

## Lesson 37: "Whosoever Will Come, Him Will I Receive" 3 Nephi 8-11

**COME** is a theme of these chapters. Look for the following in your own coming to Christ:

- ❖ (3 Nephi 9:14) **Come and you will have eternal life**
- ❖ (3 Nephi 9:20) **Come with a broken heart and a contrite spirit**
- ❖ (3 Nephi 9:22) **Come as a little child**

To these directives add one more:

- ❖ (3 Nephi 11:15) **Come one by one** (shows the personal intimate involvement of Christ with each one, His individual concern for us and our welfare)

**Elder Jeffrey R. Holland:**

" 'Come,' Christ says lovingly. 'Come, follow me.' Wherever we are going, first come and see what I do, see where and how I spend my time. Learn of me, walk with me, talk with me, believe. Listen to me pray. In turn, you will find answers to your own prayers. God will bring rest to your souls. Come, follow me." (General Conference, October 1997)

Elder Holland added these insights in *Christ and the New Covenant*:

Note the **key doctrinal elements** contained in these **eight verses from 3 Nephi 9**. Every line contains deep, divine meanings.

- :15 The heavenly voice was that of **Jesus Christ**, who declared himself to be the Son of God.
- :15 He was the **creator of the heavens, the earth**, and "all things that I them are."
- :15 He was **with the Father from the beginning**.
- :15 He is **in the Father, and the Father in him**.
- :15 **In him the Father has glorified his name**.
  
- :16 He had come to his own people (his own tribe or family), and **they had received him not**.
- :16 All the **scriptures concerning his coming were now fulfilled**.
  
- :17 To those who had received him, including the ordinances and covenants involved, he **provided a way to become the sons and daughters of God**.
- :17 He would **extend that same privilege to all** who would yet believe on his name.
- :17 **By him alone redemption comes**.
- :17 In his completed mortal ministry **the law of Moses was fulfilled**.
  
- :18 He is the **light and the life** of the world.
- :18 He is **Alpha and Omega**, the hope of our victory in the beginning of the plan and the evidence of our triumph at the end of it.
  
- :19 **All blood sacrifices and burnt offerings were to be done away**. None such would be accepted by him in the future.
  
- :20 A "**new**" **sacrifice**, the spirit of which was always to have been the motivating force behind the earlier symbolic sacrifices, is that of "**a broken heart and a contrite spirit**." These are the ultimate symbols of Christ's death, a death that came as a result of the contrition he felt for the world's sins and the broken, sorrowing heart that ruptured as he hung upon the cross.
- :20 Whoever will come to Christ with a broken heart and a contrite spirit will be **baptized with fire and with the Holy Ghost**.
  
- :21 Christ came into the world to **bring redemption and to save the world from sin**.
  
- :22 All who so **repent** and come unto him "**as a little child**" will be received, "for of such is the kingdom of God." He said, "For such I have laid down my life, and have taken it up again."

## Sacrifice and A Broken Heart and A Contrite Spirit

The matter of *a broken heart and a contrite spirit* is related to the gospel principle of sacrifice, which, with the sacrifice of the Savior, underwent a dramatic change:

President J Reuben Clark, Jr. explained it this way:

"It is an interesting reflection that up to the time of Christ, apparently, the peoples of the world worshiped with the ritual, which in reality looked forward to the sacrifice of the Son.

The sacrifice was always vicarious. Animals were, with some, sacrificed, as under the Mosaic Law, for the sins of the individual and for the sins of the people, and among other and pagan religions, human sacrifice was made for the same purpose, but it was always a vicarious sacrifice, apparently with little actual sacrifice except for the value of the animal sacrificed, but the individuals themselves, to cancel the debt, so to speak, against their lives and living in the eyes of the Almighty One. **The sinner, seemingly, in general, took on no obligation to abandon his sins, but took on only the obligation to offer sacrifice therefore**

"But under the new covenant that came in with Christ, **the sinner must offer the sacrifice out of his own life, not by offering the blood of some other creature; he must give up his sins, he must repent, he himself must make the sacrifice, and that sacrifice was calculated to reach out into the life of the sinner in the future so that he would become a better and changed man**" (*Behold the Lamb of God*, by J Reuben Clark, Jr., pp. 107-108).

In April Conference of 1995, Elder Neal A. Maxwell offered this insight:

"So it is that real, personal sacrifice never was placing an animal on the altar. Instead, **it is a willingness to put the animal in us upon the altar and letting it be consumed!** Such is the "sacrifice unto the Lord . . . of a broken heart and a contrite spirit," a prerequisite to taking up the cross, while giving "away all [our] sins" in order to "know God" (Alma 22:18), **for the denial of self precedes the full acceptance of Him.**"

Consider carefully the Christlike qualities and commitments mentioned in **3 Nephi 11:**

- ❖ Seeks to understand others and does not have the spirit of contention (v. 28-30)
- ❖ Believes in Christ (v. 33)
- ❖ Is striving to repent (v. 38)
- ❖ Has been baptized (v. 38)
- ❖ Has received the gift of the Holy Ghost (v. 35)
- ❖

President Joseph F. Smith: ( on 3 Nephi 11:27-30)

"Among the Latter-day Saints, the preaching of false doctrines disguised as truths of the gospel may be expected from people of two classes, and practically from these two only: they are:

First—**The hopelessly ignorant**, whose lack of intelligence is due to the indolence and sloth, **who make but feeble effort**, if indeed any at all, to better themselves by reading and study; those who are afflicted with a dread disease that may develop into an incurable malady—**laziness**.

Second—**The proud and self-vaunting ones, who read by the lamp of their own conceit**; who interpret by rules of their own contriving; who have become a law unto themselves, and so pose as the sole judges of their own doings. They are more dangerously ignorant than the first. **Beware of the lazy and the proud**; their infection in each case is contagious. (*Gospel Doctrine*, p. 373)