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## Book of Mormon Gems of Truth: Lesson 24

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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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he that delivered it unto you (Alma 8:15).

This angel instructed him to return to Ammonihah and foretell the destruction of the people except they repented. Built up in his faith and knowing that God was pleased with his work, Alma returned speedily to the land of Ammonihah. As he entered the city, hungry and tired, he met a man whom he asked for something to eat. This man said to Alma:

I am a Nephite, and I know that thou art a holy prophet of God, for thou art the man whom an angel said in a vision: Thou shalt receive (Alma 8:20).

This man, Amulek, became Alma's missionary companion. Together they were to preach repentance to the people of Ammonihah.

God strengthened them and they had power given to them so they could not be confined in dungeons or slain.

And it came to pass that they went forth and began to preach and to prophesy unto the people, according to the spirit and power which the Lord had given them (Alma 8:32).

### Questions for Discussion

1. Why did Alma consider priestcraft dangerous? Discuss priestcraft as set forth in Alma 1:3; and 2 Nephi 26:29.
2. Why was Alma concerned about the efforts of Amlici to become king?
3. How does iniquity in our Church serve as a stumbling block to those outside the Church?
4. How industrious was Alma in the service of God?
5. What can we learn from this lesson concerning the solution of our national problems?

## Visiting Teacher Messages

### Book of Mormon Gems of Truth

Lesson 24—"... Seek Not to Counsel the Lord, But to Take Counsel From His Hand. For Behold, Ye Yourselves Know That He Counseleth in Wisdom, and in Justice, and in Great Mercy, Over All His Works" (Jacob 4:10).

Leone O. Jacobs

For Tuesday, May 4, 1954

Objective: To stress the wisdom of adherence to the counsel of God.

**O**FTEN we attempt to counsel the Lord, though perhaps we do not realize we are doing so. We tell the Lord what to give us, we beseech, plead, almost demand certain blessings, or special help from difficulties we are in, without remembering that he knows, far better than we, what is best for us.

In Mosiah (chapter 4, verse 9), King Benjamin says: "... man doth not comprehend all the things

which the Lord can comprehend." If we are always aware of this fact, then, when we petition the Lord for blessings and aid, we will say to him in substance, "Heavenly Father, we desire this blessing very much, but thou knowest what is best for us. We will accept thy decision and thy will."

A young woman was critically injured in an automobile accident. When friends called to express the

hope that she would recover, her father said, "We are asking our Heavenly Father that she recover, but we are bowing to his greater wisdom to do what is best."

Our role in seeking divine aid is to ask in sincerity and faith for the things which we desire and which we truly feel would be for our good, and then to leave the decision to our Father in Heaven. Elder Matthew Cowley has said, "Let us live worthy of the things we pray for, and pray for the things we are worthy of" (General Conference, April 1952). The matter of worthiness is also to be considered.

In viewing the marvelous works of the Lord, surely we acknowledge his supreme power. We recognize the order and precision with which he governs the forces of the universe. How, then, can we doubt that he knows the needs of his sons and daughters?

To argue against the Lord's counsel or to look for excuses for not following it, is very unwise. Some may say, "I believe I can keep the

Sabbath day by driving up the canyons amid the beauties of nature just as well as by attending meetings." But the Lord has counseled, even commanded, "Thou shalt go to the house of prayer and offer up thy sacraments upon my holy day" (D. & C. 59:9). There should be wholehearted acquiescence by his children and a great feeling of gratitude for being so instructed.

To accept counsel from the hand of the Lord means also to accept the counsel of his authorized representatives. The Lord does not come to each one of us personally with counsel; but he gives instruction through his authorized servants. In the Doctrine and Covenants he tells us: ". . . whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same" (D. & C. 1:38).

Willingness to accept counsel from recognized authority is not a sign of weakness; on the contrary, it is a sign of great understanding and wisdom. ". . . To obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams" (I Samuel 15:22).

## *Work Meeting*—Family Money Management

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

### Lesson 8—Spending Your Health Dollar

Rhea H. Gardner

(For Tuesday, May 11, 1954)

**"GOOD** health is something people appreciate most when they don't have it."

Buying good health is not the same as spending money for food, clothing, and shelter. These needs can be budgeted because their

costs are constant. However, health and medical costs are uncertain and unpredictable. For this reason, the cost of ill health is, for most families, the hardest of all expenditures to meet.

The average family spends about