



“After Much Tribulation . . . Cometh the Blessing”

Show Notes & Transcripts

Podcast General Description:

Follow Him: A *Come, Follow Me* Podcast with Hank Smith & John Bytheway

Do you ever feel that preparing for your weekly *Come, Follow Me* lesson falls short? Join hosts Hank Smith and John Bytheway as they interview experts to make your study for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' *Come, Follow Me* course not only enjoyable but original and educational. If you are looking for resources to make your study fresh, faithful, and fun--no matter your age--then join us every Sunday.

Podcast Episode Descriptions:

Part 1:

Does salt have an expiration date? Dr. Scott Woodward explains how and why salt symbolizes eternity and how our covenants make us the "salt of the earth," as we discuss Sections 102 and 103--the instructions regarding membership councils, and the Saints' attempt to redeem Zion. Section 102 will become your favorite meeting minutes as Hank, John, and Dr. Woodward discuss one of the seven parables in the Doctrine and Covenants.

Part 2:

Dr. Woodward continues discussing the calling and makeup of Zion's Camp, corporate blessings, and how the Lord intends to provide for every Saint. Was Zion's Camp a failure? How the Lord uses sacrifice as a training ground for the temple, Zion, and the Second Coming is discussed.

Timecodes:

Part 1

- 00:00 Welcome to follow HIM with Hank Smith and John Bytheway
- 1:41 Introduction of Dr. Woodward
- 5:00 Background to Section 102--Meeting Minutes
- 9:47 Ancient order of councils restored
- 12:45 Mission statement of High Councils D&C 102:2
- 14:43 Different levels of difficulties require different types of councils and how they are to run regarding membership is discussed
- 19:26 Checks and balances in councils
- 21:06 Advice for parents and teachers to instruct about membership councils
- 26:31 Elder Ballards story related to Relief Society President's membership council experience
- 28:15 Councils are also to discuss and decide matters of doctrine--first look to the scriptures
- 30:36 Stories of the first councils
- 36:13 Section 103 background
- 43:14 Joseph and the high council resolve to redeem Israel (Jackson County, Missouri in 1833)
- The Lord calls the high council "friends"
- 45:49 Two reasons for the trials in Missouri
- 49:11 Symbolism and some meanings of salt in the scriptures
- 53:06 Parable of the nobleman and the olive trees
- 54:43 Instructions to gather and how to redeem Zion by military and financial means
- 01:01:10 End of Part I

Part 2:

- 00:00 Welcome to Part II
- 00:45 Wilford Woodruff joins Zion's Camp or Camp of Israel and recruitment plans are made
- 05:13 Background to Section 104 and dissolution of the United Firm
- 08:26 The Lord will not be mocked in regards to covenant breakers
- 13:31 The Lord invites those with abundance to be good stewards and share
- 19:20 The importance of printing and sharing scripture
- 21:03 The Lord multiplies our efforts financially, spiritually, etc., discussion of debt
- 23:37 Background of Section 105 and managing expectations
- 26:24 Zion's Camp story about danger and help from a slave woman
- 30:59 Governor Dunklin reneges on his agreement with the Saints
- 34:08 Personal and corporate blessings
- 40:32 What the Lord requires of Zion's Camp and the body of the Church is obedience and consecration
- 43:38 The Lord is preparing His people for the temple and Zion's Camp is unlearning what the Saints had learned from the world.

- 48:04 Applying the lessons of Zion's Camp to Saints today
- 57:17 Managing our expectations of how the Church and our lives should proceed
- 1:03:03 Dr. Alexander Baugh's article about the lesson's for Joseph of Zion's Camp
- 1:04:07 Elder Ballard references Zion's Camp and rising to today's challenges and leadership
- 1:05:56 Elder Bednar compares Zion's Camp's challenges to today's challenge with affluence
- 1:08:52 Dr. Woodward shares personal experience with Elder Bednar
- 1:11:19 Elder Oaks quote regarding people "amusing themselves to death"
- 1:13:03 Dr. Woodward's thoughts and testimony of Jesus Christ, the Restoration, and the how to gain a mature testimony
- 1:22:00 End of Part II

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Biographical Information:



Scott Woodward is a truth seeker. As a lifelong member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Scott has been collecting and categorizing (for easy reference) the teachings of LDS prophets and apostles since age 17. What he began as a teenager by hand writing quotes on 3 x 5 cards and categorizing them by topic into a little plastic box on his desk, has evolved over the decades into this current website.

Scott's truth-seeking interests have grown to encompass the history and doctrine contained within the LDS Standard Works (Old and New Testaments, Book of Mormon, Doctrine & Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price), as well as LDS Church History, early Christian History, and world religions. The topics he wakes up with on his mind these days include covenant theology, atonement theology, and how to most effectively communicate truth to his fellow truth seekers throughout God's good world.

Scott graduated with his PhD in Instructional Psychology and Technology from Brigham Young University, and he has been teaching professionally in the Church Education System for nearly two decades—including in Seminary & Institutes, the BYU Religion Department, and currently as a member of the BYU-Idaho Religion Faculty.

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EPISODE 38 • PART I



Dr. Scott Woodward

D&C 102-105



Hank Smith:	00:00:01	Welcome to followHIM, a weekly podcast dedicated to helping individuals and families with their Come, Follow Me study. I'm Hank Smith.
John Bytheway:	00:00:09	I'm John Bytheway.
Hank Smith:	00:00:11	We love to learn.
John Bytheway:	00:00:11	We love to laugh.
Hank Smith:	00:00:13	We want to learn and laugh with you.
John Bytheway:	00:00:15	As together, we followHIM.
Hank Smith:	00:00:20	Hello, my friends. Welcome to another episode of followHIM. My name is Hank Smith and I am here with my worthy and capable cohost, John Bytheway. Hello, John Bytheway.
John Bytheway:	00:00:29	An intro ripped from the headlines or rather verse seven of Section 102.
Hank Smith:	00:00:35	Right from the scriptures.
John Bytheway:	00:00:37	I don't think that's about me, but I'll take it. Thank you.
Hank Smith:	00:00:40	Yes. Well, I'm sure it has a double meaning. Hey, we want to remind everybody to find us on social media, on Instagram and Facebook. If you want to watch the podcast, you can watch John and I and our guest every week if you'd like. You can find us on YouTube. Show notes, go to followhim.co , followhim.co and, of course, we would love it if you'd take the time to rate and review the podcast. That actually really helps us a lot. John-
John Bytheway:	00:01:07	-Hank, I want to add something. There's not only show notes, but look around. There's a transcript.
Hank Smith:	00:01:13	There's a transcript at followhim.co .

John Bytheway: 00:01:14 People in my ward didn't know that existed, and they're very excited now and going down to Walmart and buying all kinds of printer paper and printing out transcripts.

Hank Smith: 00:01:23 So they can print out and bind the transcript together?

John Bytheway: 00:01:26 Bind it, mark it, yeah.

Hank Smith: 00:01:28 Yup. John, we're in for a treat. It's every week we're in for a treat, but I'm especially excited because I'm here with someone who makes me feel like I can just be myself. Tell us who we have today.

John Bytheway: 00:01:41 We are happy to welcome back Scott Woodward that we've had before. So glad he's here. Dr. Scott Woodward got his PhD in Instructional Psychology and Technology from Brigham Young University. He's been teaching in the Church Educational System for nearly two decades. I don't know how old this bio is. Is it two and a half yet? He's currently a member of the faculty at BYU Idaho, BYU Idaho Religion faculty. He's a Managing Director of Doctrine and Covenants Central. I hope you'll check that out, a partner with Book of Mormon Central, a rich resource of gospel scholarship and all things related to the Doctrine and Covenants. I love those websites, and they've been so helpful. We're so glad to have you back, Dr. Woodward. Thank you for coming.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:02:28 Thanks so much for having me back. It's an honor.

Hank Smith: 00:02:30 Yeah. Scott Woodward, honestly, you're Dr. Woodward, I know, but to me you're Scott and you're just somebody who I just like to be around. You make people feel good.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:02:41 Thanks! Thanks, Hank. Likewise, brother. Thank you so much.

Hank Smith: 00:02:44 I was sad when you went up to Rexburg and left us down here in Provo, but I'm glad that they have you up there. Hey, I want to tell everybody, if you want to have an awesome experience, go back and listen to Episode 9. Way back a long time ago, John, if you remember, we weren't very good at this, not like we're great at it now, but we really weren't good at it then and Scott joined us for some commentary on Sections 18 and 19. Do you remember, John, he said put Martin and the Savior forehead-to-forehead and they're having this discussion. I mean, people have asked me, "What's your favorite episode?" and that's one that always comes to mind is Scott Woodward on Episode 9. I

don't even know if you remember it, Scott. You've done so much since then, but that was a good day for us.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:03:31 Yeah. Those sections are some of my favorites. So, that was awesome.

John Bytheway: 00:03:35 It's interesting you had mentioned that, Hank. I actually just this week got an email, "Thank you for helping me change my feelings, my perception about Martin Harris," and that was a lot of what you did, Scott. So, thank you.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:03:50 Yeah. Can I say the good people of Clarkston, Utah, after that one, they reached out and said, "We like that you paint Martin Harris in a good light. Could you come and talk to us?" So, last week, I just spoke at Martin Harris's graveside to a bunch of wonderful people in Clarkston, and we just talked Martin Harris for an hour. It was magical.

John Bytheway: 00:04:12 That's fantastic. That's great. That's great.

Hank Smith: 00:04:12 It was on the podcast, Scott, that they heard that?

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:04:15 Yeah. They were listening to this podcast, that, that episode, and then we made that connection, and blessed my life getting to know those people, and just sending salt to the earth and being right there at Martin Harris' graveside just talking about Martin Harris for an hour was just so fun.

Hank Smith: 00:04:30 We're not doing Sections 18 and 19 today. We are far ahead, Scott. We are going to jump in to Section 102 of the Doctrine and Covenants. It's February of 1834. So, the Church is coming up upon four whole years of organization. So far, I'll just give a little background and let you take it from there. Things in Missouri are not going well with the Saints being driven out in the fall of 1833 and here in 1834. Joseph is in Ohio.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:05:00 Yeah. So, Section 102 is actually not a revelation. How about that? Section 102 is, wait for it, *the minutes of a meeting*. The minutes of a meeting is what we got here. This is minutes of a meeting edited by Joseph Smith to make sure that the scribe got it right, and he tweaked and edited it. This is what we have.

Hank Smith: 00:05:23 I don't know if there's anything that's quite as exciting.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:05:26 Are you on pins and needles now? This is good.

Hank Smith: 00:05:31 The minutes!

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:05:33 It's not just the minutes of a meeting. This is the minutes of a meeting where they organized the very first high council of the Church.

Hank Smith: 00:05:42 Ooh, okay.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:05:43 I know. If you don't know, if you're teaching Sunday School or you're trying to get your children's attention with scriptures, I think you just lead with that. I think if you just lead with that, "Do you guys want to study about the minutes of a meeting where the first high council was organized?" I mean, you really don't have to be. You've got them in the palm of your hand at that point.

John Bytheway: 00:06:04 Edge of their seat! Yeah!

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:06:05 That's right. That's right.

Hank Smith: 00:06:08 When most teenagers hear about the high council, the only thing they know is that's the one Sunday where somebody shows up and acts like the stake presidency lives on another planet, "We bring you greetings from the Stake Presidency," right?

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:06:23 That's right.

Hank Smith: 00:06:23 "We bring you greetings. We come in peace."

John Bytheway: 00:06:24 "We bring love and greetings."

Hank Smith: 00:06:26 "The love and greetings of the stake presidency."

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:06:28 That's right. That's right. All that love and all that greeting, that started right here in Section 102 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

Hank Smith: 00:06:36 Okay. So, all of the high councilors out there, please don't write us a letter.

John Bytheway: 00:06:42 We love you. We give you our love and greetings, too.

Hank Smith: 00:06:45 We do. We love you.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:06:45 One of my friends he said some Church callings have on the scale of glory to work ratio, they're different. He said high councilmen seems to have a high glory to low work ratio. They get recognized every time they'd come in to the meeting. They get recognized, Brother Johnson from the high council, and then

the Stake Executive Secretary is high work no glory or the Ward Clerk is just working like crazy--gets no love. Anyway, so here's the situation.

- Hank Smith: 00:07:18 The minutes!
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:07:19 The minutes, the minutes. So, Joseph Smith had ... This is not the first time he had convened a council. That's one of the geniuses of Church organization is councils, right? Section 42 is actually where that starts in the law, right? Remember that section, the law? In the law, it says that difficult situations particularly dealing with Church disciplinary action should be dealt with by bringing the person before the Church, the elders of the church.
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:07:53 So, Joseph would convene councils to arbitrate, adjudicate church decisions, especially with church disciplinary type stuff. So, they're just called as needed, but as the church is growing and things are getting a little more complex, there needs to be what Joseph called a standing council, like a council that's always the council. They're the guys, right?
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:08:17 So, on February 17th 1834, Joseph told a group of priesthood leaders that he would "show the order of councils in ancient days as shown to him by vision." So, this isn't the vision. This isn't the revelation, but this is coming from some revelation Joseph never recorded down. These are the fruits of that vision if you will.
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:08:40 Let me read a little bit of what Joseph said, and this is from the minutes that Joseph edited that become Section 102, but this part got edited out, but it's in the original in the Joseph Smith Papers.
- Hank Smith: 00:08:53 So, whatever you're about to read us did not make. It didn't make that.
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:08:57 Yeah. So, here's what the minutes say. It said, "Brother Joseph said that he would show the Order of Councils in Ancient Days as shown to him by vision, the law by which to govern the council in the Church of Christ." Joseph said Jerusalem anciently was the seat of the Church council in Ancient Days. The Apostle Peter was the president of the Council, and he held the keys of the Kingdom of God on the earth and was appointed to this office by the voice of the Savior and acknowledged in it by the voice of the Church.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:09:27 Then Peter had two men appointed as councilors, Joseph explained, and in case Peter was absent, his councilors could transact business or either one of them. The president could also just transact business alone. He said, "It was not the order of heaven in ancient councils to plead for and against the guilty as in our current judicial court." Interesting.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:09:47 He said, "But every councilor when he arose to speak should speak precisely according to evidence and according to the spirit of the Lord, that no councilor should attempt to scorn the guilty when his guilt was manifest," so no shaming here. But he says, "The person accused before the High Council had the right to one-half the members of the council to plead his cause in order that his case might be fairly presented before the president, that a decision might be rendered according to truth and righteousness." Then he ended by saying that that Ancient Order is the example for our high priests today.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:10:21 So, they voted on it, all present, and he said, "Who here is willing to come under the present order of things as I've described?" And it was unanimous that they wanted to all put themselves under the will of God as pertaining to the council.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:10:41 So, that's the interesting, if there's a revelatory part of Section 102, I think that's it that Joseph learned about how ancient councils were run. So, in some ways, this is like a restoration of ancient councils to some degree. So, yeah. So, that's that. They call it in the section heading you can see it's called the Form and Constitution of the High Council. This is the Form and Constitution.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:11:07 Now, they said that there were some problems in the minutes. Some people are like, "I don't know if I jotted that down right. Joseph was talking fast." So, they said, "Joseph, could you look over the minutes and let us know if this is accurate."

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:11:18 So, he said, "Sure." He took them home. On the 18th, he's going through them. Then on the 19th, they reconvened, and he said, "I've gone over them as best I could, and I think this is as accurate as it gets." He said, "Let's read it." They read it three times. They read Section 102 three times, and people were listening carefully. Then there was one thing tweaked, and then they all agreed, "This is perfect. This is excellent." So, that's how Section 102 comes about.

Hank Smith: 00:11:45 Do you think it's a pattern, Scott? They're writing this down for a pattern for future councils or is this to run their council?

Dr. Scott Woodw...:	00:11:52	Totally.
Hank Smith:	00:11:52	Both?
Dr. Scott Woodw...:	00:11:53	This will be the pattern not only, yeah, because this makes allowance both for the standing High Council in Kirtland and then the creation of any other High Councils as needed. You can even have little <i>ad hoc</i> High Councils called and branches of the church if you need to, verses 24 and 25 say. So, yeah, this is going to be the pattern. Today, remarkably, High Councils run a lot like this.
Hank Smith:	00:12:21	Yeah. They still do. I remember drawing numbers as in verse 17, right?
Dr. Scott Woodw...:	00:12:25	Yes.
Hank Smith:	00:12:26	Drawing numbers, even and odd. Still is done to this day.
Dr. Scott Woodw...:	00:12:31	Yeah, yeah. So, this has been the governing sheet that, how does it say, "The Constitution, the Constitution of the High Council.
John Bytheway:	00:12:38	Are there any appropriate verses that we ought to make sure we touch on?
Dr. Scott Woodw...:	00:12:45	Yeah. So, let's look at verse two. This gives us the mission statement for High Councils. The High Council was appointed by revelation for the purpose of settling important difficulties, which might arise in the Church, which could not be settled by the Church or the Bishop's Council to the satisfaction of the parties.
Dr. Scott Woodw...:	00:13:09	So, that's, I think, the key in our current Church Handbook if you look up anything about disciplinary councils and when a council should be called. It will talk about, well, if it's a certain degree of complexity or difficulty, then the High Council should be involved, and then it will say, "See D&C 102, verse 2." Yeah, this is still the governing.
Dr. Scott Woodw...:	00:13:31	So, on a Bishop's Disciplinary Council, there are certain things that a bishop can adjudicate as a judge in Israel, but there are some things that they need to defer to the stake, and then the stake president may say, "This would be one that we want to call in the full High Council over," right?

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:13:51 Typically, if someone is going to lose their membership in the Church, for instance, that's going to be pretty serious. We want to make sure we have the wisdom of the whole group there.

Hank Smith: 00:13:59 I like this because inherent in the statement in verse 2, the purpose of settling important difficulties, it's almost as if Joseph and the Lord I would think are saying you are going to have difficulties. It's normal. It's normal for human beings to have difficulties. Sometimes we think if we're having any difficulties at all in our ward, stake or family, we're doing something wrong. Well, no, the Lord inherently is saying, "You're going to have difficulties and I'm going to give you a way to settle these."

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:14:28 That's right. That's right.

Hank Smith: 00:14:30 It's okay to have them.

John Bytheway: 00:14:32 I think it's interesting that in verse 13 it allows for different levels of difficulty. Well, they'll decide whether it's difficult or not, and if it is not, two of the councilors shall speak upon it, verse 14, but if it is thought to be difficult, four shall be appointed. If more difficult, six. It's fascinating.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:14:58 Yes. There's almost a preliminary vote taken like, "How difficult is this? Is this going to require all the stops or can we handle this with just two?" Yeah. That's right. I love the built-in safety for the accused, someone who perhaps has violated something. Verse 15, "The accused in all cases has a right to one-half of the council to prevent insult or injustice." Meaning, so half of the high council is going to make sure that they're not being treated poorly, they're not being shamed, that what they're doing, how they're being represented, how the evidence is being examined is fair. That's awesome. There are also verse-

Hank Smith: 00:15:47 -That's interesting, Scott.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:15:49 Yeah. Go ahead.

Hank Smith: 00:15:49 Scott, I was just going to say it's interesting to me because occasionally today, 2021, you'll see high council meetings coming up in the news. You never hear from the Church's side, but from Section 102, we learned that whoever this high council was for, half that room was there to watch over them being protected. Sometimes it's painted as if someone has marched in there and it's the Church against this individual where the Lord is saying, "No," where the Lord is saying, "No, that's not how it is." So, anyone who sees one of these on the news can know

half that room was designated to be on the side of the individual brought in.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:16:31 Super important. Yeah.

John Bytheway: 00:16:31 I'm glad you brought that up, Hank. My favorite nickname for the Savior--I might change my mind tomorrow--but today, it's Advocate. You come in to that if you are in a membership council, you have half the room, are your advocates there and are acting like, I love that, to prevent insult or injustice. Someone is there on your side.

Hank Smith: 00:16:53 Yeah. I would say, John, everyone's on your side, but these people are specifically assigned-

John Bytheway: 00:16:58 Specifically, yeah.

Hank Smith: 00:16:59 ... to watch out for you. I think that's just an important thing because the way I've seen these painted in the news-

John Bytheway: 00:17:06 Yeah, you're right.

Hank Smith: 00:17:07 ... seems to be 15 against one, right? Bring them in and let's-

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:17:13 Line them up against the wall. Yeah. No. This-

John Bytheway: 00:17:16 What are the others doing, Scott? I think it might be good to talk about that. The others are there to look at what?

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:17:23 Yeah. They're there to protect the good name of the Church. Yeah. So, half have the interest of the accused and half have the interest of the Church in mind, right? This isn't all mercy, all justice. This is supposed to be a blend of "just right". Then the president is supposed to weigh all the evidence and in a prayerful attitude, come to a conclusion of what should be done and what should be done should always be geared toward helping the person.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:17:56 We're talking right now about disciplinary types of councils, but high councils are used for other things, but in disciplinary council, it's always about how do we help that person truly repent, right? The worth of souls, we're back to Section 18 for a second, "The worth of souls is great in the sight of God," right? "Therefore, cry repentance." So, these councils, some sins are serious and they need to be, as far as helping that person repent of a serious egregious sin, it's going to take sometimes the wisdom and prayerful action of a group of men like this, like

the High Council, and the president will make a decision after hearing all the evidence and then the high council needs to then sanction that.

- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:18:44 If anyone feels like, "I don't know that we got all the evidence," so let's look for instance in verse 19, after the evidences are heard, the councilors, accuser, and accused have spoken, which they get to speak for themselves, verse 18 says, so everyone gets a voice here, the president shall give a decision. Verse 19 says, "According to the understanding which he shall have of the case, and call upon the twelve councilors to sanction the same by their vote," but verse 20 says, "Should the remaining councilors, who have not spoken, or any one of them, after hearing the evidences and pleadings impartially discover an error in the decision of the president, they can manifest it, and the case shall have a re-hearing."
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:19:26 We want to get this right. By the way, in this instance, in this setting, the president was the President of the Church. Joseph Smith was the president of this high council, which I love the humility here. The President of the Church could get it wrong? For sure. That's why we have a council. If someone thinks that maybe he's out of line, they ought to bring it up and say, "I think maybe we missed an important piece of the evidence here, President. Can we reconsider that?"
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:19:53 Then verse 21, "If, after a careful re-hearing any additional light is shown upon the case, then the decision shall be altered accordingly." If not, then the previous decision will stand.
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:20:02 So, I just think this is layered with just checks and balances, right? Any one of us can make snap judgments, but it's not very often that a group of, I think, humble, dedicated people of ... We got 12 high councilors, plus a presidency, so we got 15 people who are just trying to get it right--trying to figure out the best way to help this person repent. I think they're going to get it right. If they don't, which is possible, then let's reexamine the evidence until we do.
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:20:36 So, just a lot of layers in here just to make sure it's done well and done right, and that justice is done.
- Hank Smith: 00:20:41 What would you say to a teenager who struggles with the idea that we have these at all, right? Someone who says, "This just seems mean that you bring someone in. It seems unloving to bring someone in." Yet, I would say anytime I've been a part of any of these, they've always been very positive and very uplifting and very good. Where I can see if you've never been a

part of it, it seems maybe a little more, yeah, scary and difficult. So, any advice for teachers or for parents who are trying to explain this to their youngsters?

- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:21:21 I'll give it a shot. The Church Handbook--the current handbook--has a great little one, two, three purposes of church disciplinary councils. Number one, "Help protect others." If there's somebody who has some tendencies to hurt people, whether physically or emotionally, any abusive language or actions that they're taking toward other people, those people need to be identified and talked to. We're trying to protect other people, maybe from someone's negative influence. Maybe it could be they're always doctrinally digging it. People are trying to sow seeds of doubt. That can be a thing. So, of course, the first thing-
- Hank Smith: 00:22:03 Of course, any physical, emotional, sexual abuse, anything like that we're trying to protect people. Yeah.
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:22:08 Totally. Yeah. So, yeah, spiritual, emotional, physical, all of that. So, protect others is number one. Number two is then, "Help that person access the redeeming power of Jesus Christ through repentance." That person, clearly by the time they're in front of a high council, they have not been repenting on their own to a point where it's gotten so serious that we need to know, "Let's see if we can help you. Let's see if we can help you."
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:22:33 Then the third is then, "To protect the integrity of the Church."
- Hank Smith: 00:22:39 What does that mean, Scott, to you?
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:22:41 Yeah. So, sin cannot be, especially serious sin, you can't just turn a blind eye. This can start to stay in the reputation of the Church, right? If people are just allowed to just whatever, and there's no real consequences, we say, "Oh, we shouldn't be doing that," but then there's actually no real consequence, that taints the name of the Church and the integrity of the doctrine.
- Hank Smith: 00:23:07 I think you're exactly right, John. I bet you thought of Alma, chapter 4. We've been companions for so long I'm starting to think for you, but I bet you thought of Alma 4, where Alma, the younger sees that the wickedness of the Church was a great stumbling block to those who did not belong to the Church, right? He's got to go on this reactivation tour. The same thing happens right with his father, Alma the Elder, back at the end of the Book of Mosiah, where he has to put in this policy of basically what we would call excommunicating people if they're

not repenting. You can see how hard it is for him. So, here it is straight out of the Book of Mormon twice. They're really close to each other, the end of Book of Mosiah and the beginning of Alma.

- John Bytheway: 00:23:50 Yeah, and I was thinking of Moroni, and Moroni 6 has this little tiny handbook of instructions in Moroni 6 and also mentions briefly a Church council like this. I wanted to add that, correct me if I'm wrong, but I'm looking in the newest handbook and it doesn't use the phrase disciplinary council anymore. They're called membership councils.
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:24:11 Oh, you're right. You're right. Sorry, I said that.
- John Bytheway: 00:24:11 No. I thought that's-
- Hank Smith: 00:24:15 They're called membership councils.
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:24:16 Membership councils.
- John Bytheway: 00:24:16 Yeah, and I thought that makes sense because I remember on the high council where someone was trying to come back and yet it was called a disciplinary council and I thought, "It's probably the wrong word." It was more like a reinstatement or something, which is what happened, but maybe the idea of membership council is great. I think also the words disfellowship and excommunication aren't in the manual anymore. It talks about membership withdrawal or temporary membership restriction, something like that.
- Hank Smith: 00:24:48 Yeah. Scott, I hear you saying one thing that, and correct me if I'm wrong here, but it sounds like to me you're saying, listen, if someone is to this point the unloving thing would be to do nothing, just let it go. That would be for-
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:25:04 Totally.
- John Bytheway: 00:25:04 For the reputation of the Church.
- Hank Smith: 00:25:06 For others. Yeah.
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:25:08 Yeah. That could put other people in jeopardy. That's right.
- Hank Smith: 00:25:13 Yeah. So, a membership council is the loving step to protect people and protect the church when, man, I just don't see it painted that way often by others who are part of these.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:25:25 You're right.

John Bytheway: 00:25:25 You're right, Hank. Those who have been involved and have been on a high council or have been in [inaudible] and seen these things, I have very positive, beautiful feelings about some of those meetings, and the power and the spirit of the Atonement being made manifested have been amazing when I've been involved in those. So, you're right.

Hank Smith: 00:25:48 Yeah, and I'll tell you also, John, that not only are they powerful for just the people there, but also I would, and not my experience, the people who come in for the membership council, the member who is coming in has a positive experience. In my experiences with it, they've had a positive experience. It's been very humbling for me to see how they proceed through this, right? What a beautiful and humbling thing because I think everyone in the room was thinking the same thing I was. I don't know if you were, John, ever, but I was thinking, "Well, there but for the grace of God go I," right? Just someone ended up in a bad place.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:26:31 Yeah. Elder Ballard has a whole article about church disciplinary councils back when they were called that, back in 1990, an Ensign article of September 1990. He told a story of a relief society president. I'll just quote him. He said, "A woman who had been Relief Society president tells of the love and support she received during a painful period of disfellowshipment," when they used to call it that. "She said, 'When the brethren of the council listen to me. I could feel love as I had never felt it before. They all wept with me,' and then with agony she acknowledges." Elder Ballard says, "Every member of the Church must realize that he or she is capable of sinning."

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:27:14 Like you said, Hank, "There but for the grace of God go I." This is a Relief Society president talking who went through something that I'm sure she didn't plan on going there, and yet she went there. Now, here she is trying to be helped in, "How can I repent?" She said, "How I have paid for fooling myself about what I was doing right, the justifications, the rationalization."

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:27:35 So, this is great being brought. Oftentimes, by the way, this is initiated by the member themselves, right? There's no witch hunts going on out there. There may be cases where someone might be called in if they're belligerent, if they're harming people, of course, but oftentimes, these are initiated by the person as they want to fully repent. So, what a courageous thing, and what a beautiful system that is set in place.

Hank Smith: 00:27:59 Yeah. Wow! You did something of [Section] 102 I did not know we could do. Here we were joking about the minutes of a meeting, Scott, and you were sandbagging us. You said that you were going to bring it.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:28:12 Can I just say one more thing?

Hank Smith: 00:28:14 Please do.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:28:15 Yeah. Verse 23, I think this is interesting. Just to note that this is not just for disciplinary type things, but it says, "In the case of difficulty respecting doctrine or principle, if there is not a sufficiency written to make the case clear to the minds of the council," then "The president may inquire and obtain the mind of the Lord by revelation." These could be places where difficult doctrines are wrestled with. I love that the Lord says, "First, look in the scriptures." Scriptures are doctrinally primary and if it hasn't been sufficiently made clear in the scripture, then the president can inquire the Lord and receive revelation."

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:28:56 I just think that's interesting. I'm a doctrinal guy. I love just to scour the scriptures, looking for what's consistently taught and repeated and so I can have doctrinal confidence in what I'm teaching or how I'm trying to live my life. I love the Lord just puts a primary point to say, "Is it in the scriptures? Is it clear in the scriptures? If it's not, then there's actually a system in place where the mind of the Lord can be had by revelation."

Hank Smith: 00:29:27 Scott, I think that principle can help us in our own lives. Oftentimes, I think if we go way back in our episodes, John, you'll remember Dr. Lili Anderson talking about this. She said oftentimes we go to the Lord with questions when the answer has been made clear over and over and over in the scriptures. I remember she used the example of a woman who said, "Well, I just haven't received an answer of should I move in with these roommates who are doing these terrible things. I keep going to the Lord and asking him and I don't get a yes or a no."

Hank Smith: 00:29:59 She said, "Well, do you think they'll influence you to do bad things as well?"

Hank Smith: 00:30:03 "Yeah, I do."

Hank Smith: 00:30:04 She said, "I think that's been made pretty clear in the scriptures what you should do about that, right? No wonder you're not getting an answer. It's in the scriptures pretty clearly."

Hank Smith: 00:30:15 So, it reminds me and both of you will recognize this statement. Check the syllabus, right? When a student comes with a question and I say, "That was in the syllabus." It's almost as if the Lord is saying, "Hey, I've answered this one already a couple of times. So, go ahead and look in the scriptures." I like that, Scott.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:30:36 Yeah. That might be interesting. You guys want to hear some stories? Could I just tell some stories?

Hank Smith: 00:30:40 Please do.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:30:41 So, do you want to know what the very first case was that the high council adjudicated or sat in council about? You want to hear this?

Hank Smith: 00:30:51 Was it this specific council?

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:30:53 This council two days after they were formed.

John Bytheway: 00:30:57 No kidding. Wow.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:30:58 February 19th, a brother named Curtis Hodges was accused by Brother Ezra Thayer of the following charges. Listen to this. Brother Hodges, when he preached, he taught loudly and incoherently. When people try to correct him, he insisted that his behavior was inspired by a good and proper spirit, but the truth was his behavior was hurting the work of God, and so they convened a council.

Hank Smith: 00:31:27 Wow.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:31:27 This guy, when he starts talking, he starts yelling, and people couldn't understand what he's saying. He's like, "What? The Spirit is inspiring me." So, the evidence was heard. An eyewitness says, "Yeah, the other day, he was yelling so loudly that some neighbors were alarmed they came out to see if someone was hurt." Another one was like, "Yeah. Whenever he preaches, he puts a damper on the meeting and it's not edifying."

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:31:53 So, Joseph Smith is listening here to this case, right? At the end, they had the other high councilman who's supposed to then make sure he's being treated well, right?

Hank Smith: 00:32:05 "No insults or injustice."

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:32:06 “No insult or injustice,” yeah. So, the meeting minutes say that one member of the council tried to speak on behalf of Brother Hodges, but could say but few words.

Hank Smith: 00:32:22 He didn't get loud. It doesn't sound like the guy who's speaking on behalf of Brother Hodges.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:32:28 No. He's like, "I don't really have a lot to say." Then Joseph Smith said, "Well, let me see if I can sum up the evidence." He gave as his decision that the charges has been fairly sustained by good witnesses, and that Brother Hodges ought to have confessed when he was first rebuked by Brother Thayer and that if he, he said this, "If he had the spirit of the Lord at the meetings when he hallowed, he must have abused it and grieved it away," and that's what Joseph said, and all the council agreed with the decision.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:33:02 Brother Hodges, I like this, “He then arose and said that he saw that he was wrong. He’d never seen it before and he appeared to feel thankful that he saw it. He said that he had learned more during this trial than he had since he came in to the Church. He confessed freely his error and said he would attend to overcoming that evil, the Lord being his helper.”

Hank Smith: 00:33:26 Wow.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:33:27 So, that ended really well.

John Bytheway: 00:33:29 That's a great story.

Hank Smith: 00:33:30 Very first one. It's a great story.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:33:33 Yeah, a two-councilor case. Yeah.

Hank Smith: 00:33:35 The Lord gave him a bit of a softball on this first one.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:33:38 A softball. How about this?

Hank Smith: 00:33:39 He said, "Let me pitch this one to you." It's quite humorous.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:33:44 Yeah. I don't know that any high councils are being convened about such things today, but that's a fun story.

John Bytheway: 00:33:52 He was loud and he was incoherent.

Hank Smith: 00:33:56 My favorite, that witness, that witness, "I was there, your Honor. I heard it."

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:34:03 Yeah. The neighbors came out and they were like, "Who's hurt?"

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:34:07 "Nothing. It's just Brother Hodges. Brother Hodges is just preaching again."

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:34:10 So, I am so sorry.

John Bytheway: 00:34:13 I love that he said he had learned so much. That is a really nice thing to that humorous story.

Hank Smith: 00:34:18 That is. That is awesome.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:34:18 Right? Yeah. "I never learned so much in my life since I joined the Church than what I've learned here," in that simple council.

Hank Smith: 00:34:28 What a humble Brother Hodges. That's awesome.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:34:31 Okay. Then the next day, you guys want case number two? Then the next day-

Hank Smith: 00:34:36 Wow! This is a busy council.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:34:38 I mean, yeah. The very next day, so this is two in a row. The question of whether disobedience to the Word of Wisdom, which had just barely been revealed, whether disobedience to the Word of Wisdom was a transgression sufficient to deprive an official member from holding an office in the Church after having it sufficiently tied to him.

Hank Smith: 00:34:57 Wow.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:34:58 The context was at a Church meeting in Pennsylvania, Orson Pratt and Lyman Johnson were there, and some members refused to partake at the sacrament because the elder administering it did not observe the Word of Wisdom. Lyman said that they're justified in doing that because the elder is in transgression, but Orson Pratt, he said, "No, the Church is bound to receive the sacrament from an elder so long as he retained his office or his license." So, the council was like, "Ooh, this is a six-councilor difficulty level."

John Bytheway: 00:35:30 "Level of difficulty," yeah.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:35:30 Yeah. So, they all spoke. They heard the evidence, and then Joseph, the president, said that, "No official member in this Church is worthy to hold an office after having the Word of

Wisdom properly taught them and then they neglect to comply or obey them." Everyone sustained it. So, boom! So, day two on the job they're already, right? So, the first one is a Church disciplinary and this one is more of a what should be the policy, right? So, they're determining policy as well. Yeah.

- Hank Smith: 00:35:59 Thanks, Scott. Those are both really fascinating stories.
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:36:02 There you go, 102.
- Hank Smith: 00:36:03 This is our first council. Correct me if I'm wrong, but our second council is going to be in Missouri or the second high council.
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:36:09 That's right. We're going to talk about that later on. That's right. That's right.
- Hank Smith: 00:36:13 Okay.
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:36:13 Okay. So, transitioning to Section 103, yeah? Are you guys ready for that?
- Hank Smith: 00:36:17 Yes. Let's go to 103.
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:36:19 All right. So, 103, look at the date. The date is February 24th. We're just a week after the High Council has been organized, and guess what happens, a difficult case. Another difficult case comes before the High Council. This case is not a disciplinary case. This is a case of, well, let's just get into the history. So, let's back up now. Let's now go to July of 1833. This is on July 20th. That's when mob violence breaks out against the Saints in Jackson County over in Missouri.
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:36:57 On the 23rd of July, the Church leaders signed an agreement to leave Jackson County, half of them by January, the next half by the next April. Well, then on the 9th of August, Oliver Cowdery arrived in Kirtland to tell Joseph what's happening. Then on the 31st of October through the 17th of November, that time period, that's when the hellish actions of the mob break out, where mob violence recommences with satanic vigor and the fleeing saints gather mainly up north in Clay County, Missouri, and Church leaders are sending letters to Joseph Smith saying, "What do we do?"
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:37:40 Meanwhile, no, not meanwhile, sorry. Go ahead.
- Hank Smith: 00:37:45 Now, Scott, if I remember, if I remember right, it's because we had agreed to leave, but then hired a lawyer in Alexander

Doniphan and the rest of his men and they said, "Well, if you're going to hire a lawyer, that means that you're going to fight this extradition that's kicking you out of the county." So, they picked up the intensity of the persecution because we had actually tried by legal means to stop the ousting, right?

- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:38:15 Yeah. That's right. That's right. Yeah. So, now they're seeking guidance, "What do we do?" Right? So, Section 101, which you guys covered last week, was received on the 16th and 17th of December and the Lord gave the Saints guidance and hope, what to do in that situation. That doesn't make it until January 22nd. So, before section 101 makes it to Missouri, Missouri Church members hold a conference where they determine that they need to send two representatives 900 miles from Missouri back to Kirtland to council with the prophet.
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:38:54 So, Parley P. Pratt and Lyman Wight volunteer and according to Parley P. Pratt, he said that the conference instructed him to "Counsel with President Smith and the Church at Kirtland and take some measures for the relief or restoration of the people, thus plundered and driven from their homes." So, they start off and they make it in Kirtland in February. They make it to Kirtland in February, and this is a day or so, this might be the day they arrive or a day or two after. I can't remember, but Section 103.
- Hank Smith: 00:39:27 Interesting. So, 101 is on its way to Missouri.
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:39:31 Yup. They crossed paths. Yup. Yeah. Then when they make it here, Joseph says, "We should convene the high council." That's what happens here, right? So, they need to hear what's happening, and they need to help make some decisions on this. So, here they are. So, let's paint the picture. So, the high council is first organized on the 17th of February. One week later, now they're convened. Other members were in attendance, too, just to watch, but the High Council was the hub, and they're here to hear from Parley P. Pratt and Lyman Wight who had just arrived. They came to ask, "When, how, and by what means Zion was to be redeemed from our enemies?"
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:40:18 After hearing these men just give their report on the conditions and what was happening, and then to hear that heartfelt question, then Joseph declares his intentions. He stood and declared his intention to travel to Missouri to assist in redeeming Zion. Between 30 and 40 conference attendees volunteered to go with him. So, some time either during that meeting or just after that meeting, Section 103 was received confirming that decision and giving instruction about that.

Hank Smith: 00:40:52 Wow. Scott, I heard this in the way you explained that, but it's fantastic that the Lord had these men prepared as a council before Parley and Lyman show up as they're actually on their way, right.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:41:10 That's right. They're ready to *en route*.

Hank Smith: 00:41:12 They're ready to *en route* this.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:41:14 Yeah. It's interesting as well, our listeners might be interested to know, I didn't know this as I first heard the stories of the Saints being kicked out of Jackson County, Missouri, but when they came to the council, Parley reported that those who had been driven away from their lands and scattered abroad had actually gained the sympathy of many of the people up north in Clay County who were as kind and accommodating to the refugees as could reasonably be expected, he said. From then, "They could obtain food and Raymond in raiment in exchange for their labor and so much that they were comfortable."

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:41:51 So, here's a group of people who've been displaced as refugees, but they've fallen into a lot of a kind group in Clay County. "Nevertheless," Parley says, "the idea of being driven away from the land of Zion pained their very souls, and they desired of God by earnest prayer to return to that land with songs of everlasting joy." So, what can be done? What can be done?

Hank Smith: 00:42:16 It's interesting that you should say that, Scott, because we usually talk about Quincy, Illinois as the compassionate town, that takes us in, but that's not going to happen until 1838-1839, fall of 1838, the beginning of 1839. Here in 1833 was another county. You said Clay County that took these refugees in from the south, from Jackson County, and there's one man in particular, his name was Michael Arthur. If you go there, there's a monument where they would have called him a "Jack Mormon" at the time because he was helping-

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:42:54 -a Mormon sympathizer?

Hank Smith: 00:42:55 Yeah, a Mormon sympathizer, where he allowed, I think it was somewhere around 1,000 Latter-day Saints to live on his property and he hired them to work. I don't know if they survived without people like Michael Arthur.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:43:10 Yeah. So, it's not just Missouri, it's not just full of these wicked, vindictive people, but, yeah, just something about Jackson

County. There's something about that place, but up north, yeah, things were-

- Hank Smith: 00:43:23 It's different, yeah.
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:43:24 ... were compassionate, yeah. So, I want to read a little bit from the minutes of this. I was just summarizing earlier, but here's the exact language and watch again how the council interacts here. It says, "Brother Joseph then arose after hearing Parley and Lyman, and he said that he was going to Zion to assist in redeeming it. He then called for the voice of the council to sanction his going, 'What do you guys think? Is that a wise choice, the prophet throwing himself on their wisdom?' They all sanctioned without a dissenting voice. He then said, 'Who will volunteer to go with me?' Then some 30 or 40 volunteered to go who were then present at the council.
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:44:07 Joseph, Jr. was then nominated and seconded to be the commander-in-chief of the armies of Israel and the leader of those who volunteered to go and assist in the redemption of Zion. That decision was then carried by the vote of all present."
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:44:23 So, you see the work, how important was the council in this moment, right?
- Hank Smith: 00:44:27 Right. Just one week after it's formed, it's needed.
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:44:31 One week, yeah.
- Hank Smith: 00:44:32 Absolutely needed.
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:44:32 This is their third case. This is their third case. How about that?
- Hank Smith: 00:44:36 Level of difficulty just went to the extreme. So, what's in the verses here? So, somewhere during this meeting is when Section 103 comes?
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:44:44 We don't know from the historical record that we have if it was during the meeting or after the meeting, but look at verse one. In verse one, he calls them my friends, "Verily I say unto you, my friends," and the Lord uses that phrase in the Doctrine and Covenants when he's referencing the group of high priests. The high priests are consistently his friends.
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:45:04 So, Joseph is still with the people, so is it during the meeting? Is it after the meeting? So, here's the revelation to know how to act in the discharge of your duties concerning the salvation and

redemption of your brethren who've been scattered on the land of Zion. He calls those in Jackson County in verse two my enemies. Why has God not intervened on behalf of his people? The reasons he give is verse two and three is the first reason. He says, "You're driven and smitten by the hands of mine enemies," or they were, "on whom I will pour out my wrath without measure in mine own due time. For I have suffered them," that is mine enemies, "thus far, that they might fill up the measure of their iniquities, that their cup might be full."

- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:45:49 So, reason number one that has allowed this is the wicked need to be allowed to be wicked so that the punishment that comes upon them will be just, right? Maybe we'll talk about the punishment that comes upon these people in that generation when we talk about Section 105, but mark that.
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:46:07 Then verse four he gives the second reason. He says, "Also that those who call themselves after my name might be chastened for a little season with a sore and grievous chastisement." Why? Well, "because they did not hearken altogether unto the precepts and commandments which I gave unto them."
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:46:25 They are not innocent. For sure, the Lord is saying in verse four, "You're not innocent, actually." At least there's enough of you that are not innocent, you must suffer. In fact, there were innocent people who were suffering, and this bothered Joseph Smith. Oliver Cowdery said he was an eyewitness, and then he came to Kirtland and then he wrote a letter back to his friends in Missouri about what they're experiencing, a letter dated the 10th of August 1833.
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:46:52 He said this. He said, "This tribulation would not have come upon Zion had it not been for rebellion." He said, "Firstly, there were rebellions against the one to whom were entrusted the keys, and from thence, it has spread down to the lowest and least member." Then he says, "It was necessary that these things should come upon us. Not only justice demands it, but there was no other way to cleanse the Church."
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:47:17 That's how Oliver Cowdery feels about it. The Lord seems to be saying the same thing here, but it bothered Joseph that there were some innocent people in here that suffered. He said, "The only way I can deal with this is the idea that if one part of your body is injured, it's going to hurt the whole body," right? That analogy from Paul that we're all part of the one body of Christ. So, there were some innocent people, for sure, some dedicated consecrated people in Missouri who are suffering because of the disobedience of some others.

Hank Smith: 00:47:47 I was going to say there's a letter from W. W. Phelps to the prophet and saying, "I know it was right that we should be driven out of the land of Zion that the rebellious might be sent away." So, there is the feeling there that they know a little bit of what the Lord is talking about when he says, "Some did not hearken to the precepts and commandments which I gave."

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:48:11 Yeah. That's right. So, those are two reasons he gives for why this is happening. One, "So that your enemies may fill up their inequities, so that the punishment that comes upon them will be just," and two, "Because you need to chastened to be cleansed," right? The word chastened has that idea in mind. Chastening is intended to cleanse. It means, "To make chaste, to make you pure, to make you clean." So, that's the idea.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:48:39 First of all, in verse five, six, and seven, he assures them that, "From this moment on, from this very moment, they will begin to prevail against their enemies by hearkening to observe God's words, they will never cease to prevail until the kingdoms of the world are subdued under my feet and the earth is given to the saints to possess it forever and ever," and then he says, "But if you don't keep my commandments," verse eight, "and hearken not to observe all my words, then the kingdoms of the world shall prevail against them."

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:49:11 This is your do or die here. "You are set to be a light to the world, to be the savior to men, and if you don't, if you're not, then you're that salt that's lost its savor," he goes on to say. So, you stay close to me and you cannot fail. Hopefully, you've learned your lesson from this and from that lesson you can learn, too, to hearken unto my words, all of them, and you'll prevail from this point on. The fact that we know they don't prevail from that point on tells us which way they went historically.

Hank Smith: 00:49:45 Let me make a quick note on verse 10 about the salt of the earth. That's a very new testament idea, comes from the Sermon on the Mount. The idea was that salt was very valuable because it could preserve meat. So, you could trade salt almost like cash, but if you had dirt in your salt, if you got impurities in your salt, it's good for nothing. You can't use it anymore, right? So, it says to be trodden under the foot of men, they would actually use it, dump it out on the roads to suck up all the moisture on the roads from all the humans and the animals around, all the moisture that's on the ground and it would just be walked on, right? So, the idea is don't let that impurity into your life.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:50:30 Yeah. This is the same Jesus who spoke in the New Testament. Yeah. Here he is.

John Bytheway: 00:50:34 You're remembering the Elder Carlos E. Asay quotation where he said in General Conference years ago that salt will not lose its savor with age. It's only lost through mixture and contamination, and then taught that don't get mixed up and contaminated. You're going to lose your savor.

Hank Smith: 00:50:55 Yeah. That's exactly right.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:50:56 Yeah. One other interesting thing about salt since we're on the topic is that in the Old Testament, sometimes they would use salt in their covenant making because salt was a symbol of eternity. Sometimes they call it the covenant of salt, which is an everlasting covenant, immutable. When you become my covenant people, then you are considered the salt of the earth. Yeah. Let's continue, shall we?

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:51:17 So, he goes on to instruct them to ... He gives perspective in verse 12 and 13 that after much tribulation I said back in Section 58 when you first got to the land of Zion, "After much tribulation cometh the blessing. This is the blessing which I'm promising you, which is your redemption. Your redemption and the redemption of your brethren even," what he means by that, "is their restoration to the land of Zion," he says.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:51:46 So, he's not saying give up on Jackson County, Missouri. He's saying, "It's time now to line up your hearts, purify your intentions, follow my words with exactness, and after the tribulation you've gone through, it's time to restore you to the land of Zion." He called that the redemption of Zion. It needs to come, verse 15, by power. It needs to come by power.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:52:11 "Therefore," verse 16, "I will raise up a man like Moses who will lead them like the children of Israel for you are the children of Israel. You are the covenant people. You are the seed of Abraham and you need to be let out of bondage by power, and as your fathers, the ancient Israelites were led at first, even so shall the redemption of Zion be ..." He's being pretty dramatic here, right? This is going to be another Exodus story in some ways, right? Bringing them from their state of bondage back into the land of Zion, it's going to be great.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:52:42 He uses another term in verse 19 and 20. He says, "But for them, I told them that mine angel will go up before you, but not my presence, and in time, you'll possess the goodly land." Then

he says in verse 21, he says that, "My servant Joseph Smith, Jr., I'm talking to you, he is the man to whom I likened the servant, to whom the Lord of the vineyard spake in the parable, which I have given unto you."

- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:53:06 So, that's a reference back to D&C 101, verse 55. Remember the parable back there? Let me just jump back for just a second. He gives this parable that the Lord had a very choice land, Lord of a vineyard, some noble man. He told his servants to build a hedge, and then there are 12 trees and build a hedge around it so the enemies couldn't get through there. They build a tower so they can watch to make sure the trees don't get corrupted. Then they were like, "Why do we need to build a tower? Everything's fine. We don't need a tower."
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:53:40 Then the enemies actually come and they break through the hedge, they break down the trees because they didn't build the tower, and then the noble man is like, "Guys," verse 52, he's like, "Why? What is the cause of this great evil? Ought you not to have done even as I commanded you?"
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:53:59 They're like, "Yeah. We probably should have done what you told us to. Now, we see the consequences," right?
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:54:04 Then he says, jump to verse 55, he says that the Lord of the vineyard said unto one of his servants, "Go and gather together the residue of my servants, and take all the strength of my house, which are my warriors, my young men, and they that are of middle age also among all my servants, who are the strength of my house," and take them and I want you, verse 57, to go, "Straightway unto my land, break down the walls of mine enemies; throw down their tower, and scatter their watchmen." We're going to take this land back. This is a pretty thinly veiled parable, right?
- Hank Smith: 00:54:39 I wonder what he's talking about here.
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:54:43 What could he be talking about here? In line with recent events, then in verse 103 he's saying, "Joseph Smith, you're the man whom I liken to that servant who should gather the strength of my house." That's what he says in verse 22. "Therefore, let my servant Joseph Smith, Jr.," we're now back in section 103, "Say unto the strength of my house, my young men and the middle aged--Gather yourselves together to the land of Zion, upon the land which I had bought with money that has been consecrated to me. And let all the churches, round about all the churches, all the branches of the church, let them send up wise men with

their moneys and purchase lands even as I have commanded them.”

- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:55:21 He's actually repeating what he said in Section 101. There are two ways you're going to get Zion back. One, strength of my house is built up, the young men and the middle age. You're going to go as an armed force to take this land back. Number two, you're going to purchase the land legally, right? So, that's an odd thing. So, we're going to go take it by military force or we're going to buy it in an upstanding business-like way.
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:55:46 Well, it turns out that the purpose of the military force was simply to ensure that those who had been kicked out could be brought back safely. There was actually, Joseph will later tell us, no intention in any way to fight unless they absolutely had to. It was just to be there so that the innocent could come back.
- Hank Smith: 00:56:07 Bodyguards, right? Bodyguards will walk them back in, escort them back in.
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:56:10 That's right. That's right.
- John Bytheway: 00:56:12 Didn't Governor Dunklin gave them some positive reinforcement at some point?
- Hank Smith: 00:56:16 Totally. He was going to, right?
- John Bytheway: 00:56:18 Right.
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:56:19 Yeah. So, the governor, Daniel Dunklin is his name, he, according to some notes here in the *History of the Church* says that Governor Dunklin, “Manifested a willingness to restore us back if we will request it.” In February of 1834, the governor reiterated his position in a formal reply saying that he's willing to do that. He fully recognized that the Mormons had a right to organize a military body. He said, "Indeed, it's your duty to do so." So, the governor says that the Mormons, obviously, have a right to the land and you obviously got a right to then organize a military body. In fact, you've got a duty to do that.
- Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:57:02 He agreed to meet with them with some state militia and with their forces combined they would peacefully escort those who had been kicked out of their land back to their land. That was the plan. So, yeah. So, they felt like they have the backing of the governor of the state of Missouri. So, they felt like their own solid ground, right?

Hank Smith: 00:57:22 Scott, you had mentioned that they're going to use more money to buy land, but they had already purchased some, right? They had already purchased 2,000 acres or somewhere around that.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:57:31 That's right. Yeah.

Hank Smith: 00:57:33 That had just been taken, right? Someone just pushed you off and taken your land.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:57:38 I think 203 homes had been totally deroofed or destroyed, burned. Yeah. In fact, when some people in Missouri hear that the Mormons are coming to get their land back and there was all kinds of inflated stories of the numbers and their intentions and what oaths they were shouting out, what they were going to do to the Missourians and stuff like that, none of which was true, but in panic, they went and tried to basically destroy everything else that was there so that they wouldn't want it back. I mean, they were just intent on keeping the Mormons out. Yeah.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:58:15 The Lord is basically giving them a full speed ahead, right? Let's organize this military group and then let's keep all the wise, he calls them wise men in verse 23, "Let the wise men with their moneys come and purchase lands even as I have commanded them." Let's buy the lands so that the Missourians who are there can be justly compensated. If they want to leave, they can leave. We'll buy their lands from them.

Hank Smith: 00:58:42 Buy our own land back?

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:58:44 No, no. Buy more lands so that those who hate us don't have to live by us. We'll buy your house. How about that?

Hank Smith: 00:58:49 Got it.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:58:50 We'll give you just compensation. Yeah. So, in fact, when they actually get there, I'm jumping ahead a little bit here, but when they actually get there, there's a little meeting with some from the Jackson County side and with Joseph Smith and some of the leaders, and they decided that 12 people should be chosen, six by the Mormons and six by those in Jackson County, totally neutral parties, and those 12 people should go in and evaluate the worth of the land of the Mormons and the worth of the land of the Jackson County people who are still there, and then they would agree.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:59:32 Joseph Smith said, "What we're going to do is we would, if you'll give us one year, we'll buy all the lands from the Missourians. If they don't want to live by us, we'll buy their lands in one year's time. So, if we can have these neutral parties assess the worth of those properties, we'll go in and buy it within a year's time. We don't want war. That's our last resort. We just want to live peaceably and lawfully in this land that we ought to live."

Hank Smith: 00:59:57 "... which we bought."

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 00:59:59 "We bought it with our money and we're willing to buy your land that we haven't bought yet. We just want to live in that spot. We have really important reasons to do so." So, yeah, that's where this is going. That's what verse 23 is referencing. In Section 105, we'll mention it again. So, we're just maybe getting a little bit ahead, but this is all going to be taught in the same lessons. You could cross reference back and forth, but that's what that's all about.

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 01:00:20 So, the Lord promises them that, "Those who curse them will be cursed, and my presence will go with you and I'll avenge you of my enemies under the third and fourth generation."

Dr. Scott Woodw...: 01:00:32 Then verse 27, this is a touching, interesting verse. He said, 27 and 28, "Let no man be afraid to lay down his life for my sake." You might gulp at that point if you're being recruited for this mission. "For whoso layeth down his life my sake shall find it again." There's a nice new testament, Matthew 16, right? "My disciples need to be willing to lay down their life." Remember he says, "If you lose your life for my sake, then you'll find it." Verse 28, "Who so is not willing to lay down his life for my sake is not my disciple."

Hank Smith: 01:01:10 Please join us for Part II of this podcast.

EPISODE 38 • PART II



Dr. Scott Woodward

D&C 102-105



- John Bytheway: 00:00:03 Welcome to part two of this week's podcast.
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:00:08 What's interesting, as they start to go out to recruit, in fact, that's what verses 29, 30, and then all of verse 37, 38, 39, 40, the Lord puts them in companionships of recruiting companionships. There's eight men that are going to go out and recruit people for this expedition. They'll call it the camp of Israel. Later on, we call it Zion's camp, but they originally called it the Camp of Israel. And in their recruiting, they came across one Wilford Woodruff. He was already a member of the church, but he was being recruited to join this expedition.
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:00:45 And I want to just share a thought from Wilford Woodruff. He said this, he said that as he was settling his business affairs and preparing to join the Camp of Israel, some of his friends and neighbors warned him not to undertake such a hazardous journey. They said, "Do not go. If you do, you will lose your life." And that's the exact phrase that the Lord just said here, "Lose your life for my sake, or lay down your life."
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:01:15 Here's how Wilford Woodruff replied. He said, "If I knew that I should have a ball put through my heart the first step I took in the state of Missouri, I would go." That's discipleship right there, the Lord says. You know that Wilford is a disciple, verse 28, according to those standards. And so I like that story to tell in verse 27, 28.
- Hank Smith: 00:01:44 And he had just joined the church, is that just the following December? I have it written here, I'll just mention this, and Wilford had just joined the church December 31st, 1833. And here, this is just a couple of months later.
- John Bytheway: 00:02:00 How old was he, Hank? Because in that movie, Mountain Of The Lord, he looks pretty young.
- Hank Smith: 00:02:05 And I want to note here, Scott, that Wilford Woodruff was baptized December 31st, 1833, he's just 26, 27 years old, and a new convert of, what, four or five months, and he's ready to put his life on the line there.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:02:21 The Lord says, "You want to know what discipleship looks like? That's what it looks like."

Hank Smith: 00:02:25 Yeah.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:02:26 That's awesome.

Hank Smith: 00:02:27 Wilford Woodruff.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:02:29 Yeah. I wonder if he ever amounts to anything in the church.

Hank Smith: 00:02:36 [crosstalk 00:02:36] of that guy.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:02:37 That'd be an interesting story to follow, maybe pick up that thread. Now, the Lord says, in terms of numbers, he would prefer 500, he says in verse 30. And if he can't do 500, then 300, if he can't do 300, then 100, and if he can't do 100, don't go. He says at least 100, but 500 would be awesome, that would be my recommendation.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:03:07 And so they go out recruiting, so 205 men, 10 women, and six children. So that's going to be what they ultimately get. They're going to leave, so Hiram Smith and his group, they go up actually to Michigan to recruit up there. They get about 20 people and Joseph Smith and those in the Kirtland area get about 85, and then they start marching together to meet, they'll meet together in Missouri on June 8th.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:03:39 So they're so they're recruiting all along the way until they've... The biggest it gets then is, yeah, 205 men, 10 women, and six children. Now, if you want a verse to cross stitch and put on your wall, you want a little handout to give to the youth, verse 36 is just so good.

Hank Smith: 00:04:02 36, yeah.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:04:03 Yeah. John, you want to read it?

John Bytheway: 00:04:05 It's marked, yeah. "All victory and glory is brought to pass unto you through your diligence, faithfulness and prayers of faith." That's a good cross-stitch.

Hank Smith: 00:04:16 That is a good cross stitch

John Bytheway: 00:04:19 There's people listening, saying, "What's cross-stitch?"

Hank Smith: 00:04:23 That was awesome. I love the image of Joseph Smith standing up in the meeting saying, "I'm going to Zion, is it a good idea?"

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:04:30 They're like, "Yes."

Hank Smith: 00:04:31 "It's a good idea, who will go with me?"

John Bytheway: 00:04:33 Who's with me?

Hank Smith: 00:04:35 Yeah. It'd be funny to vote, "Yes, it's a good idea, will you go?"

John Bytheway: 00:04:43 I have bought some land, I have bought some oxen, I have to prove them, I have married a wife.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:04:51 Yeah. "You might die," verse 27 and 28 say. You could die. Who's still with me? And that's amazing, that they have 200 and, how many does that add up to, 215 plus 6, 221-

Hank Smith: 00:05:03 221 people.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:05:05 221 people that are willing to lay down their lives the Gospel's sake, for Zion's sake in this instance.

Hank Smith: 00:05:13 Right.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:05:13 Wow. So this section 104, it fits in the context here, because the issue is what to do about the United Firm. The United Firm, some of your listeners may recall section 78 commanded its creation, section 82 is the day that it happened in Missouri. It was the uniting of the Kirtland leaders and the Missouri leaders in a united financial group that would oversee the printing of church publications, holding church properties in trust, assisting the poor, it's basically the first corporate management system of the financial corporate management of the church.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:05:57 We're talking about primarily three places. We're talking about the Sydney Gilbert and Whitney store in Missouri, a dry goods store, a mercantile shop, and then we have the W. W. Phelps & Companies print shop in Missouri also, that was the literary firm that produced scripture. And then the third major player was back in Kirtland, which was the Newel K Whitney Mercantile Store, and they were moneymakers for the church. Well, what happens when a mob destroys the printing press in Missouri and the dry goods store in Missouri, what kind of a United Firm do you have left? You just got the Kirtland store.

- Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:06:44 And so they actually got together on April 10th, they, the United firm, those that could meet, and they voted, "We dissolve the Firm." It's two years old by this point. And so section 104 is the Lord basically ratifying that decision, that's a good idea, on the 23rd of April. So this is now, they met on the 10th, now on the 23rd, the Lord is ratifying and saying, "Let me tell you how I feel about that."
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:07:14 He takes this opportunity to teach. And he says, "Now, the reason why an adjustment to the firm needs to take place is because," here he goes, "This was intended," verse one, "to be an everlasting Firm." Every time you see the word Order in this section, you can just cross that out and write the word Firm, that was just a pseudonym put in later to disguise the fact that this was anything about finances so the enemies of the church who wanted to litigate wouldn't know to come after that.
- Hank Smith: 00:07:45 United Firm, United Order, same thing.
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:07:48 He says, "This was meant to be an everlasting order with a promise," verse two, "Immutable and unchangeable, that as long as you were faithful, you would receive a multiplicity of blessings, but if not faithful, then they were nigh unto cursing." He says, "But in as much," verse three, "But in as much as they were not faithful, they were nigh unto cursing. Therefore, in as much as some of my servants," you know who you are, it was Sydney Gilberts and it was W. W. Phelps, "have not kept the commandment, but have broken the covenant through covetousness and with feigned words, I have cursed them with a very sore and grievous curse.
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:08:26 "And I have decreed in my heart that in as much as any man belonging to the Order shall be found a transgressor or breaks the covenant, that he will be cursed in his life and will be trodden down." This is pretty strong language. "I, the Lord, I'm not to be mocked in these things." The Lord is as merciful as the day is long, but when he's dealing with covenant breakers who are consistently repeated offenders here, this is who he's talking to here. Let me give you some context on what he means by covetousness and feigned words.
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:08:58 I actually have a little excerpt from a letter, that on the 14th of January 1833, not quite a year earlier, Kirtland leaders wrote this letter to Edward Partridge about a letter that we don't have a copy of, as far as I know, that Sydney Gilbert had written them in December. I guess it was pretty snarky. He said things. This is the words we have. It says, "Brother Sydney Gilbert's letter of December 10th has been received and read attentively, and the

low dark and blind insinuations which were in, it were not received by us as from the fountain of light.

- Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:09:39 Though his claims and pretensions to holiness were great, we are not unwilling to be chastened or rebuked for our faults, but we just want to receive it in language we can understand. Like Nathan said today, 'But thou art the man,' just tell us what you have against us, no insinuations and dark innuendo here." They said, "We are aware that Brother Gilbert is doing much and a multitude of business on hand, but let him purge out the old leaven and do his business in the spirit of the Lord and the Lord will bless him, otherwise, the frown of the Lord will remain upon him."
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:10:16 And then they say this, "There is manifestly an uneasiness in Brother Gilbert and a fearfulness that God will not provide for his saints in their last days, and these fears lead him on to covetousness. This ought not so to be. But let him do just as the Lord has commanded him, and then the Lord will open his coffers and his wants will be liberally supplied. But if this uneasy, covetous disposition be cherished by him, the Lord will bring him to poverty, shame and disgrace." Wow. That's a rebuke
- Hank Smith: 00:10:53 Uneasy covetousness, disposition.
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:10:57 You don't want one of those.
- John Bytheway: 00:10:58 And that letter, that is a response to a letter from Sydney Gilbert, and who wrote that letter?
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:11:04 So this was written, it says from Kirtland church leaders to Edward Partridge, who is the leader over in Missouri. And they're just saying, "Listen, the letter we got from Sydney Gilbert, that was not becoming of a member of the United Firm, that's not how it should go." So covetousness and feigned words. Phelps had also said things like, "Well, what are you going to do with my press and my printing stuff?" And Joseph Smith said, "Ooh, my stuff? Whose press is that, William? Is it not the Lord's press? How did you come to have that press? Careful that you don't forget that this is because of the consecration of the Saints."
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:11:50 And so you can see... So human nature is just getting woven in here. And the Lord is saying, "You want to know why the United Firm needs to be dissolved? Well, it's because that kind of stuff has crept in." What lessons might there be for us as we think

about covenant breaking? The Lord is serious, especially when it's repeated, you've been warned again and again by leaders. This is over a year earlier, they're warning him to repent of this kind of thing, and he clearly did not. And so the Lord's stepping it up a little bit in intensity here, isn't he?

Hank Smith: 00:12:20 I think this is a good gut check for all of us. Watch out for that covetous disposition that can just ruin things in your life. And the other part of this, Scott, that I'm hearing is, I like that these men were very human and that they said things sometimes they shouldn't have said. I'm hoping Sydney Gilbert repents here and comes around.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:12:48 He reminds them of how this system is supposed to work. Verses 11 through 18 remind us the outline, the principles that should undergird or that do undergird the Lord's system of stewardship that we should remember. For instance, we could highlight quickly verse 14, "Remember that all things in the earth that God built are mine," he says. "It is my purpose to provide for my saints," he repeats it again, "for all things are mine. It must, needs to be done in my own way. And behold, this is the way that I, the Lord have decreed to provide for my saints, that the poor shall be exalted and that the rich are made low."

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:13:31 "The Lord invites those who've been blessed with abundance to help the poor rise and thrive. And it's without compulsion. And when the rich withhold their goods, Zion suffers." And the Lord is going to talk more about that as we go on in section 105. But that's all along the way. It's covetousness, it's selfishness, it's thinking me, my, me, my, me, my, and the Lord's saying, "Remember, it's mine and you are a steward, you are a steward, you are a steward."

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:14:03 "Nevertheless," verse 17, "the earth is full and there is enough and to spare, yay, I prepared all things and have given unto the children of men to be agents unto themselves. Therefore, if a man shall take of the abundance which I have made, and in part, not his portion, according to the law of my gospel, to the poor and the needy, he shall with a wicked lift up his eyes in hell being in torment. You can totally choose what you want to do with the abundance I have given you, but listen, this is my way. If you are my covenant people, I am asking you to give of your abundance which you got from me to help exalt the poor, help build Zion."

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:14:45 And it seems like that lesson just has not sunk in and has not sunk in and has not sunk in. That's caused problems in Missouri,

in their expulsion, and now it's causing the end of the United Firm, is what's happening here.

- Hank Smith: 00:14:59 I think the end of verse 18, that's a direct reference to the parable of Lazarus and the rich man, he just wouldn't even give a Lazarus the crumb off his table. Lazarus just wanted the crumbs from the table, and he said, "No, I'm not going to give it to you." It's a fantastic parable. And this seems to be a lesson, you're right, Scott, he's saying over and over again, selfishness will destroy Zion.
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:15:25 Yeah, it hasn't sunk in yet, apparently
- John Bytheway: 00:15:27 It's hard not to read this and point fingers at ourselves. That's a good application of this. Am I like this? Because I always look at them and think they had less than we do now.
- Hank Smith: 00:15:42 It's easy also, John, to look at people who have more than me and say, "Yeah, they should be giving." I hope so-and-so reads this verse.
- John Bytheway: 00:15:52 You know who really needs those verse. Not me of course, but [crosstalk 00:15:58].
- Hank Smith: 00:15:58 Not me, yeah.
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:16:00 I'm fine, yeah.
- John Bytheway: 00:16:01 I'm doing great.
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:16:02 So we don't want to go through all of 104 in, I think, all the details. Let me summarize a few things, and then if listeners want to dig deeper, I think they should. Verses 19 through 46 is one big section where the Lord says, "Listen, here's what we're going to do. We're going to distribute the Kirtland properties that were managed by the United Firm as personal stewardships to members of the firm in Kirtland." And he goes through each person in the firm and he says, "This is your stewardship, this is your stewardship, and if you do well, you..." Let's see, he repeats over and over again. He says, "This will be your stewardship under which you shall be appointed unto them, and in as much as they are faithful, I will bless and multiply blessings upon them." He says that over and over after each stewardship. You be faithful, and you're going to get blessed abundantly.

Hank Smith: 00:16:54 I'm seeing the names here, Scott, Sidney Rigdon, verse 20, Martin Harris, John Johnson, Frederick Williams, Oliver Cowdery, 28, Newel K. Whitney, 39. So he's just distributing out what is left to the individuals.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:17:12 That's right. And this is going to be your stewardship, it's in your own personal name, but remember whose it is. And he's giving them back things like the property you live on, like Newel K. Whitney, verse 39, "I appointed unto you the house and the lot where he now resides, that's now your stewardship, the place you're living in, also your store," and things that he was already interested in and already had some stewardship over. This is now just officially desolving the ties with Missouri.

Hank Smith: 00:17:49 I wouldn't be a good friend to my friend, Juliet Sorensen, who's serving in Kirtland if I didn't point out the ashery in verse 39. If you go on a tour to old Kirtland, do you can see the ashery . And it made them quite a bit of money.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:18:05 It was one of the few business ventures that actually was profitable for them.

Hank Smith: 00:18:10 Yeah. And so Juliet, that one is fur you.

John Bytheway: 00:18:14 That's so cool. And that's how my children pronounce their oldest sister's name for a long time. Ashley, they pronounced Ashery for a long time

Hank Smith: 00:18:23 Hey, I'm glad, that that's a nice little tie in there, John.

John Bytheway: 00:18:26 Yeah, if you've been to Kirtland, that's fun to tour that. And they made soap there, right Hank?

Hank Smith: 00:18:30 Yeah, they made the potash, which they could sell.

John Bytheway: 00:18:33 Potash.

Hank Smith: 00:18:33 Yeah, the potash.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:18:35 Potash. Yeah. So then verse 47 through 53 is where the Lord officially dissolves the United Firm. Look at verse 53, he says, well, sadly, verse 52, "The covenant being broken through transgression, by covetousness and feigned words, therefore you are dissolved as a United Order.

Hank Smith: 00:18:56 Wow.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:18:57 Verse 48, he says, "Let's have a United Order, or United Firm, of the stake of Zion and Kirtland, and let's have a total separate one called the United Firm of the City of Zion." So that ends right there, the joint association of the Firm. Verses 54 to 59 just reviews, again, some of the principles and purposes for their stewardships.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:19:20 My favorite is in 59, this is kind of a cool perspective about scripture, look at this, "If you want to know how the Lord feels about printing scripture and why he thinks that it's worth the funds that it takes to print scripture," listen to what he says here, he says that, in verse 58, he's talking about, "Printing my words, the fullness of my scriptures, the revelations of the doctrine covenants we've been talking about, he says, verse 59, "Here's why. For the purpose of building up my church and the kingdom on the earth and to prepare my people for the time when I shall dwell with them, which is nigh at hand."

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:19:54 I don't know how often I think about scriptures as the instruments that God has given us to help prepare for his second coming, the instruments God has given us to build the church and the kingdom of God on earth. It is a one by one thing that the scriptures do within our own hearts, helping us become pure. But then there's also this aggregate thing happening as the 11 of the scriptures continues to influence us. It's preparing for Jesus to return, and Jesus thinks that's worth the investment, to get scriptures out to people. And that's awesome.

Hank Smith: 00:20:27 Yeah, that is beautiful. And the amount of scripture we print today.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:20:32 Oh, man.

Hank Smith: 00:20:33 Yeah. It's just astronomical. Can you imagine showing these men, these people, Jill Smith's time, the hundreds of millions of copies of the Book of Mormon that had been printed?

John Bytheway: 00:20:45 In 120 languages of whatever it is.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:20:50 And now we're giving them out for free. We're giving them out for free to anyone who wants a copy. That speaks to the consecration of enough saints today, that we're seeing the impact. When you consecrate, look how God-

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:21:03 ... Seeing the impact when you consecrate, look how God can build Zion through the consecration of the many members. I

mean, it's phenomenal, what's happening to them. Yeah. Verses 60 to 77, command the establishment of two treasuries, one for printing scripture specifically, and one treasury for all other proceeds from their stewardships, the different farms or the [Nokie Whitney 00:21:27] store, et cetera. And then, verses 78 through 86 gives counsel on how to get out of debt.

Hank Smith: 00:21:34 That instruction to pay all your debts reminded me of section 19. When Martin Harris was told, pay the debt thou has contracted with the printer, or at least I sell from bondage, and this is kind of interesting to see. Scott, I've heard you share something before about debt from prophets more in our time that I thought would be helpful for our listeners.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:21:57 So yeah, let's get some perspective on debt. Not all of it is, you got to get rid of it all right now. For instance, Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin, he said that some debts, such as for a modest home, expenses for education, perhaps for a needed first car, may be necessary. President Hinckley said that, "In the financial operations of the church, we've observed two basic and fixed principles." Pres Hinckley said, "One, the church will live within its means. It will not spend more than it receives, Two, a fixed percentage of the income will be set aside to build reserves against what might be called a possible "rainy day." For years, the Church has taught its membership the principle of setting aside a reserve of food, as well as money to take care of emergency needs that might arise. We are only trying to follow the same principle for the church as a whole."

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:22:50 So yeah, you might need some debt to begin with. This particular scenario that the Lord's talking about with them is different than, I think, most of us are going to find ourselves in. But I think the general principle does apply, let's live within our means, let's pay off our debts when that makes sense, and we can do that right without harming our families and follow the overall example of the church in living within our means and setting aside some savings for a rainy day.

Hank Smith: 00:23:22 So, Scott, I noticed that section 104 is received in April, section 105 is received in June. And I'm guessing a lot happens between April and June. So you tell us what happens.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:23:37 Yes. I don't know if you can hear if my microphone just caught, when you said that there was a thunderclap, that just happened outside my window right here, there's rain on the window, and the thunder. And I think that's perfect to talk about a section 105. So let me give you the timeline here. On the 5th of May, they've done the majority of their recruiting at home and up in

Michigan, and Zion camp leaves Kirtland. They're on their way to Missouri to go help the saints who were displaced to get back to the lands that they rightfully own. And this is America, right? We should... And the Governor Duncan's like, "There is no way anyone can argue that's not your property. You have every right to it, and I will help you. The militia of the state, militia, meets you and we'll help your people get in there.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:24:35

So they're going to march from May 5th to June 22nd. And this is going to be a long march. This is going to be almost 900 miles. I think it's 880, and they're not very well-prepared in terms of food and rations. There's going to be a lot of hot days, a lot of blistered feet, a lot of hungry people, a lot of dehydration, a lot of rancid food. And this is going to test the metal of the people. It's going to test Joseph, the prophet, George A. Smith, Joseph's cousin. He was a teenager on this camp, and he said that when Heber C. Kimball invited Joseph to ride in the wagon because he's the prophet, "Come ride in the wagon with me". Joseph would say, "No, thank you." And he would walk along 20 to 40 miles a day, along with everybody else. He had blistered feet along with everybody else. He was eating the food, drinking the water, and experiencing the low rations.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:25:34

And I think this is testing everybody. It's testing their patience it's testing their resolve, it's testing some of their faith and Joseph Smith, the prophet. William E. McLellin when he apostatized, he'll be one of the original 12 apostles who will leave the church he's going to cite one of the reasons he left the church was because he didn't believe that our Lord was a man of war. And that when Joseph did this Zion's camp expedition, that was evidenced that he was a fallen prophet because he was being war-like. People are going to have some assumptions, they're going to be violent as they're watching this unfold. And yet at the very same time, some people are going to have their faith deeply, richly strengthened, and they're going to come out of this polished and ready for the Lord's work to take on the next level of responsibility.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:26:24

So this is the 18th of June. Let me tell you a story about lightning and thunder, this is awesome. So on the 18th of June, the Zion's camp arrived within a mile of Richmond, which was the county seat of Ray County, which is near Jackson County. As the army is camping there, the prophet had a premonition of danger. He went into the woods, prayed for safety, and was assured that the Lord would protect them. He then had the camp roused in the early morning hours, and they left without prayers or breakfast. As they marched through Richmond, a slave woman said to them, "There's a company of men lying in

wait here who are calculated to kill you this morning, as you pass through", which would be creepy, right? But as they pressed through, nothing happened. Instead of reaching their intended destination of Liberty, they camped just inside Clay County that night, alert, right on the lookout.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:27:19

There had been stories circulating in Jackson County and the counties nearby that the Mormons were coming with 2000 men, and they were going to come and wipe them out. And they were saying that the men were going to be killed, and the women were going to be made their slaves, and all kinds of stuff that they're not saying, but they're just these inflammatory stories. But people are getting whipped up into a frenzy like, "We're not going to let that happen, are we? No!" And so they're ready to take the Mormons on. Meanwhile, Joseph's fears are confirmed that something's up when five armed Missourians ride into camp, cursing and swearing, and they said, "The Mormons are going to see hell before morning." Can I say that on the podcast?

Hank Smith: 00:28:04

Yeah, you can say that. It's a [crosstalk 00:28:05].

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:28:05

That was a quote. They boasted that nearly 400 men had joined forces from Ray, Lafayette, Clay, and Jackson counties. And they were then preparing to cross the Missouri river at Williams Ferry and utterly destroy the Mormons. Sounds of gunfire were heard off in the distance and some of the men wanted to fight, some of the camp of Israel were like, "Let's do it! This is why we came." But the prophet, he promised that the Lord would protect them. He declared... I love this. He says, "Stand still and see the salvation of God." A few minutes after the Missourians left, a small little black cloud appeared in the clear Western sky. It moved eastward, unrolled like a scroll, and filled the heavens with darkness. As the first ferry load of mobbers started crossing the Missouri river to the south, a sudden storm made it nearly impossible for the boat to return to pick up another load.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:29:01

The storm was so intense. The record says that Zion's camp, they abandoned their tents. They find shelter in an old Baptist meeting house, and Joseph, he exclaims, "Boys, there is some meaning to this. God is in this storm." It was impossible for anyone to sleep so they sang hymns, just pouring like crazy. And they're singing in this old Baptist church and all outside is, he says, "During this time, the whole canopy of the wide horizon was in one complete blaze with terrifying claps of thunder." The mobbers were scrambling to find refuge, and this storm broke branches from trees, destroyed crops, it soaked and made all the mobbers' ammunition useless.

- Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:29:44 It frightened and scattered their horses, raised the level of the river that they were trying to ford to come and take out the Mormons. Almost 40 feet in a half hour, it just "boom!" It prevented them from attacking Zion's camp. The prophet recalled, in his history, it says, "It seemed as if the mandate of vengeance had gone forth from the God of Battles to protect his servants from the destruction of their enemies."
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:30:11 My favorite is two days later, Colonel Scotts from the enemy's army, rides into Zion's camp to learn about the Mormon's intentions. And he says to Joseph, after that storm, he said, "I see that there is an Almighty power that protects this people. And the prophet then explains that, "The only purpose of Zion's camp is just to help our brother and be reinstated in their lands. We don't have any ill intentions. We don't intend to hurt anybody. The evil reports that are circulating about us are false. They're trying to get people whipped up to come against us to destroy us." After hearing that, Scotts and his companions were so affected by the stories of the unjust trials and suffering of the saints, they actually then promised to use their influence to offset the feelings against the Mormons, which is...
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:30:59 So that's the day before the 22nd, which is, you'll notice in this chapter or the section heading, June 22nd is when this revelation is received. So what happens that causes the revelation to come about? Well, they get some bad news. They get bad news that Governor Daniel Dunklin has reneged on his agreement to support the army, to bring out any of his militia, to help escort the scattered saints back home to their property. And that's devastating news, right? Because now it's just them, 200 of them, 221, and there's sounds like hundreds of others on the opposing side. So this is a great disappointment that the governor has withdrawn his promise to support the saints. And it was in the midst of that that it was counseled together. "What should we do?", Joseph inquires of the Lord in section 105 is the result. So that's the backstory.
- Hank Smith: 00:32:09 Any reason why that happens? Maybe just political maneuvering?
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:32:13 Yeah. The reason that happens, according to something I was reading on Joseph Smith papers about this, recently, it said that Governor Dunklin saw the writing on the wall. He saw that people in Jackson county and Ray county, they were a little fanatical. They were crazy. They convinced themselves of the stories that they'd heard about the saints, and they were thirsty for blood. And Governor Dunklin felt like if we do this, this is going to lead to a blood bath. Yeah. This is going to lead to a

civil war right here in Missouri. This is not going to be a peaceable experience. And so I think his judgment was, this is not the time for anyone to be walking into Jackson county with guns. Even the state militia, as long as the members of the church are there, that's going to be provocative.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:33:12

And so I think his thought was, "Let's forestall violence." In all fairness to Governor Dunklin, he doesn't seem to be a flake. He seems to be a concerned governor. But now they're there. So now what do they do? They've walked 880 miles. They go up north about [inaudible 00:33:33] 10 or 20 miles to a member of the church's farm there, near fishing river. And section 105 is received there. So now, Joseph is asking the Lord, "What do we do now?" And it's actually 105 is the response. So verses 1 through 15, it gives the Lord's first reason why Zion is not going to be redeemed right now, and then verses 16 and 17 give the second. So let's look at verses one through 15.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:34:08

The first reason the Lord says that Zion is not going to be redeemed right now is because... Verse two, here it is again, "Behold, I say unto you. Were it not for the transgressions of my people speaking concerning the church and not individuals, they might've been redeemed even now." What does that mean? Speaking concerning the church and not individuals. That's fascinating. And there's a phrase I want to use, the phrase corporate blessings, would that make sense? Corporate blessings require a corporate obedience. Meaning, if God's going to bless an entire people, it's going to take the unified, cooperative effort, and obedience of the entire people. Yeah, a few people can mess it up, right? I don't know what the exact critical mass is to mess up the corporate blessing, but whatever that threshold is, they've crossed it. And the Lord said... I'm not talking about any particular person and I'm talking about it collectively. So the Lord is saying here that you still haven't learned lesson number one, which is to learn to impart of your substance as becoming saints.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:35:18

And then surprisingly, he says... I'm not just talking about Missouri. This is interesting. Look at this. In verse seven, "I speak not concerning those who are appointed to lead my people, who are the first elders of my church, for they are not all under condemnation, but I'm speaking concerning my churches abroad. Those outside of Missouri as well. And not just those in Kirtland, but those who are scattered out little branches", he says. "There are many who will say, where's their God? Behold. He will deliver them in the time of trouble. Otherwise, we will not go up to Zion and we will keep our moneys." People are waiting for God to deliver them, to decide

whether or not they're going to truly consecrate. Once we see that the Zion project is fully underway, then we'll contribute our moneys.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:36:09 The Lord saying, "That is backwards. That's actually hindering the cause". Therefore, he says, "In consequence of the transgressions of my people, it is expedient in me that my elders should wait for a little season for the redemption of Zion." So this is a corporate beyond Missouri corporate, we're talking the whole church. He's asked them time and time again, section 101 most recently, to give up their moneys to help purchase lands in Zion. And that in combination with Zion's camp, would help bring about the redemption of Zion. But the money didn't come, and we only got some volunteers. That's the reason number two.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:36:47 In verse 16, he says, "I commanded my servant Joseph Smith to say to the strength of my house. Even my warriors, my young men, my middle-aged men to gather together for the redemption of my people, to throw down the towers of my enemies and scatter their watchmen. But the strength of my house, I've not hearken unto my words." Well, I only got 221. That's not enough. So two reasons Zion is not going to be redeemed right now: the various branches of the church, number one, have not learned to consecrate their money as I asked them to do. And Zion can't be redeemed until the body of saints as a whole learn to impart other substance. And then problem number two, there wasn't a sufficient number of young and middle-aged men who responded to the call to come to redeem Zion as I asked them to do. He doesn't even mention Governor Dunklin at all, which is interesting. But that was the impetus that got them to ask the question. But the Lord doesn't even mention him in any way here.

Hank Smith: 00:37:48 So Scott I'm hearing no consecration, no unity. There's no consecration and there's no unity, and Zion can't be built without consecration and without unity. I think that's almost the definition, right? Consecrated, united people and...

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:38:04 Oh, that's right. Yeah. Yeah. That's right.

Hank Smith: 00:38:07 And they've got neither.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:38:08 And you can't get Zion's blessings without being Zion people. You can't get Zion's blessings without living the love of Zion. Yeah, that's right. That's right.

Hank Smith: 00:38:19 So it's almost as if, "Listen, Zion is waiting for you. It's ready. I'm ready when you're ready to be a Zion people. Zion is ready to be built, but for now we don't have enough people who are in." Right?

John Bytheway: 00:38:36 It's an important discussion because we can always talk about, yeah, we were persecuted and this happened to us, and this happened to us, but what is the Lord actually saying? I think that's... I liked the way you put that Scott here are the reasons, and they were internal. They were us. Saying us as if I'm a member of the church with them back then, but we brought some of this upon ourselves.

Hank Smith: 00:39:03 And it's the same thing today. Wouldn't you think it's the same thing today, both of you? Zion is waiting for us, as a church, ready for us to be united and consecrated people. And it'll happen.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:39:17 Now, what does that look like in 2021? And what corporate blessings will require corporate obedience and consecration. I mean, the Lord says that, basically, he's ready when we are, for whatever that will look like and have that.

Hank Smith: 00:39:31 And what we need is the people who are willing to put all the chips, in no matter what, right? Yeah. I'm in. I'm here with you.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:39:38 I mean, listen to section... Just to jump back to section 101, verse 75. Let's see what the Lord said back in December. He said, "There is even now, already in store, sufficient, ye, even an abundance to redeem Zion and establish her waste places. No more to be thrown down where the churches who call themselves after my name, willing to hearken to my voice." Yikes, right? So there's enough there, the Lord keeps saying. And he's not giving up on Zion, but he's telling them here that, like you said, John, it's internal, and they've got some work to do. In fact, that's the solution. He actually gives a solution here and he gives two solutions. So there's two problems, and there's two solutions. Solution number one is in verse 9 and 10, the Lord says... I'll just summarize these solutions as education and an endowment.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:40:32 Those are the two solutions. So verse 9 and 10 talk about education. The Lord says that both the elders and my people need to be taught more perfectly, have experience, and know more perfectly concerning their duty and the things which I require at their hands. I love how patient he is here. He is exacting. Can we say that about God, he's exacting. He does require obedience, but he says, "Listen, let's take as long as you

need. You need more time to learn, to have experience, and to learn more perfectly what I'm asking you to do about your duty and the things I'm requiring of you."

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:41:10

One of my favorite thoughts from Brad Wilcox, he gave a talk once and he said, "You know how in the sacrament, have you ever heard a priest mess up the prayer? And of course everyone can nod their head. Have you ever heard of a priest mess up over and over again, and it starts to get awkward and uncomfortable in the congregation? And each time the Bishop leans over, shakes his head, and says, One more time.", Brad said. He said that there isn't some secret switch that a Bishop can flip that opens a trap door underneath the priest and sucks illiterate priests down into the dungeon until they can get those prayers. He said, "The Lord does want that prayer said exactly. But you can take as many tries as it takes to get it right. Sometimes you just-"

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:42:03

As it takes to get it right. Sometimes you just need to practice until you get it right, right? And I love that thought, I love the image of God that that portrays that he is exacting, but he's also patient and merciful. And so, that's what I see in verses nine and 10 is, you got to do some more learning. Apparently there's more you need to know more perfectly about your duty and the things I'm asking of you and let's take as much time as you need on that. And then for this to happen, he says in verse 11 and 12, and he mentions again in verse 18 and 33, he talks about an endowment. He says, this cannot be brought to pass this full educational experience, this reorienting of your hearts and minds, until mine elders are endowed with power from on high. For behold, I have prepared a great endowment and a blessing to be poured out upon them in as much as they are faithful and continue in humility before me.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:42:58

And then he actually tells them in verse 33, if you flip over that, that endowment is going to happen, he says in the Kirtland Temple. Back in Kirtland, there is an endowment on high that my elders need to receive as ... he's not super explicit here, but it seems somehow connected to this reorienting, reeducation experience and perhaps they need the gift from God, this gift of power to help them be what he needs them to be, to live the laws he needs them to live, to bring about the Zion project, the kingdom of God that needs to be brought about in preparation for his coming. So these are all kind of connected together, right?

Hank Smith: 00:43:38

Yeah. If you go back to 101, wasn't that the parable? What does he need the tower for? Right? What does he need the temple

for? Well, I needed the temple so you could learn to be Zion. And so we're going to have to go do that somewhere else.

- Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:43:54 Yeah. And if you can keep that in mind that a primary purpose of the temple is to make us Zion like or kingdom ready, ready for the king to come, being as consecrated and as pure in heart and mind and all the things that they're lacking here and that as we look inside our own souls, we see that we're often lacking the covenants of the temple and that that's exactly what they're calculated to do. Now those won't come about till Nauvoo, what we're talking about here, but Kirtland's going to be the beginning of that kind of purification of the heart. That's right.
- Hank Smith: 00:44:29 Right. Doesn't that what Isaiah says, go to the mountain of the Lord, he will teach us of his ways, we will beat our swords into plows, right? Am I getting this right? We will ... our Spears into pruning hooks. In my mind he's saying, let's go to the temple so we can be taught and changed, right? We can be changed from a sword to a plow, right? A weapon of war to a weapon of feeding people. And it seems like that fits very well here. Don't you think Scott, with the idea of the temple is what's going to change you into a Zion type people, a Zion person.
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:45:08 Yeah. Part of that education, that reorientation that they need, we're not doing things the way of the world, right? And it's hard to unlearn, right? You can hear Yoda saying, you must unlearn what you have learned. I don't know, John, can you do a good Yoda impersonation or-
- Hank Smith: 00:45:30 I bet he can.
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:45:30 Is that in your repertoire?
- John Bytheway: 00:45:31 Do Yoda, I cannot.
- Hank Smith: 00:45:33 It won't get ... that's a great line.
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:45:38 That was good. You must unlearn what you have learned. Right? One of my favorite Yoda quotes. In fact, that line is almost an exact line from Levi Hancock, who was on Zion's Camp. He said that the prophet Joseph taught those in Zion's Camp that quote, "we had to unlearn what we had learned from the world." That was one of the things that we need to shed that. How long is it going to take for us to unlearn what we've learned from the world that keeps us from receiving the blessings of Zion and the Lord's saying here, as long as it takes, right? You can see the

Bishop looking over and just shaking his head and saying, one more time, give it another try. Yeah-

- Hank Smith: 00:46:23 You'll get it. You'll get it.
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:46:24 You'll get it. You'll get it. However many tries it takes, just keep trying.
- Hank Smith: 00:46:29 Earlier in the podcast you said, this is the way. So you quoted the Mandalorian and there, you just quoted Yoda so,
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:46:35 I mean, so-
- Hank Smith: 00:46:35 I don't know, there's something there. I think there's some plagiarism going on. This was written first.
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:46:43 Yeah.
- John Bytheway: 00:46:45 Well, this is humbling. I mean, thinking of Joseph himself walking, as you said, 30 or 40 miles in a day, not getting on a wagon. And I think I might be tempted to murmur, blisters on your feet and everything, and then getting there. I mean, Zion's Camp is just to a fascinating story. And I appreciate the way you've explained the reasons, the solutions, this is really good Scott. I'm reminded of president Benson's cleanse the inner vessel emphasis, worry about the outside things as much, but we got to start within.
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:47:22 Yeah. And I think John, some listeners might want to grab onto that phrase. You just mentioned verse 14, where the Lord promises to fight your battle. He says, I don't require at their hands to fight the battles of Zion. For as I've said in former commandment, even so will I fulfill, I will fight your battles. For imagery there, you can think of that storm, that he protected them big time. So physically, that's certainly one of the things he might mean here, but yeah, you work on you, you work on your heart, you work on becoming that Zion people according to the laws of the celestial kingdom, he said in verse five, work on that and I'll worry about the enemies.
- Hank Smith: 00:48:04 For me, I just personally am thinking, how can I be more consecrated and how can I be more united, first of course, in my home and my ward and my stake, how can I be more united with those people around me and how can I be more consecrated? I think if we all ask those questions, we'd be moving forward, wouldn't we Scott towards our goal?

John Bytheway: 00:48:25 Yeah.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:48:26 Amen. Absolutely.

John Bytheway: 00:48:27 I don't want to be the one ruining the corporate behavior-

Hank Smith: 00:48:32 The corporate blessings.

John Bytheway: 00:48:33 Yeah.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:48:33 Yeah. And John, you'll appreciate a Book of Mormon reference here. Sometimes I think of it as when Lehi's family, they're in the boat, they're crossing the ocean and how many did it take? How many did it take to bring the storm? There are a lot of people that were being very obedient to the Lord the whole time, and you get a few people who were being rude, a few people who were being, I don't know what kind of dancing they were doing, but-

Hank Smith: 00:49:00 It wasn't good.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:49:01 Yeah. And then there-

John Bytheway: 00:49:02 Forgetting God.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:49:03 Yeah. It was just a small, it was Layman and Lemuel and what was it? Some of the-

Hank Smith: 00:49:09 Sons of Ishmael.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:49:11 Sons of Ishmael.

John Bytheway: 00:49:12 Yeah. And who paid? Everybody.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:49:15 Everybody, everybody paid for their-

John Bytheway: 00:49:16 Good point.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:49:18 How many people does it take to rock the boat? It could be a few.

John Bytheway: 00:49:22 Lehi, can we make a separate boat for us?

Hank Smith: 00:49:26 Let's split the boat in half, cut it right down the middle.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:49:30 Right. And sometimes that's the analogy, where you've heard Father [Byler 00:49:32] talk about the good ship, Zion, right?

The good ship Zion, maybe that's an analogy that's helpful, but the Lord says ... there's a few other things maybe we should grab here that I think might be useful to understanding the Lord's plan for that time. And then maybe some things that grew out of this, that would be interesting for our listeners. So the Lord says for those who will remain in the region, those who are Missourians, who've been displaced, that they should do their best to find grace and favor in the eyes of the locals. This is in verse 23, 24, 25. That's the phrase, I will give unto you favor and grace, that you may rest in peace and safety while you're saying to the people, please help us out, please execute judgment and justice for us according to the law and redress us of our wrongs.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:50:24

He says, if you can do that, kind of curry favor with the locals that will give sufficient time, verse 26, for Joseph to raise an army of Israel until the army of Israel becomes very great. Which he says that Joseph and mine elders, verse 27, will have time to gather up the strength in my house. Now, what about those, we haven't talked about the good guys yet. Right? What about those, like Wilford Woodruff? What about those people? What about-

Hank Smith: 00:50:55

Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, all these guys,, George J. Smith.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:50:58

They did a great job showing they were willing to lay down their lives right to come along to Zion's Camp. What about them? And the Lord talks about them in verse 18 and 19. He says, that in as much as there are those who have hearkened to my words, I have prepared a blessing and an endowment for them, mentions the endowment again here, if they continue faithful. I have heard their prayers and will accept their offerings. I will accept their offerings. And it is expedient in me that they should be brought thus far for a trial of their faith. This was a refining, even for the best of them, a refining, a trial of their faith. And this is where we get some of those great stories, right? From some of the leaders that were there. Brigham Young, for instance, someone asked him, brother Brigham, what have you gained by this journey?

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:51:48

And then when Brigham young was in salt lake, he's already there, he's president of the church at this time, he was recalling this and he said, I have traveled with Joseph a thousand miles, as he has led the camp of Israel. I have watched him and observed everything he said or did. For the town of Kirtland, I would not give the knowledge I got from Joseph from this journey. This was the starting point of my knowing how to lead

Israel. So this is going to be valuable. In fact, go over to verse 35. I think the Lord is starting to hint toward the fact that there were certain people on this trip, who he is about to choose for added leadership responsibilities. He says in verse 35, there has been a day of calling, but the time has come for a day of choosing and let those be chosen that are worthy.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:52:47 And it shall be manifest unto my servant, Joseph, by the voice of the spirit, those that are chosen and they shall be sanctified. He's a little ambiguous here about what he means by chosen for what? Right? Chosen for what? But you both know what happens after this, right? When they get home, actually that next year on Valentine's Day, this is when it's time for the choosing of the 12 apostles and the 70. And the way that Joseph phrased the gathering of that meeting, he said, we'd like to have a meeting with all those who were on Zion's Camp. That's how he phrased it. Or the camp of Israel, I think, would be his phrase.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:53:33 And they, along with others came and he actually had those who were in the camp of Israel. I want you to come sit over here and those who were not, you can sit over here. And he just wanted to highlight the sacrifice of those who were willing to do that. And then he said, the time has come for the Lord to call and to choose those who have proven that they've been willing to lay down their lives for him. And then he turned to the three witnesses and said, you know, back in section 18, you were commissioned to choose the Quorum of the Twelve, now's the time. They withdraw amongst themselves-

Hank Smith: 00:54:10 That's Oliver Cowdery.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:54:12 Yeah, that's Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer, Martin Harris.

Hank Smith: 00:54:15 Okay.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:54:16 They withdraw, are prayerful and they've been thinking about this ever since section 18 was given, Oliver Cowdery later says, but like this kind of weight on them, this responsibility, but this was the time they come back and they present the names of the 12. And I think it was, was it nine of the 12, original 12 apostles were on Zion's Camp and then the selection of the 70, how many of the original presidents of the 70 and Quorum of the Seventy were on Zion's Camp? Hundred percent, a hundred percent of those, yeah, were from Zion's Camp. And so, the three witnesses set the Quorum of the Twelve apart, and then the first presidency confirmed their calling. And so I think that's what the Lord is alluding to here in verse 35 and 36 that, so here

in section one of ... I think that's what verse 35 and 36 are talking about, right? That let those be chosen that are worthy. There's now a group who have shown that they are willing to lay down their lives for Christ's sake. And that's exactly the kind of people he wants as the leaders of the [inaudible 00:55:26].

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:55:25

Things get more complex as this continues to move, as the church grows. We're now going to have a group of tried and true leaders, right? That will hopefully be able to bear this kingdom forward. So Zion's Camp had that influence, that refining influence. And it's interesting that's when ... you know when you listen to church leaders today, talk about Zion's Camp, they seem to always go there. And I like this quote from Elder Dallin H. Oaks, he said, "according to its ostensible purpose, Zion's Camp was a failure." I love that, he was just like, they did not get their land back. Right? But then he said, but most of the men who were to lead the church for the next half century, including those who would take the saints across the plains and colonize the inner mountain west, came to know the prophet Joseph and received their formative leadership training in the march of Zion's Camp.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:56:23

So good, right? Elder Bednar, he brings it kind of to our day, he says, as individuals and in our families, we too will be tested, sifted and prepared as were the members of Zion's Camp. Remember not everyone came out very well, right? There were some that this is going to try their faith and yet there's others like Brigham Young, who just, they come out shining. There's something about this crucible, right? That sort of causes people to go one way or the other here. So Elder Bednar is saying, that's happening also today in different ways. He says, "the scriptures and the declarations of the apostles and prophets do not indicate that the faithful members of this church will have trials and tests removed from their lives." Right? Quite to the contrary, the Lord needs to know who he can rely on. So anyway, thoughts on that from either of you?

John Bytheway: 00:57:17

I love that. And I think Hank brought this up before, the idea of, well, that wasn't what we expected. I think Hank, you brought up the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Well, we had hoped that this had been the savior that would ... and I keep seeing parallels with that because they also thought that Jesus was a political type deliverer and he ended up to have a much more spiritual work and impact that he had on them. And so did Zion's Camp, it didn't end up being as much as a physical thing, as a process of becoming for all those that went on it.

Hank Smith: 00:57:53 Yeah. It seems to be a pattern with the Lord. Doesn't it? That he's got ... we have one intention in mind, he's got another.

John Bytheway: 00:57:59 Expectation. Yeah.

Hank Smith: 00:58:01 He's got a completely different thing in mind. And he kind of lets us go on with our expectation. And then when the moment comes where our expectation isn't met, he says, but mine was right? Everything happened that I wanted to have happen there along the way. If you think about Brigham and the Exodus from Nauvoo and the experience he gained from this, and he's also going to be the one who takes him from Missouri back to Illinois, right? When they're-

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:58:29 Yeah.

Hank Smith: 00:58:30 Exodus from-

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:58:31 When Joseph's in jail.

Hank Smith: 00:58:32 When Joseph's in jail. These two experiences are going to create in him, someone who can actually pull off the Exodus of the millennium. Right? And so I think the Lord has that in mind, as he's working here versus our limited understanding right? Of what we think we're doing. So, wow.

John Bytheway: 00:58:58 And I think it's great. An application that we can all make is when our expectations are not met or we didn't get what we thought we would get, but we can say, but what did we learn? What did we become? What did we experience? Those verses that you've pointed out Scott.

Hank Smith: 00:59:11 Yeah.

John Bytheway: 00:59:13 Yeah.

Hank Smith: 00:59:13 John what appears to be a total failure to some is an absolute success to the Lord. And that can be applied in many different ways. When things that you'd hoped kind of fall apart, right? When a marriage that you'd hoped was going to continue forever kind of falls apart, or when something, a career that you'd hoped was going to happen, doesn't happen. You can see the Lord's hand in that particular direction for a while. Right? And then he says, I got what I wanted out of that, now let's go this way.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 00:59:47 Yeah. And you can go... yeah. And we see it, right? That people can go two ways with those types of really intense life experiences. It can either make them better or it can make them bitter. Right? And you never know until the crucible hits. And so I think just having that pattern in our lives of trying to be submissive to God, do the best we can, be willing to lay down our lives for his sake, having just kingdom of God first in our minds, I think that that prepares us when those types of things happen, when our assumptions are violated, because they will, because they will. Right?

John Bytheway: 01:00:34 One more example, end of the war chapters, where some were hardened because of the exceedingly great length of the war and others were softened and it was the same experience, different reactions based on what they chose internally, how they chose to take it.

Hank Smith: 01:00:50 No, I was just going to say, I just love seeing the Lord's patience in these verses that ... and he's just so calm with them as how frustrated they must be at least some of them and even Joseph. Right? And he says, well, you've got a lot to learn, so I'm here for you.

John Bytheway: 01:01:08 Do you know what else, Hank? I've just loved experiencing this with everyone because I have sensed especially in those latter nineties sections, how anxious he is to give them the blessings of the temple. It keeps coming back, I want to endow you with power, would you hurry up and do that thing?

Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:01:28 Yeah. Yeah. I have a gift I want to give you, but I can't give it until you're ready.

John Bytheway: 01:01:35 Yeah. Yeah. Right. And then-

Hank Smith: 01:01:36 I love going back to that parable that you mentioned from 101 Scott, what need has my Lord of a tower?

John Bytheway: 01:01:41 What do you need that for?

Hank Smith: 01:01:42 Why do you need a Temple? Right. You can give us everything without having a temple. We don't need ... I probably do that same thing in my own life. Why do I need to go to the temple? Why do I need to make time for that? I pray, I read my scriptures. Why do I need to make time for that temple? Right? And the Lord's saying-

Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:01:55 I'm a good person. I'm a good person.

Hank Smith: 01:01:57 Yeah. And what is it the Lord said in the parable, I got to go back. Why? What is the cause of this great evil? Just do what I asked you to do.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:02:08 Wow. I have two thoughts. One, I want to just highlight something that there's an article about this, that your listeners should know about written by Alex Baugh back in 2005, it's on the church website just called Joseph Smith and Zion's Camp. Let me just read the last paragraph of what he says in there. It's so good.

Hank Smith: 01:02:28 John is showing us the-

Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:02:29 John is showing it here for the viewers.

John Bytheway: 01:02:32 [inaudible 01:02:32]. So good. Right.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:02:34 Yeah. It's succinct and I think if you were going to teach a gospel doctrine lesson, you'd want to just read through this and have a highlighter. This is just an angle that I think is worth considering. He talks about, what did Zion's Camp do for Joseph Smith? We often think about the up and coming leaders, but what about the ... what's Joseph? Is he twenty-

Hank Smith: 01:02:54 28.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:02:55 Oh 28, 28 years old, okay, so Joseph's 28.

Hank Smith: 01:02:57 Turning 28, turning 28 I think.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:02:59 There you go. So Joseph is 28 years old. So what about him. So here's what Alex Baugh-

Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:03:03 So Joseph is 28 years old. So what about him? So here's what Alex Baugh says, and I just love Alex Baugh and can't say enough good about his scholarship on all these kinds of topics. He's so good. So he said, "Lastly, we should not overlook the fact that the Prophet Joseph Smith as the commander may have gained more from the experience than anyone else. Five years after Zion's Camp, the Lord revealed to the prophet that all the trials in his life shall give the experience and shall be for thy good."

Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:03:27 "Surely the Zion's Camp experience was for his good. Unquestionably, he learned valuable gospel lessons about faith, and virtue, and knowledge, and temperance, and patience, and brotherly kindness, godliness, charity, humility, and diligence. He also learned lessons regarding relationships with others, the

need for preparation." Joseph didn't prepare very well for this, and a lot of people suffered including himself. "And the consequences of one's actions. In short, Zion's Camp was an important chapter in the life of Joseph Smith that further defined and refined him as a prophet leader to the Latter-day Saints."

- Hank Smith: 01:04:01 Wow.
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:04:02 Just a great, great statement there from Brother Baugh.
- Hank Smith: 01:04:05 That's a cool angle.
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:04:07 Yeah. Now, second thought. How about this thought from Elder Ballard. Elder Ballard gave a talk, let's see, 10, 11 years ago to young adults fireside. He said this. He said... so I'm going to play with his numbers a little bit because time has passed. But he said, "By the year 2040, just 30 years from now, which would be what, 19 years from now, just 19 years from now, the number of stakes will have doubled from what they were 11 years ago to approximately 6,000 stakes."
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:04:41 Then he said to that group, that audience, "You're going to be in your 40s and 50s, early 50s." He said, "Now ask yourself, where are the 6,000 stake presidents? Where are their first counselors and second counselors, executive secretaries and clerks? Where are the 6,000 times 12 or 72,000 high councilors?" And suppose that every stake has an average of 10 units about the average and the stakes today, where are the 60,000 bishops, first counselors, second counselors, executive secretaries, clerks, elders, quorum presidents, their counselors, high priest group leaders, their assistants, relief society, young women, primary presidents and their counselors, and on and on. Where are they?
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:05:24 He said, "I'm speaking to them right now. You are they. You are they. Will you be ready?" He asked to accept the callings that the Lord will extend to you. Do not let one day go by when you do not strive to be ready to serve. How are we going to be sifted and tested and tried and prepared? I don't think we're going to be asked to walk a thousand miles or 880, right? One way and then turn around. I just don't think that's going to happen.
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:05:56 Here's Elder Bednar dropped a zinger. It was actually that same year, 2010 at a BYU Idaho education week devotional. He's talking about Zion's Camp. The whole talk is about Zion's Camp. It's really good. He said, "Consider brothers and sisters that

affluence, prosperity and ease can be tests in our day equal to or greater in intensity than the persecution and physical hardships endured by the saints who volunteered to march in Zion's Camp.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:06:24 So he's saying that affluence, prosperity and ease can be tests in our day that are equal to Zion's Camp. How about that? So sometimes I like to ask my students just to think about that, because this kind of boggles the mind, right? How could prosperity try me? How could the prosperity refine my soul? And sometimes I like to throw out some questions like this. I said, "All right. So which test is harder being thrown into a prison cell or being given unlimited cell phone service?"

Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:06:54 Okay. A little play on words there. It's a little cheesy. I apologize. Here's another one. Which test is harder? March with blistered feet, 900 miles to Missouri or a walk across the street once a month to check on your ministering families for the love. Right?

Hank Smith: 01:07:12 Can I do a shout out to the Day family who is my ministering family? We're going to count this podcast that they listen to. All right, go ahead, Scott.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:07:19 Yeah. See, it's never been easier. It's never been easier what you just did. Okay. Here's another one. Okay. Which test is harder being tarred and feathered for being Mormon, or remember The Church Of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or keeping your thoughts clean on the internet? Which test is harder being tied to a tree and whipped for your beliefs, which was totally happening to those saints in Missouri, during the expulsion, or always remembering the saviors you covenanted to do while having TV, YouTube and Facebook in your life.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:07:54 Is it easier to follow the prophet to redeem Zion or is it easier to follow the prophets council to redeem your own dead ancestors using high speed internet on your laptop, in your living room, right? As you prepare to go to one of the... hopefully, I mean, if you live in the Wasatch Front, many temples that are nearby and maybe you don't live close to the temple. But you understand the point. Which test is harder, right? Building the Kirtland Temple in your poverty or regularly attending one of the temples in your area. Right? I mean, it's never been easier, but in that ease is the test Elder Bednar is saying. That's a provocative thought.

Hank Smith: 01:08:37 Just like Zion's Camp. You find out it's a day of choosing, right? A day of affluence becomes then a day of choosing. Who chooses,

right? Who chooses the Lord over their affluence, over their ease?

Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:08:52

At BYU, Idaho, I took a class from Elder Bednar right before he became an apostle and the class was called Teachings of the Living Prophets, my religion course. Then the next semester he actually became a living prophet. So that helped to kind of validate a lot of what he taught. I remember we were studying Elder Scott. You get to study different apostles and Elder Bednar, he wanted us to ask him questions. That's how we act and not be acted upon in the learning process.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:09:20

Sometimes he'd have really cool stuff to share, but he wouldn't share it unless we asked and this was one of those weeks. Elder Bednar had just been in Salt Lake at a meeting with some of the brethren. He had just seen Elder Scott. And we met on Friday with Elder Bednar. So I remember we're there and Elder Bednar opens up class and he says, "All right. We're talking about Elder Scott today. What questions do you have?" And I raised my hand and I said, "Elder Bednar, have you seen other Scott recently?" And he said, "I have."

Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:09:47

I raised my hand again, "Elder Bednar, what would you teach us? What did you learn from Elder Scott that you could teach us?" He said, "Well, that's a great question." I was actually in a meeting with him recently, and as we were leaving, we're in the elevator and I told him, "We're going to be talking about them today." I asked him if he had any counsel for my students and he said, "Yes, I do."

Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:10:08

He said, "I wrote it down on this three by five card right here in my suit coat pocket. Would you guys like to hear what Elder Scott wanted to say to you?" I was like, "Yes." This is what he said. I think this is pretty close to an exact quote. He said, Elder Scott said to us, the students of Elder Bednar. He said, "Tell your students that God did not send them to Earth to be entertained. They are here for a much more glorious purpose." That was the message from Elder Scott. Wow.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:10:39

I think held in reserve 6,000 years. Pick your favorite prophet quote of some of the most noble and great generation. And here we are. We can spend hours and hours and hours just doing nothing. And maybe that's part of the test. God needs leaders. God needs people who are consecrated, people who are willing to give their all to him. With your free time, you can give a lot to God. You can give a lot to God in your free time. You can help prepare your heart. You can consecrate your mind. You can prepare yourself to be something that God can use,

someone who can be an instrument, his hands to do some things.

- Hank Smith: 01:11:19 Let me read from Elder 2007, Elder Dallin H Oaks. "Team sports and technology toys like video games and the internet are already winning away the time of our children and youth. Surfing the internet is not better than serving the Lord or strengthening the family. Some young men and women are skipping church youth activities, are cutting family time in order to participate in soccer leagues or to pursue various entertainments." And then this statement, I'll always remember. "Some young people, and I'd say all people are amusing themselves to death, spiritual death, amusing themselves to death."
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:11:57 Is that our Zion's Camp? Elder Bednar seems to say that could be our Zion's Camp today. Is this going to make you better, or is it going to make you like just a lump that God can't really do much with? I don't know. We never want to be too harsh. Right? But it's just more... I check myself on these things like, "What am I doing?"
- Hank Smith: 01:12:19 That could be the name of my autobiography, a lump that God couldn't do much with. That would be a good title for the Life of Hank Smith. Is there anything else in these sections, John, Scott, before we wrap up? I feel like we've got some great, great content here.
- John Bytheway: 01:12:37 It's been great. I think everybody will have an enhanced sense of Zion's Camp.
- Hank Smith: 01:12:43 Yep. I think so too.
- John Bytheway: 01:12:44 And the high council too.
- Hank Smith: 01:12:46 And the high council.
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:12:48 Did the high council get elevated at all in your minds? I mean, was this helpful anyway? There's a lot of high councilman jokes. I just want to make sure that we got them.
- Hank Smith: 01:12:56 Yeah. We've got to make sure we got all those in.
- John Bytheway: 01:12:58 We like to bring you the love of the high council.
- Hank Smith: 01:13:03 Yeah, or the stake presidency. I bring you greetings and love from the stake presidency. We come in peace. Scott, we've

been friends for a long time and I know you have been studying the history of the church and the doctrines of the church. I know you said earlier, "I'm kind of a doctrinal guy." I think that was a bit of an understatement when it comes to... If I want to know a doctrine of the church, if I'm a little bit confused, I know that Scott Woodward knows. Right? Like he knows, he just knows. He's made it his life study. So in 25 years of studying and teaching, our listeners would love to hear your thoughts on how you feel about Joseph Smith and the restoration, the Book of Mormon and the temple and everything that's come from it. What's it done for you?

- Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:13:51 I can't remember what I said last time. So I might repeat some thoughts.
- Hank Smith: 01:13:55 I think that's okay.
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:13:56 I still feel the same. I still feel the same. It just keeps growing. The reality of humanity is that we're complex, right? We're complex people. None of us are totally good. None of us are totally bad. We're complex. As we've talked about today, we need time to figure some things out. I think when you give the charity to church leaders and the history of the church, that we would hope that people would give to us, it's the right thing to do when you study church history.
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:14:32 It's the golden rule. So when I studied Joseph Smith and when I study early church history and I see some of the squabbles and the problems and the humanity and we've got a quorum of the 12 apostles early on, who's going to be in their 20s and 30s, and they're going to be young guys. They're going to have a lot of trouble sometimes with each other, sometimes with Joseph. It's going to be complex. You're coming up here on a few sections about the Kirtland apostasy, or you're going to get up there soon enough.
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:15:07 We're going to see that there's some challenges in church history and there are always human problems. And I'm okay with that. I've come to a place in my life where I don't. Why would I expect anything else? Right. The divinity of this work is what God can do with weakened simple people. I would include Joseph Smith and that he's marvelous, but he's also one of the weak and simple things of the earth that the Lord likes to work with those kind of people.
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:15:43 I remember President Nelson saying when he was asked about some of the complexities of church history, I think it was a news conference. And I remember his statement was, "Yeah, you're

going to find a mix of divinity and humanity in that." Totally. And then he kind of moved on next question.

- Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:16:04 I love that matter of factness. You're going to see it doctrinally. Sometimes you'll have some doctrinal errors that prophets in the past have made and they get fixed and things are going to be all right. Brigham Jung said, "I know many times I've preached wrong and yet that doesn't make him not a prophet." I have a little video maybe about me. I'll include a link in this notes or something, just a little explainer video about how to become doctrinally confident and knowing sometimes there's apostle who said things that weren't true. And how do you work through the complexities of that?
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:16:45 It doesn't make someone not a prophet because they've made errors. We saw that in section 102, right? If the president makes an error, then we can call for a rehearing and that's totally in the cards. Right? So I think sometimes we bring to the table, some false assumptions about prophets and about church history. We want it super sanitize, and we want them just to never do wrong. We want them to be amazing and we want to just cheer them on and just be inspired by their every move and every word. And that's not reality, right?
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:17:15 My wife calls this maybe a mature testimony where we move past our simplistic assumptions and we just see things how they really are. And to me, that's the miracle of it is what God did with some 20 somethings and 30 somethings in the early years of the church. What he's doing today with 20 somethings and 30 somethings and knock the Genarians.
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:17:39 And the whole gamut is dealing with the youth of the church. We're just a bunch of simple weak people. And yet God keeps telling us try again and keep going. So I love the man when I keep the commandments of God, when I try to keep my temple covenants, that I've made. My baptism of covenants. When I read scripture, I feel profound peace and goodness, and light and truth. Some scripture studies are better than others, but I feel consistently edified by them.
- Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:18:14 As I step back and think where did all that come from? Most of the scriptures, besides the Bible that we study and my temple covenants, I mean, it all traces back to the life and ministry of Joseph Smith and what Jesus did through this weak servant. I love the Lord for it and I'm inspired beyond words for the gift of the restoration, for the prophets with my eyes wide open to the complexities and the problems and the challenges. But for me, I just wouldn't expect anything else.

Dr. Scott Woodward: 01:18:46 Of course, there's humanity, but what about the divinity? So I feel it's a good place. I'm very comfortable in my Latter-day Saint skin. I feel like I can stand up for the prophets also with my eyes wide open to pass weaknesses or erroneous statements or whatever. And that's totally fine to me. So I just have a testimony of God's work and I see what it's doing in my life. And then I see what's happening to those I love and then corporately, right? This big picture. Great things are happening right now. We're moving in the right direction. The Lord is going to come and we're refining ourselves in preparation for him to do so.

Hank Smith: 01:19:26 Yeah, absolutely wonderful, Dr. Scott Woodward. John, I'm going to look at these sections. I've had so much fun today with the very first hearing of the high council, all the way to the end of Zion's Camp.

John Bytheway: 01:19:41 And the second one, and the third one.

Hank Smith: 01:19:44 So uplifted, and edified, and just enriched. It's a good day. It's a good day. We want to thank everyone for listening. Of course, we want to thank Dr. Woodward for his time, but we want to thank all of you for listening. We're grateful for you and your support. John and I have said time and again, nothing like this would be happening if it weren't for you who take the time to listen. Thank you to our executive producers, whom we love Steve and Shannon Sorensen. We have a great production crew in Jamie Nielsen, David Perry, Lisa Spice, Kyle Nelson, Will Stockton, and Maria Hilton. We hope you all will join us for our next episode of followHIM.