

Lesson 48: “Come unto Christ” Moroni 7-8; 10

**Purpose:** To help us learn how to judge between good and evil; and how to receive a testimony of the Gospel and the Book of Mormon.

### **1. Mormon explains how to judge between good and evil. (Moroni 7:1-19)**

Moroni 7:1-5 Q: How do we become “peaceable followers of Christ?”

Q: How might we enter into the “rest of the Lord”? ↔ President Joseph F. Smith ↔ Neil Flinders ↔ Laurie Tueller  
Moroni 7:6-9, 10-11

President Marion G. Romney: "About a quarter of a century ago Sister Romney and I moved into a ward in which they were just beginning to build a meetinghouse. The size of the contribution the bishop thought I ought to contribute rather staggered me. I thought it was at least twice as much as he should have asked. However, I had just been called to a rather high Church position, so I said, 'Well, I will pay it, Bishop, but I will have to pay it in installments because I don't have the money.' And so I began to pay. And I paid and paid until I was down to about the last three payments, when, as is my habit, I was reading The Book of Mormon, and came to the scripture which said:

"...if a man...giveth a gift ...grudgingly; wherefore it is counted unto him the same as if he had retained the gift; wherefore he is counted evil before God.'

"This shocked me because I was out about a thousand dollars. Well, I went on and paid the three installments I had promised to pay, and then I paid several more installments to convince the Lord that I had done it with the right attitude." (Relief Society Magazine, Feb 1968)

Q: How can we purify our motives for doing good?

Moroni 7:12-15, esp. v13

Q: What are some ways we can discern good from evil?

**Chalkboard:**

Moroni 7:16, 18-19 Light of Christ ↔ See *Bible Dictionary*, 725

Q: How can we become more receptive to the guidance of the light of Christ?

### **2. Mormon explains the importance of faith, hope, and charity. (Moroni 7:20-48)**

Moroni 7:20, 25-26, 28, 33, 36-38 How to lay hold upon every good thing

Moroni 7:40-44 Faith and Hope

Q: What are some reasons a persons must be “meek and lowly of heart” to have true faith?

Q: How can we increase our faith and hope?

Moroni 7:45-48 Charity

Q: How have experiences in your life confirmed the principle that “charity never faileth”?

Q: How can we become filled with the pure love of Christ?

### **3. Mormon teachers that little children are saved through Christ’s Atonement. Moroni 8**

Moroni 8:10, 24-26 Q: How can those of us who sin gain salvation through the Atonement of Christ?

### **4. The Holy Ghost testifies of all truth. Spiritual gifts follow those who come unto Christ.**

Moroni 10:2 Exhortation means to advise or urge strongly

Moroni 10:3, 4, 7, 8, 18, 19, 27, 30 Moroni’s final exhortations

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland: “The Savior said, ‘Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you... Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid’ (John 14:27).

“I submit to you, that may be one of the Savior’s commandments that is, even in the hearts of otherwise faithful Latter-day Saints, almost universally disobeyed; and yet I wonder whether our resistance to this invitation could be any more grievous to the Lord’s merciful heart. I can tell you this as a parent: as concerned as I would be if somewhere in their lives one of my children were seriously troubled or unhappy or disobedient, nevertheless I would be infinitely more devastated if I felt that at such a time that child could not trust me to help or thought his or her interest was unimportant to me or unsafe in my care. In that same spirit, I am convinced that none of us can appreciate how deeply it wounds the loving heart of the Savior of the world when he finds that his people do not feel confident in his care or secure in his hands or trust in his commandments.” (“Come unto Me,” Ensign, Apr. 1998, 19)

Q: What have you learned and felt as you have pondered the messages of the Book of Mormon?

Q: In what ways has this year’s study of the Book of Mormon helped you come unto Christ?

**President Joseph F. Smith:** “The ancient prophets speak of ‘entering into God’s rest’; what does it mean? To my mind, it means entering into the knowledge and love of God, having faith in his purpose and in his plan, to such an extent that we know we are right [i.e. we know the gospel is true], and that we are not hunting for something else, we are not disturbed by every wind of doctrine, or by the cunning and craftiness of men who lie in wait to deceive.” (*Gospel Doctrine*, 58)

**Dr. Neil Flinders** said in one of my classes at BYU: “Submission to God is *not* the same thing as commitment to him. Submission is greater than commitment. Submission is to surrender one’s will to him, and then he will direct our lives for good. Both submission and commitment can be measured by activity in church, but ultimate happiness, personal peace and spiritual fulfillment will attend only submission.” (In my class notes)

**Laurie Tueller** spoke at Timpanogos Stake Conference and “described the terrible ordeal of losing her baby Amanda to chronic kidney failure. At Primary Children’s Hospital, the doctor gave her the crushing news in a briefing room. After leaving her alone, she fell to her knees and pleaded with God, asking him not to take her baby. She told him she could not handle such a trial. Of her pain she said, ‘I felt the most heavy darkness in my soul.’

“Nevertheless, she said, ‘After several discussions with my husband and many sincere prayers, I finally concluded that if it was God’s will that Amanda should die, then I would be willing to give her up.’

“Laurie testified of our Father’s transcendent love by saying, ‘When I finally allowed myself to submit to God’s will, I felt an overwhelming sense of peace. That heavy darkness was replaced by a calm and reassuring peace that came flooding over me. And I wish I could describe that feeling to you. The fear left me, and I felt the love and concern of my Heavenly Father.’

“Some months later, Amanda passed away in Primary Children’s Intensive Care Unit. But our Heavenly Father healed Laurie’s heart, and she said, ‘I can testify to you, I have never felt the Spirit as strong as I did that night as Amanda passed through the veil. It was such a beautiful and sacred experience. And despite all the tears, I felt such a great peace. And it was during this greatest trial that I felt my Savior the closest.’” (In *Prayers That Bring Miracles*, 31-32)

**Daniel H. Ludlow:** “When a person follows this divine formula [Moroni 10:3-5], the results are certain: He will gain a testimony of the Book of Mormon. God cannot and does not lie, and his promises made through his prophets are sure. Therefore, any person who claims to have followed the various requirements but says he has not gained a testimony should check to see which step he has not followed faithfully or completely.” (“[I Have a Question](#),” *Ensign*, Mar 1986, 50-51)

**Elder Bruce R. McConkie on the gifts of the spirit:** “Their purpose is to enlighten, encourage, and edify the faithful so that they will inherit peace in this life and be guided toward eternal life in the world to come. Their presence is proof of the divinity of the Lord’s work; where they are not found, there the Church and kingdom of God is not. The promise is they shall never be done away as long as the earth continues in its present state, except for unbelief, but when the perfect day comes and the saints obtain exaltation, there will be no more need for them.” (*Mormon Doctrine*, 314)

**President Gordon B. Hinckley:** “I would like to urge every man and woman ... and every boy and girl who is old enough to read to again read the Book of Mormon during this coming year.... There is nothing we could do of greater importance than to have fortified in our individual lives an unshakable conviction that Jesus is the Christ, the Living Son of the Living God.... That is the purpose of the coming forth of this remarkable and wonderful book.” (in *Church News*, 4 May 1996, 2)

**President Joseph Field Smith:** “No member of this Church can stand approved in the presence of God who has not seriously and carefully read the Book of Mormon.” (In Conference Report, Oct. 1961, 18)

**President Ezra Taft Benson:** “The Book of Mormon is studied in our Sunday School and seminary classes every fourth year. This four-year pattern, however, must *not* be followed by Church members in their personal and family study. We need to read daily from the pages of the book that will get a man ‘nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than any other book’ (“[Flooding the Earth with the Book of Mormon](#),” *Ensign*, Nov. 1988, 4)

**President Benson:** “Every Latter-day Saint should make the study of this book a lifetime pursuit.” (“[The Book of Mormon Is the Word of God](#),” *Ensign*, May 1975, 65)

## **“I Will Not Burn the Book!”**

One cold day in February 1910, Vincenzo di Francesca, a Protestant minister, came across a weather-beaten copy of a religious book with no title page. Curious, he wrapped the book in a newspaper and took it with him. At home he cleaned and read the book. “I read and reread, twice and twice again, and I found it fit to say that the book was a fifth gospel of the Redeemer,” he said.

The book he had found was the Book of Mormon. When he had read it, he followed the admonition in Moroni 10:4. “At the end of the day, I locked the door of my room, knelt with the book in my hands, and read chapter ten of the book of Moroni. I prayed to God, the Eternal Father in the name of his son, Jesus Christ, to tell me if the book were of God, if it were good and true, and if I should mix its words with the words of the four gospels in my preaching.

I felt my body become cold as the wind from the sea. Then my heart began to palpitate, and a feeling of gladness, as of finding something precious and extraordinary, bore consolation to my soul and left me with a joy that human language cannot find words to describe. I had received the assurance that God had answered my prayer and that the book was of greatest benefit to me and to all who would listen to its words.”

The testimony of Vincenzo di Francesca received at this time helped him through many difficult experiences. He was stripped of his position as a minister because he taught from the Book of Mormon. It was 1930 before he learned the name of the book and the name of the Church that published it. Because of war and other political problems, another 21 years passed before he was able to be baptized. Throughout these difficulties, he maintained a strong testimony of the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon. (See Vincenzo di Francesca, [“I Will Not Burn the Book!”](#) *Ensign*, Jan. 1988, 18-21)