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Book of Mormon Gems of Truth: Lesson 13

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Abstract: Monthly Book of Mormon lessons for adult women (Relief Society). Each month a verse of Book of Mormon scripture is presented with accompanying quotes from General Authorities and writers of the Church.

of two widely contrasted ways of life, stand before us, the one producing love, generosity, and progress; the other resulting in hatred, selfishness, and retrogression. The one was developed by high purposes and much industry; the other with low ideals and idleness.

Questions on the Lesson

1. What principles of progress applicable to our nation, are found in the development of the Nephite civilization?
2. What is the two-fold value of work?
3. Specifically, what can we do to help build our civilization on a spiritual foundation?

Visiting Teacher Messages

Book of Mormon Gems of Truth

Lesson 13—"Yea, I Know That God Will Give Liberally to Him That Asketh. Yea, My God Will Give Me If I Ask Not Amiss" (2 Nephi 4:35)

Leone O. Jacobs

For Tuesday, February 3, 1953

Objective: To encourage praying to the Lord for guidance, and to point out that he will answer our prayers aright.

TWO conditions are required in this quotation as being necessary for receiving blessings from God: the asking of our Heavenly Father and the asking not amiss. We are advised, "Ask and it shall be given you; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matt. 7:7).

Perhaps we do not supplicate our Father in heaven for guidance and help often enough. Some may have the idea that we should ask him for help only in times of great stress or emergency. But Amulek says:

Cry unto him in your houses, yea, over all your household, both morning, mid-day, and evening. Yea, cry unto him against the power of your enemies. Yea, cry unto him against the devil, who is an enemy to all righteousness. Cry unto him over the crops of your fields, that ye may prosper in them. Cry over the flocks of your fields, that they may increase (Alma 34:21-25).

We learn from scripture that light and understanding come to the children of men after they have earnestly sought after it. The Doctrine and Covenants contains many instances which demonstrate this truth. In translating The Book of Mormon, and in setting up the organization of the Church, the Prophet Joseph Smith and the brethren aiding him, were often puzzled over some point of doctrine or some question concerning procedure. They took their problems and questions to the Lord, and the answer that was needed to go forward in the work came to them in answer to their sincere prayers.

On the other hand, we recall the unfortunate experience of Martin Harris with the 116 pages of The Book of Mormon manuscript. He pleaded with the Prophet Joseph

Smith for the privilege of taking the manuscript home to convince his wife and some skeptical friends of its authenticity. Twice the Prophet inquired of the Lord and twice the request was denied. Still Martin implored, and so insistent was he that Joseph inquired of the Lord a third time, and this time the Lord gave his consent, upon certain conditions. Martin did not live up to the conditions, however, and the manuscript was lost. The Lord was displeased, and the Urim and Thummim was taken from the Prophet, for a period of time.

The story is told of a little girl, who, for many weeks prior to Christmas, prayed constantly that she might get twelve dolls. Her parents were in very humble circumstances and knew it would be out of the question to give her twelve dolls. One doll would be all they could possibly afford. Much as they tried to persuade the child that twelve dolls were not necessary for her happiness, she steadfastly continued her prayers, and seemed confident that she would get the dolls. The mother and father became perturbed lest the little girl's faith

might be shattered when her prayers were not answered as she wished, but Christmas morning a great surprise awaited them.

When the child arose and hurried to find her presents, she looked at the one beautiful doll, snatched it up and held it closely, and talked lovingly and tenderly to it, seeming perfectly satisfied. Bewildered, the father finally asked, "It's all right, isn't it, that Heavenly Father didn't answer your prayers?" To which the little girl quickly replied, "Oh, he answered my prayers. He said 'No.'"

We, too, are little children in our relationship to our Father in heaven. Many of the demands and petitions we ask of him must be answered by "No." Not because he would withhold anything from us, if it were for our benefit, but because it would be unwise for us to have some of the things for which we ask.

The Savior is the superb example for us to follow. "O my Father," he prayed, "if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matt. 26:39).

Work Meeting—Home Management

(A Course Recommended for Use by Wards and Branches
at Work Meeting)

Lesson 5—Orderly and Convenient Storage Areas

Rhea H. Gardner

For Tuesday, February 10, 1953

AMPLE storage space is essential to order and ease in managing the home. Enough space, however, is not the only consideration. It must be the right kind of space located in a convenient place. This