



The Gospel Doctrine Class



Book of Mormon - Lesson 12

Seek Ye for the Kingdom of God

“And we did magnify our office unto the Lord, taking upon us the responsibility,
answering the sins of the people upon our own heads
if we did not teach them the word of God with all diligence” (Jacob 1:19)

Jacob 1-4

A study of this lesson will help us feel a greater desire to magnify our callings, be chaste, and invite others to come unto Christ.

President Hugh B. Brown: "President John Taylor said on one occasion... 'If you do not magnify your callings, God will hold you responsible for those you might have saved, had you done your duty.' This is a challenging statement. If by reason of sins of commission or omission lose what I might have had in the hereafter, I myself must suffer and doubtless, my loved ones with me. But...if any of us fail to teach, lead, direct, and help to save those under our direction..., then the Lord will hold us responsible if they are lost as a result of our failure." (The Abundant Life, p37)

Denis Waitley: "Recent studies conducted by a Stanford University research team have revealed that 'what we watch' does have an effect on our imaginations, our learning patterns, and our behaviors. First, we are exposed to new behaviors and characters. Next, we learn or acquire these new behaviors. The last and most crucial step is that we adopt these behaviors as our own. One of the most critical aspects of human development that we need to understand is the influence of 'repeated viewing' and 'repeated verbalizing' in shaping our future. The information goes in, 'harmlessly, almost unnoticed,' on a daily basis, but we don't react to it until later, when we aren't able to realize the basis for our reactions. In other words, our value system is being formed without any conscious awareness on our part of what is happening!" (Seeds of Greatness, p55)

President Ezra Taft Benson said that people who are "captained by Christ will be consumed in Christ.... Enter their homes, and the pictures on their walls, the books on their shelves, the music in the air, their words and acts reveal them as Christians." (Ensign, Nov 1985, p6-7)

President N. Eldon Tanner: "We find examples...so often where a person, forgetting who he is, wants to be popular with his peers and wants their praise. So often athletes get so carried away with their success and desire for praise that they forget their duty to God and the importance of his approval and as a result lose their way. This applies equally to politicians, members of fraternal organizations, professions, and business. This craving for praise

and popularity too often controls actions, and as they succumb they find themselves bending their character when they think they are only taking a bow....

"How much more satisfying it is when we receive the praise of God, knowing that it is fully justified and that his love and respect for us will persist, when usually the praise of men is fleeting and most disappointing." (Conference Report, Oct 1975)

President Ezra Taft Benson: "In the scriptures there is no such thing as righteous pride. It is always considered a sin. We are not speaking of a wholesome view of self-worth, which is best established by a close relationship with God. But we are speaking of pride as the universal sin.... Especially, pride is a 'my will' rather than 'thy will' approach to life." (Conference Report, Apr 1986)

President Benson: "...as we cleanse the inner vessel, there will have to be changes made in our own personal lives, in our families, and in the Church. The proud do not change to improve, but defend their position by rationalizing. Repentance means change, and it takes a humble person to change. But we can do it." (Conference Report, Apr 1986)

Elder Dean L. Larsen: "Jacob speaks of people who placed themselves in serious jeopardy in spiritual things because they were unwilling to accept simple, basic principles of truth. They entertained and intrigued themselves with 'things that they could not understand.' They...obviously failed to stay within the circle of fundamental gospel truths which provide a basis for faith. They must have reveled in speculative and theoretical matters that obscured for them the fundamental spiritual truths....

"There are other ways in which many of us often look beyond the mark. Sometimes we focus too much of our attention and energy upon our temporal wants.... Too often we permit the narrow demands of our daily routine to dull our appreciation of the beauty of God's creations and the refining influences that are all about us. We fail to experience the fulfillment that comes from developing the gifts and talents with which we have been endowed. We do not draw close enough to the Lord to know him and feel of his redeeming love." (Ensign, Nov 1987, pp11-12)

Next Week's Reading Assignment
Jacob 5-7

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