

Lesson 41: D&C 111-114, "I Will Order All Things For Your Good"

Poverty in Kirtland

Dedication of the Kirtland temple in March of 1836 brought great spiritual outpouring. All the keys were now restored to prepare for Christ's second coming.

You would think that this would be a time that brought spiritual renewal among the saints, but instead, the year following the temple's completion was a time of great apostasy.

The Church was very poor. And adding to their poverty was the need to support many impoverished members who were moving to Kirtland from around the county and needed financial help and support. [1]

Funds were needed to purchase property for the Saints to settle in Kirtland and in northern Missouri. Church leaders sought anxiously for ways to relieve the debt and increase their funds.

Hearing that there was a treasure available in Salem, Massachusetts [2] Joseph took a number of brethren with him to see if he can obtain it. He failed, but the Lord blessed him because of his diligence in trying to solve this problem and offered Joseph this promise

D&C 111: 5,11

5 Concern not yourselves about your debts, for I will give you power to pay them.

11 Therefore, be ye as wise as serpents and yet without sin; and I will order all things for your good, as fast as ye are able to receive them. Amen.

Note the Lord said, "I will order all things for your good, as fast as ye are able to receive them". It seems now that this promised blessing from the Lord has been fulfilled

Why do you think the Church struggled financially for many years until the Saints "[were] able to receive them"?

Pride and worldliness - A repeating theme in the BoM

Wilford Woodruff

"[David Whitmer] warned us to humble ourselves before God lest his hand rest upon us in anger for our pride and many sins that we were running into in our days of prosperity, as the ancient Nephites did, and it does now appear evident that a scourge awaits this stake of Zion, even Kirtland, if there is not great repentance immediately; and almost every countenance indicates the above expectation, especially the heads of the Church."
(Wilford Woodruff Journals, 17 Jan. 1837)

The Kirtland Safety Society

In another effort to ease its financial burden the Church opened a bank (for lack of better comparison (actually it was a private joint-stock company)) in January, 1837. Joseph Smith was acting treasurer for a short time.

Why do you think that having a financial institution, started by the church, would bring out the worldly desires of some of the members?

They could feel confident in going into debt to invest and speculate.

Warren Cowdery

"[not a few members are] guilty of wild speculation and visionary dreams of wealth and worldly grandeur, as if gold and silver were their gods, and houses, farms and merchandize their only bliss or their passport to it." (Messenger and Advocate, June 1837, pg. 509)

Eliza R. Snow

"[A number of members felt that] prosperity was dawning upon them..., and many who had been humble and faithful... were getting haughty in their spirits, and lifted up in the pride of their hearts. As the Saints drank in the love and spirit of the world, the Spirit of the Lord withdrew from their hearts, and they were filled with pride and hatred toward those who maintained their integrity." (Biography and Family Record of Lorenzo Snow, 1884, pg. 20)

In addition to greed and speculation, several issues soon caused the Kirtland Safety Society to fail:

- The Panic of 1837, which caused hundreds of bank failures throughout the country
- The Society was backed by land (not gold or silver) which was hard to liquidate
- It was easy for anti-Mormons to buy notes and then cause a run on the bank

The Kirtland bank closed

after just 10 months. Many members lost their investments

Why do you think many blamed Joseph Smith for their losses?

Heber C. Kimball

"At this time many had faltered in their faith, even some of Twelve were in rebellion against the Prophet of God. John F. Boynton [8th ordained apostle] said to me, if I was such a... fool as to go at the call of the fallen Prophet, Joseph Smith, he would not help me a dime." (Millennial Star, 26, 1846)

Many claimed that Joseph Smith was a fallen prophet. Brigham Young was

at a meeting where the apostates intended to make David Whitmer the new church president.

Brigham Young

“On a certain occasion several of the Twelve, the witnesses to the Book of Mormon, and others of the Authorities of the Church, held a council in the upper room of the Temple. The question before them was to ascertain how the Prophet Joseph could be deposed, and David Whitmer appointed President of the Church.... I rose up, and in a plain and forcible manner told them that Joseph was a Prophet, and I knew it, and that they might rail and slander him as much as they pleased, [but] they could not destroy the appointment of the Prophet of God; they could only destroy their own authority, cut the thread that bound them to the Prophet and to God, and sink themselves to hell” (Manuscript History of Brigham Young, 1801–1844, pg. 15–16)

As a result of this apostasy fifty leading members of the Church were excommunicated under the direction of Joseph Smith. [4]

Milton Vaughn Backman (historian)

“Between November 1837 and June 1838, possibly two or three hundred Kirtland Saints withdrew from the Church, representing from 10 to 15 percent of the membership there.” (Heavens Resound, pg. 328)

Why do you think so many members left the church at this time?

Pride, worldliness, lack of faith, lack of testimony, and lack gospel understanding

The Saints who were still faithful were forced surrender most of their property and leave Kirtland. On 6 July 1838 over five hundred Saints, known as the Kirtland Camp left for Missouri. [5]

Mission to England

During this time of widespread disunity, contention, and apostasy Joseph Smith wrote:

“In this state of things..., God revealed to me that something new must be done for the salvation of His Church. And on or about the first of June, 1837, Heber C. Kimball... was set apart... to preside over a mission to England, to be the first foreign mission of the Church of Christ in the last days.” (HC, 2:489)

What was the 'something new' the Lord was referring to?

(Heber C. Kimball... was set apart... to preside over a mission to England... 1st foreign mission (Canada must not have been considered foreign))

On Sunday, 4 June 1837, the Prophet approached Heber C. Kimball in the temple and whispered to him, "Brother Heber, the Spirit of the Lord has whispered to me: 'Let my servant Heber go to England and proclaim my Gospel, and open the door of salvation to that nation.'" Heber was overwhelmed by his call to England because he lacked education and refinement. He prayed almost daily in an upper room of the temple for protection and power that he might fulfill an honorable mission. His family was near poverty, yet he was determined to serve. [3]

Some events had already taken place that set the stage for this mission to England

Parley P. Pratt was sent on a mission to Toronto a year earlier. He was set apart and blessed by Heber C. Kimball that this mission would prepare the way for the English mission.

Pratt had great success in Toronto and many of the converts had ties in England. Among them were John Taylor and Joseph Fielding. Joseph Fielding and 4 other elders from Canada accompanied Heber C. Kimball to England.

They start preaching in Preston England where Joseph Fielding's brother was a minister and he allowed them to preach in his church.

The missionaries to England had great success. Within 8 months 2,000 were baptized and 26 branches were organized. Also it prepared the way for the mission by the 12 in 1839 [6]

Quentin L. Cook

"The humility that undergirded this incredible missionary effort allowed the Lord to establish His Church in a remarkable way." (CR, Oct. 2017)

"something new must be done for the salvation of His Church"

Revelation About the Twelve and Missionary Work

Quentin L. Cook

"On July 23, 1837, the Prophet Joseph met with Elder Thomas B. Marsh, President of the Quorum of the Twelve. Elder Marsh was apparently frustrated that the Prophet had called two members of his quorum to go to England without consulting him. As Joseph met with Elder Marsh, any hurt feelings were put aside, and the Prophet received a remarkable revelation.... It gives incredible direction from heaven with respect to humility and missionary work."

"This revelation occurred the exact same day that Elders Kimball, Hyde, and John Goodson, full of humility, were declaring the Restoration of the gospel of Jesus

Christ in the Vauxhall Chapel in Preston, England.” (CR, Oct. 2017)

Why was Pres. Marsh upset with Joseph Smith?

(the Prophet had called two members of his quorum to go to England without consulting him)

Do you think this gives us an indication of the spiritual state of Pres. Marsh?

Pride

D&C 112:10-15

10 Be thou humble; and the Lord thy God shall lead thee by the hand, and give thee answer to thy prayers.

11 I know thy heart, and have heard thy prayers concerning thy brethren. Be not partial towards them in love above many others, but let thy love be for them as for thyself; and let thy love abound unto all men, and unto all who love my name.

12 And pray for thy brethren of the Twelve. Admonish them sharply for my name's sake, and let them be admonished for all their sins, and be ye faithful before me unto my name.

13 And after their temptations, and much tribulation, behold, I, the Lord, will feel after them, and if they harden not their hearts, and stiffen not their necks against me, they shall be converted, and I will heal them.

14 Now, I say unto you, and what I say unto you, I say unto all the Twelve: Arise and gird up your loins, take up your cross, follow me, and feed my sheep.

15 Exalt not yourselves; rebel not against my servant Joseph; for verily I say unto you, I am with him, and my hand shall be over him; and the keys which I have given unto him, and also to youward, shall not be taken from him till I come.

During this time of apostasy, what was the Lords message to President Marsh and the Twelve?

Be humble

(Be thou humble; and the Lord thy God shall lead thee by the hand, and give thee answer to thy prayers)

(harden not their hearts, and stiffen not their necks)

(Exalt not yourselves)

Henry B. Eyring

"Having listening ears requires humility. You remember the Lord's warning to Thomas B. Marsh. He was then the President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. The Lord knew that President Marsh and his brethren of the Twelve would be tested. He gave counsel about taking counsel. The Lord said, 'Be thou humble; and the Lord thy God shall lead thee by the hand, and give thee answer to thy prayers.'

"The Lord added a warning that is applicable to any who follow a living

prophet: 'Exalt not yourselves; rebel not against my servant Joseph'" (CR, April 1997)

In verse 13, what does the Lord promise them if they remain humble during 'their temptations, and much tribulation'?

(I, the Lord, will feel after them)

D. Todd Christofferson

"I believe the principles expressed in these verses apply to all of us. The temptations and tribulations we experience, plus any testing that the Lord sees fit to impose, can lead to our full conversion and healing. But this happens if, and only if, we do not harden our hearts or stiffen our necks against Him. If we remain firm and steadfast, come what may, we achieve the conversion the Savior intended.... The promised healing is the cleansing and sanctification of our sin-wounded souls, making us holy." (CR, Oct. 2018)

What was the Lord's clear message about Joseph Smith?

He has the keys and they will not be taken away

The Lord makes them a promise regarding missionary work

D&C 112:21-22

21 And again, I say unto you, that whosoever ye shall send in my name, by the voice of your brethren, the Twelve, duly recommended and authorized by you, shall have power to open the door of my kingdom unto any nation whithersoever ye shall send them—

22 Inasmuch as they shall humble themselves before me, and abide in my word, and hearken to the voice of my Spirit.

What does the Lord promise to missionaries who are called by the Twelve?

(shall have power to open the door of my kingdom unto any nation)

Randy D. Funk

"How did a young man who had never seen a missionary become one with such spiritual strength? How will you receive spiritual power as a missionary to open the doors, in-boxes, and hearts of those in the mission where you will serve? As usual, the answers are found in the scriptures and the words of living prophets and apostles.

"When the gospel was first preached in England in July 1837, the Lord revealed, 'Whosoever ye shall send in my name, by the voice of your brethren, the Twelve, duly recommended and authorized by you, shall have power to open the door of my kingdom unto any nation whithersoever ye

shall send them.'

"Wherever you are sent, to whichever mission you are assigned, know that a member of the Twelve duly recommended that assignment and you are called by the Lord's prophet. You are called by prophecy, and by the laying on of hands.'" (CR, Oct. 2013)

What must these missionaries do to be successfully?

Verse 22

Randy D. Funk

"The Lord then gave the conditions for this promise to be fulfilled. He said, 'Inasmuch as they shall [1] humble themselves before me, and [2] abide in my word, and [3] hearken to the voice of my Spirit.'

"The Lord's promises are clear. In order to have the spiritual power necessary to open the door of the kingdom of God in the nation to which you are sent, you must be humble and obedient and have the ability to hear and follow the Spirit.

"These three attributes are closely interrelated. If you are humble, you will want to be obedient. If you are obedient, you will feel the Spirit." (CR, Oct. 2013)

The Lord states, "vengeance cometh speedily upon the inhabitants of the earth", "And upon my house shall it begin"

D&C 112:23-26

23 Verily, verily, I say unto you, darkness covereth the earth, and gross darkness the minds of the people, and all flesh has become corrupt before my face.

24 Behold, vengeance cometh speedily upon the inhabitants of the earth, a day of wrath, a day of burning, a day of desolation, of weeping, of mourning, and of lamentation; and as a whirlwind it shall come upon all the face of the earth, saith the Lord.

25 And upon my house shall it begin, and from my house shall it go forth, saith the Lord;

26 First among those among you, saith the Lord, who have professed to know my name and have not known me, and have blasphemed against me in the midst of my house, saith the Lord.

The Lord says, "have blasphemed against me in the midst of my house"
What does the Lord mean by 'my house'?

Neal A. Maxwell

"The Lord has clearly indicated that His purifying and sifting judgment

would begin first at the house of God and then proceed outward to the world. Just what this sifting will consist of is not now clear, what special pressures—combined with the ongoing and demanding rigors of 'taking up the cross daily'—we know not. We do know that the tempter's triad of tools, identified by Jesus as temptation, persecution, and tribulation, will be relentlessly used.

"And if the heat from the sun of such circumstances will scorch even a green tree, this heat will be very real." (CR, Oct. 1982)

- Could it be that the 'day of wrath' began with the Kirtland Apostasy, in the shadow of the newly dedicated temple?

The Lord has clearly indicated that His purifying and sifting judgment would begin first at the house of God and then proceed outward to the world

Ezra Taft Benson

"All is not well in Zion. As Moroni counseled, we must cleanse the inner vessel, beginning first with ourselves, then with our families, and finally with the Church....

"As we cleanse the inner vessel, there will have to be changes made in our own personal lives, in our families, and in the Church... Repentance means change, and it takes a humble person to change. But we can do it." (CR, April 1986)

D&C 112:27-29

27 Therefore, see to it that ye trouble not yourselves concerning the affairs of my church in this place, saith the Lord.

28 But purify your hearts before me; and then go ye into all the world, and preach my gospel unto every creature who has not received it;

29 And he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, and he that believeth not, and is not baptized, shall be damned.

What does the Lord command the Twelve to do?

(go ye into all the world, and preach my gospel)

Recall from the reading assignment two weeks ago that the Twelve were referred to as "the traveling high council" in Section 107

Boyd K. Packer

"[The] Twelve and the Seventy and the Bishopric with whom I have served for these 47 years when I tell you that the records show I have been in Mexico and Central and South America more than 75 times, in Europe over

50 times, Canada 25 times, the islands of the Pacific 10 times, Asia 10 times, and Africa 4 times; also China twice; to Israel, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the Dominican Republic, India, Pakistan, Egypt, Indonesia, and many, many other places around the globe. Others have traveled even more than that." (CR, April 2008)

The Lord reminds the Twelve of the power, legacy, and importance of their calling

D&C 112:30-34

30 For unto you, the Twelve, and those, the First Presidency, who are appointed with you to be your counselors and your leaders, is the power of this priesthood given, for the last days and for the last time, in the which is the dispensation of the fulness of times.

31 Which power you hold, in connection with all those who have received a dispensation at any time from the beginning of the creation;

32 For verily I say unto you, the keys of the dispensation, which ye have received, have come down from the fathers, and last of all, being sent down from heaven unto you.

33 Verily I say unto you, behold how great is your calling. Cleanse your hearts and your garments, lest the blood of this generation be required at your hands.

34 Be faithful until I come, for I come quickly; and my reward is with me to recompense every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega. Amen.

Boyd K. Packer

"We know that we hold the power of the priesthood 'in connection with all those who have received a dispensation at any time from the beginning of the creation.' We think of those who have preceded us in these sacred offices, and at times we feel their presence.

"We are overcome with what the Lord said of those who hold these sacred callings: 'Whatsoever they shall speak when moved upon by the Holy Ghost shall be scripture, shall be the will of the Lord, shall be the mind of the Lord, shall be the word of the Lord, shall be the voice of the Lord, and the power of God unto salvation.' (D&C 68:4)." (CR, Oct. 1996)

[1] Church History in the Fulness of Times - Student Manual religion 341-343, pg. 169

[2] Church History in the Fulness of Times - Student Manual religion 341-343, pg. 170

[3] Church History in the Fulness of Times - Student Manual religion 341-343, pg. 174

[4] Church History in the Fulness of Times - Student Manual religion 341-343, pg. 177

[5] Church History in the Fulness of Times - Student Manual religion 341-343, pg. 179

[6] Church History in the Fulness of Times - Student Manual religion 341-343, pg. 176