



Type: Magazine Article

Lesson V. Book of Mormon Gems

Editor(s): Mary Connelly Kimball

Source: *The Young Woman's Journal*, Vol. 31, No. 10 (October 1920),
pp. 574–575

Published by: Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Association

Abstract: No abstract available.

LESSON V.

Book of Mormon Gems.

(For Tuesday, November 16, or Sunday, November 14.)

"All the world loves a story." It is equally true that all the world loves a proverb. Our favorite books are full of choice lines which we love to underscore that we may turn back to them again and again and ponder them. "A proverb," says the school boy, "is something that says a lot in a little." It measures up to the test of eloquence as set up by Josh Billings in his famous remark, "I don't care how much a man says, if he says it in a few words."

From the beginning of time every people has had its proverbs. It seems almost instinctive to desire to epitomize our feelings and ideals into crisp, memorable utterances. Our favorite slang expressions as they run their course in society are typical of this tendency.

Benjamin Franklin is one of our best illustrations among writers of proverbs. His pithy sayings exerted a remarkable influence upon the lives of our revolutionary fathers as they have upon the lives of all others since their day.

"But dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that's the stuff life is made of."

"Lost time is never found again."

"Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise."

"He that lives on hope will die fasting."

"Diligence is the mother of good luck."

"I never saw an oft-removed tree, nor yet an oft-removed family that throve so well as those that settled be."

"He that by the plow would thrive, himself must either hold or drive."

"Fond pride of dress is, sure, a very curse;

Ere fancy you consult, consult your purse."

"Great estates may venture more, But little boats should keep near shore."

"Experience keeps a dear school, But fools will learn in no other."

The Bible, too, is rich in proverbs. In fact the Book of Proverbs is one of the choicest books in all literature. And the beauty of this book is that it can be turned to at the pleasure of the reader either for a verse or two or for extensive perusal. To the reader unacquainted with the proverbs of the Bible there is a rare treat in store.

Consider such typical passages as these:

"In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death." Proverbs 12:28.

"He that walketh with wise men shall be wise; but a companion of fools shall be destroyed." Proverbs 13:20.

"Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people." Proverbs 14:34.

"A soft answer turneth away wrath; but grievous words stir up anger." Proverbs 15:1.

"A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance; but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken." Proverbs 15:13.

"The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honor is humility." Proverbs 15:33.

"How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get under-

standing rather to be chosen than silver!" Proverbs 16:16.

"Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." Proverbs 16:18.

"He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city." Proverbs 16:32.

"It is an honor for a man to cease from strife; but every fool will be meddling." Proverbs 20:3.

"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold." Proverbs 22:1.

"The rich and poor meet together; the Lord is the maker of them all." Proverbs 22:2.

"A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished." Proverbs 22:3.

"By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honor, and life." Proverbs 22:4.

"Thorns and snares are in the way of the forward; he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them." Proverbs 22:5.

"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6.

Now let us turn to the Book of Mormon to see whether it contains lines comparable to these which have won the favor of the reading world. They call for little discussion—their message speaks for itself—they need only to be pondered to be appreciated:

"The Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the things which he commanded them." I Nephi 3:7.

"Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy." II Nephi 2:25.

"To be carnally minded is death, and to be spiritually minded is life eternal." II Nephi 9:39.

"For the Spirit of the Lord will not always strive with man. And when the spirit ceaseth to strive with man, then cometh speedy destruction." I Nephi 26:11.

"Woe be unto him that is at ease in Zion. Woe be unto him that crieth, All is well." II Nephi 28:24, 25.

"When a man sneaketh by the power of the Holy Ghost, the power of the Holy Ghost carrieth it unto the hearts of the children of men." II Nephi 33:1.

"Seek not to counsel the Lord, but to take counsel from his hand." Jacob 4:10.

"Always retain in remembrance the greatness of God and your own nothingness." Mosiah 4:11.

"Be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in good works, that Christ the Lord God omnipotent, may seal you his." Mosiah 5:15.

"The Lord seeth fit to chasten his people; yea, he trieth their patience and their faith. Nevertheless, whosoever putteth his trust in him, the same shall be lifted up at the last day." Mosiah 23:21, 22.

"It is better that a man should be judged of God than of man, for the judgments of God are always just, but the judgments of man are not always just." Mosiah 29:12.

"See that ye have faith, hope, and charity, and then ye will always abound in good works." Alma 7:24.

"Ye cannot be saved in your sins." Alma 11:37.

"Whosoever repenteth, and hardeneth not his heart, he shall have claim on mercy through mine only begotten Son, unto a remission of his sins; and these shall enter into my rest." Alma 12:34.

"Cursed is he that putteth his trust in the arm of flesh." I Nephi 4:34.

"He that is righteous is favored of God." I Nephi 17:35.

"All things have been done in the wisdom of him who knoweth all things." II Nephi 2:24.

QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS.

It is suggested that for this lesson, class members be asked to do two things:

1. Discuss the proverbs presented.
2. Bring to class other selected passages of literary merit from the Book of Mormon.