

Lesson Highlights

- *Abinadi calls Noah and his priests to repentance, exhorts them to keep the commandments, and teaches of the Atonement.*
- *Abinadi quotes Isaiah, testifies of the Atonement, and exhorts Noah's priests to teach the people that redemption comes through Christ.*
- *Abinadi seals his testimony of the Savior with his life.*

A study of this lesson will help us appreciate the importance of the Atonement of Jesus Christ and stay true to our testimonies of the Atonement.

Next Week:

Lesson 19:

"None Could Deliver Them but the Lord",
Mosiah 18-24

Green Mountain 1st Ward
Lakewood, Colorado
Doug Simpson

Introduction

There are many scriptural accounts of the Lord commanding people to fulfill difficult missions. Think about these difficult missions or callings recorded in the scriptures:



Noah preaching to the people



Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt



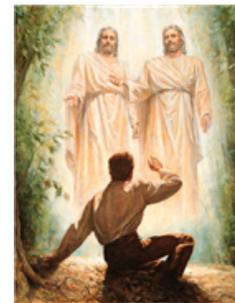
Lehi warning the people in Jerusalem



Abinadi preaching to King Noah



Samuel preaching in Zarahemla



Joseph Smith fulfilling his mission as the Prophet of the Restoration



Esther going before King Ahasuerus

Why were these missions difficult? Why do you think these people were willing to fulfill their missions despite the difficult circumstances? This lesson has us thinking of the prophet Abinadi before King Noah and discusses his teachings. As you review this lesson, look for reasons why Abinadi was willing to give his life in order to preach to the people.

Abinadi called Noah and his priests to repentance, exhorted them to keep the commandments, and taught of the Atonement.

Mosiah 12:1-8 Two years after Abinadi had originally preached to Noah's people, he returned to tell them that because they had not repented, they would suffer and be brought into bondage. He also warned again that they would be destroyed if they did not repent.

Mosiah 12:9-16 The people responded to this message with anger and they chose to defend their wicked King Noah.

Mosiah 12:20-24 After Abinadi withstood the priests' efforts to "cross him," one of the priests asked him a question about a scripture passage quoted in these verses.

Mosiah 12:25-27 The priests were unable to understand this scripture passage because they were perverting the ways of God and not applying their hearts to understanding the scriptures.

D&C 8:2-3 teaches us clearly that personal revelation comes to our hearts and minds through the Spirit as we apply our hearts to understanding. It is important to apply our hearts as we study and teach the gospel so that we will be in tune with the Holy Ghost, who can testify of the truths we are learning or teaching.

Mosiah 12:28-37 Abinadi revealed that the problem with the priests' claim that they taught the law of Moses was two-fold: First, they did not understand the law's purpose and secondly, they did not live it themselves.

It is vital that we live according to the truths we teach because our example is a far more important testimony of our beliefs than our words.

Mosiah 13:1-9 Something miraculous happened to make it possible for Abinadi to deliver his message as Abinadi was transfigured before them and his face shone with a celestial glory. The Lord did this so Abinadi would be able to testify of the Atonement of Jesus Christ. This illustrates the importance of the message of the Atonement.

Mosiah 13:11 Abinadi read the Ten Commandments to Noah and his priests, as he says, because it was not in their hearts. Consider what it means to have the commandments "written in [our] hearts". Having the commandments written in our hearts would positively affect our efforts to obey them because those commandments would be an integral part of us.

The actions of Abinadi and Alma can help us see the importance of the Atonement.

Abinadi's life was preserved by the Lord so he could testify of the Atonement (Mosiah 13:1-9). After Abinadi had shared this message, he *"sealed the truth of his words by his death"* (Mosiah 17:20).

Alma wrote *"all the words which Abinadi had spoken"* (Mosiah 17:4). He then obeyed Abinadi's command to *"teach ...that redemption cometh through Christ the Lord"* (Mosiah 16:15).

Stay true to your testimony and share the message of the Atonement.

Gospel Doctrine Notebook

Record your thoughts on the teachings of Abinadi as discussed in this lesson. What have you learned from his teachings about the mission of Jesus Christ? What difference does that make in your life?

After calling Noah and the priests to repentance for not keeping the law of Moses, Abinadi said, *"Salvation doth not come by the law alone"* (Mosiah 13:28).

Mosiah 13:14, 28, 32-35; Articles of Faith 1:3 Salvation comes by obeying the commandments and through Christ's atonement which allows the repentant to

Abinadi quoted Isaiah, testified of the Atonement, and exhorted Noah's priests to teach the people that redemption comes through Christ.

As part of his testimony of Jesus Christ, Abinadi quoted the prophet Isaiah. Some things we learn about the Savior from the prophecy quoted in Mosiah 14 include:

- The Savior lived meekly and humbly (**Mosiah 14:2**).
- Many people rejected Him (**Mosiah 14:3**).
- He carried our griefs and sorrows (**Mosiah 14:4**).
- He took upon Himself the sins of all people (**Mosiah 14:5-6, 8, 10-12**).
- He willingly subjected Himself to persecution and death (**Mosiah 14:7-9**).
- He was without sin (**Mosiah 14:9**).

Abinadi said that the Savior *"satisfied the demands of justice"* (Mosiah 15:9).

Alma 42:11, 14 The demands of justice referred to by Abinadi are that fallen men be cut off from the presence of God forever.

Mosiah 15:9; Alma 42:12-13, 15 To satisfy the demands of justice, the Savior ascended into heaven where He stood between men and justice and took upon himself their iniquities and transgressions and redeemed mankind.

Mosiah 15:10; see also Mosiah 14:10 Here, Abinadi spoke of the seed, or the sons and daughters, of Jesus Christ.

Mosiah 15:11-14; see also Mosiah 5:5-7 Consider Abinadi's explanation of what it means to be the Savior's sons and daughters. Jesus Christ is the author of salvation. There is a Father-child relationship between Him and those who accept His gospel. We become His seed, or His sons and daughters, when we believe in

Abinadi sealed his testimony of the Savior with his life.

Mosiah 17:2-4; Alma 5:11-12 Abinadi was successful in his mission to King Noah and his people--not in converting them, but in doing what he was called to do. Only one listener was converted because of Abinadi's teachings.

Mosiah 17:1, 7 After Abinadi had given his message, King Noah and the judges decided to find him worthy of death.

Mosiah 17:8 Abinadi could have recalled his condemnation of King Noah and his followers to avoid being put to death.

Mosiah 17:9-10, 20 He refused to recall the words he had spoken because they were true and he would rather suffer death than lie.

overcome their sins and be forgiven and cleansed.

Mosiah 13:29-33 When we review the purpose of the law of Moses we see that the performances and ordinances of the law of Moses were types, or symbols, of things to come. They were given to help the people look to Christ.

Him, repent of our sins, and covenant to do His will and obey His commandments.

Mosiah 12:20-24 One of Noah's priests asked Abinadi to interpret Isaiah's statement *"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings"*.

Mosiah 15:19-25; D&C 76:40-42 These good tidings are enumerated here: the bands of death are broken, the Savior reigns, the resurrection is brought to pass, and those in the first resurrection obtain eternal life.

Mosiah 15:13-18 The messengers who share these good tidings include the Savior Himself, the prophets, and others who share the gospel. Ponder how you can help bring these good tidings to others through missionary activity.

Mosiah 15:21-23; Mosiah 16:8-11 We will be blessed after we die if we have believed in Christ, followed Him, and accepted His Atonement by being raised in the first resurrection and obtaining eternal life and happiness.

Mosiah 15:26-27; Mosiah 16:2-3, 5, 10-12 If we have rejected Christ and His Atonement, Christ's redemption will have no part for us as we are turned over to the claims of justice and the devil will have power over us--as if there had been no redemption.

Mosiah 16:13-15 At the end of his discourse, Abinadi exhorted Noah and the priests to truly repent, accept Christ and teach about Him. Think about how you can apply this counsel in your life.

Further, his testimony was given as a witness against them for shedding innocent blood. Although we will likely not need to die for our faith, ponder the ways you can follow Abinadi's example.

President Ezra Taft Benson said: *"Christ changes men, and changed men can change the world. Men changed for Christ will be captained by Christ. ... Men captained by Christ will be consumed in Christ. ... Their will is swallowed up in His will. (See John 5:30.) They do always those things that please the Lord. (See John 8:29.) Not only would they die for the Lord, but more important they want to live for Him"* (Ensign, Nov. 1985, 6).