



The Gospel Doctrine Class



Doctrine & Covenants - Lesson 11

The Field Is White Already to Harvest

“For behold, the field is white already to harvest; and it is the eleventh hour, and the last time that I shall call laborers into my vineyard.” (D&C 33:3)

D&C 4, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 31, 33, 75

A study of this lesson will help us resolve to strengthen the kingdom of God through diligent service, particularly by sharing the gospel through missionary work.

President Joseph Fielding Smith on D&C 4: "This revelation is very short, only seven verses, but it contains sufficient counsel and instruction for a life-time study. No one has yet mastered it. It was not intended as a personal revelation to Joseph Smith, but to be of benefit to all who desire to embark in the service of God. It is a revelation to each member of the Church, especially to all who hold the Priesthood. Perhaps there is no other revelation in all our scriptures that embodies greater instruction pertaining to the manner of qualification of members of the Church for the service of God, and in such condensed form than this revelation. It is as broad, as high and as deep as eternity. No elder of the Church is qualified to teach in the Church, or carry the message of Salvation to the world, until he has absorbed, in part at least, this heaven-sent instruction." (Church History & Modern Revelation, p33)

Richard O. Cowen: "The Lord has compared his work on earth to harvesting crops in a field or a vineyard (see Matthew 9:37-38; John 4:35-36). The heads of grain in a field take on a white color when they are ready to be harvested. The field is not 'all ready to harvest' but is 'already to harvest'—that is, the harvest is not just about to begin but is now in progress. Hence our need to get involved is urgent." (Answers To Your Questions About the Doctrine & Covenants, p9)

Elder Henry B. Eyring: "It's easy to say, 'The time isn't right.' But there is danger in procrastination. Years ago I worked for a man in California. He hired me; he was kind to me; he seemed to regard me highly. I may have been the only Latter-day Saint he ever knew well. I don't know all the reasons I found to wait for a better moment to talk with him about the gospel. I just remember my feeling of sorrow when I learned, after he had retired and I lived far away, that he

and his wife had been killed in a late-night drive to their home in Carmel, California. He loved his wife. He loved his children. He had loved his parents. He loved his grandchildren, and he will love their children and will want to be with them forever.

"Now, I don't know how the crowds will be handled in the world to come. But I suppose that I will meet him, that he will look into my eyes, and that I will see in them the question, 'Hal, you knew. Why didn't you tell me?'" (Ensign, Nov 1998, p33)

President George Albert Smith: "It is not necessary for you to be called to go into the mission field in order to proclaim the truth. Begin on the man who lives next door by inspiring confidence in him, by inspiring love in him for you because of your righteousness, and your missionary work has already begun." (Conference Report, Oct 1916)

Elder M. Russell Ballard: "Perhaps more importantly, however, we should seek at all times to purify ourselves and to lead such worthy lives that the Light of Christ emanates from us in all that we say and do. Our day-to-day lives should stand as immutable witness of our faith in Christ." (Conference Report, Apr 2000)

Perhaps today there are loving words
Which Jesus would have me speak;
There may be now in the paths of sin
Some wand'rer whom I should seek.
O Savior, if thou wilt be my guide,
Tho dark and rugged the way,
My voice shall echo the message sweet:
I'll say what you want me to say.
(Hymn 270)

Next Week's Reading Assignment

Doctrine and Covenants 29:1–8; 33:3–7; 37; 38:24–41;
52:2–5, 42–43; 57:1–3; 110:11; Articles of Faith 1:10;
Our Heritage, pages 16–23, 37–39