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Book of Mormon Gems of Truth: Lesson 22

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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.

churches, each one of which had priests and teachers, and every priest preached the word as it was delivered to him by the mouth of Alma. All were instructed not to teach anything but repentance and faith in God.

The people who repented and confessed their sins were forgiven; those who would not repent were not numbered among the Lord's people, and their names were blotted out. Persecution of believers or non-believers was forbidden, and equality among all men was enjoined.

Alma had repented and from a wicked priest of King Noah he had come to be the religious leader of all the people in the land of Zarahemla.

He had become one of God's chosen servants. If men like Alma, by repentance and by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, can be transformed into true citizens of the kingdom of God, and can come to be leaders in that kingdom, we can begin to see that the gospel is indeed the power of God unto salvation. Alma was a great exponent of forgiveness, knowing that the man who cannot forgive others is in no position to ask forgiveness for his own sins.

Questions for Discussion

1. By what power could Alma receive forgiveness for his sins?
2. How tolerant and forgiving should we be of the mistakes of others?
3. Can you see a comparison between Alma and Paul?

Visiting Teacher Messages

Book of Mormon Gems of Truth

Lesson 22—"Ye Have Not Applied Your Hearts to Understanding; Therefore, Ye Have Not Been Wise" (Mosiah 12:27).

Leone O. Jacobs

For Tuesday, March 2, 1954

Objective: To urge that a conscious effort be made toward understanding the word of the Lord.

WHAT a precious possession is understanding! It tempers one's thoughts and actions, develops patience and kindness, removes prejudice and selfishness from one's heart.

From the context of the quotation from Mosiah, it is apparent that Abinadi was arraigning the priests for their lack of understanding the word of God to teach the people correctly. Surely if one is to

be wise he must apply his heart to understanding the word of the Lord. A conscious effort must be put forth, otherwise we may so easily become confused or led into erroneous beliefs. The great number of interpretations of the Lord's word that exist today attest to this fact.

Understanding the word of God correctly does not always come naturally to man, therefore, there

is the necessity of applying one's heart to understanding. "Search the scriptures" (John 5:39) we are commanded. "I leave these sayings with you to ponder in your hearts . . . seek me diligently and ye shall find me" (D. & C. 88:62, 63).

How do individuals receive a testimony of the gospel? It comes, in the final analysis, through an understanding heart. It is not enough to acknowledge the soundness of logic or argument. The logic, the reasonableness of the gospel, may be the initial step in conversion, but the heart must be touched and must acknowledge its truth through the power of the Holy Ghost. The counsel concerning the study of The Book of Mormon found in Moroni 10:4-5, is a guide also to the understanding of other words of God:

And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will

manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost. And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things.

Many people testify to reading the scriptures over and over and, each time, of receiving a fuller understanding of them. New vistas of thought are opened up in their minds, new light is presented to them, deeper meaning is realized. One may say, for example, "I have read The Book of Mormon fifteen times and each time I have received a clearer insight into the principles of the gospel."

When we do not apply our hearts to understanding the word of God, it is as though "we see through a glass darkly" (I Cor. 13:12). False doctrine and varied interpretations may be accepted under such circumstances. If we are teachable, if our minds and hearts are unprejudiced and we seek the truth, then the truth will come to us.

Solomon admonishes us: "With all thy getting, get understanding" (Prov. 4:7). Therein lies wisdom.

Work Meeting—Family Money Management

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

Lesson 6—Spending the Home Furnishings Dollar—Curtains and Drapery

Rhea H. Gardner

For Tuesday, March 9, 1954

WINDOW treatments today are more simple than those of even a few years ago. Then, several layers of window hangings often were thought necessary. Now, there may be fabric only, or fabric and blinds or shades. The trend is to relate the indoors and outdoors and

to let light and air in, not to block them out, other than necessary for comfort and privacy.

The kind of window treatment you choose will depend on the purpose it is to serve. Avoid overdressing your windows or giving them a cluttered look. Today, espec-