

Come Follow Me Podcast
Elo Viz production
Week 18
Mosiah 4-6

Often we see people leave the church because they had a bad experience with a religious person. What we sometimes forget is that Jesus also had a bad experience with religious people. In fact they killed him. You can always count on human beings to let you down, but Jesus will never let you down. That is what I love about these next few chapters that we are going to be studying this week. We see literally one of the best mortal leaders in all of history. King Benjamin does what all leaders should do, direct his people to Christ. We are so lucky to have this record, we are also so lucky to have people like King Benjamin leading this church. If you were paying attention to this last general conference we saw a few examples of this type of leadership. I'll share a couple of examples later on if we have time.

Starting in verse one of chapter four we see the change of heart the people experienced: "And now, it came to pass that when king Benjamin had made an end of speaking the words which had been delivered unto him by the **angel** of the Lord, that he cast his eyes round about on the multitude, and behold they had **fallen** to the earth, for the **fear** of the Lord had come upon them."

There is a footnote that goes along with the word "fear" in this verse. If we follow those verses it directs us to the understanding that this word fear is actually referring to a reverence for God. Changing this verse to read "they had **fallen** to the earth, for the [reverence] of the Lord had come upon them." That changes how we visualize this situation in our minds as we read it. What I find interesting is that these were not new converts. These were life time members that had been under King Benjamin's rule for a long time. They were temple going, Sunday fasting, a daily praying people that were seeking to keep God's commandments. Which is a little shocking when we read the next few verses about what they were experiencing after the King's words: "2 And they had **viewed** themselves in their own **carnal** state, even **less** than the dust of the earth. And they all cried aloud with one voice, saying: O have mercy, and apply the **atoning** blood of Christ that we may receive forgiveness of our sins, and our hearts may be **purified**; for we believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who **created** heaven and earth, and all things; who shall come down among the children of men. 3 And it came to pass that after they had spoken these words the Spirit of the Lord came upon them, and they were filled with joy, having received a **remission** of their sins, and having peace of **conscience**, because of the exceeding **faith** which they had in Jesus Christ who should come," (Mosiah 4:2-3)

As members of the church, how often do we have these kinds of feelings in our lives? I would submit to you that at least twice a year would be ideal. More often would be desirable. And weekly would be life changing. It is these kinds of feelings that make the world a better

place for all mankind. It changed them into the types of people we wish we could be. Like unto the city of Enoch. We read that they were humble: “awakened to a sense of [their] **nothingness**, and [their] worthless and fallen state” (Mosiah 4:5)

We also see that they were kind to each other: “And [had] not a **mind** to injure one another, but to live **peaceably**, and to render to every man according to that which is his due.” (Mosiah 4:13)

They were charitable: “And [they would] not suffer **children** that they go hungry, or naked; neither [would they] **suffer** that they transgress the laws of God, and fight and **quarrel** one with another. And **succor** those that stood in need of [their] succor; [and] administered of [their] substance unto him that stood in need;” (Mosiah 4:14-16)

In short: they took upon themselves the name of Christ. Which is sometimes a strange thing to comprehend. It expounds a bit on this topic but somehow can still leave us confused. Chapter five starting in verse nine it says:

9 And it shall come to pass that whosoever doeth this shall be found at the right hand of God, for he shall know the name by which he is called; for he shall be called by the name of Christ.

10 And now it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall not take upon him the name of Christ must be called by some **other** name; therefore, he findeth himself on the **left** hand of God.

11 And I would that ye should remember also, that this is the **name** that I said I should give unto you that never should be blotted out, except it be through transgression; therefore, take heed that ye do not transgress, that the name be not blotted out of your hearts.

12 I say unto you, I would that ye should remember to **retain** the name written always in your hearts, that ye are not found on the left hand of God, but that ye hear and know the voice by which ye shall be called, and also, the name by which he shall call you.” (Mosiah 5:9-12)

I know, right? I find that when I hear things like this I feel like I kinda get what it is saying but not exactly sure so I usually brush it aside and file it away into the “someday i’ll understand” file. This is what I did, at least until this last conference when I saw an example of this and I began to understand what it was they were talking about. This was also the same man that made me realize that we still do have leaders like King Benjamin around us that encourage us to follow Christ and to be the kind of people that we read about in this record.

In the opening talk of General Conference April 2024 Elder Jeffery R. Holland said:

“I couldn’t help but feel I was receiving my own personal version of a revelation given to the Twelve nearly 200 years ago:

“Thou shalt bear record of my name ... [and] send forth my word unto the ends of the earth. ...

“... Morning by morning; and day after day let thy warning voice go forth; and when the night cometh let not the inhabitants of the earth slumber, because of thy speech. ...

“Arise[,] ... take up your cross, [and] follow me.”¹

My beloved sisters and brothers, since that experience, I have tried to take up my cross more earnestly, with more resolve to find where I can raise an apostolic voice of both warmth and warning in the morning, during the day, and into the night.”

He then goes on to speak about...yup, you guessed it: Personal revelation. This is what he says: “Brothers and sisters, I testify that God hears *every* prayer we offer and responds to each of them according to the path He has outlined for our perfection. I recognize that at roughly the same time so many were praying for the restoration of my health, an equal number—including me—were praying for the restoration of my wife’s health. I testify that both of those prayers were heard *and* answered by a divinely compassionate Heavenly Father, even if the prayers for Pat were *not* answered the way I asked. It is for reasons known only to God why prayers are answered differently than we hope—but I promise you they *are* heard and they *are* answered according to His unfailing love and cosmic timetable.

If we “ask not amiss,” there are no limits to when, where, or about what we should pray. According to the revelations, we are to “pray always.” We are to pray, Amulek said, for “those who are around you,” with the belief that the “fervent prayer of a righteous [people] availeth much.” Our prayers ought to be vocal when we have the privacy to so offer them. If that is not practical, they should be carried as silent utterances in our heart. We sing that prayers are “motion[s] of a hidden fire,” always to be offered, according to the Savior Himself, to God the Eternal Father in the name of His Only Begotten Son.”

He then says this powerful statement: “My beloved friends, our prayers are our sweetest hour, our most “sincere desire,” our simplest, purest form of worship. We should pray individually, in our families, and in congregations of all sizes. We are to employ prayer as a shield against temptation, and if there be any time we feel *not* to pray, we

can be sure that hesitancy does *not* come from God, who yearns to communicate with His children at any and all times. Indeed, some efforts to keep us from praying come directly from the adversary. When we don't know how or exactly for what to pray, we should begin, and continue, until the Holy Spirit guides us into the prayer we should be offering. This approach may be the one we have to invoke when praying for our enemies and those who spitefully use us."

As we hear this prophet of God teach us about prayer we can't help but feel the pull of the Spirit inviting us to do as he is directing. To really learn how to pray and commune with God. It is essential to our eternal salvation and the happiness we seek in this life and the life to come. The most important relationship we can have in our lives is the one with a loving, gracious Heavenly Father. If you have not received personal revelation this week. I plead with you to drop everything you are doing and seek the face of God. Nothing in our lives is as important as this. Everything we do should be consecrated by God in our earnest efforts to do His will. When we wake up in the morning speaking to God and listening for His direction should be the first thing we do. As we venture out into the world, heeding His directions and following His promptings should be a daily quest. And when we lay our heads down at night our ever increasing understanding souls should raise our voices high in gratitude for a life full of His grace and mercy at the hand of our all powerful Creator who desperately wants a relationship with you, his child.

I join my testimony with that of President Holland as he closes his talk with this great doctrine:

"I bear witness that when Christ comes, He needs to recognize us—not as nominal members listed on a faded baptismal record but as thoroughly committed, faithfully believing, covenant-keeping disciples. This is an urgent matter for all of us, lest we ever hear with devastating regret: "I never knew you," or, as Joseph Smith translated that phrase, "[You] never knew me."

Brothers and sisters, as we repent of our sins and come boldly to the "throne of grace," leaving before Him there our alms and our heartfelt supplications, we will find mercy and compassion and forgiveness at the benevolent hands of our Eternal Father and His obedient, perfectly pure Son. Then, with Job and all the refined faithful, we will behold a world "too wonderful" to understand. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen."

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2024/04/13holland?lang=eng>