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## Book of Mormon Gems of Truth: Lesson 11

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**Abstract:** Monthly Book of Mormon lessons for adult women (Relief Society). Each month a verse of Book of Mormon scripture is presented with accompanying quotes from General Authorities and writers of the Church.

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And now I, Moroni, bid farewell unto the Gentiles, yea, and also unto my brethren whom I love, until we shall meet before the judgment seat of Christ, where all men shall know that my garments are not spotted with your blood. And then shall ye know that I have seen Jesus, and that he hath talked with me face to face (Ether 12:38-39).

Writing directly to the Lamanites of the last days, Moroni closes the record exhorting them to read the record with a sincere heart and with faith in Christ, and promising that God would manifest the truth of it unto them by the power of the Holy Ghost (Moroni 10).

### *Suggestion to Class Leaders*

Writing the selections of Old and Middle English (as given in the lesson) on the blackboard, will be helpful in showing how a language can change.

### *Questions on the Lesson*

1. Why were the Nephites commanded to keep records?
2. How were the plates of brass valuable to the Nephites?
3. Of what value are Book of Mormon records to the Gentiles of our day? To the Lamanites?
4. What is the chief mission of The Book of Mormon?
5. How are Church records being kept today?

## *Visiting Teacher Messages*

### *Book of Mormon Gems of Truth*

Lesson 11—"I Work Not Among the Children of Men Save It Be According to Their Faith" (2 Nephi 27:23).

Leone O. Jacobs

For Tuesday, December 2, 1952

Objective: To show that faith is necessary in order to receive blessings from God.

**T**HE scriptures are filled with instances in which faith has wrought mighty miracles. When Jesus turned and saw the woman who had touched the hem of his garment, he said, "Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour."

On another occasion, two blind men followed the Savior, crying: "Thou Son of David, have mercy on us . . . and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. Then touched he their eyes,

saying, According to your faith be it unto you. And their eyes were opened" (Matt. 9:27-30).

To the brother of Jared Jesus said, ". . . Because of thy faith thou hast seen that I shall take upon me flesh and blood; and never has man come before me with such exceeding faith as thou hast; for were it not so ye could not have seen my finger" (Ether 3:9).

The scriptures relate many instances in which lack of faith was responsible for failure to receive desired blessings. When Peter was walking on the water toward the

Master, the wind became boisterous and he was afraid and straightway began to sink, "And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" (Matt. 14:31).

We read in Matthew 13:58 that when Jesus came into his own country, "And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief." Even the Christ did not perform great works if the people did not manifest faith in him. The apostle Paul states:

... For he that cometh to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him (Hebrews 11:6).

The unwavering faith of the boy Joseph Smith brought the vision of the Father and the Son and their message to him. He believed implicitly the words of James, as he read:

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed" (James 1:5-6).

We read in the Doctrine and Covenants:

There is a law, irrevocably decreed in heaven before the foundations of this world, upon which all blessings are predicated—And when we obtain any blessing from God, it is by obedience to that law upon which it is predicated (D. & C. 130:20-21).

This startling question then comes to our minds: May we not be denying ourselves blessings from our Heavenly Father because our faith is too weak to work righteousness, to obey the laws upon which blessings are predicated? Perhaps unclaimed blessings might have been ours had we possessed the faith to earn them. Might it be that we are so absorbed in material matters that we neglect the development of this vital quality, this great moving power of faith?

The attainment of great faith, like other accomplishments, entails constant exercise and cultivation. We must live the laws of the gospel, which beget faith, purifying ourselves of the weaknesses of the flesh, in order that the channel may be kept open between ourselves and the power from on high. "As fast as we open our hearts to the influences of righteousness, the faith that leads to life eternal will be given us of our Father" (*Articles of Faith*, TALMAGE, page 107).

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## *Precaution*

Pansye H. Powell

When hourly the wild goose trumpet calls  
And sheep press close in fold,  
The mountains put on their Paisley shawls  
To keep them safe from cold!