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## Book of Mormon Gems of Truth: Lesson 21

Author(s): Leone O. Jacobs

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**Abstract:** Monthly Book of Mormon lessons for adult women (Relief Society). Each month a verse of Book of Mormon scripture is presented with accompanying quotes from General Authorities and writers of the Church.

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# Visiting Teacher Messages

## Book of Mormon Gems of Truth

Lesson 21—"Let Not This Pride of Your Hearts Destroy Your Souls!" (Jacob 2:16).

Leone O. Jacobs

For Tuesday, February 2, 1954

Objective: To encourage the cultivation of humility.

**T**HROUGHOUT the scriptures, mankind has repeatedly been admonished against pride and its degenerating effects. Oft quoted from Proverbs is: "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18).

Ruskin said, "In general, pride is at the bottom of all great mistakes." From the pages of history, we learn that pride has been the initial step in the downfall of many peoples and nations. Particularly in Book of Mormon history is this evident. The rise and fall of different peoples chronicled therein, closely parallel the absence or presence of pride. Wars and tribulations have been preceded by this pernicious evil.

Typical of many similar quotations are these:

And now, in this two hundred and first year there began to be among them those who were lifted up in pride (4 Nephi 24).

They persecute the meek and the poor in heart, because in their pride they are puffed up (2 Nephi 28:13).

And also the people who were called the people of Nephi began to be proud in their hearts . . . . And from this time the disciples began to sorrow for the sins of the world (4 Nephi 43, 44).

Pride is the forerunner of many other evils. It is a contributing fac-

tor in the downfall of many societies.

How may one's soul be destroyed by pride? Pride has always been a stumbling block in the way of righteousness. When it infects the human heart, the very essence of Christianity is crowded out, which is the true love of one's fellow men. Pride leads one to become selfish, and selfishness is not righteousness. When one is proud, he is inclined to show preference for social prestige, wealth, the worldly acclaim of men, and to set aside the things of God. Thus pride cankers the soul.

Pride leads some to exercise unrighteous dominion over those less fortunate, to be lifted up in their own estimation above others, to expect special privileges and consideration. Such a spirit is not in harmony with the gospel of Jesus Christ. "Think of your brethren like unto yourselves" (Jacob 2:17), said Jacob, in The Book of Mormon.

Elder Albert E. Bowen said, "There is no aristocracy with the Lord except the aristocracy of righteousness."

Pride is a destructive force, while humility fosters and builds righteousness and nobility of character. Humility induces one to give credit and thanksgiving to his Maker for

every blessing received and to accept, with fortitude, the trials that inevitably come. It induces one to seek out the suffering and down-trodden and render loving service,

with an eye single to the glory of God.

“Be thou humble; and the Lord thy God shall lead thee by the hand” (D. & C. 112:10).

## *Work Meeting*—Family Money Management

(A Course Recommended for Use by Wards and Branches at Work Meeting)

### Lesson 5—Spending the Furniture Dollar

*Rhea H. Gardner*

(For Tuesday, February 9, 1954)

**T**HE amount of money a family spends on furniture is not necessarily a measuring guide to its beauty or the satisfaction derived from its use. Wise and careful planning, before buying, can save hundreds of dollars and countless regrets.

Before deciding to buy new furniture, consider what you can do to modernize what you have, or what you can make yourself. Much of the modern furniture is easy to copy if there is a handy man or woman in the family. In many homes there are treasures of priceless value in old pieces of furniture. The real beauty may be hidden by numerous layers of varnish, but this can easily be removed.

Know exactly what you need and want and the price you can afford to pay before going shopping. You will want the new piece of furniture to seem a part of all your other room furnishings. It need not be of the same period style, but should blend with the rest of the furniture. It is important to observe the size scale, taking into consideration the space available and the comfort and

convenience of the persons who will use the piece of furniture. Take with you, on your shopping tour, space measurements and, if color is involved in the purchase, samples of the colors already in the room.

When you shop, go to several stores. Shoppers often pay too much because they do not shop enough. Compare quality, styles, comfort, and prices. Ask questions, examine the furniture on all sides, and read the labels. You may soon find a piece that pleases you very much. The size, style, and color may all seem just right, and even the price may be one you can afford, but how about the construction? Is it sturdy, well built, and able to take the kind of wear you will expect of it? If it is a piece that will get hard and continuous wear, it is economy to get the best you can afford.

Furniture construction comes down to two items—the quality of the materials used, and how these materials are put together and finished. The way wooden pieces are fitted and fastened together is most