Alma 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

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Next Weeks Lesson: Lesson 24 "Give Us Strength According to Our Faith ... in Christ" (<u>Alma 13-16</u>)

Today's Lesson: Lesson 23 "More Than One Witness" (Alma 8-12)

1. Alma calls the people of Ammonihah to repentance, but they reject him. (<u>Alma</u> <u>8-9</u>)

Alma delivered up the judgment seat to Nephihah and began his missionary journeys. These included a journey to the wicked city of Ammonihah.

- A. After he established the order of the Church among the people in Gideon and Melek, Alma went to preach in the land of Ammonihah. What challenge did he face there? (See <u>Alma 8:8-9</u>.) Which words in <u>Alma 8:10</u> describe the intensity of Alma's efforts in Ammonihah? How did the people of Ammonihah respond to Alma's preaching? (See <u>Alma 8:11-13</u>.)
- B. What happened as Alma left Ammonihah and traveled toward the city of Aaron? (See <u>Alma 8:14-17</u>.) According to the angel, what reason did Alma have to rejoice? (See <u>Alma 8:15</u>.) How did Alma respond to the angel's instructions? (See <u>Alma 8:18</u>.) What can we learn from his response?

Let's briefly review about how Alma and Amulek met (<u>Alma 8:19-32</u>).

- C. How did the Lord prepare Amulek to preach with Alma? (See <u>Alma 8:20</u>, <u>Alma 8:27</u>; <u>Alma 10:7-11</u>.) What are some ways in which individuals are prepared to do the Lord's work?
- D. Why did the people of Ammonihah continue to reject Alma's warnings? (See <u>Alma 9:5</u>.) What arguments did they use to reject his message? (See <u>Alma 9:2</u>, <u>Alma 9:6</u>.)
- E. Alma said that the wicked people in Ammonihah had forgotten the righteous tradition of their fathers, the commandments of God, and the Lord's deliverance of their fathers (<u>Alma 9:8-11</u>). How did their forgetfulness lead to wickedness? What are some reasons people forget what the Lord has done for them and others? What effective ways have you found for remembering the Lord's blessings to you?
- F. Alma warned that if the wicked Nephites of Ammonihah did not repent, the day of judgment would be "more tolerable" for the Lamanites than for them (<u>Alma 9:15</u>). Why would this be so? (See <u>Alma 9:14-24</u>; see also <u>Luke 12:47-48</u>; <u>D&C 82:3</u>.) What does the Lord require of those who have received greater light?

G. What did Alma teach about the "promises which are extended to the Lamanites"? (<u>Alma 9:16-17</u>). How are these promises being fulfilled today?

2. Amulek preaches to the people of Ammonihah. (Alma 10)

After Alma had spoken to the people, Amulek stood up and began to preach to them. Amulek was a descendant of Lehi and was a wealthy man "of no small reputation" in the community (<u>Alma 10:2-4</u>).

- A. Amulek said that he had been "called many times" but "would not hear" and that he "knew concerning these things" but "would not know" (<u>Alma 10:6</u>). What are some of the ways the Lord calls to us? Why are we sometimes slow to respond to Him? How can we be more receptive to Him?
- **B.** When was Amulek finally converted? (See <u>Alma 10:7-11</u>.)
- **C.** What was the intent of the lawyers who questioned Amulek? (See <u>Alma 10:13-16</u>, <u>Alma 10:31-32</u>.) Why were they unable to deceive him? (See <u>Alma 10:17</u>.)
- D. Amulek rebuked the lawyers and warned that they were laying the foundation of the destruction of the people (<u>Alma 10:17-21</u>, <u>Alma 10:27</u>). How were they laying this foundation? What had kept the people from being destroyed already? (See <u>Alma 10:22-23</u>.) How do you think the prayers of the righteous help counter the effects of wickedness today?
- **E.** Why were the people astonished by Amulek's words? (See <u>Alma 10:12</u>.) What are the benefits of having more than one witness when sharing the gospel? How can we sustain each other in these endeavors?

following chart provides an example of how Alma and Amulek continued to support each other's efforts by preaching the same doctrines.

DOCTRINE	AMULEK'S WITNESS	ALMA'S WITNESS
The Atonement	<u>Alma 11:40</u>	<u>Alma 12:33-34</u>
Repentance	<u>Alma 11:40</u>	<u>Alma 12:24</u>
Judgment	<u>Alma 11:41</u>	<u>Alma 12:14</u>
Resurrection	<u>Alma 11:41-42</u>	<u>Alma 12:24-25</u>

3. Amulek contends with Zeezrom and testifies of Christ. (<u>Alma 11</u>)

Chapter 11 begins with a description of the Nephites' monetary system. Beginning in <u>Alma 11:20</u> is the account of Amulek being questioned by Zeezrom, one of the most cunning lawyers in the land of Ammonihah.

A. How did the judges in Ammonihah earn money? (See <u>Alma 11:1</u>, <u>Alma 11:20</u>.) Why did they want to contend with Alma and Amulek? (See <u>Alma 11:20</u>.)

Let's read the dialogue between Amulek and Zeezrom (found in <u>Alma 11:21-40</u>).

- **B.** How did Amulek respond to Zeezrom's first question? (See <u>Alma 11:21-22</u>.) How can we keep our words and teachings in harmony with the Spirit of the Lord?
- C. Zeezrom asked Amulek if Jesus would save people in their sins (<u>Alma 11:34</u>). What reasons did Amulek give for saying that we cannot be saved in our sins? (See <u>Alma 11:34</u>, <u>Alma 11:37</u>.) What is the difference between the false idea of being saved *in* our sins and the truth that we can be saved *from* our sins?
- D. Which blessings of Christ's Atonement come to all people? (See <u>Alma 11:42-43</u>.) Which blessings come only to those who have faith in Him and keep His commandments? (See <u>Alma 11:40-41</u>.)
- **E.** What did Amulek teach about resurrection? (See <u>Alma 11:43-45</u>.) Why are these truths important for us to know?

4. Alma further explains Amulek's words and warns against hard-heartedness. (Alma 12)

After Amulek had answered Zeezrom's contentions, Zeezrom "began to tremble" (<u>Alma 11:46</u>). Seeing this, Alma began to speak to "establish the words of Amulek, ... to unfold the scriptures beyond that which Amulek had done" (<u>Alma 12:1</u>).

- A. From Alma's words to Zeezrom in <u>Alma 12:3-6</u>, what can we learn about what Satan desires and how he works? (Satan often tries to deceive one person in order to bring many people to destruction.) How can we protect ourselves against Satan's subtle devices?
- B. What did Alma teach about how the condition of our hearts affects our understanding of God's word? (See <u>Alma 12:9-11</u>.) What blessings come to those who do not harden their hearts? (See <u>Alma 12:10</u>.) How can we develop hearts that recognize, understand, and accept the word of God? (See <u>1 Nephi 2:16</u>; <u>1 Nephi 15:11</u>.)
- **C.** Alma taught that people who harden their hearts against the word of God will be condemned by their words, works, and thoughts (<u>Alma 12:13-14</u>). Why do you think the Lord judges according to our thoughts as well as our words and actions?
- D. How did Alma describe the state of those who do not repent and thus die in their sins? (See <u>Alma 12:14-18</u>.) Why will these people "be as though there had been

no redemption made"? (See <u>D&C 19:16-18</u>.)

- E. <u>Alma 12:22-34</u> contains Alma's description of the Fall of Adam and the plan of redemption. What did Alma teach about the purpose of mortality? (See <u>Alma 12:24</u>.) How can an understanding of this principle help us live more righteously?
- F. Why is it significant that "God gave [Adam and Eve] commandments, after having made known unto them the plan of redemption"? (<u>Alma 12:32</u>; italics added). How does an understanding of the plan of redemption help us keep the commandments? How can parents and teachers apply this principle as they teach the importance of the commandments?
- **G.** Why is it necessary for us to know that God has prepared a plan for our redemption? What does the plan of redemption teach us about God's justice and mercy?

As Alma and Amulek worked together as witnesses of the gospel of Jesus Christ, they strengthened each other and delivered powerful teachings about the plan of redemption. Let us each try to look for opportunities to strengthen one another in bearing witness of the gospel.