

Come Follow Me Podcast
Elo Viz Production
Week 38
3rd Nephi 1-7

These are some pretty amazing chapters. So much to learn, and so much to feel as we ponder what is happening. The best news of all is that Jesus is born. Thousands of miles away in Bethlehem a humble baby is born and it changes everything. It seems like there were more that believed in the signs of His birth in the Americas than in the rest of the world.

The timeline moves pretty fast in these short chapters. Between chapter 1 and 7 it covers over 30 years. Which makes sense because the focus is on the earthly ministry of the Savior. But we still get some amazing things happening in the book of mormon.

Amidst all the wars and evil that is spreading across the land. We see a small group that is mega faithful. This is in Chapter 6 verse 13:

“13 Some were lifted up in pride, and others were exceedingly humble; some did return railing for railing, while others would receive railing and **persecution** and all manner of **afflictions**, and would not turn and **revile** again, but were humble and penitent before God.”

And then in verse 14:

“the church was broken up in all the land save it were among a few of the Lamanites who were converted unto the true faith; and **they** would not depart from it, for they were firm, and steadfast, and immovable, willing with all **diligence** to keep the commandments of the Lord.”

So we see that as things got worse as satan was leading away the people to do all manner in iniquity (3rd Nephi 6:16), to counter this growing evil God sent “**inspired** men from heaven [to], stand among the people in all the land, preaching and testifying boldly of the sins and iniquities of the people, and testifying unto them concerning the redemption which the Lord would make for his people, or in other words, the resurrection of Christ;”

One of these Inspired men was Nephi, The same Nephi that would be called as one of Jesus’s apostles when He appears in glory not too many years from this time. It says of this great man in chapter 7 verse 15 and 16:

“15 And it came to pass that **Nephi**—having been visited by angels and also the voice of the Lord, therefore having seen angels, and being eye-witness, and having had power given unto him that he might know concerning the ministry of Christ, and also

being eye-witness to their quick return from righteousness unto their wickedness and abominations;

16 Therefore, being **grieved** for the hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds—went forth among them in that same year, and began to testify, boldly, repentance and remission of sins through faith on the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Then, this part is really cool. In the next few verses it tells us he wasn't just a good missionary but that he had great power. Listen to this:

“And Nephi did minister with **power** and with great authority.

18 And it came to pass that they were angry with him, even because he had greater power than they, for it were **not** possible that they could disbelieve his words, for so great was his faith on the Lord Jesus Christ that angels did minister unto him daily.

19 And in the name of Jesus did he cast out devils and **unclean spirits**; and even his **brother** did he **raise** from the dead, after he had been stoned and suffered death by the people.

20 And the people saw it, and did witness of it, and were angry with him because of his power; and he did also do **many** more miracles, in the sight of the people, in the name of Jesus.

22 And as many as had devils cast out from them, and were **healed** of their sicknesses and their infirmities, did truly manifest unto the people that they had been wrought upon by the Spirit of God, and had been healed; and they did show forth signs also and did do some miracles among the people.”

I mean, how cool is that? While Jesus is doing all of these miracles in Jerusalem a half a world away. He is still doing His work in the Americas through righteous men and women. Preparing them for His glorious coming in just a short time.

As I studied and pondered this this week I had a question that really put me into some deep thought. I'm sure it is one that perhaps you have pondered and considered. We know that God is doing marvelous works among His people. Many are experiencing heals and blessings that are only evidence of God's love for His children. Most of these are done in secret. Only privately observed and rarely spoken of. But, on occasion we see miracles done in public. Out in the open for the whole world to see. Jesus did this in His earthly ministry all the time. Most were recorded as quiet and private events but a few were done as He was surrounded by multitudes.

To help us look at this question from many angles in search for an answer I would like to use an illustration from one of my favorite stories. I use it often simply because it answers a lot of questions. After Jesus fed the 5 thousand, He sent His disciples on a boat to cross the sea while He sent the people away and went to the mountains to pray. During the 3rd watch a great storm came up and threatened to take their lives. In the midst of the storm they look out into the

darkness and see a being, a ghost walking on the water and they are terrified until they realize as Jesus calls out to them that it is He who is coming to save them. It is a fantastic miracle. Never in the history of the world has anyone ever walked on the water before. Sure there have been water miracles recorded in the Old Testament before, like the floating ax and the parting of the red sea. But a human body being suspended on top of the water, this was the first time in the history of this world that anyone has ever seen. While these disciples struggled to row the boat in the middle of this great storm, do you think it ever crossed Peter's mind that maybe he should just get out of the boat and walk on the water back to shore? Do you think he had any thought or notion of what was about to happen? I would guess not. Which leads me to believe that one of the points to public miracles is to open our minds and broaden our understanding. Perhaps it is to show us what God is truly capable of. We know that those that see signs and wonders rarely are truly converted to real faith in the Lord, at least lasting faith. We have stories and many of us have witnessed the truth of this. But maybe the purpose is not to convert but to teach. To teach us of the truths that exist in the Universe.

A great preacher once said: "I don't care what I believe, I care about what is true. And if the truth conflicts with my belief, I change my belief."

Do you think before this event that Peter believed that it was impossible for a person to walk on water? Did he still believe the same way after this event?

See, our faith drives the miracles, but, once the miracle occurs then our beliefs are forever changed. It won't increase your faith but it will change your faith into knowledge.

I'll give you a quick example. In a recent short I watched, [and I'll link it in the transcript you can find on the website] This christian missionary would stop people on the street and ask them: "What do you need God to do in order for you to believe in Him? What miracle, what the biggest thing you could ask for God to flex, so that you would believe that He loves you? And this one kid said: Ok fine. I want my mom to call me and apologize. His mom left them when he was 8 years old and he hasn't talked to her sense. He recently got her phone number but he hasn't had the courage to call her. She needs to call me and apologize. This missionary asked: Will you let me pray for that? They were stopped in the middle of the street and he goes: Yeah, you can pray. If God makes my mom call me and apologize, I'll believe in Him. So this missionary gives this short prayer: Father, thank you for Jim, I thank you that you will have his mom call and apologize with heartfelt sincerity before I say amen. So that Jim knows that you love him and want a relationship with him. In Jesus name amen. He wasn't dragging it out, it was just a short faithful prayer. As soon as he said amen, Jim looks at his phone and says: No way. He holds up his phone and it says "mom". He looks up and the guy says: you got to answer it, that's the deal you got to finish this. He puts it on speaker phone and answers "Hello". First words on the other line: Baby, I'm so sorry. Jim falls to his knees and with his hands in the air says: "Jesus you're real!" Not being led in prayer falls to his knees and confesses that Jesus is real.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/C-rYbTQsYr9/>

I heard this and had to do some deep searching. Could I do that? Would I have the faith to pray for someone like that in the middle of the street. I mean that is some walking on water faith, right there. That is parting the red sea faith. That is pure 100% trust that God is with you, and will come to your aid at that very moment when you need Him.

We read about so many that have this kind of faith. We know people in our lives that have this kind of faith. Why not you? What do you need to do in order to have faith like this? And please don't say: God just give me a sign and I'll believe. That has never ended well for anyone. I am not saying what can God do that will get you to believe? I'm asking: What can you do to activate that kind of faith in your life?

That is exactly what we are going to discuss in the weeks to come as Christ appears to the Nephites living in the land of bountiful just following His resurrection. I can assure you that your relationship with God is the most important thing for you to develop for your eternal salvation. I pray that the Spirit speaks to your heart and guides you to the answers you seek to build this relationship.

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.