

D&C Lesson 26: 'Go Ye into All the World and Preach My Gospel'

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 |
| •Law of tithing-----D&C 119 | •Word of Wisdom-----D&C 89 |
| •Second Coming-----D&C 45 | •Priesthood-----D&C 84 |

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

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

"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 38:40,41)

"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." (D&C 63:37)

"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 88:81)

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

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
- 12-22-instructions for his ministering to the Twelve
- 23-32-the Twelve's duty to testify to the world,
- 33-34-further admonition and a reminder about the rewards the Lord will bring at his coming

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).

5. WE MUST FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF 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 Section 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."

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 in your own neighborhoods and among your family, friends, 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&C 112:26)

- Am I being inspired by the fact that **without His gospel** none have hope of ever becoming like Him?
- At times, I allow myself to get preoccupied in my own **worries and fears**. If I do, then I am keeping myself from following the Savior who set the selfless example.
- **Christ condescended** to mortality from his premortal throne to accomplish the atonement, which required the incomprehensible sacrifice of his life and death and resurrection. This also required sacrifice of His time, his comfort, his proximity to Heavenly Father.
- **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!** 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).