

GOSPEL DOCTRINE Lesson 26: 'Go Ye into All the World and Preach My Gospel' (D&C 112)

LESSON GOAL: To inspire us to follow the example of the Kirtland Saints who made **GREAT SACRIFICES** to share the gospel and **REMAINED STEADFAST** during times of adversity.

1. THE LORD POURED OUT GREAT BLESSING DURING THE KIRTLAND PERIOD.

Sixty-six of the 138 revelations in the D&C (47%) were received during Kirtland period in Church History. The important doctrines that were revealed in Kirtland are:

- Law of consecration—D&C 42 •Kingdoms of glory—D&C 76 •Second Coming-----D&C 45
- Law of tithing-----D&C 119 •Word of Wisdom-----D&C 89 •Priesthood-----D&C 84

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AND REVELATIONS OF THE KIRTLAND PERIOD

1830	
Autumn	The gospel first preached in the Kirtland area by Oliver Cowdery, Peter Whitmer, Jr., Parley P. Pratt, and Ziba Peterson. Sidney Rigdon, Edward Partridge, and Frederick G. Williams were among the converts as a result of this missionary journey.
December	The Church commanded to gather in Ohio (D&C 37).
1831	
January	Joseph Smith moves to Kirtland.
February	Edward Partridge called as first bishop of the Church (D&C 41).
February	The Lord revealed his law by which the Church was to be governed (D&C 42).
June	First High Priests ordained at a conference of the Church.
November	Preparations begun for the publication of the Book of Commandments.
1832	
February	Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon - vision of the degrees of glory (D&C 76).
September	Revelation on the priesthood (D&C 84).
1833	
January	School of the Prophets opened.
February	The Word of Wisdom revealed (D&C 89).
March	The First Presidency organized.
June	Work begins on the Kirtland Temple.
1834	
February	Organization of the High Council (D&C 102).
May	Zion's Camp leaves Kirtland to aid the Missouri Saints.
1835	
February	The Quorum of the Twelve organized.
February	The First Quorum of Seventy organized.
1836	
March	The Kirtland Temple dedicated (D&C 109).
April	Important priesthood keys restored in the Kirtland Temple (D&C 110).
1837	
June	Heber C. Kimball called to lead the first mission to England.

2. THE SAINTS IN KIRTLAND MADE GREAT SACRIFICES TO SHARE THE GOSPEL.

These missionaries came from all walks of life. Many of them were **married** and had **family responsibilities**. They departed in the **midst of harvests** and **during the dead of winter**, during periods of **personal prosperity** and at **times of economic depression**. A number of the elders were almost **destitute** when they entered the mission field. **The Prophet himself traveled over 15,000 miles, serving 14 short-term missions from 1831-1838 in many states and Canada.**

Below are some first-hand accounts of missionaries during the Kirtland era which come from **OUR HERITAGE: A Brief History of the Church** and the Gospel Doctrine Lesson Manual:

Zera Pulsipher: Zera Pulsipher, a convert from Ohio, joined the Church in January 1832 and recorded that shortly afterward, he "was ordained to the office of an elder." According to a family record, while working on his farm he felt impressed to leave home and begin preaching. The impulse was so strong that shortly before noon he unyoked his oxen and turned them into the pasture, then walked to the house and asked his wife for a clean shirt and a pair of socks. When she asked where he was going, he answered, "I don't know, only that I am going to preach the gospel. The Lord will show me where to go. I am going where He guides me, and I'll be gone just long enough to do the work the Lord has for me to do." Brother Pulsipher began his missionary journey after lunch. He and another missionary, **Elijah Cheney**, traveled to the small town of Richland, New York, where they began preaching in the

local school. One of the first converts baptized by Elder Pulsipher on December 31, 1833, in Richland was a young farmer named Wilford Woodruff, who would one day become one of the most successful missionaries in the history of the Church and the fourth President of the Church. Within a month's time, the two missionaries had baptized a number of people and organized a branch of the Church in Richland.

Erastus Snow: Erastus joined the Church at age fourteen, being baptized February 3, 1833. By June 1834, he was in the mission field where he diligently labored for the next four years. Describing his status at the time of his departure for a mission in western Pennsylvania, Elder Snow wrote, "I left Kirtland on foot and alone with a small suitcase containing a few Church works and a pair of socks, with five cents in my pocket, being all my worldly wealth." In June 1838, he heeded the call to go to Missouri to help build the Church in Zion. The following February, he was visiting with the Prophet and Hyrum during their incarceration at Liberty, Missouri, when an escape attempt was foiled. As a consequence, Erastus was confined along with the other brethren in the jail. Erastus served as his own lawyer and was readily acquitted. On February 12, 1849, he was called to serve as an Apostle in the Quorum of the Twelve. In addition to the numerous missions he fulfilled in the United States, he labored several years in Denmark and was responsible for the translation of the Book of Mormon and D&C into the Danish language. He died on May 27, 1888, in the seventieth year of his life, having spent close to sixty of those years in the service of the Master.

George A. Smith: When George, cousin of the Prophet, received his call to the eastern United States at age 17, he was so poor that he did not own or have the means to purchase the clothes and books he needed. Consequently, the Prophet Joseph and his brother Hyrum gave him some gray cloth, and Eliza Brown made him a coat, vest, and trousers. Brigham Young gave him a pair of shoes, his father gave him a pocket Bible, and the Prophet provided a copy of the Book of Mormon. This excerpt from his journal shows the hardships he endured:

From Freedom we walked 35 miles to Lodi; the road was very muddy, and my feet sore. We walked 10 miles the next morning and stopped for breakfast accidentally at the house of a member who made us welcome. My feet were very sore. Even though I had blisters on all my toes and one on the ball of each foot, and one of my heels was one complete blister. We preached in the evening. In the morning I proposed to Lyman Smith, my companion, to rest till my feet got well. He disagreed, so I picked up our trunk and said, "Let us be walking." The first tavern I came to I purchased a half pint of rum and poured it into my shoes. This at first made my blisters smart, but soon relieved them of pain. I repeated this application twice during the day and traveled 27 miles. In five days we were in Kirtland, making the distance of about 160 miles in that time, but Lyman gave out so that I had to carry our trunk for the last three days. My feet suffered so severely that all my toenails except two came off. When we arrived home in November, the Prophet Joseph Smith welcomed us. We had traveled on foot 1,850 miles, held 75 meetings, and baptized eight persons, conversed with and bore testimony to everybody on the way.

Parley P. Pratt: Parley was on a gospel mission when he first learned of the Church. After joining the Church, he continued his missionary efforts, but now he was armed with the truth. In April 1835, Parley was resting one evening at home in Kirtland with his wife who was ill. Elder Heber C. Kimball and others came in and blessed Parley and prophesied, "Thou shalt go to Upper Canada, even to the city of Toronto, the capital, and there thou shalt find a people prepared for the fulness of the gospel." From the things growing out of this mission, shall the fulness of the gospel spread into England, and cause a great work to be done in that land" (Autobiography of Parley P. Pratt, 110).

Parley prepared for this mission and a few days later left his home and family for Canada. At Hamilton, Parley needed to cross Lake Ontario, but had no money to pay for steamer fare. "I retired to a secret place in a forest and prayed to the Lord for money to enable me to cross the lake. I had not tarried many minutes before I was accosted by a stranger, who inquired my name and where I was going. He also asked me if I did not want some money. I said yes. He then gave me ten dollars and a letter of introduction to John Taylor, of Toronto, where I arrived the same evening." (Ibid., 114). Parley was warmly received by John Taylor in Toronto who was a class leader and itinerant preacher for the Methodist Church. John investigated the gospel through Elder Pratt and was convinced of its truth. Parley baptized John Taylor and his wife in May 1836.

3. MEMBERS OF THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE TAUGHT THOUSANDS IN ENGLAND.

In 1835 members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles were called on a mission to the eastern United States and Canada. **This is the only time in the history of the Church when all 12 members of the Quorum undertook a mission at the same time.**

The first foreign missionaries went forth to preach in Canada and Great Britain. **Notice the nature of the commandments given concerning this matter:**

D&C 38:40,41: "And again, I say unto you, I give unto you a commandment, that **every man**, both elder, priest, teacher, and also member, go to with his might, with the labor of his hands, to prepare and accomplish the things which I have commanded. And let your preaching be the warning voice, **every man** to his neighbor, in mildness and in meekness."

D&C 88:81: "Behold, I sent you out to testify and warn the people, and it becometh **every man** who hath been warned to warn his neighbor."

D&C 63:37: "And that **every man** should take righteousness in his hands and faithfulness upon his loins, and lift a warning voice unto the inhabitants of the earth; and declare both by word and by flight that desolation shall come upon the wicked."

Heber C. Kimball: On Sunday, 4 June 1837, the Prophet approached Elder Heber C. Kimball in the Kirtland Temple and said to him, "Brother Heber, the Spirit of the Lord has whispered to me: 'Let my servant Heber go to England and proclaim my Gospel, and open the door of salvation to that nation.' Then came Elder Kimball's acknowledgment of his fear. Exclaiming in self-humiliation, he said: "O, Lord, I am a man of stammering tongue, and altogether unfit for such a work; how can I go to preach in that land, which is so famed throughout Christendom for learning, knowledge and piety; the nursery of religion; and to a people whose intelligence is proverbial!" (Orson F. Whitney, Life of Heber C. Kimball [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1945], p. 104)

"While Heber C. Kimball was being set apart for his mission, Elder Orson Hyde entered the room. When he heard what was taking place, Orson was moved upon to repent, as he had been one of those involved in finding fault with the Prophet. He offered to serve as a missionary and was also set apart to go to England. **So eager was Heber C. Kimball to preach the gospel on foreign soil that as the boat approached the landing at Liverpool, England, he leaped from the boat to the dock before it was moored, proclaiming that he was the first to reach a land overseas with the message of the Restoration. Within eight months, hundreds of converts had joined the Church' many branches had been organized.**

Wilford Woodruff: (had been directed to the John Benbow farm in Herefordshire, England in 1840) said: "When I arose to speak, a man entered the door and informed me that he was a constable, and had been sent by the rector of the parish with a warrant to arrest me for preaching to the people. I told him that I had a license for preaching the gospel to the people, and asked if he would take a chair beside me. For an hour and a quarter I preached the first principles of the everlasting gospel. The power and spirit of God rested upon me, and the people were convinced. At the close of the meeting, seven—four preachers and the constable--offered to be baptized. **"The first thirty days after my arrival in Herefordshire, I had baptized forty-five preachers and one hundred and sixty members of the United Brethren, who put into my hands one chapel and forty-five houses which were licensed according to law to preach in. This opened a wide field for labor, and enabled me to bring into the Church, through the blessings of God, over eighteen hundred souls during eight months, including all of the six hundred United Brethren except one person"** (Richard L. Evans, "History of the Church in Great Britain," Ensign, Sept. 1971, 28).

In the revelation now called D&C 112, the Lord counseled Thomas B. Marsh, then President of the Twelve Apostles, relative to his priesthood calling. This section can be broken down into four parts:

- 1-11-the personal status of Elder Marsh
- 23-32-the Twelve's duty to the testify to the world,
- 12-22-instructions for his ministering to the Twelve
- 33-34-admonition/reminder about the rewards of the Lord

President Harold B. Lee: "Those that served in England did so at great sacrifice. To leave their families during the financial and ecclesiastical crisis that existed in Kirtland must have been extraordinarily difficult. However, **the Lord rewarded them with remarkable success.** They baptized between 7,000 and 8,000 converts and established many congregations, as well as published 5,000 copies of the Book of Mormon as well as thousands of hymnbooks, tracts and copies of the Millennial Star . **Directly through their ministry 1,000 new members immigrated to America.**" (Conference Report , April 1960, 108)

4. MANY SAINTS IN KIRTLAND REMAINED VALIANT DESPITE PERSECUTION.

While living in Kirtland, Brigham Young was in a meeting where a group of apostates, including some prominent Church leaders, were plotting to depose the Prophet Joseph Smith and put someone else in his place.

Brigham Young said of this experience: "I rose up, and in a plain and forcible manner told them that Joseph was a Prophet, and I knew it, and that they might rail and slander him as much as they pleased; **they could not destroy the appointment of the Prophet of God,** they could only destroy their own authority, cut the thread that bound them to the Prophet and to God, and sink themselves to hell. Many were highly enraged at my decided opposition to their measures. ... **This meeting was broken up without the apostates being able to unite on any decided measures of opposition"** ("History of Brigham Young," *Deseret News*, 10 Feb. 1858, 386).

The number of converts in Britain that migrated to Nauvoo between 1840 and 1846 was 4,733.

D&C 98:14,15: Therefore, be not afraid of your enemies, for I have decreed in my heart, saith the Lord, that I will prove you in all things, whether you will abide in my covenant, even unto death, that you may be found worthy. **For if ye will not abide in my covenant ye are not worthy of me.**

5. WE MUST FOLLOW THE SAINTS WHO MADE SACRIFICES TO SHARE THE GOSPEL.

Phillip Allred: "It is interesting to note that the Lord refers to His name no less than **ten times** in D&C 112. . . So, if the Lord is directing his Apostles to **publish his name** through their own ministry and by the ministry of "whosoever [they] shall send in my name " (112:21), then **He is really asking that knowledge of His nature and essence be taught to the world. . . Conceptions of interrupting the contented lives of neighbors and acquaintances with "our brand of Christianity" miss the point.** If I can see that further progress toward and full development of a Christ-like nature is only available through full participation in the Lord's Church with its truth and authorized ordinances, then I can see through the mists of my own fears / reservations toward "missionary work" (Meridian Magazine).

IF THE EARLY SAINTS COULD SACRIFICE TO DO THIS WORK, SO CAN WE.

- We must not wait until it is **easy**; we must wait only until it is **possible**.
 - We too can **sacrifice our comfort, our fear, our reluctance**.
 - We have three options related to missionary service: **1) Be missionaries, 2) prepare missionaries, including ourselves, and 3) support missionaries.**
What sacrifices have you made or are you willing to make in each of these areas?
- (1) **Are you willing to be missionaries among your family, friends, neighborhoods, and acquaintances?**
- **Pray** that the missionary opportunity you want is already being prepared in the heart of someone who longs for and looks for what you have.
 - **Pray** that they will find you, and then be alert.
- (2) **What can you sacrifice to prepare missionaries?**
- **Sacrifice time each day to study** the doctrine and teachings of the scriptures.
 - **Sacrifice time to talk to you sons** and their friends about this great work.
- (3) **Missionaries need support.**
- **Missionaries need Books of Mormon** for investigators.
 - They also need **financial support**.
 - Missionaries need the **support of letters and love**. Have they felt your love and prayers in letters?

Phillip Allred: If I allow myself to **think of the Lord's essence/nature** every time I hear or see the Lord's name (in prayers, in ordinances, in the scriptures, in Church meetings), **then I will be more able to pursue attaining His nature myself — being constantly reminded of it.** The Lord warned the early members of the Church against "profess[ing] to know my name and ... not know[ing] me" (D&C112:26)

- Am I being inspired by the fact that **without His gospel** none have hope of ever becoming like Him?
- When I excuse myself because of my **worries and fear**, I am not following the Savior's selfless example.
- **If I am unwilling to bring our Father's plan of personal progression and eternal salvation to my brothers and sisters, then can I really consider myself a "true follower of his Son, Jesus Christ"?**

Elder James E. Faust: "You must know that **Lucifer will oppose you, and be prepared for this opposition.** Do not be surprised. He wants you to fail. **Discouragement is one of the Devil's tools.** Have courage and go forward. Recognize that the gospel has been preached with some **pain and sorrow** from the very beginning of time. **Do not expect that your experience will be otherwise"** (*Ensign*, May 1996, 40).

President Henry B. Eyring: (He outlined three basic things that will more effectively help others to come unto Christ.) **"Love always comes first.** A single act of kindness will seldom be enough ... Second, **we will need to be better examples** of what we invite others to do ... The third thing we must do better is **to invite with testimony** . Love and example will open the way. But we still have to **open our mouths** and bear testimony" (*Ensign* , Nov. 1998, 33).

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland: These **people are not lifeless objects** disguised as a baptismal statistic. They are children of God, our brothers and sisters, and **they need what we have.** Be genuine ... If we listen with love , we won't need to wonder what to say. It will be given to us-by the Spirit and by our friends ... **Above all else we can live the gospel.** Surely there is no more powerful missionary message we can send to this world than the example of a loving and happy Latter-day Saint life ... **Asking every member to be a missionary is not nearly as crucial as asking every member to be a member!** When the Lord delivers this person to your view, just chat about anything. You can't miss. You don't have to have a prescribed missionary message. Your faith, your happiness, the very look on your face is enough to quicken the honest in heart" (*Ensign* May 2001, 15).

President Henry B. Eyring: "At some moment in the world to come, **everyone you will ever meet will know what you know now.** They will know that the only way to live forever in association with our families and in the presence of our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, was to choose to enter into the gate by baptism at the hands of those with authority from God. They will know that the only way families can be together forever is to accept and keep sacred covenants offered in the temples of God on this earth. **And they will know that you knew.** And they will remember whether you offered them what someone had offered you" (*Ensign* , Nov. 1998, 33).