



The Gospel Doctrine Class



Doctrine & Covenants - Lesson 38

In Mine Own Way

“And it is my purpose to provide for my saints, for all things are mine. But it must needs be done in mine own way; and behold this is the way that I, the Lord, have decreed to provide for my saints, that the poor shall be exalted, in that the rich are made low.” (D&C 104:15-16)

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

A study of this lesson will help us understand the principles of spiritual and temporal welfare and to commit ourselves to greater self-reliance and service to the poor and needy.

President Gordon B. Hinckley: "We feel the need to emphasize with greater clarity the obligation for members of the Church to become more independent and self-reliant, to increase personal and family responsibility, to cultivate spiritual growth, and to be more fully involved in Christian service." (Teachings of Gordon B. Hinckley, pp484-485)

President Harold B. Lee: "The time is here when every one of you must stand on your own feet. The time is here when no man and woman will endure on borrowed light. Each will have to be guided by the light within himself. If you do not have it, you will not stand." (Teachings of Harold B. Lee, p138)

President Spencer W. Kimball: "The Church from the beginning has been committed to the principle that 'the glory of God is intelligence.' (D&C 93:36.) We therefore encourage our people to study and prepare to render service with their minds and with their hands.

"Some are inclined toward formal university training, and some are inclined more toward the practical vocational training. We feel that our people should receive that kind of training which is most consistent with their interests and talents. Whether it be in the professions, the arts, or the vocations; whether it be university or vocational training, we applaud and encourage it." (Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball, p381)

President Heber J. Grant: "There is a law irrevocably decreed in heaven, upon which all blessings are predicated, and no man will get the blessing without fulfilling the law. I wish to impress upon the Latter-day Saints that we get in this life what we work for, and I want to urge every Latter-day Saint to be a worker." (Gospel Standards, p109)

President Heber J. Grant: "If there is any one thing that will

bring peace and contentment into the human heart, and into the family, it is to live within our means. And if there is any one thing that is grinding and discouraging and disheartening, it is to have debts and obligations that one cannot meet." (Ibid., p111)

President Ezra Taft Benson: "Our bishops storehouses are not intended to stock enough commodities to care for all the members of the Church. Storehouses are only established to care for the poor and the needy. For this reason, members of the Church have been instructed to personally store a year's supply of food, clothing, and, where possible, fuel. By following this counsel, most members will be prepared and able to care for themselves and their family members, and be able to share with others as may be needed." (Conference Report, Apr 1977)

President Heber J. Grant: "Our primary purpose was to set up, in so far as it might be possible, a system under which the curse of idleness would be done away with, the evils of a dole abolished, and independence, industry, thrift and self respect be once more established amongst our people. The aim of the Church is to help the people to help themselves. Work is to be re-enthroned as the ruling principle of the lives of our Church membership." (Conference Report, Oct 1936)

Elder Oaks quoted from the Leader's Guide to Welfare regarding our responsibility as members and families: "Latter-day Saints have the responsibility to provide for themselves and their families. Individual members, however, may find it necessary to receive assistance beyond that which the family can provide, in which case they may turn to the Church for help. In some instances, individual members may decide to receive assistance from other sources, including government. In all such cases, members should avoid becoming dependent upon these sources and strive to become self-reliant. Where possible, they should work in return for assistance rendered." (The Lord's Own Way, p133)

Next Week's Reading Assignment

D&C 2; 110:13–16; 138; Joseph Smith—History 1:37–39;
Our Heritage, pages 98–99, 101–2, 105–7

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