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Book of Mormon Gems of Truth: Lesson 43

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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.

happiness to the depths of wickedness when pride and other evils developed among them.

We know God rules in the affairs of men and nations cannot sin with impunity because when they become ripe in iniquity their sins destroy them.

Mormon concludes the Book of Fourth Nephi with the words about the record:

And he [Ammaron] did hide them up unto the Lord, that they might come again unto the remnant of the house of

Jacob, according to the prophecies and the promises of the Lord. And thus is the end of the record of Ammaron (4 Nephi 49).

Questions on the Lesson

1. Why did the united Nephites and Lamanites prosper for two centuries?
2. What kind of economic order existed among the Nephites and Lamanites in the first and second centuries after Christ?
3. What factors contributed to the decline of the Church of Christ?
4. How can this evil that ushered in the decadence of the Nephites also ruin our individual lives?

Visiting Teacher Messages— Book of Mormon Gems of Truth

Lesson 43—"But Charity Is the Pure Love of Christ, and It Endureth Forever; and Whoso Is Found Possessed of It at the Last Day, It Shall Be Well With Him" (Moroni 7:47).

Leone O. Jacobs

For Tuesday, December 4, 1956

Objective: To stress the great importance of developing charity.

MUCH has been said and written concerning charity, but Mormon's definition, as recorded by his son, Moroni, is clearly expressed. We are deeply moved by Mormon's earnest appeal that his people seek this divine attribute, and we realize how diligent we, too, should be in cultivating this quality.

If charity is the pure love of Christ, or even might we say if it is the kind of love that Christ has, then nothing could be more precious than its possession! Surely if we love Christ with a pure love and

thus acquire the kind of love he has, all will indeed be well with us.

Mormon reminds us that to gain faith and hope one must first be meek and lowly of heart, and in order to be meek and lowly of heart, one must have charity. Paul the apostle tells us that of the three—faith, hope, and charity—charity is the greatest. It seems, then, to be one of the paramount qualifications for a righteous life. Paul's inspiring discourse on the subject of charity always stirs within us an appreciation for this virtue. To quote in part:

Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things (I Cor. 13:4-7).

In order to possess the pure love of Christ, we cannot be calloused to the needs of others, nor unmindful of rendering any loving service. Charity is unselfishness and a willingness to forgive. It is the underlying principle of the Golden Rule.

Giving of our substance to those in want is just one phase of charity, and the giving must be performed ungrudgingly to be worthy this word.

It is possible for one to comply with the letter of the law, and yet be lacking in charity. The spirit of

the law of charity covers all who possess it with a mantle of compassion. Mormon tells us, if we have not charity, we are nothing — our words, our deeds, our offerings — none are acceptable unless clothed with charity.

Charity is the dominant theme of the Relief Society, and it is expected that members of this organization abound in feelings and works which are characteristic of this quality. Visiting teachers, particularly, are commissioned to exercise this blessed attribute in their visits. Said Jesus, "Ye shall do the works which ye see me do." These are the grand key words of the Relief Society as declared by the Prophet Joseph Smith.

. . . Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all . . . (Moroni 7:46).

By so doing it shall be well with us.

Work Meeting—Food Preparation and Service

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

Lesson 3—Party Refreshments

Rhea H. Gardner

For Tuesday, December 11, 1956

WHOLESONE party refreshments should do just what the name implies; they should refresh those who partake of them. They need not be elaborate, highly decorative, nor unique in composition. Simple foods, prepared tastefully in attractive ways, and served in an atmosphere that is unhurried and undisturbed, do more to make

refreshments refreshing than all the elaborate details.

Before planning refreshments, therefore, it is important to thoughtfully consider: who will attend the party; what time of the day will the refreshments be served; how much time can I afford to give to the preparation, and the preparation just prior to serving time; and