

January 15–21

1 Nephi 6–10

"Come and Partake of the Fruit"



Lehi's Dream of the Tree of Life

The Parable of the Sower:

- Some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up
- Some fell upon stony places... they had no deepness of earth
- Some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them
- Others fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit

Matthew 13:18-23

18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Lehi's Dream of the Tree of Life

Interpretation of the Parable of the Sower:

- Hears the word but does not understand (way side)
- Only develops weak roots and is easily offended (stony places)
- Understands and believes but cares more for the world (thorns)
- Understands the word, nurtures it, and brings forth fruit (good ground)

Lehi's Dream of the Tree of Life

1Ne 8:5-12

What do you think “dark and dreary wast” and “traveling in darkness” represent?

How does Lehi come out of this state?

What does the fruit of this tree represent?

What are some of the phrases used to describe the tree and the fruit?

Jeffrey R. Holland,

"In the course of life all of us spend time in 'dark and dreary' places, wildernesses, circumstances of sorrow or fear or discouragement. Our present day is filled with global distress over financial crises, energy problems, terrorist attacks, and natural calamities.... More serious than these are matters of ethical, moral, and spiritual decay seen in populations large and small, at home and abroad." (CR, Oct. 2008)

Todd Christofferson

“Keeping the Lord’s commandments enables us more fully and more easily to feel His love. The strait and narrow path of the commandments leads directly to the tree of life, and the tree and its fruit, the sweetest and ‘most desirable above all things’ (1Ne 11:22), are a representation of the love of God and fill the soul ‘with exceedingly great joy.’ (CR, Oct. 2019)

Most sweet, above all that I ever before tasted (8:11)

White to exceed all whiteness (8:11)

Desirable above all other fruit (8:12)

Beauty... exceeding... all beauty (11:8)

Precious above all (11:9)

Most desirable above all things (11:22)

The most joyous to the soul (11:23)

Greatest of all the gifts of god (15:36)

Born of the spirit: 1Jhn 4:7, "love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God"

No contentions: 4Ne 1:15, "And it came to pass that there was no contention in the land, because of the love of God which did dwell in the hearts of the people"

Truly love and help others: 1Jhn 5:2, "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God"

All things work to your good: Rom 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God"

No fear: Moroni 8:16, "I fear not what man can do; for perfect love casteth out all fear"

Delivered from temptation: D&C 95:1, "Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you whom I love, and whom I love I also chasten that their sins may be forgiven, for with the chastisement I prepare a way for their deliverance in all things out of temptation, and I have loved you

Receive all that God has: 1 Corinthians 2:9 "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him

David A. Bednar

"The greatest manifestation of God's love for His children is the mortal ministry, atoning sacrifice, and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The fruit on the tree can be considered a symbol for the blessings of the Savior's Atonement.

"Lehi's instant response to partaking of the fruit of the tree and experiencing great joy was an increased desire to share with and serve his family. Thus, as he turned to Christ, he also turned outward in love and service." (CR, Oct. 2014)

Lehi's Dream of the Tree of Life

1Ne 8:19-23

What hindered the people from following the path?

What effect do these temptations have on those in the path?

What gets us through the mists of darkness?

What does the rod of iron represent?

Ezra Taft Benson

“Success in righteousness, the power to avoid deception and resist temptation, guidance in our daily lives, healing of the soul-these are but a few of the promises the Lord has given to those who will come to His word. Does the Lord promise and not fulfill? Surely if He tells us that these things will come to us if we lay hold upon His word, the blessings can be ours....

Certain blessings are to be found only in the scriptures, only in coming to the word of the Lord and holding fast to it as we make our way through the mists of darkness to the tree of life.” (CR, April 1986)

Lehi's Dream of the Tree of Life

1Ne 8:24-28

What do we know about the “great and spacious building” and those who are in it?

What do you think caused some of those who had tasted of the goodness of God’s love to turn away from it?

Delbert L. Stapley

"The great and spacious building in addition to representing the pride and vain imaginations of men, stands for the mockery and ridicule of the world. Our generation should be reminded that scoffers are far from the kingdom of God. Those who allow the ridicule of men to make them embarrassed by the cause, the standards, or the obligations that they have espoused as true followers of Christ, and are turned thereby from the straight and narrow path of truth and righteousness, are those who form the stony ground in which the seed sown soon withers and dies." (CR, April 1966)

Quentin L. Cook

“Lehi explains some of the conduct that destroys faith. Some are proud, vain, and foolish. They are interested only in the so-called wisdom of the world. Others have some interest in God but are lost in worldly mists of darkness and sin. Some have tasted of the love of God and His word but feel ashamed because of those mocking them and fall away into ‘forbidden paths.’”

(CR, April 2012)

Lehi's Dream of the Tree of Life

1Ne 8:31-34

What do you think that those who have no interest in the gospel seek after instead?

Delbert L. Stapley

“Those who are drowned in the depths of the fountain refer to those who are engulfed in the quagmire of evil-mindedness, sin, and corruption; therefore, the wicked sink to destruction in the river of filth, and the depths thereof are the depths of hell.” (CR, April 1966)

Ezra Taft Benson

"The prophet Lehi... saw some fall away 'in forbidden paths,' others drown in rivers of filthiness, and still others wander in 'strange roads.' When we read of the spreading curse of drugs, or read of the pernicious flood of pornography and immorality, do any of us doubt that these are the forbidden paths and rivers of filthiness Lehi described?" (CR, April 1986)

The steps outlined in Lehi's vision:

- Commence on the path,
- Cling to the rod of iron,
- Continue on the path,
- And after we have been born of God and tasted of his love we must endure persecutions and afflictions.

Delbert L. Stapley

“Passing through the mist and clinging steadfastly to the iron rod, the faithful pass triumphantly through the temptations that beset man's mortal pilgrimage to the cherished goal of eternal life with God.

“In man's search for happiness and his climb to eternal joy, there can be no relaxation, no deviation from the straight and narrow path; nor can he lose a firm hold upon the iron rod, which is the word of God. He must set aside the things of the world as he travels the path which leads to exaltation and glory in the kingdom of God.” (CR, April 1966)

Next Week:

January 22–28

1 Nephi 11–15

“Armed with Righteousness and with the
Power of God”

