



# The Gospel Doctrine Class



Doctrine & Covenants - Lesson 37

We Thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet

*“How thankful we ought to be . . . how thankful we are, for a prophet to counsel us in words of divine wisdom as we walk our paths in these complex and difficult times.” (Gordon B. Hinckley)*

*A study of this lesson will help us recognize the need for our living prophet, understand his roles, and more faithfully obey his counsel.*

President Gordon B. Hinckley: "How thankful we ought to be . . . how thankful we are, for a prophet to counsel us in words of divine wisdom as we walk our paths in these complex and difficult times. The solid assurance we carry in our hearts, the conviction that God will make his will known to his children through his recognized servant is the real basis of our faith and activity. We either have a prophet or we have nothing: and having a prophet, we have everything. .

"Could any people have a greater blessing than to have standing at their head one who receives and teaches the will of God concerning them? We need not look far in the world to know that 'the wisdom of the wise has perished and that the understanding of the prudent has come to naught.' That wisdom for which the world should seek is the wisdom which comes from God. The only understanding that will save the world is divine understanding." (Teachings of Gordon B. Hinckley, p500)

President Hinckley tells of visiting the Philippines in 1961 and meeting the only native Filipino member they had been able to locate. President Hinckley tells the story of this lone member: "When he was a boy he found in a garbage can an old tattered copy of the Reader's Digest. It contained a condensation of a book giving the story of the Mormon people. It spoke of Joseph Smith and described him as a prophet. The word prophet did something to that boy. Could there actually be a prophet upon the earth? he wondered. The magazine was lost, but concern over the presence of a living prophet never left him during the long, dark years of war and oppression when the Philippines were occupied. Finally the forces of liberation came, and with them the reopening of Clark Air Base. David Lagman found employment there. His supervisor, he learned, was a Mormon, an Air Force officer. He wanted to ask him if he believed in a prophet, but was afraid to do so. Finally, after much inner turmoil, he mustered the courage to inquire.

"Are you a Mormon, sir?" the young man asked. "Yes, I am," was the forthright reply. "Do you believe in a prophet, do you have a prophet in your church?" came the anxious question.

"We do have a prophet, a living prophet, who presides in this church and who teaches the will of the Lord."

"David asked the officer to tell him more, and out of that teaching

came his baptism. He was the first native elder ordained in the Philippines." (Teachings of Gordon B. Hinckley, p499)

John Taylor spoke at President Brigham Young's funeral: "The work we are engaged in is not the work of man. Joseph Smith did not originate it, neither did Brigham Young, nor the twelve nor any mortal man. It emanated from God, he is its author, his eye is over us, he is watching every movement and every transaction that transpires now, and that has transpired ever since the commencement, and will continue so to do. It is he that has been our Grand Leader, these others now departed have been our brethren, appointed to lead and guide us, under his direction, in the paths of life. And although we mourn the loss of our departed friend, a brother and a president, and although the feelings of our hearts sympathize with his family and friends yet at the same time there are principles greater and grander than any personal interest, or any individuality associated with these matters. It is a heavenly interest, the building up of Zion, the establishment of the Kingdom of God and the rolling forth of his purposes upon the earth." (Comprehensive History of the Church, 5:517-518)

President Joseph F. Smith: "There are at least three dangers that threaten the Church within, and the authorities need to awaken to the fact that the people should be warned unceasingly against them. As I see these, they are flattery of prominent men in the world, false educational ideas, and sexual impurity. But the third subject mentioned—personal purity, is perhaps of greater importance than either of the other two. We believe in one standard of morality for men and women. If purity of life is neglected, all other dangers set in upon us like the rivers of waters when the flood gates are opened." (Gospel Doctrine, p313)

Heber J. Grant: "I have felt my own lack of ability. In fact when I was called as one of the apostles I arose to my feet to say it was beyond anything I was worthy of, and as I was rising the thought came to me, 'You know as you know that you live that John Taylor is a prophet of God, and to decline this office when he had received a revelation is equivalent to repudiating the prophet.' I said, 'I will accept the office and do my best.' I remember that it was with difficulty that I took my seat without fainting." (Gospel Standards, p194)

Next Week's Reading Assignment

D&C 38:30; 42:30–31, 42; 58:26–28; 104:13–18;