

D&C Lesson 11

“THE FIELD IS WHITE ALREADY TO HARVEST”

Prepared by Duane S. Crowther, March 2001

1. The purpose of missionary work is “the salvation of souls” [D&C 100:4]

A. “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, and he that believeth not shall be damned.*” [D&C 68:9; see 3 Ne. 11:32-34]

B. “The Lamb of God is the Son of the Eternal Father, and the Savior of the world; and . . . *all must come unto him, or they cannot be saved.*” [1 Ne. 13:40]

C. “Alma, being a man of God, being exercised with much faith, cried, saying, O Lord, have mercy and spare my life, *that I may be an instrument in thy hands to save and preserve this people.*” [Al. 2:30]

D. “Behold, the world is ripening in iniquity; and *it must needs be that the children of men are stirred up unto repentance, both the Gentiles and the house of Israel.*” [18:6]

2. Promises to those who will serve the Lord as missionaries.

A. **To John Whitmer** [15:6], **Peter Whitmer** [16:6]: “I say unto you, that *the thing which will be of the most worth unto you will be to declare repentance unto this people*, that you may bring souls unto me, *that you may rest with them in the kingdom of my Father.*”

B. **To Hyrum Smith** [11:3], **Joseph Knight** [12:3], **David Whitmer** [14:3]: “The field is white already to harvest; therefore, *whoso desireth to reap let him thrust in his sickle with his might, and reap while the day lasts, that he may treasure up for his soul everlasting salvation in the kingdom of God.*”

C. **To Joseph Smith, Sr.:** “The field is white already to harvest; and lo, *he that thrusteth in his sickle with his might, the same layeth up in store that he perisheth not, but bringeth salvation to his soul.*” [4:4]

D. **To Joseph Smith, Oliver Cowdery, and David Whitmer:** “*You are called to cry repentance* unto this people. And if it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and bring, save it be one soul unto me, *how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father!* And now, if your joy will be great with one soul that you have brought unto me into the kingdom of my Father, *how great will be your joy if you should bring many souls unto me!*” [18:14-16]

E. **To missionaries of the church:** “It is my will that you should go forth and not tarry, neither be idle but labor with your might—Lifting up your voices as with the sound of a trump, proclaiming the truth according to the revelations and commandments which I have given you. And thus, *if ye are faithful, ye shall be laden with many sheaves, and crowned with honor, and glory, and immortality, and eternal life.*” [75:3-5] See 31:5; 84:60-61.

3. Those who desire to preach the gospel are called to the work

A. “If ye have desires to serve God *ye are called to the work.*” [4:3] See 11:17.

B. “*Whosoever will thrust in his sickle and reap, the same is called of God.* Therefore, *if you will ask of me you shall receive.*” [11:4-5]

C. “*Even as you desire of me so it shall be done unto you;* and, if you desire, you shall be the means of doing much good in this generation.” [11:8]

D. Although these revelations were given for individuals, the principles pertain to all who serve in the Lord's kingdom: "***I speak unto all who have good desires, and have thrust in their sickle to reap.*** Behold, I am Jesus Christ, the Son of God." [11:27]

4. What are some of the attributes the Lord desires in those who serve Him?

A. "O ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye *serve him with all your heart, might, mind and strength*, that ye may *stand blameless before God* at the last day. [4:2]

B. "*Faith, hope, charity and love, with an eye single to the glory of God*, qualify him for the work. Remember *faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, brotherly kindness, godliness, charity, humility, diligence.*" [4:5-6]

C. "No one can assist in this work except he shall be *humble and full of love*, having *faith, hope, and charity*, being *temperate* in all things, whatsoever shall be entrusted to his care." [12:8]

D. "*Keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion. . . .* Behold, this is your work, to *keep my commandments, yea, with all your might, mind and strength.*" [11:6, 20]

E. "*Study my word* which shall come forth among the children of men, . . . until you have obtained all which I shall grant unto the children of men in this generation, and then shall all things be added thereto." [11:22]

F. "But with some I am not well pleased, for *they will not open their mouths, but they hide the talent which I have given unto them*, because of the fear of man. . . . *Thou shalt not idle away thy time, neither shalt thou bury thy talent* that it may not be known." [60:2, 13]

4. The Lord promises to assist those who preach His gospel

A. "*Ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.*" [4:7]

B. "*I will impart unto you of my Spirit*, which shall fill your soul with joy; and *then shall you know, or by this shall you know, all things whatsoever you desire of me*, which are pertaining unto things of righteousness, in faith believing in me that you shall receive." [11:13-14]

C. "First seek to obtain my word, and *then shall your tongue be loosed; then, if you desire, you shall have my Spirit and my word, yea, the power of God unto the convincing of men.*" [11:21]

D. "Thrust in your sickle with all your soul, and *your sins are forgiven you, and you shall be laden with sheaves* upon your back, for the laborer is worthy of his hire." [31:5]

E. "And any man that shall go and preach this gospel of the kingdom, and fail not to continue faithful in all things, *shall not be weary in mind, neither darkened, neither in body, limb, nor joint; and a hair of his head shall not fall to the ground unnoticed.* And they shall not go hungry, neither thirst." [84:80]

F. "Treasure up in your minds continually the words of life, and *it shall be given you in the very hour that portion that shall be meted unto every man.*" [84:85]

G. "*I will open the hearts of the people, and they will receive you.*" [31:7]

H. "Whoso receiveth you, *there I will be also, for I will go before your face.* I will be on your right hand and on your left, and *my Spirit shall be in your hearts, and mine angels round about you, to bear you up.*" [84:88] See 31:13.

I. "Speak the thoughts that I shall put into your hearts, and *you shall not be confounded before men; for it shall be given you in the very hour, yea, in the very moment, what ye shall say.*" [100:5-6]

J. "Ye shall declare whatsoever thing ye declare in my name, in solemnity of heart, in the spirit of meekness, in all things. And I give you this promise, that inasmuch as ye do this *the Holy Ghost shall be shed forth in bearing record unto all things whatsoever ye shall say.*" [100:8]

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