

July 1–7  
Alma 17–22

“I Will Make an Instrument of Thee”



# Teaching by Example

Alma 17:1-3

What had they done to prepare themselves to teach “with power and authority of God”?



## David M. McConkie

"The Lord has commanded that before we seek to declare His word, we must seek to obtain it. You must become men and women of sound understanding by diligently searching the scriptures and by treasuring them up in your hearts. Then as you ask for the Lord's help, He will bless you with His Spirit and His word. You will have the power of God unto the convincing of men.

"Paul tells us that the gospel comes to men in two ways, in word and in power. The word of the gospel is written in the scriptures, and we can obtain the word by diligently searching. The power of the gospel comes into the lives of those who so live that the Holy Ghost is their companion and who follow the promptings they receive." (CR, Oct. 2013)

# Teaching by Example

## Alma 17:9-11

Why did they believe that they needed to have the Holy Ghost with them?

What did they do to assure that the Holy Ghost would be with them?

Why do you think that the Lord specifically stressed that they should “show forth good examples unto them”?

What would be required of them in order to be a good examples and establish His word?



## Jeffrey R. Holland

"Above all else we can live the gospel. Surely there is no more powerful missionary message we can send to this world than the example of a loving and happy Latter-day Saint life. The manner and bearing, the smile and kindness of a faithful member of the Church brings a warmth and an outreach which no missionary tract or videotape can convey. People do not join the Church because of what they know. They join because of what they feel, what they see and want spiritually. Our spirit of testimony and happiness in that regard will come through to others if we let it." (CR, April 2001)

# Teaching by Example

## Alma 17:21-25

It appears that Ammon had the opportunity to marry into the king's household -  
Why do you think Ammon asked to be the king's servant?



# Teaching by Example

## Alma 17:28-30

Why was Ammon's "heart swollen within him with joy" because of the afflictions of the Lamanites?

What gave Ammon confidence that he could "lead them to believe in [his] words"?

## James M. Paramore

"He overpowered the enemy and gathered the flocks, and all were astonished at his power, for none of the enemy could touch him....

"And now, after this type of ministry, of concern for others, even greater opportunities would be offered him to teach and minister unto the king and others." (CR, April 1986)



# Teaching by Example

Alma 18:8-10

What does Ammon do that causes the king to be even “more astonished”?

## Henry B. Eyring

“I am struck by the way [Ammon] taught... Ammon prepared himself, but he did more. He prepared his student to be taught the doctrines of salvation... Now, remember that he not only protected the servants and the animals at the waters of Sebus, but he drove off the enemy. When the other servants brought the evidence of what Ammon had done, King Lamoni said, ‘Where is he?’ They said, ‘Oh, he is in the stables. He is doing every little thing to serve you.’

“Isn’t that odd? He was called to teach the doctrines of salvation, but he was in the stables. Don’t you think he should have been praying and fasting and polishing his teaching plan? No, he was in the stables.” (“The Book of Mormon Will Change Your Life”, Ensign, Feb. 2004)



# Teaching by Example

Alma 18:16-23

# Teaching by Example

Alma 18:40-42; 19:6

What reason is given that “the power of God... had overcome [Lamoni’s] natural frame”?

Can you think of some of the other examples of people who’s physical frame where overcome by the Spirit?



"Intense spiritual experiences often have the effect of draining one's physical strength. With Lamoni, the Spirit was so powerful that he had collapsed completely, the power of God... 'had overcome his natural frame' (Alma 19:6). [There are] other examples of the effect of the Spirit on the body." (Juvenile Instructor, May 1892, pg. 303-4)

## Moses

And the presence of God withdrew from Moses, that his glory was not upon Moses; and Moses was left unto himself. And as he was left unto himself, he fell unto the earth.

And it came to pass that it was for the space of many hours before Moses did again receive his natural strength like unto man... (Moses 1:9-10)

## Daniel

Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me...

Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground. (Daniel 10:8-9)

## Peter

Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:

... he fell into a trance,

And saw heaven opened... (Acts 10:9-11)

## Paul

... while I prayed in the temple, I was in a trance;

And saw him saying unto me, Make haste, and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem...

(Acts 22:17-18)



## Lehi

... [Lehi] returned to his own house at Jerusalem; and he cast himself upon his bed, being overcome with the Spirit and the things which he had seen. (1 Nephi 1:7)

## The People of king Benjamin

... when king Benjamin had made an end of speaking the words which had been delivered unto him by the angel of the Lord, that he cast his eyes round about on the multitude, and behold they had fallen to the earth, for the fear of the Lord had come upon them. (Mosiah 4:1)

## The Nephites at the time of Jacob

And when the multitude had witnessed that [Sherem] spake these things as he was about to give up the ghost, they were astonished exceedingly; insomuch that the power of God came down upon them, and they were overcome that they fell to the earth. (Jacob 7:21)

## Joseph Smith

When I came to myself again, I found myself lying on my back, looking up into heaven. When the light had departed, I had no strength; but soon recovering in some degree, I went home. (JSH 1:20)

## Sidney Rigdon (after vision recorded in D&C 76)

“Joseph sat firmly and calmly all the time in the midst of a magnificent glory, but Sidney sat limp and pale, apparently as limber as a rag, observing which, Joseph remarked, smilingly, ‘Sidney is not used to it as I am.’”

(Account of Philo Dibble, Juvenile Instructor, May 1892, pg. 303–4)

# Teaching by Example

Alma 19:29-33

Why do you think so many people refuse to so much as listen to the message of the gospel?



# Hard Hearted

Alma 21:1-4

Who were the Amalekites?

Who were the Amulonites?

What do you think made these two groups even more hard hearted than the Lamanites?

Matt 6:23

...If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!



# Hard Hearted

Alma 21:5-6

What do we learn about the logic and teachings of anti-Christ from these verses?

# Hard Hearted

## Alma 21:7-10

How did Aaron respond to their argument, “we do not believe that thou knowest of things to come”?

How did the Amalekite’s respond when Aaron began to teach them?



# The Great Plan of Happiness

*Alma 22:2-3*

In what way did Ammon set an example of righteousness that prompted the Old King to want to know more?

# The Great Plan of Happiness

Alma 22:13-15



## Ezra Taft Benson

"Aaron instructed him to call upon God in faith to help him repent of all his sins. The king, anxious for his own soul, did as Aaron instructed...

"Now I want you, my brethren, to hear again this humble man's words: 'I will give away all my sins to know thee.'

"Brethren, each of us must surrender our sins if we are to really know Christ. For we do not know Him until we become like Him. There are some, like this king, who must pray until they, too, have 'a wicked spirit rooted' from them so they can find the same joy.

"Attaining a righteous and virtuous life is within the capability of any one of us if we will earnestly seek for it."  
(CR, Oct. 1983)

# The Great Plan of Happiness

Alma 22:16-18

What does Aaron promise the King he will receive if he goes before the Lord in faith and repents of his sins?



Next Week:

July 8–14

Alma 23–29

They “Never Did Fall Away”

