



The Gospel Doctrine Class



Doctrine & Covenants - Lesson 28

O God, Where Art Thou?

“My son, peace be unto thy soul; thine adversity and thine afflictions shall be but a small moment; And then, if thou endure it well, God shall exalt thee on high; thou shalt triumph over all thy foes.” (D&C121:7-8)

D&C 121:1–33; 122

A study of this lesson will help us better endure adversity by turning to the Savior.

President Joseph Fielding Smith: "After the mock trial in Richmond, Joseph Smith and his five companions were imprisoned in Liberty, Clay County, for a period of six months. Here they suffered, during that time, many untold hardships. Much of the time they were bound in chains. Their food was often not fit to eat, and never wholesome or prepared with the thought of proper nourishment. Several times poison was administered to them in their food, which made them sick nigh unto death, and only the promised blessings of the Lord saved them. Their bed was on the floor, or on the flat side of a hewn white oak log, and in this manner they were forced to suffer." (Essentials in Church History, p210)

Elder B.H. Roberts: "Such outgivings as these made Liberty jail, for a time, a center of instruction. The eyes of the saints were turned to it as the place whence would come encouragement, counsel—the word of the Lord. It was more temple than prison, so long as the Prophet was there. It was a place of meditation and prayer. A temple, first of all, is a place of prayer; and prayer is communion with God. It is the 'infinite in man seeking the infinite in God.' Where they find each other, there is holy sanctuary—a temple. Joseph Smith sought God in this rude prison, and found him. Out of the midst of his tribulations he called upon God in passionate earnestness." (CHC, p526)

Elder Neal A. Maxwell: "The members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who experience mocking of temple rituals, ridicule of the Book of Mormon, and attempted belittling of the Prophet Joseph Smith can learn from the prison-temple how adversity has its uses. Though it is regrettable that such should come, efforts to weaken the Church will, ironically, only end up by strengthening faithful members and heightening their appreciation for temples, scriptures, and prophets." (But For A Small Moment, p4)

Elder Orson Pratt: "There is the reason. It is for our development, our purification, our growth, our education and advancement, that we buffet the fierce waves of sorrow and misfortune; and we shall be all the stronger and better when we have swum the flood and stand upon the farther shore. . . ." (Latter-day Prophets, 4:228)

Elder Orson F. Whitney: "From time to time the Lord will bring trials and vicissitudes upon His people to sift and purify them as wheat. The chaff will eventually all be blown away and nothing but the wheat remain. In every change that has come, God has had in view the development, growth and purification of His people." (Collected Discourses, Volume 1)

President Marion G. Romney: "I have seen the remorse and despair in the lives of men who, in the hour of trial, have cursed God and died spiritually. And I have seen people rise to great heights from what seemed to be unbearable burdens.

"Finally, I have sought the Lord in my own extremities and learned for myself that my soul has made its greatest growth as I have been driven to my knees by adversity and affliction." (CR, Oct 1969)

Joseph Smith: "I am like a huge, rough stone rolling down from a high mountain; and the only polishing I get is when some corner gets rubbed off by coming in contact with something else, striking with accelerated force against religious bigotry, priestcraft, lawyer-craft, doctor-craft, lying editors, suborned judges and jurors, and the authority of perjured executives, backed by mobs, blasphemers, licentious and corrupt men and women—all hell knocking off a corner here and a corner there. Thus I will become a smooth and polished shaft in the quiver of the Almighty." (HC, 5:401)

Next Week's Reading Assignment

D&C 124:1–21, 87–90, 97–110; 126

Our Heritage, pages 51–52, 55–58, 61–62