

D & C Lesson 38 “IN MINE OWN WAY”

Prepared by Duane S. Crowther, October 2001

It is my purpose to provide for my saints, for all things are mine. But it must be done in mine own way; and behold this is the way that I, the Lord, have decreed to provide for my saints, that the poor shall be exalted, in that the rich are made low.” D&C 104:15-16

1. Developing spiritual self-reliance

A. *D&C 38:29-30*: “Ye hear of wars in far countries, and you say that there will soon be great wars in far countries, but ye know not the hearts of men in your own land. I tell you these things, because of your prayers; wherefore, *treasure up wisdom in your bosoms*, lest the wickedness of men reveal these things unto you by their wickedness, . . . but ***if ye are prepared ye shall not fear.***”

B. “What does it mean to be self-reliant in spiritual things? We should strive to develop spiritual strength that will enable us to resolve difficult problems in our lives and strengthen others in their times of spiritual need.” [*Gospel Doctrine Teacher’s Manual*, 1999, p. 221]

C. **Boyd K. Packer**: “We have been taught to store a year’s supply of food, clothing, and, if possible, fuel— *at home*. . . . Can we not see that the same principle applies to inspiration and revelation, the solving of problems, to counsel, and to guidance? We need to have a source of it *stored in every home*. . . . If we lose our emotional and spiritual independence, our self-reliance, we can be weakened quite as much, perhaps even more, than when we become dependent materially.”

[*Ensign*, May 1978, pp. 91-92]

2. Developing temporal self-reliance through work

A. “How can we become more self-reliant in temporal things? . . . learning to work effectively, storing food and other essentials for a time of need, managing our money well, and gaining a good education.” [*Gospel Doctrine Teacher’s Manual*, 1999, p. 221]

B. “To become self-reliant, a person must work. Work is physical, mental, or spiritual effort. It is a basic source of happiness, self-worth, and prosperity. Through work, people accomplish many good things in their lives.” [*Church Handbook of Instructions, Book 2: Priesthood and Auxiliary Leaders*, 1998, p. 257]

C. **Neal A. Maxwell**: “Work is always a spiritual necessity even if, for some, work is not an economic necessity.” [*Ensign*, May 1998, p. 38]

3. Gaining an education

A. “Education is vital for self-reliance. . . . Church members have always been counseled to educate themselves as well as possible. The early Saints were very interested in furthering their education. During the first year in the Salt Lake Valley, a school for children was taught in a tent. Later, Church leaders directed every ward to establish a school. The University of Deseret was created in 1850.” [*Gospel Doctrine Teacher’s Manual*, 1999, p. 225]

B. **President John Taylor**: “We ought to foster education and intelligence of every kind; cultivate literary tastes, and men of literary and scientific talent should improve that talent; and all should magnify the gifts which God has given unto them If there is anything good and praiseworthy in morals, religion, science, or anything calculated to exalt and ennoble man, we are after it. But with all our getting, we want to get understanding, and that understanding which flows from God.” [*The Gospel*

Kingdom, 1943, p. 277]

C. President Gordon B. Hinckley: “It is so important that you young men and you young women get all of the education that you can. The Lord has said very plainly that His people are to gain knowledge of countries and kingdoms and of things of the world through the process of education, even by study and by faith. Education is the key which will unlock the door of opportunity for you. It is worth sacrificing for. It is worth working at, and if you educate your mind and your hands, you will be able to make a great contribution to the society of which you are a part, and you will be able to reflect honorably on the Church of which you are a member. My dear young brothers and sisters, take advantage of every educational opportunity that you can possibly afford, and you fathers and mothers, encourage your sons and daughters to gain an education which will bless their lives.” [*Ensign*, June 1999, p. 4]

4. Gaining financial security

A. “To become self-reliant in resource management, Church members should pay tithes and offerings, avoid unnecessary debt, save for the future, and satisfy all of their promised obligations. Members also should use their resources, including their time, and frugally avoid wasting them.” [*Church Handbook of Instructions*, Book 2, p. 258]

B. President Gordon B. Hinckley: “I urge you to be modest in your expenditures; discipline yourselves in your purchases to avoid debt to the extent possible. Pay off debt as quickly as you can, and free yourselves from bondage. . . . If you have paid your debts, if you have a reserve, even though it be small, then should storms howl about your head, you will have shelter for your wives and children and peace in your hearts.” [*Ensign*, November 1998, p. 54]

5. Emergency preparedness: storage of food and other necessities

A. “For many years, latter-day prophets have told us to store a year’s supply of food and other necessities where possible. When we follow this counsel, we become more self-reliant because we are able to care for ourselves in times of need. The Church Handbook of Instructions explains: ‘Church leaders have not given an exact formula for what to store. Rather, they suggest that Church members begin by storing what would be required to keep them alive if they did not have anything else to eat. . . . Through careful planning, most Church members can store a year’s supply of the basic items needed to sustain life. However, some members do not have the money or space for such storage, and some are prohibited by law from storing a year’s supply of food. These members should store as much as they can according to their circumstances. All members can provide themselves with added security by learning to produce and prepare basic food items. [Book 2, p. 258]’” [*Gospel Doctrine Teacher’s Manual*, 1999, p. 222]

6. Caring for the needy

A. *D&C 42:30-31*: “Thou wilt remember the poor, . . . an inasmuch as ye impart of your substance unto the poor, ye will do it unto me; and they shall be laid before the bishop of my church and his counselors. . . .”

B. *D&C 44:6*: “Ye must visit the poor and the needy and administer to their relief.”

C. *D&C 52:40*: “Remember in all things the poor and the needy, the sick and the afflicted, for he that doeth not these things, the same is not my disciple.”

D. *D&C 56:16*: “Wo unto you rich men, that will not give your substance to the poor, for your riches will canker your souls; and this shall be your lamentation in the day of visitation, and of judgment, and of indignation: The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and my soul is not saved!”

