



Lesson 26: “Go Ye into All the World, and Preach My Gospel”, Doctrine and Covenants 112; *Our Heritage*, pages 30–33, 36.

Introduction

Sacrifice
Courage
Faith



*This suitcase belongs to Elder Erastus Snow.
I have been called by the Prophet Joseph Smith
to serve a mission in western Pennsylvania.
I am instructed to leave in the spring of 1836.
I will be departing from Kirtland alone and on foot.
I am taking all my worldly wealth.*

Elder Erastus Snow departed on a mission in the spring of 1836 with nothing but the items above. Consider the sacrifice, courage, and faith it took for Elder Snow to undertake this missionary journey as the Lord directed.

This lesson includes a discussion of the missionary work carried out at great sacrifice by Saints living in Kirtland, Ohio. These missionaries helped convert many people to the gospel, strengthening the young Church.

The Lord poured out great blessings during the Kirtland period.

Most of the last 13 lessons have focused on the doctrines that were revealed and the events that occurred while the Saints were in Kirtland, Ohio. During this time the Lord blessed His people greatly.

Those revelations and spiritual growth experiences were great blessings to the Saints. Teachings and experiences included the law of consecration, the law of tithing

and the fast, the purposes of the temple, the restoration of important keys, the plan of salvation and the kingdoms of glory, the Word of Wisdom, the Second Coming, keys to avoiding apostasy, and the revelation of the priesthood.

Next Week

#27 “They Must Needs Be Chastened and Tried, Even as Abraham”, (D&C 101; 103; 105; *Our Heritage*, pp. 27–29, 37–45)

Lesson Highlights

- The Lord poured out great blessings during the Kirtland period.
- The Saints in Kirtland made great sacrifices to share the gospel.
- Members of the Quorum of the Twelve taught thousands in England.
- Many Saints in Kirtland remained valiant despite persecution.

A study of this lesson will help us follow the example of the Kirtland Saints who made great sacrifices to share the gospel and remained steadfast during times of adversity.



The Saints in Kirtland made great sacrifices to share the gospel.

Another important aspect of the Kirtland period was the calling of missionaries to preach the gospel in the United States, Canada, and England. Most of them served at great personal sacrifice.

D&C 42:6 and **D&C 88:81** are examples of many of His commandments to preach the gospel.

In 1836 **Elder Parley P. Pratt**, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve, was called to serve a mission to Canada. On his way to Toronto, Canada, *"a stranger gave him a letter of introduction to John Taylor, a Methodist lay preacher in Toronto. Taylor was affiliated with a group who believed existing churches did not correspond with New Testament Christianity. For two years this group had met several times a week for the 'purpose of seeking truth, independent of any sectarian organization.'* In Toronto, *Elder Pratt was courteously received by the Taylors, but they were not at first enthusiastic about his message.*

"Discouraged at being unable to secure a place to preach, Parley decided to leave Toronto. Before going he stopped at the Taylors to get some of his luggage and to say goodbye. While he was there, Leonora Taylor told her friend Mrs. Isabella Walton about Parley's problem and said she was sorry he was leaving. 'He may be a man of God,' she said. Mrs. Walton replied that she had been inspired by the Spirit to visit the Taylors that morning because she was willing to let Elder Pratt stay at her home and preach. He did so and was eventually invited to attend a meeting of John Taylor's group, in which John read the New Testament account of Philip's preaching in Samaria. 'Now,' said he, 'where is our Philip? Where is our receiving the Word with joy, and being baptized when we believed? Where is our Peter and John? Our apostles? Where is our Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands? ...' When Parley was invited to speak, he declared that he had answers to John Taylor's questions.

Members of the Quorum of the Twelve taught thousands in England.

As the Church grew, the forces working against it became more vigorous. Some of the Saints faltered in their faith. During this difficult time, the Lord revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith that *"something new must be done for the salvation of His Church"* (*History of the Church*, 2:489).

That "something new" proved to be an infusion of new converts to the Church from

"For three weeks John Taylor attended Elder Pratt's meetings, making detailed notes of his sermons and carefully comparing them with the scriptures. Gradually he became convinced that the true gospel of Jesus Christ was restored. He and his wife, Leonora, were baptized on 9 May 1836" (*Church History in the Fulness of Times* [Church Educational System manual, 1993], 157; see also Parley P. Pratt, *Autobiography of Parley P. Pratt* [1975], 134–40, 151).

John Taylor was ordained an elder and served faithfully as a missionary, later becoming the third President of the Church.

Levi Hancock was baptized in November 1830, and soon afterward he was called to leave Kirtland and serve a mission in Missouri. The journey involved walking hundreds of miles, and he and his companion, Zebedee Coltrin, had success in preaching the gospel as they traveled. *"But they also suffered hardships on their journey. Levi fell ill because of an infection in his feet and had to spend time recuperating with a family who took him in while Zebedee went on without him. Later, in Missouri, he continued to struggle with illness and chafed at times because of his inability to do all he wanted. But grateful to serve, he wrote: 'I have to be honest before God and do all the good I can for his kingdom or woe is me. I care not for the world nor what they say. They have to meet my Testimony at the Judgement seat. I mean that my conduct shall be such that my words will be believed, the Lord being my helper.'"*

Later, Levi served valiantly as part of Zion's Camp. In February 1835 he was chosen as one of the Presidents of the Seventy. (See Don L. Searle, "It Is the Truth, I Can Feel It," *Ensign*, July 1999, 48–50.)

Obviously, overcoming adversity is important in missionary work and that cannot be done without faith and a willingness to sacrifice to advance the work of the Lord. How willing are we to make sacrifices?

England. *"Because many early missionaries obediently accepted mission calls despite personal sacrifice, thousands of British converts enjoyed the blessings of the restored gospel. They gathered to Zion and greatly strengthened the Church for the crucial periods that lay ahead."* (*Our Heritage*, Pg. 33)

Joseph Smith, Jr.:

"A religion that does not require the sacrifice of all things never has power sufficient to produce the faith necessary unto life and salvation."

Lectures on Faith (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1985), p. 69.



The Lord's commandment for these brethren to leave Kirtland at such a difficult time may have seemed hard to understand. But the sacrifices made by these faithful brethren resulted in a great strengthening of the Church.

On 23 July 1837, the day the missionaries first preached the gospel in England, the Prophet Joseph Smith received a revelation directed to Thomas B. Marsh, the President of the Quorum of the Twelve. This revelation is now **D&C 112**. Verses 12–34 contain instructions that Thomas B. Marsh was to give to the Twelve.

The promise given in **D&C 112:19** was fulfilled quickly. Within eight months, 2,000 people had joined the Church through the efforts of these missionaries, and 26 branches had been organized.

The Lord promised the Twelve that He would give them power to open nations to the preaching of the gospel if they would "humble themselves before [Him], ... abide in [His] word, and hearken to the voice of [His] Spirit" (D&C 112:21–22).

The Lord continues to fulfill this promise. **President Thomas S. Monson** related the following story:

"In 1968 when I made my first visit to the German Democratic Republic, tensions were high. Trust and understanding did not exist. No diplomatic relations had been established. On a cloudy and rain-filled day I journeyed to the city of Görlitz, situated deep in the German Democratic Republic. ... I attended my first meeting with the Saints. We assembled in a small and ancient building. As the members sang the hymns of Zion, they literally filled the hall with their faith and devotion.

"My heart was filled with sorrow when I realized the members had no patriarch, no wards or stakes—just branches. They could not receive temple blessings—either endowment or sealing. No official visitor had come from Church headquarters in a long time. The members could not leave their country. Yet they trusted in the Lord with all their hearts.

"I stood at the pulpit, and with tear-filled eyes and a voice choked with emotion, I

made a promise to the people: 'If you will remain true and faithful to the commandments of God, every blessing any member of the Church enjoys in any other country will be yours.' Then I realized what I had said. That night, I dropped to my knees and pleaded with my Heavenly Father, 'Father, I'm on Thy errand; this is Thy Church. I have spoken words that came not from me but from Thee and Thy Son. Wilt Thou fulfill the promise in the lives of this noble people.' Thus concluded my first visit to the German Democratic Republic."

Eight years later, Elder Monson offered a dedicatory prayer on the land:

"On a Sunday morning, April 27, 1975, I stood on an outcropping of rock situated between the cities of Dresden and Meissen, high above the Elbe River, and offered a prayer on the land and its people. That prayer noted the faith of the members. It emphasized the tender feelings of many hearts filled with an overwhelming desire to obtain temple blessings. A plea for peace was expressed. Divine help was requested. I spoke the words: 'Dear Father, let this be the beginning of a new day for the members of Thy Church in this land.'

"Suddenly, from far below in the valley, a bell in a church steeple began to chime and the shrill crow of a rooster broke the morning silence, each heralding the commencement of a new day. Though my eyes were closed, I felt a warmth from the sun's rays reaching my face, my hands, my arms. How could this be? An incessant rain had been falling all morning.

"At the conclusion of the prayer, I gazed heavenward. I noted a ray of sunshine which streamed from an opening in the heavy clouds, a ray which engulfed the spot where our small group stood. From that moment I knew divine help was at hand."

Following this inspired prayer, the Church grew rapidly in the land. District councils were organized, followed by the creation of stakes. Priesthood leaders and patriarchs were called. The Freiberg Germany temple was dedicated in 1985. And in 1989 the government permitted the Church to send full-time missionaries to the country. (*Ensign*, May 1989, 50–53.)

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf:

"Having the fulness of the gospel should not lead any of us to feel arrogant or harbor a holier-than-thou attitude. We should simply be grateful with all our heart for the truth restored and for the privilege of bringing this truth and these eternal blessings to our brothers and sisters...

Let us never be ashamed to testify that Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God and that we have a living prophet today."

(BYU devotional address, 22 August 2006)



Many Saints in Kirtland remained valiant despite persecution.

By 1838, the Saints' time in Kirtland was drawing to a close. Persecution intensified, and it became unsafe to remain there.

While some Church members fell into apostasy in Kirtland, most of them remained faithful and were a great strength to the Church. Relate the following experience from the life of **Brigham Young**:

While living in Kirtland, Brigham Young was in a meeting where a group of apostates, including some prominent Church leaders, were plotting to depose the Prophet Joseph Smith and put someone else in his place. Brigham Young said of this experience:

"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; 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. Many were highly enraged at my decided opposition to their measures. ... This meeting was broken up without the apostates being able to unite on any decided measures of opposition" ("History of Brigham Young," *Deseret News*, 10 Feb. 1858, 386).

Conclusion

Great blessings came to the Saints while they lived in Kirtland. Many of them were called to serve missions and willingly made sacrifices to share the gospel. Most of them remained faithful during a time of great adversity. Concerning these Church members, *Our Heritage* states, *"In the example of their lives, they ... left a permanent heritage of faithful obedience to the Lord's anointed leaders and personal sacrifice in the work of the Lord"* (36).

Gospel Doctrine Notebook

Record your thoughts on the teachings discussed in this lesson.

- What sacrifices did your ancestors make in order to share the gospel? What sacrifices have you made?
- What have you learned about overcoming adversity in missionary work?
- What sacrifices do you need to make to share the gospel with your friends and neighbors?

