



The Gospel Doctrine Class



Doctrine & Covenants - Lesson 29

Building the Kingdom of God

“And let the name of that house be called Nauvoo House; and let it be a delightful habitation for man, and a resting-place for the weary traveler, that he may contemplate the glory of Zion” (D&C 124:60)

D&C 124:1–21, 87–90, 97–110; 126

A study of this lesson will teach us about how the early Saints worked to build the kingdom of God in Nauvoo and to encourage us to follow their example.

Heber C. Kimball wrote about his de-parture for his mission to England: "Charles Hubbard sent his boy with a wagon and span of horses to my house; our trunks were put into the wagon by some brethren; I went to my bed and shook hands with my wife who was then shaking with a chill, having two children lying sick by her side; I embraced her and my children, and bade them farewell. My only well child was little Heber P., and it was with difficulty he could carry a couple of quarts of water at a time, to assist in quenching their thirst.

"It was with difficulty we got into the wagon, and started down the hill about ten rods; it appeared to me as though my very inmost parts would melt within me at leaving my family in such a condition, as it were almost in the arms of death. I felt as though I could not endure it. I asked the teamster to stop, and said to Brother Brigham, 'This is pretty tough, isn't it; let's rise up and give them a cheer.' We arose, and swinging our hats three times over our heads, shouted: 'Hurrah, hurrah for Israel.' Vilate, hearing the noise, arose from her bed and came to the door. She had a smile on her face. Vilate and Mary Ann Young cried out to us: 'Goodbye, God bless you.' We returned the compliment, and then told the driver to go ahead. After this I felt a spirit of joy and gratitude, having had the satisfaction of seeing my wife standing upon her feet, instead of leaving her in bed, knowing well that I should not see them again for two or three years." (Life of Heber C. Kimball, pp265-266)

Elder Bruce R. McConkie: "When these two joint Presidents of the Church sealed their testimonies with their blood, the full operation of the keys of the kingdom rested with the Twelve, and Brigham Young, the senior apostle became the ranking officer of the Church. Since the kingdom was then fully established and the two witnesses had left a binding testimony, it was no longer necessary to continue the office of Assistant President." (Mormon Doctrine, p56)

The Prophet Joseph counseled the women of the Relief Society to "provoke the brethren to good works in looking to the wants of the poor, searching after objects of charity, and in administering to their wants—[and] to assist, by correcting the morals and strengthening the virtues of the community." (Story of the Latter-day Saints, p175)

Joseph Smith: "Let this Society teach women how to behave towards their husbands, to treat them with mildness and affection. When a man is borne down with troubles, when he is perplexed with care and difficulty, if he can meet a smile instead of an argument or murmur, if he can meet with mildness, it will calm down his soul and soothe his feelings; when a mind is going to despair, it needs a solace of affection and kindness. You will receive instructions through the order of the Priesthood which God has established through the medium of those appointed to lead, guide and direct the affairs of the Church in this last dispensation; and I now turn the key in your behalf in the name of the Lord, and this Society shall rejoice, and knowledge and intelligence shall flow down from this time henceforth; this is the beginning of better days to the poor and needy, who shall be made to rejoice and pour forth blessings on your heads." (Joseph Smith and the Restoration, p507)

In 1995, when interviewed by Mike Wallace, President Hinckley made the following statement: "Women have a tremendous place in this Church. They have their own organization. It was started in 1842 by the Prophet Joseph Smith, called the Relief Society, because its initial purpose was to administer help to those in need. It has grown to be the largest women's organization in the world, with a membership of more than three million. They have their own officers, their own presidency, their own board. That reaches down to the smallest unit of the Church everywhere in the world." (Teachings of Gordon B. Hinckley, p545)

Next Week's Reading Assignment

D&C 2; 124:25–55; 127; 128;

Joseph Smith—History 1:36–39