

Lesson 5: Mosiah 5-7

Notes: In our last lesson King Benjamin delivered the words of an angel announcing the good news of a coming Savior of mankind, and at the same time, the reality of a final judgment day, giving his hearers good reason to appreciate a plan that makes repentance possible. His audience was moved to cry out, "Oh, have mercy, and apply the atoning blood of Christ to us!" They were visited of the Spirit, forgiven of their sins and received a new birth because of the Holy Ghost which came to dwell in them. King Benjamin went on to tell them how to live so that they might retain these feelings and spiritual gifts in their lives.

First Reading: Mosiah 5:1-15

1. The people refer to God as "the Lord God Omnipotent." This word means "omni"-all + "potent"-powerful, i.e., all-powerful. There is a great interchange in Genesis when Abraham is told that he and Sarah will have a child. Sarah laughs, and the Lord says, "Why did Sarah laugh? Is anything too hard for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:14) Name something the Lord has done in your life (your own or your family's) that showed his omnipotence.

2. What is harder than to truly change the human heart? Only God is powerful enough to do that.
A. What do the people say to express that they have been deeply changed by their encounter with the Spirit of God?

B. Do you think that the way they felt when they were "on the mountaintop," so to speak, of spiritual experience, is the way that they felt every day for the rest of their lives? Explain your answer.

C. Do you see any evidence in the verses of this chapter that King Benjamin knew they would have to do certain things to retain the feelings they felt at that moment? List the advice/warnings he gives to help them stay the course.

3. The first thing that Benjamin has the people do is make a *covenant* of obedience. How does making a covenant to obey God help a person live righteously? In other words, how is covenanting with God different than just resolving in yourself to be better (like a New Year's resolution)?

4. A. Mosiah Chapter 5 talks about the spiritual "Fatherhood" of Christ, by which He becomes the Father of the new life we have through his atoning blood, and we become his sons and daughters. Read Ephesians 1:5. What does the apostle Paul call this new relationship?

B. When a child is legally adopted, what new name do they receive?

C. What does it mean to you to "take upon yourself the name of Christ"?

5. King Benjamin also says in verse 8 that by taking this name, which symbolizes the new relationship entered into, they are "made free, and there is no other head whereby ye can be made free." What do you think he means? Free from what?

6. A. Notice in King Benjamin's warning to the people in verse 11 that transgression is dangerous because through it the name [of Christ] could be "blotted out of your hearts." He is not warning them that God will blot their names out of His book, but that they will blot out Christ's name from their own hearts. How could people do this, that is, blot Christ's name from their hearts?

7. Read closely verses 12 and 13. What sort of relationship between Christ and those who have covenanted with Him is implied by these verses?

Second Reading: Mosiah 6:1-7

8. Why do you think it was important for King Benjamin to take the names of those who made the covenant? And how does the same principle apply in our time?

9. King Benjamin appointed priests to teach the people and "stir them up in remembrance of the oath that they had made." What things work to stir you up in remembrance of the oath which you have made?

Third Reading: Mosiah 7:1-15

Notes: We now start into a part of Book of Mormon that some find confusing because the record jumps between different groups of people and different parts of the land and even back and forth in time. The land that is called in these chapters Lehi-Nephi refers to the place where Lehi's family first landed. By the time of King Benjamin and his son Mosiah, it is all Lamanite territory. Two and a half generations before King Benjamin's speech, a man named Zeniff had left Zarahemla to lead a group back to Lehi-Nephi.

10. Read Omni 1:27-29. What happened to the first group that attempted a return to Lehi-Nephi?

11. A. King Mosiah sends 16 men to see what became of their brethren that had left Zarahemla many years before. Who was leading the group?

B. When this man is captured by the king's guards, who does the king say he (the king) is?

C. Does he seem to you to be a good king? Explain.

12. A. What grievous situation do the Nephites of King Limhi find themselves in?

13. A. If we "liken" the scriptures unto ourselves, we can find a spiritual application to this situation of bondage and taxation to an evil ruler. Name some bondages that basically good people can find themselves in: that is, what are situations, such as debt, that could have a "hold" on a Latter-day Saint woman so that she is not free to just walk away from it.

B. What "taxes" do we end up paying in our lives when we are in such bondage?

Fourth Reading: Mosiah 7:16-33

14. Limhi calls his people together to the temple to give them the good news of Ammon and his men's arrival. What is his message to his people about how they will get out of their bondage?

15. In verse 20, Limhi says that their bondage has come because of their sins. In verses 21 and 22 he describes how King Laman tricked them into becoming enslaved to the Lamanites.

A. How did the Lamanite king succeed in getting Zeniff and his followers to be their servants? How did he trick them?

B. How can you take this as a metaphor for how Satan tricks people into being slaves to him and his purposes? What similarities can you draw out of the story?

16. Note that in verse 21, Limhi says that his grandfather Zeniff, was "over-zealous" in his desire to inherit the land of his fathers. What are the dangers to us of being "over-zealous" about our own desires for something?

17. Limhi states a spiritual principle in verse 29. Reword this principle in terms that apply to your own life.

18. What is the way out of bondage as expressed at the end of this chapter? Do you think this principle would work in our lives?