

Missionary Work  
(Priest Lesson June 2014 – Roald Peterson)

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**We Are Missionaries for Christ – Not the Church**

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? Why do we do missionary work?

- Not to bring people to the church, but to bring them to Christ. Also to bring ourselves to unto Christ.
- When doing missionary work we should not be teaching about the church – we should be teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- One of the reasons many of us have problems doing missionary work is because we know things about the church but we don't know a lot about the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- In the 1990s at a Salt Lake area conference priesthood leadership meeting the area president told the stake and Ward leaders who were present that the reason they were having so many problems in their wards and stakes was because people were not living the gospel. And the reason they weren't living the gospel is because they didn't know the gospel. And the reason they didn't know the gospel is because the leaders were not teaching the gospel. And the reason the leaders weren't teaching it is because they didn't know it.

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**We Need to Be on the Path of Discipleship**

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- When we do missionary work we are not inviting people to become members of a club. We should be inviting them to become disciples of Jesus Christ. And to do this with any effectiveness we need to be on the path of discipleship ourselves.

(DC 11:21) Seek not to declare my word, but first seek to obtain my word, and then shall your tongue be loosed; then, if you desire, you shall have my Spirit and my word, yea, the power of God unto the convincing of men.

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**Lessons From Great Missionaries**

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- Read and discuss Alma 17:

2 Now these sons of Mosiah were with Alma at the time the angel first appeared unto him; therefore Alma did rejoice exceedingly to see his brethren; and what added more to his joy, they were still his brethren in the Lord; yea, and they had waxed strong in the knowledge of the truth; for they were men of a sound understanding and they had searched the scriptures diligently, that they might know the word of God.

3 But this is not all; they had given themselves to much prayer, and fasting; therefore they had the spirit of prophecy, and the spirit of revelation, and when they taught, they taught with power and authority of God.

4 And they had been teaching the word of God for the space of fourteen years among the Lamanites, having had much success in bringing many to the knowledge of the truth; yea, by the power of their words many were brought before the altar of God, to call on his name and confess their sins before him.

5 Now these are the circumstances which attended them in their journeyings, for they had many afflictions;

they did suffer much, both in body and in mind, such as hunger, thirst and fatigue, and also much labor in the spirit.

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9 And it came to pass that they journeyed many days in the wilderness, and they fasted much and prayed much that the Lord would grant unto them a portion of his Spirit to go with them, and abide with them, that they might be an instrument in the hands of God to bring, if it were possible, their brethren, the Lamanites, to the knowledge of the truth, to the knowledge of the baseness of the traditions of their fathers, which were not correct.

10 And it came to pass that the Lord did visit them with his Spirit, and said unto them: Be comforted. And they were comforted.

11 And the Lord said unto them also: Go forth among the Lamanites, thy brethren, and establish my word; yet ye shall be patient in long-suffering and afflictions, that ye may show forth good examples unto them in me, and I will make an instrument of thee in my hands unto the salvation of many souls.

12 And it came to pass that the hearts of the sons of Mosiah, and also those who were with them, took courage to go forth unto the Lamanites to declare unto them the word of God.

...  
24 And it came to pass that king Lamoni was much pleased with Ammon, and caused that his bands should be loosed; and he would that Ammon should take one of his daughters to wife.

25 But Ammon said unto him: Nay, but I will be thy servant. Therefore Ammon became a servant to king Lamoni. And it came to pass that he was set among other servants to watch the flocks of Lamoni, according to the custom of the Lamanites.

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**Importance of the Holy Ghost**

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- True joy is a gift of the Spirit. Joy in missionary work is the result of having the companionship of the Holy Ghost and following his guidance.
- The purposes of the Holy Ghost are:
  - To bear witness of the truth, especially Christ
  - Teach truths, especially the gospel of Christ
  - Comfort where necessary
  - Provide spiritual gifts
  - Guide us along the path that leads to Christ
  - Sanctify us so that we can stand in the presence of Deity
- We need the Holy Ghost as our constant companion. And we need to help those that we share the gospel with to have and recognize experiences with the Holy Ghost. We don't convert. He does.
- Analogy of the process of bringing a new song into the repertoire of our music group. How it is like a new doctrine that one learns over time and then helps the others to learn. Eventually, the group becomes proficient at performing the song.

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