Come Follow Me Podcast
Elo Viz Production
Week 22 - Doctrine and Covenants 51-57

Section 54 has an extensive and tragic background. The short revelation was given due to a failed attempt in missionary work. The story in short goes like this:

See church history for the full story:
https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/revelations-in-context/leman-copley-and-the-shakers?lang=eng#title1

And
https://gospeldoctrine.com/doctrine-and-covenants/sections-41-60/section-54

And as stated in the heading of section 54, "*Newel Knight and other elders had come to the Prophet asking how to proceed. The Prophet inquired of the Lord and received this revelation, which commands the members in Thompson to leave Leman Copley's farm and journey to Missouri.*"

We are not going to read the whole section but a few verses are worth reviewing. Verse 10 says:
"And again, be patient in tribulation until I come; and, behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with me, and they who have sought me early shall find rest to their souls."

What an interesting phrase: "be patient in tribulation until I come." I'm not exactly sure what that means but I do know that tribulation is a part of life and Jesus spoke about it on many occasions.

The other day I heard this super great analogy. Yes, Amber Pearce does it again. Remember the parable of the talents. Where the Master gives 1 talent to one of his servants and another servant gets 2 and another gets 5. And the one with 5 multiples it and the one with 2 also, but the one with 1 talent goes and buries it in order to keep it safe. It is such a strange parable that many of us just brush it aside and chalk it up to "someday I will understand". Well, today is that day. Amber Pearce said: What if the talents that the parable is referring to are trials or tribulations? Each trail that we have can push us to hide or bury the experience thus wasting the event, or we can take each trial and tribulation and multiply it. We can take the opportunity the Master has provided to learn and grow and become better. We then may wish to be as the servant that only receives the one talent if this is the case. But, thinking of the talents as blessings from God as we have those experiences to grow, learn, and become closer to the Master, perhaps we will hear Him says:
"Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." (Matt 25:21)

https://www.facebook.com/reel/1148332326516660/

So what kind of trail do we face in our world of comfort today? How are they different from the early saints? To me it seems like instead of being a struggle for survival it is more like a fight for attention. I was in the car the other day with my daughter and I asked her if she knew what the yellow pages were. She responded; “no idea”. I asked if you were to guess, what would you think they might be? She said, maybe something like the gold plates, something spiritual maybe. Yes, it made me feel old. But I'm really not that old. I just turned 43. I asked her to take out her phone and look at the icon on her calling app. I asked do you know why it is shaped like that? Have you ever seen a phone that looks like that? I had to explain to her that when I was a kid we didn't have cell phones, we had what was called a landline, they looked just like your phone icon. It was a phone that was attached to the wall with a long cord. And you had to call someone else's landline and hope someone would answer. When I rebuilt my first car in highschool I had to read a manual, or go down to the local Volkswagen store and talk to the old timers to figure out how to fix something. We didn't have youtube or google searches or even the internet. It wasn't until the last 2 months of my mission that we got to send emails home. Before that we had to put a letter in the mail. And it took over a month to get home.

Today, it is almost overwhelming how accessible information is. John Eldridge describes it as: We have become disciples of the internet. (chapters 1 and 2 of his book: Experiencing Jesus, Realy) Because that is where we turn for our knowledge. And he is right. If I want to know the weather today, in less than 3 seconds I can have an hour by hour detailed weather report for the next 10 days. If I see something delicious I can take a picture and google will give me a hundred different recipes to make that same dish in less than 10 seconds.

One day we are told if you want to lose weight you need to do cardio, get your heart rate over 100 beats per minute for at least 20 minutes. Then the very next day we are told. Don't do cardio, it is destroying your body and killing your joins. In fact take this pill and you'll lose weight without ever having to break a sweat. One day, whole grains are good for you. The next day, gluten is poisoning our society. It can be so confusing. Who are we to believe? Who is telling the truth? Now with AI it is getting even harder, because it can literally tell you everything you are made up of, and tailor the lie or sales tactic molded just for you to buy into and believe all of it.

So even though we all do have those large and sometimes small trials in our life, I believe that our daily struggle, our constraint battle is to keep our hearts and minds focused on the Lord, Jesus Christ. Ignoring all the lies, distractions and deceit that is so prevalent today, and be still. Be still and hear the word of the Lord.

Yesterday I sat in a coliseum with 10 thousand Christian believers. Singing, praying to and worshiping Jesus. And I couldn't help but wonder; How many here and true followers of Christ? And how many will walk out from this event and go right back to the world satan sculpted for them. Forgetting all that God has done for them and their families.

Speaking about inside the church, It seems to me like we focus so much on rules, traditions and leadership that we miss the mark. That we believe that our actions, obedience and service will get us an audience with Christ.

Remember what Jesus said:

"**21** Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.
22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." (Matt 7:21-23)

If we work on nothing else, might we work on our relationship with Jesus Christ. If you focus on that alone, then you will never be found wanting.

Of this truth I testify in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.