go on with the different things he was worried people would fall into if they didn't have the gospel to guide them.

CHAD ORTON: You know, Brigham, so many of his, the real Brigham as we look at him and as we started this work, the Brigham that emerged was different than the Brigham we knew going in. This was not the individual that we knew that most of the world knows and we were kind of shocked that if you actually looked at Brigham what really came worth. Who he was. You know, Bill was talking about this greed and you know you hear this time and time again from his critics. Brigham was a man who loved money that this is what motivated Brigham. But, if you look at the position he was in with as many hats that he wore in Utah and what he ended up with is really a pitons, relatively speaking. And even those ended up with somebody else. He had very little money, very little interest in money. It was the gospel that motivated him and he couldn't figure out how people would think money was the most important thing. Going back to kind of this faith that one of his wives sued him, he wrote a letter saying, “Well, the Lord gave me everything I had and if the Lord wants her to have some of this, oh well!” [LAUGHTER] That's the Lord's way. This isn't all that important.

BILL SLAUGHTER: Let's talk about Brigham, I don't mean to...

NATHAN WRIGHT: Please.

BILL SLAUGHTER: I don't know why this popped up in my head, what he thought of himself...what you said about he wasn't the Brigham we thought we'd find. One of the things that endear me is we have him as a renaissance man, and he was, and one of the things that stand out is one

night he notes that he's up till, what was it, 1 AM looking at the stars or telescope and reading the biography of Napoleon. And, that may sound insignificant, but it isn't. It shows a man who's up late, he's finding a moment to himself where he can really play the passion, the curiosity he has about life. And, that's one of the things that makes a great leader is someone who has curiosity about the things around him. And the fact that he's up till one o'clock, you know, he's a guy, you know, he wants to read about Napoleon. Here's somebody who's a great man reading about a famous military strategist. And then, he's also curious enough in the middle of the night to "I want to go look at the stars." You could see him looking there, pondering thoughts as any of us do as we look at the stars, it allows your mind to wonder into some interesting thoughts; and I don't know that's always stuck out to me. I love that...

NATHAN WRIGHT: I think that's very significant insight into Brigham.

CHAD ORTON: And, you know along that line he use to say, that combining the two, he use to be bothered by people who would put money over education. You'd rather have money than education. It's so exciting to learn something new. To see what the world has to offer.

BILL SLAUGHTER: Yeah, and I think he would be one who (maybe he wouldn't put it this way, nah I'll put it in...) he realized education was needed to bring talents back to the territory but he felt that for education sake made the person better, because he had that curiosity. He couldn't figure out why people wouldn't have a curiosity to know whatever it is that was around them. Very much like Thoreau's talking about. You examine your life; you become totally interested in those things around you.

CHAD ORTON: When visitors would come to Salt Lake and report about their visit to Brigham they would be shocked by the level of their knowledge. I mean there were few topics that they couldn't talk about. That he couldn't talk about. Another story that I love (and I think I've used that phrase 'I love this story about Brigham' quite a bit) is that when Sir Richard Burton, who is a world famous explorer, visit Brigham, they're meeting in the office and Brigham is trying to find out everything about Sir Richard Burton's visits all over the world, but particularly to Africa. And, in the middle of their discussion somebody asks Burton if where his visits were the same place the famed explorer Dr. Stanley was in the area and they go over to a map and try to find where that is on the world map. And, he looks where he thinks it is on Africa. He puts his finger on the map and Brigham says, "No, lower." And, Burton watching this exchange said, "The educated in London couldn't have corrected that mistake as well as Brigham Young has just done." And, I think that says a lot. That little story says a lot about the man. You know there's another story. This goes back to Joseph and there use to be a portrait of Joseph Smith hanging on the wall of Brigham's office. And, somebody in looking at this portrait said to Brigham one day that it didn't show a great deal of character on the part of Joseph. He didn't look like he was a great natural leader. And, I think this comes back to how Brigham saw himself, and rather than getting mad that this person would insult Brigham's best friend, the individual reports that Brigham says, "That's right! Joseph wasn't of himself a great leader. Everything he had he obtained through his own hard work and through the spirit

of the Lord.” And, then Brigham went on to say, “And that is my own case also. Everything I have is a result of the Holy Ghost and the Lord working through me.” And, I think everything that Brigham did was as a result that he could be that instrument that the Lord needed at that particular time.

NATHAN WRIGHT: So, if there’s just a quick little sum, sum-up quote, what you feel about what you’ve done here with this book. What you feel about the Prophet Brigham Young.

BILL SLAUGHTER: I think in plain, in Halleluiah to what Chad just said, I want to read a quote from Brigham as American Moses. Very much giving the Lord credit in saying “yeah, it’s not me, I’m not that good.” You know, that’s a powerful statement. In a day that we live in which people want to take more than their share of credit for doing anything and pointing to themselves even to the point of denouncing others. Brigham is giving us an example of a great leader and says you know, you’re right, I’m not that good. In this situation, which is very appropriate, the Lord is telling me what to do. And, he acknowledges it. Somebody will come along and do the job. But, I want to read this one quote in which Brigham talks about being the American Moses. “I did not devise the great scheme of the Lord’s opening the way to send his people to these mountains. Joseph contemplated the move for years before it took place, and it was the power of God that wrought out salvation of this people. I never could have devised such a plan.” I mean, just plain and simple. You know, he could have been saying, “Thank you, thank you, yep, yep, I did come up with that.” But, he’s saying from the very beginning, “not only did I not do it, Joseph was thinking about it before and it was the Lord the whole time.” And, it worked out because we had the faith to go ahead and do what the Lord instructed us what to do.

NATHAN WRIGHT: For a guy from today’s standards who had a lot of reason to be prideful, he had none.

BILL SLAUGHTER: Yes, exactly. That’s what I think of Brigham, that’s the quote I think of.

CHAD ORTON: And there are several things along that. He repeated that several times. When people would visit said “Brigham, look what you’ve been able to do here in the Valley.” He’d just bristle. “It wasn’t me who did this.” One of the things I love about Brigham that I don’t think that the Latter-day Saints, I don’t think we fully appreciate what a remarkable individual he was and we just said Brigham didn’t have pride so (I’m not sure we should use the word pride) but how grateful we ought to be that he was that Prophet that the Lord called up. Because the Lord put him in a unique situation where he could work with Joseph and learn from Joseph but he also had a personality that allowed the Church to move forward. And, that allows us to learn some very valuable lessons from this Prophet of God. And, I hope that that’s what people come to understand that, Brigham is a remarkable individual and frequently if Latter-day Saints have concerns about him or their neighbors have these great concerns, and I hear these all the time, it’s because they’ve been listening to his enemies rather than trying to understand the man himself.

BILL SLAUGHTER: I’m going to go back to one more thing. If you learn anything from Brigham, and there are many things, but if there’s nothing else, have faith, trust in the Lord, and I absolutely

believe that. His life is an example of that.

NATHAN WRIGHT: Anything else that you would add.

BILL SLAUGHTER: No, I think that's pretty good. I mean, I feel pretty strong. You know, I hate to say this this way, I shouldn't say, I'd like to say it this way, it may come out wrong, but in many ways he was just a regular guy that I think you could have had a good discussion with and yet at the same time he had certain expectations that would lead one to garner one's faith and efforts.

CHAD ORTON: And, why that worked for both of them is you know, they called him Brother Brigham because he was approachable. We have thousands of letters where he writes people on wide varieties of subjects, people would come up and talk to him. He would be concerned about everyone. One letter I love is he writes to all the Bishops to make sure that there's a swing in their ward where the kids could go and play. Here's this Prophet that is worried about swing. So, the people would do everything that he did because one, they knew that he loved them. He may chastise them, but they knew that there was love behind it. And, two, they also knew that Brigham had done it. That he had been there, he had done it. He was not asking them things he was not willing to do himself or that he had not done himself. He was a hands-on individual. In some way, he's the ultimate, ultimate leader. We see that now in our prophets today like President Hinckley and President Monson. [BEGIN MUSIC] That they're getting up there and what they are preaching they've also been practicing all their life.

NATHAN WRIGHT: Very good, thank you. We've been talking today with Chad Orton and Bill Slaughter, co-authors of the book *40 Ways to Look at Brigham Young*. Thank you brethren for being here today.

BILL SLAUGHTER: Thank you.

CHAD ORTON: Thank you.

[END MUSIC]