



# The Gospel Doctrine Class



Book of Mormon - Lesson 23

More Than One Witness

*“And therefore, he that will harden his heart, the same receiveth the lesser portion of the word; and he that will not harden his heart, to him is given the greater portion of the word, until it is given unto him to know the mysteries of God until he know them in full.” (Alma 12:10)*

## Alma 8–12

*A study of this lesson will increase our understanding of the plan of redemption and the power of having more than one witness to testify of gospel truths.*

Brigham Young: "Those who do not profess to know anything of the Lord are far better off than we are, unless we live our religion, for we who know our Master's will and do it not will be beaten with many stripes; while they who do not know the Master's will and do it not will be beaten with few stripes. This is perfectly reasonable. We cannot chastise a child for doing that which is contrary to our wills, if he knows no better; but when our children are taught better and know what is required of them, if they then rebel, of course, they expect to be chastised, and it is perfectly right that they should be." (Journal of Discourses, 16:110-11)

Spencer W. Kimball: "There are many many upright and faithful who live all the commandments and whose lives and prayers keep the world from destruction." (Conference Report, April 1971)

Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet: "One of the signs of moral decay, of apostasy and corruption within a society, is an emphasis on technicalities of law. This comes about when, in order to advance their cause, people seek to play the letter against the spirit of the law and in effect to legalize chicanery. Among the pure in heart God's laws are etched on the soul; they are found written in the countenances and inscribed on the inward parts. Among the perverse, however, law is a means of accomplishing the manipulation of others. Both anciently and in our own day, lawyers who seek to uphold the law, who strive to bring the lawless to account, who earnestly endeavor to protect the rights of all-these perform a valuable and appreciated service in society. On the other hand, when lawyers undertake to generate business for themselves by encouraging litigation



Alma, Amulek & Zeezrom

in instances when patience and long-suffering would be more appropriate; when they cover up the truth; when their manipulations result in the guilty not being brought to justice, thereby penalizing and punishing the innocent; and when they employ the witchery of words or the sophistry of speech to deceive the unwary or the trusting-when they do such things they have become pawns in the hand of the Father of all lies. They have sold their souls. Amulek stated the matter simply: 'The foundation of the destruction of this people is beginning to be laid by the unrighteousness of your lawyers and your judges.'" (Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon, 3: 72)

President Harold B. Lee: "Note carefully that . . . our most deadly contest in life is not with human enemies which may come with guns, with army tanks, or bombing planes to destroy us, but that our eternal struggle is with enemies which strike out of darkness and may not be perceived by human senses." (Stand Ye In Holy Places, p.330)

Joseph Smith: "Many men will say, 'I will never forsake you, but will stand by you at all times.' But the moment you teach them some of the mysteries of the kingdom of God that are retained in the heavens and are to be revealed to the children of men when they are prepared for them they will be the first to stone you and put you to death." (Teachings, p309)

Joseph Smith: "I could explain a hundred fold more than I ever of the glories of the kingdoms manifested to me in the vision, were I permitted, and were the people prepared to receive them. The Lord deals with this people as a tender parent with a child, communicating light and intelligence and the knowledge of his ways as they can bear it." (Teachings, p304)

Next Week's Reading Assignment  
Alma 13–16