

Come Follow Me Podcast
Elo Viz Production
Week 22
Mosiah 25-28

This last week I went to dinner with an atheist. I know it sounds strange, but I actually enjoy situations like that. By nature I am a very curious person. This gentleman and myself could not be more different in our beliefs. And of course we got on the subject of religion. It has always been fascinating to me why people believe the way that they do. There seems to be some sort of story or trail that led them to a belief. Here is an example.

Growing up we had seven kids in my family. My father worked very hard to support our large family. We were not rich by any stretch of the imagination. We always seemed to get by but I could tell that finances were a sensitive subject between my parents. Both of their families were similar, lots of kids and not very well to do. As I grew up one of the beliefs in my home was that fish was gross. We never ate it. I found out later on that my Dad didn't mind some kinds of fish but my mom hated the smell and the taste and so we never had fish growing up. Up until the age of about 25 if you would have asked me if I wanted some fish I would probably have given you a weird look and responded with: no thank you, fish is disgusting. Even though I had very little experience with it. It wasn't until I met this man that was very influential in my life that my mind or my belief started to change about fish. He would take me out to lunch or dinner and would simply ask that I try it. So I did, and it turns out that what I believed about fish was not correct. That it actually was good and I really did like it. Fast forward a few more years and another influential man in my life introduced me to sushi. Statistically speaking about half of you just cringed in disgust when I mentioned sushi. However, according to Pei Wei research 32% of Americans have never even tried sushi.

<https://www.keltonglobal.com/recognition/32-of-americans-never-tried-sushi-pei-wei-survey-says/>

I would still be one of those people had it not been for others with a different belief than myself that were willing to help me open my mind to the possibility that I may in fact like something I didn't believe I would like. As I have thought about this over the years, and even tried to convince my parents that sushi and even fish in general is pretty good. (I still do think they are convinced.) I have come to at least one conclusion. I think that because of the way we grew up that our economical status might have had some influence about the types of food we ate. Meaning that because we did not have much disposable income that we tended to eat more conservative foods. The kinds you can buy in bulk., instead of fine delicacies such as sushi. Anyone that has had to foot the bill at a nice sushi place can attest that sushi is not cheap.

I know you must be wondering what this has to do with the gospel of Jesus Christ. And I promise that it will become clear very soon.

Back in 2015 a gentleman by the name of Mohammed Qahtani was a toast masters champion because of a speech he gave titled "the power of words". There will be a link to the youtube

video in the transcript and also I will leave it in the podcast subject. It is one of those life changing messages, and I strongly encourage you to watch it.

In his speech he says:

“Words said and articulated in the right way can change someone's mind, they can alter someone's belief. You have the power to bring someone from the slums of life and make a successful person out of them, or destroy someone's happiness using only your words. A simple choice of words can be the difference between someone accepting or denying your message. You can have a very beautiful thing to say but say it in the wrong words the message will never get across. But more importantly if you are a person that is a role model, if you are a person that is being admired, anything you say could be believed. Anything you utter could be taken as truth.

My friend Nassa. He loved his father, idolized his father. He would do anything to make him happy. But his father was the kind of person that was not easy to impress. Year after year Nassa tried and his father was like “meah”. The first year in college Nassa got straight “A's”. and he thought to himself: “this is it, this is what will finally make my dad proud”. He picked up the phone and called his dad: “Dad, I got straight A's. Are you proud? Please tell me you are proud, father.” his father responded with: “hey listen son, I'll have to call you back, Im busy.”....Im busy. This was the single sentence that broke the camel's back. Nassa started drinking, doing drugs, hanging out with the wrong crowd. He asked his friend: Nassa, why? Why are you throwing your life away? Listen to what he says: “If the one person that I care about the most doesnt care then why should I?”

One evening Mohammed got the phone call, Nassa is in the emergency room, drug overdose. He rushed to the hospital just in time to see him pass on to the next life. And this is his message; It is clear that a single word could have saved this life, words have power, words are power. You can change a life, inspire a nation, and make this world a beautiful place. Your mouth can spit venom or it can mend a broken soul”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqq1roF4C8s&t=479s>

I believe that he is absolutely right. This is what we see in this story we are reading about this week. With this message in your mind listen to what is happening to Mosiah's people:

“1 Now it came to pass that there were many of the rising generation that could not understand the **words** of king Benjamin, being little children at the time he spake unto his people; and they did **not believe** the tradition of their fathers.

2 They did not believe what had been said concerning the resurrection of the dead, neither did they believe concerning the coming of Christ.

3 And now because of their **unbelief** they could not **understand** the word of God; and their hearts were hardened.

6 For it came to pass that they did **deceive** many with their **flattering** words, who were in the church, and did cause them to commit many sins.”(Mosiah 26:1-3,6)

Isn't this what we are seeing happening today in our world? The words of the adversary are becoming so cunning that the rising generation is choosing not to believe what is right in front of them. The miracles that are all around us are being ignored. The words of God are losing their power in the hearts of those that we love the most. Why? Because we have not become skilled enough to combat the cunning arguments of the opposition that is preaching to our children that God is not real. These philosophers and professors that our children look up to are influencing the beliefs of our children and destroying their faith in God.

It is critical at this moment that we do something about it. That we not only teach our children and show them the wondrous hand of God in our lives and in theirs, but that we also live a life that gives them an example of the blessings that a faith filled life can produce. They must be able to see clearly that a life devoted to God is the only way to achieve the joyful life that they seek. Because the argument from the other side will compel them to ignore God and seek for joy in all the wrong places.

When my atheist friend that I was at dinner with asked me what my favorite bible story was, I told him hands down, this was it:

When these young people started to rebel against the church and God it tells us that they were not only committing sin but that they were also committing crimes. This is in Mosiah 26 verse 11:

“11 And he said unto the king: Behold, here are many whom we have brought before thee, who are accused of their brethren; yea, and they have been taken in divers iniquities. And they do not repent of their iniquities; therefore we have brought them before thee, that thou mayest judge them according to their crimes.”

In this time there were two governing authorities; the King, who was Mosiah, and Alma who was the prophet. So the believers take these troubled youth to the prophet Alma and he is charged with the task to judge and punish them. But it says that: “Alma was troubled in his spirit, and he caused that they should be brought before the king.” (Mosiah 26:10)

He did not want to be responsible for the condemnation or accusation of these kids, so he sends them to the King. But the King is just as troubled and sends them back to Alma with this statement: “Behold, I judge them not; therefore I [deliver](#) them into thy hands to be judged.” (Mosiah 26:12)

Now, consider for a moment if this was today and you were in this situation. What would you do? I can tell you what I would do... hand them over. I am the best at judging others' actions. I can tell you what's what. Send them to me and I will tell you everything they did wrong and what they should do better at. Perhaps I'm a little over zealous in saying that maybe most of you

might respond the same way. And why shouldn't we. When you're that good at judging people should be lining up just to be judged by you.

That is why I love this story. Because Alma and Mosiah, the two people that had all the authority and experience in the world to judge these criminals, refused to offend God.

“13 And now the spirit of Alma was again troubled; and he went and inquired of the Lord what he should do concerning this matter, for he feared that he should do wrong in the sight of God.

14 And it came to pass that after he had poured out his whole soul to God,”(Mosiah 26:13-14)

Ok, real talk now. How many of you would take this matter so seriously that you would pour out your whole soul to God about how to handle this situation for fear that you would do wrong in the sight of God?

This tells us a lot about Alma and his relationship with Deity. You can read on your own the rest of chapter 26 about the blessings that Alma receives from his refusal to judge. But what is important to me is how his response to these rebels changed the society around them. Chapter 27 verse 7 says:

“7 And the Lord did **visit** them and **prosper** them, and they became a large and wealthy people.”

See, it was NOT important to Alma that he was right, what was important is that he handled the situation in a way that was pleasing to God. It is no wonder that a miraculous Angelic visit was granted to Alma as he prays for his wayward son.

It is clear that the words are very important in these verses. From the influence of evil to the healing of souls. Words were a huge factor in changing the beliefs on both sides. What I have found is that if we can learn first to control the words we use. The words we allow to come out of our mouths then it will become easier to control the thoughts we have and the judgements we cast on those around us. If we start with the simple step of controlling our venomous tongues then I am certain that we can change the thoughts in our minds.

Remember the words of the Judge of the universe:

“37 **Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:**” (Luke 6:37)

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.