

Come Follow Me Podcast
Elo Viz production
Week 37
Helaman 13-16

Who doesn't love a good superhero story. Samuel the Lamanite is definitely one of those. Though a better name for this mighty man might have been appropriate than Samuel the Lamanite. He has always been one of my favorite characters in the Book of Mormon. Could you imagine the courage it took? This great man was preaching and teaching for a long time to the wicked Nephites. With little to no success. At this point in history the faithfulness of these two main groups had switched. Now it was the Lamanites that did "observe strictly to keep the commandments of God," (Helaman 13:1) and the Nephites remained in wickedness. So just as the Ammon who was sent to the Lamanites, now it is Samuel that is sent to the Nephites. But after several days they "cast him out" (Helaman 13:2). He was about to head home when "the [voice](#) of the Lord came unto him, that he should return again, and prophesy unto the people whatsoever things should come into his [heart](#)." (Helaman 13:3)

But there was a small problem, they wouldn't let him back into the city. There is a great lesson to be learned here. Sometimes I think that when things get difficult or as a missionary that no one answers the door we are quick to give up. And the reason why is because we really didn't want to do it anyways. Let's say for example that you have a prompting to go visit your neighbor, you don't really know them that well, and you don't really have a lot in common. You're sure it is going to be awkward and uncomfortable for both of you. But, as a good person that is striving to listen to the Spirit you do it anyways. You walk up to the door and lightly, oh so softly you knock, hoping that they won't hear you. You want to be obedient but your hope is that there is some divine intervention like the Angle to Abraham that will save you from this hard task you've been asked to do. When they don't answer you feel a rush of relief, as you scurry away, convincing yourself that at least you followed the prompting and you passed the test without actually having to do what you were asked to do.

See, Samuel was bold and excited to fulfill God's command as faithful as he could. No locked gate was going to keep him out. So he climbs up the wall and with his hands stretched out wide he cries with a loud prophetic voice "that the [sword](#) of justice hangeth over this people;" (Helaman 13:5)

I'm sure we are all familiar with the events that then transpired. The people hate him and start to throw stones and shoot arrows at him. All with no success. He is protected by this magic bubble, and everything they lob at him is deflected away. It is a pretty super hero-esk moment.

But here is what I find really cool about this account. He prophesies many great things that are to come including the birth of the Savior. This is Chapter 14 of Helaman verses 2-4 "2 And behold, he said unto them: Behold, I give unto you a sign; for [five](#) years more

cometh, and behold, then cometh the Son of God to redeem all those who shall believe on his name.

3 And behold, this will I give unto you for a **sign** at the time of his coming; for behold, there shall be great lights in heaven, insomuch that in the night before he cometh there shall be no darkness, insomuch that it shall appear unto man as if it was day.

4 Therefore, there shall be one **day** and a night and a day, as if it were one day and there were no night; and this shall be unto you for a sign; for ye shall know of the rising of the sun and also of its setting; therefore they shall know of a surety that there shall be two days and a night; nevertheless the night shall not be darkened; and it shall be the night before he is **born**.”

Do you realize how incredible this is? He is prophesying that in 5 years the whole world is going to change because of the birth of our God in this mortal realm. The Saviour of the world is going to come down and deliver us from our sins, pay the price for our salvation and give us the greatest example of a pure mortal life for us all to follow.

This is evidence of a truly great prophet. This is one of their primary duties is to prophesy of things to come. But here is a question to ponder? What if President Nelson told us in this next General conference that we need to get our lives in order because Jesus would be coming back in five years. Would you believe him? Would your life be any different? He is a prophet just like Samuel. He may not tell us when Jesus will return but he did say this:

“Our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, will perform some of His mightiest works between now and when He comes again. We will see miraculous indications that God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, preside over this Church in majesty and glory. In coming days, it will not be possible to survive spiritually without the guiding, directing, comforting, and constant influence of the Holy Ghost.

My beloved brothers and sisters, I plead with you to increase your spiritual capacity to receive revelation. Choose to do the spiritual work required to enjoy the gift of the Holy Ghost and hear the voice of the Spirit more frequently and more clearly.”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2018/04/revelation-for-the-church-revelation-for-our-lives?lang=eng>

That to me is just as prophetic as what Samuel told the Nephites over 2000 years ago.

But, why was it difficult for them then, and why is it difficult for us now to heed the prophecies of His holy prophets?

I think that one reason is because we are bombarded with so many false prophets that we have become numb to revelations like this and others. Today I would like to bring to light some false prophets that are very loud in our society today. False prophets that are distracting us from the preparations we need to make for the return of Jesus.

False prophets that are lying to you and trying everyday to conceive of things that are opposite from the word of God.

Hear me now: Depression, Anxiety, Addiction, pride; These are all false prophets that are telling you lies that we chose to believe over the Spirit is the Lord.

Addiction tells you that you are dependent on a substance or action that is holding you prisoner from the freedoms that God has for you. It is a lie from the adversary that you need to be saddled with this burden to survive this life.

Anxiety tells you that you need to be afraid of your future. That you can not find peace or joy in this life because there are too many things to be afraid of. Anxiety tells you life is meant to be scary and you have to live in this fear the rest of your life.

Depression tells you that you're not good enough and that this world is better off without you. All lies, spun by the adversary to lead you away from the source of truth and light.

Pride, pride tells you that you are better than everyone else and that you deserve to be worshiped by your fellow brothers and sisters because you are of a higher caliber than they are. Pride tells you that the only way to get ahead in life is to tear others around you down and step on them in order to get ahead.

The good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that Jesus overcame all of these false prophets.

John 16:33

“I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have **peace**. In the **world** ye shall have **tribulation**: but be of good **cheer**; I have **overcome** the world.”

Matthew 11:28-30

“**28** ¶ **Come** unto me, all ye that **labour** and are heavy laden, and I will give you **rest**.
29 Take my **yoke** upon you, and **learn** of me; for I am **meek** and **lowly** in **heart**: and ye shall find **rest** unto your souls.

30 For my yoke *is* **easy**, and my burden is light.”

3 Nephi 17:7:

“7 Have ye any that are sick among you? Bring them hither. Have ye any that are lame, or blind, or halt, or maimed, or leprous, or that are withered, or that are deaf, or that

are afflicted in any manner? [And I would add; any that are depressed or anxious, addicted or full of pride.] Bring them hither and I will heal them, for I have compassion upon you; my bowels are filled with mercy.”

Jesus is the way the truth and the life. Might we choose to ignore the false prophets in our lives and turn to the source of all truth and light. The one that gives peace, joy and fulfillment for each of our broken souls. This is my prayer.

In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.