



Type: Magazine Article

Book of Mormon Gems of Truth: Lesson 17

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Source: *Relief Society Magazine*, Vol. 40, No. 7 (July 1953), pp. 482-483

Published by: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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.

Like Paul the apostle and like Joseph Smith, Jacob was loyally devoted to the cause of Christ. He gave with great energy and ability a full measure of devotion to God. From the beginning of his career to the end, he encouraged his people to apply gospel principles to their lives and to reap a reward of peace and tranquility of soul. Yet, despite all this, he lived to see his people "mourn out" their days.

Suggested Readings

Smith, Joseph F.: *Gospel Doctrine*, The Deseret News Press, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1920, pp. 386-388.

Questions for Discussion

1. Why are we encouraged to seek first the kingdom of God, and then riches?
2. What premium does Jacob place on chastity?
3. Is pride one of the besetting sins of our civilization?
4. What is your impression of Jacob?

Visiting Teacher Messages

Book of Mormon Gems of Truth

Lesson 17—"But Before Ye Seek for Riches, Seek Ye for the Kingdom of God" (Jacob 2:18)

Leone O. Jacobs

For Tuesday, October 6, 1953

Objective: To point out that the pursuit of riches should be secondary to seeking the kingdom of God.

LIFE is made up of an endless series of choices and decisions. To make the decisions wisely, we must first seek the kingdom of God (the Church). It is extremely important to have the strength of character to make decisions in harmony with the kingdom of God. Such decisions will keep us constantly moving in the right direction.

As mothers we have a sacred obligation not only to see that our own lives conform to the right pattern, but to give careful direction and guidance to our children.

A young father who was asked to be assistant scoutmaster in his ward, answered, "I'm sorry, but if I am ever going to get ahead financially,

I will have to concentrate on it now. Until my business is running along smoothly, I just won't have time to devote to anything else. Perhaps later." Twenty years later he died, still having taken no part in building up the kingdom of God.

Many young people attending college decide that in order to do justice to their studies, they must temporarily give up all Church activity. They point out that after their schooling is completed, and they are launched on their careers, then they will resume their religious activities. However, service in the Church cannot be put off at will, as we might a cloak. It is not something to resume after seemingly more pressing matters are finished.

Wrong habits may be formed in less time than it takes to complete a college course. Another way of life may, by then, have become deep seated. We do not know how long we may be here on earth to prove our good intentions. Those who keep the commandments of God as they continue with their studies, are indeed wise.

The quotation, as given above, from *The Book of Mormon* continues:

After ye have obtained a hope in Christ ye shall obtain riches, if ye seek them; and ye will seek them for the intent to do good—to clothe the naked, and to feed the hungry, and to liberate the captive, and administer relief to the sick and the afflicted (Jacob 2:19).

There are many who have acquired riches, who have also kept the kingdom of God foremost in their lives. To seek riches is good as long as that ambition is secondary in one's life, and if the riches are sought with the intent to do good. Brigham Young said:

Wealth brings happiness only when used for the gospel—All the real business we have on hand is to promote our religion Men and women who are trying to make themselves happy in the possession of wealth or power will miss it, for nothing short of the gospel of the Son of God can make the inhabitants of the earth happy, and prepare them to enjoy heaven here and hereafter. . . . The question will not arise with the Lord, nor with the messengers of the Almighty, how much wealth a man has got but how has he come by his wealth and what will he do with it (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, pp. 313-315, 1946 edition).

President David O. McKay has said:

The true aim of life is seeking spiritual development, rather than seeking after wealth and worldly things.

The Lord will truly bless us if we seek his kingdom above all else. We will then be at peace with the world and ourselves. The *Doctrine and Covenants* points out "He that hath eternal life is rich" (D. & C. 11:7).

Work Meeting—Family Money Management

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

Lesson 1—Children's Spending

Rhea H. Gardner

(For Tuesday, October 13, 1953)

PARENTS desire happiness for their children. If it could be handed to them in a packet, especially at the time in life when children leave the protective influence of home and parents, it would be comparatively easy. Some parents have thought they were doing this

when they have given them money, however, money can bolster or block happiness. It bolsters by buying necessities and making it possible for some of our fondest wishes to come true. It blocks the flow of happiness when it causes worry, envy, and greed. An important rea-