



*“Be Reconciled unto God through the Atonement of Christ”*

## 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 Wednesday.

### Podcast Episode Descriptions:

#### Part 1:

What secrets of spiritual resilience and repentance can we learn from the prophet Jacob? Dr. Barbara Morgan Gardner discusses the responsibility of teaching and leading others toward Christ, sharing personal experiences of relying on the Savior, and highlighting the significance of recording personal spiritual experiences and testimonies for future generations.

#### Part 2:

Dr. Barbara Morgan Gardner continues to examine Jacob's admonition to his people, highlighting their greater iniquities compared to the Lamanites, emphasizing the importance of righteousness in family relationships, and addressing misconceptions about skin color and righteousness, while also praising the role of righteous men. Dr. Gardner also adds insights on forgiveness in abusive relationships and the importance of prioritizing love and service within our homes.

## Timecodes:

### Part 1

- 00:00 Part 1–Dr. Barbara Morgan Gardner
- 00:22 What to expect in this episode
- 02:03 Introduction of Dr. Gardner
- 04:33 2 Nephi 2 - Jacob’s blessing from Lehi
- 07:13 President Holland on Jacob’s shaping through trial and the Spirit
- 10:11 Elder Cook and Sister Dennis discuss their struggles
- 11:49 Wealth or pride
- 13:02 Jacob 1:2-6 - Why Jacob writes
- 15:00 Elder Perry: The scriptures are to bring us to Christ
- 16:59 President Eyring - The Book of Mormon is to prove us true
- 18:43 President Holland - Children are matches to be lit
- 19:22 Jacob’s trials
- 20:42 Hank shares about Marlene Savage and the testimony of family
- 22:52 2 Nephi 2:3 - Jacob’s responsibility and Elder Scott and recording spiritual experiences
- 26:23 Family and teacher influence on testimony
- 31:00 Criticism of leaders
- 33:40 Jacob 1:17 - Recognizing the Spirit
- 36:09 An analogy about leadership and a crosswalk
- 38:56 President Oaks and advice followed
- 41:09 War chapter of the Book of Mormon comparison
- 42:50 Jacob 1 and 2 - Magnifying our offices
- 44:17 Jacob 2:15-17 - Pride and sexual sin
- 47:08 President Ezra Taft Benson on pride
- 50:13 President Hinckley and *The Family: A Proclamation to the World*
- 56:01 Mother Teresa as a pencil in the hand of God
- 57:56 Jacob 2:9 - the Nephites have done greater iniquities than the Lamanites
- 1:00:31 Jacob 2:12-14 Pride not just wealth
- 1:06:28 Brigham Young’s fear for the Saints
- 1:08:27 Ezekiel 16:49 - Sodom
- 1:09:29 Jacob 2:18 - Seeking the Kingdom of God
- 1:16:27 End of Part 1 - Dr. Barbara Morgan Gardner

### Part 2

- 00:00 Part II–Dr. Barbara Morgan Gardner
- 00:40 Dr. Gardner shares a story about training military chaplains
- 02:40 Lyndon Robinson story of World War II and a priesthood blessing
- 04:33 Dr. Gardner shares a story about a dollar
- 06:02 President Oaks and a man stuck by a boulder

- 08:16 Jacob 2:22-27 - A crime worse than pride
- 11:43 Jacob 31-35 - Jacob has heard the cries of wives and daughters
- 13:25 Elder Holland and “A Place No More for the Enemy of My Soul”
- 16:01 Jacob 3:9 - Misunderstandings about righteousness and skin color
- 19:48 President Nelson and Elder Kearon on abuse
- 23:01 Jacob 3:2 - Remember hope in Christ amidst abuse
- 24:25 What forgiveness is and isn't
- 26:31 President Nelson and love and care of wife
- 28:50 Keeping our spouse's name safe
- 29:40 Jacob 4:3 - Joy and Adam and Eve's fall forward
- 33:18 President Nelson, President Eyring and President Oaks: Eve's importance
- 36:27 Jacob 4:11-12 The Atonement of Jesus is the answer
- 38:32 Jacob 4:11 - Jacob answers those who feel hopeless
- 45:34 Women in leadership
- 48:28 End of Part II– Dr. Barbara Morgan Gardner

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Barbara thoroughly enjoys teaching religion at BYU. She is teaching the Doctrine and Covenants, The Eternal Family, and Teachings of the Living Prophets. Her research interests focus primarily on women in religious leadership, international education (most specifically Latin America), and religious pedagogy. She is the author of the book *The Priesthood Power of Women in the Temple, Church, and Family*. Barbara received her PhD in instructional psychology. Her master's degree is in educational leadership and foundations with an emphasis in international education development. She completed postdoctoral work at Harvard University. She served as institute director in Boston, which included her assignment as the chaplain at both Harvard and MIT. She continues to serve as the chaplain-at-large in higher education for the LDS Church. She also serves on the BYU Interfaith Outreach Council. Before teaching at BYU, she worked as a seminary and institute teacher as well as a researcher for the Church Educational System. She was born and raised in Salem, Oregon; served a Spanish-speaking mission in the Los Angeles Temple visitors' center; and resides in Highland, Utah. She hosts the *Grounded in the Gospel of Jesus Christ Podcast*. Barbara is married to Dustin Gardner, and they are the parents of two children. She enjoys her wonderful family, learning, teaching, traveling, people, the great outdoors, and life!

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## Respect the Car in Front

GUEST: BARBARA MORGAN GARDNER



- Hank Smith: 00:00:04 Hello, my friends. Welcome to another episode of FollowHIM. My name's Hank Smith. I'm your host. I'm here with my humble in heart co-host, John Bytheway, and our guest this week, Dr. Barbara Morgan Gardner. John, I know you know the Book of Jacob. We're switching from first, second Nephi to now Jacob. What are we looking forward to today?
- John Bytheway: 00:00:23 So when I think in terms of the storyline, we've got traveling through this empty corridor, Nephi breaks his bow, they're starving probably. Jacob is taking over the leadership of the church, and now, he has to address prosperity and searching gold and silver and having stuff, which is very interesting just to watch, how are you going to handle that and how do we handle that today?
- Hank Smith: 00:00:45 That's a great comment, John. They've swung the pendulum from poverty almost now to riches. Like I said, we have Dr. Barbara Morgan Gardner with us. What are we looking forward to today, Jacob one through four?
- Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:00:57 There's so much good in here, Hank. And thank you for having me on the show. I love that Jacob is the younger half of the family. We don't know for sure if Sam has passed away, and Laman and Lemuel, but we know that Nephi is going to pass away during this time. We know that he's lost his parents. He's the younger half. He wasn't living in Jerusalem, he wasn't experienced with the richness and the ways of Jerusalem, but he has drawn close to the Lord, he's received these blessings, and now he's being called to be in a very strong and important leadership position, and he's taking the role of the prophet.
- 00:01:26 And you're just seeing this growth of this young boy that was born in the wilderness, and now he's the prophet of God, trying to bring his people to Christ, just like he saw his brother do and his father do. In a way, it's very much our world today as a prophet becomes a prophet, President Nelson, and all of a sudden, he steps up to the plate, the mantle is on him, and

Jacob has this mantle. We're going to see what he's going to teach and the errand that the Lord gives him. It's Jacob's errand.

- Hank Smith: 00:01:49 Barb, I noticed in my study, there's a definite shift from Nephi to Jacob. These are two different voices. John, Barb is not new to you and I, we've known her for a long time, but she might be new to some of our audience. Can you give us a brief bio?
- John Bytheway: 00:02:03 Yeah. Dr. Barbara Morgan Gardner, we're so glad to have her back. She is an Associate Professor of Church History and Doctrine at BYU, but what I love in her background is Institute Director in Boston that covered 100 different universities, including MIT and Harvard, and she was acting as a chaplain at Harvard and MIT. We're really glad to have her back. I just love that kind of broad experience that you bring with you and I'm excited because of our past episode. Barbara, I know that you also have a podcast, and can you tell our listeners about that?
- Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:02:38 Thanks, John. Yeah. One of the things that I see as a woman, and maybe as a professor, is sometimes it's hard to know what applies to me and what doesn't apply to me in the scriptures. One of the things that I have decided to do is to go through the scriptures with the framework of women's voices and women's eyes. So we have just started a podcast where we have women, many of whom have been past general church leaders, some scholars, and we go through these scriptures following the Come, Follow Me calendar. We would love to have those of you who would like to join us on this new podcast called Grounded.
- John Bytheway: 00:03:10 Sounds awesome. Can I listen, too?
- Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:03:12 You bring up a good point, John. We need the support and we need the unity of men and women together. We can help others understand the perspective of women as we look at the doctrines and principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- John Bytheway: 00:03:24 Anything that helps you look at the scriptures with new eyes in a new way, scriptures you've read before, is a wonderful thing. So yeah, that sounds great.
- Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:03:32 Thank you, John.
- Hank Smith: 00:03:34 Barb, you're special to John and I. We love you. We love Dustin and your daughters. All right. Let me read a little bit from the Come, Follow Me manual. Barb, let's see where we go here. This is the opening paragraph.

- 00:03:45 "The Nephites considered Nephi their great protector. He had also protected them against spiritual dangers, warning them against sin and urging them to come unto Christ. Now, that task fell to Jacob, whom Nephi had consecrated to be a priest and a teacher. Jacob felt a responsibility to boldly warn those who were beginning to labor in sin while also comforting the wounded soul of those who had been hurt by the sins of others. How would he do both? He would point them to Jesus Christ because both groups needed the Savior's healing. Like the message of Nephi before him, Jacob's testimony was a call to be reconciled unto God through the atonement of Christ."
- 00:04:27 Like you said, Barb, this is Jacob's errand. How do you want to start? Where do we want to go? Do you just want to jump right in?
- Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:04:33 Listening to you read that and looking at Jacob's errand, you reminded me of bringing us back to second Nephi chapter two. It's the patriarchal blessing in a sense that Lehi, as a father, gives to Jacob. And what you're saying there, it occurred to me that, as Jacob is teaching his family, the blessing that he receives from his father in second Nephi chapter two was pretty powerful in this, and it just says, "And now, Jacob, I speak unto you." This is Lehi. "Thou art my firstborn in the days of my tribulation in the wilderness. And behold in thy childhood, thou hast suffered afflictions and much sorrow because of the rudeness of thy brethren."
- 00:05:05 Think about what kind of life he had. He was raised in seeing his brothers fighting, he was raised in seeing his mother sorrowing, he was raised in seeing some serious contention, and it was very painful to him. We even see that later, that Jacob sorrows over the rudeness of his brothers to his mother, and it says, "Nevertheless, Jacob, my firstborn in the wilderness, thou knowest the greatness of God and He shall consecrate thine afflictions for thy gain," then verse three, "Wherefore thy soul shall be blessed and thou shall dwell safely with thy brother, Nephi, and thy day shall be spent in the service of thy God, wherefore I know that thou art redeemed because the righteousness of thy Redeemer, for thou has beheld that, in the fullness of time, he cometh to bring salvation unto me."
- 00:05:48 And then he basically tells him, "You've been instructed, Jacob, regarding Jesus Christ, you've been instructed regarding his law." In verse eight, Lehi tells him, "Wherefore how great the importance to make these things known into the inhabitants of the earth that they may know that there is no flesh that can dwell in the presence of God, save it be through the merits and

mercy and grace of the holy Messiah who layeth down his life according to the flesh and taketh it up again by the power of the spirit."

00:06:14 So Jacob's already, at this early stage, he's being told by Lehi, "Jacob, you are going to be going with your brother." I'm sure Jacob doesn't know what it means at this point that he's actually going to be with his brother and he's going to separate himself from the others, but he's also being given a mandate from the Lord through his father that he needs to teach of Jesus, he needs to teach of the atonement of Jesus Christ, he needs to teach about laws and mercy and grace. In a sense, he's already been told what he needs to teach when this kind of thing happens to him in his own life as he gets older.

00:06:46 I think almost, in a sense, we jump back and just remind ourselves, Jacob's already been given what he needs to teach. Jacob's already been guided by the Lord. He's already gone through misery and he's also being taught about family. He's being taught that men, they might have joy. He's been taught by his father about agency and being free to act. Now, we're to the point where Jacob is going to become the next prophet, and he's already learned the doctrine of Christ and he knows what his mission is even before it happens.

Hank Smith: 00:07:14 Barb, let me read you something from Elder Holland. He wrote, "It seems unfortunate that one so young would be deprived of so many physical comforts, and at the same time, suffer such wrenching emotional and spiritual conflicts within his family, but painful as it was, this was all part of the making of a prophet, Jacob the unshaken, Jacob the unshakeable, Jacob born in affliction, refined in service, triumphant in Christ. This was part of his shaping."

Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:07:44 Hank, I was just thinking as you said that, we think about our living prophets and apostles, President Nelson being raised by inactive parents, President Oaks who lost his father at a very young age, President Holland, just recently, he was posting about how his father, he wasn't necessarily active and strong. He had a very strong mother, but his father wasn't coming from such a strong background.

00:08:04 I think about even my own father, who came from a situation where his mother committed suicide, all of these men and all of these women, as well, where you recognize they know what they have received, they have had a hard life, but they can also testify, as Nephi did, I know in whom I have trusted. I think that's what happens here

with Jacob. He sees the struggle, but he also, more importantly, has literally seen the Savior. So he's going to move forward and the Lord's going to use this suffering to help him be the kind of prophet that he needs to be to help his people come unto the Savior.

John Bytheway: 00:08:36 Yeah, I'm grateful you talked about that. Sometimes we think, if everything isn't going perfectly, then somebody's not doing their job, when in fact, even prophets have difficult, difficult lives, and just you saying that. What did Lehi say that you just read? In the days of my affliction, Lehi was having a hard time when Jacob was born. Nephi had a hard time. Jacob never saw Jerusalem. He saw his brothers fighting. Part of life is everything's not going to go perfectly. Then what you said, Barbara, thank you, but, "I know in whom I have trusted," getting us to that point is what we need when things are hard.

Hank Smith: 00:09:10 John, as you're talking about this, I remember back when the pandemic hit and I thought, "Who better to be leading the church than a doctor?"

John Bytheway: 00:09:19 I know.

Hank Smith: 00:09:20 Prepared for this time.

John Bytheway: 00:09:23 And we started doing home Come, Follow Me in, was it October, 2018? It was like, thankfully, we were practicing teaching at home before that pandemic hit.

Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:09:34 Back to that and the choice that Jacob has, this comes from the blessing that his father gave to him where he says to Jacob, "Wherefore men are free according to the flesh and all things are given them which are expedient unto man." We know the scripture, but then he continues, "And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life through the great mediator of all men or to choose captivity and death according to that captivity and the power of the Devil, for he seeketh that all men might be miserable, like unto himself," and then he says, "I would that you should look to the great mediator and hearken unto his great commandments and be faithful unto his words and choose eternal life according to the will of the Holy Spirit."

00:10:08 And I think that that's what we're seeing with Jacob. Jacob is this young boy. He could've chosen to follow Laman and Lemuel or he could've chosen to follow Nephi and Sam. The choice was his. And in this wilderness of his affliction in this really difficult time, just like all of us have, we all have this choice to see. It's

not that he hasn't been through struggles, and we've heard that recently. I loved Elder Cook in General Conference of October, 2023, where he just talked about, "I have lost my own nephew." We've all had these struggles, and I appreciate that the leaders of the church have been authentic. Sister Davis talked about her struggle with cancer at General Conference.

00:10:41 It's not that Jacob has had this perfect life, he clearly has not, but he has made a choice, and his choice is to follow the Savior. I just love that Jacob is told at a very young age, "Use your agency, do the right thing, know that the Savior is the answer for you, but you're going to be tempted, and the Devil's going to want you, and he's going to want you to be miserable like unto himself, but the choice is yours." And I think that that's very President Nelson, the choice is yours, choose eternity, focus on the things that are celestial, but you make the choice. President Nelson is so good at helping us understand, and President Oaks, as well, that the choice is ours and we have our agency to choose between the good and the evil. Jacob's going to continue to do that. That doesn't mean that they aren't concerned for the welfare of the souls of the people, but it does mean that they understand the doctrine of Jesus Christ and the importance of agency within that framework.

Hank Smith: 00:11:29 Wonderful. Barb, I think you're right. We can see, in second Nephi, Jacob being shaped for this time where the Nephites have now changed, at least from what we were reading with Nephi back in second Nephi five. We lived after the manner of happiness. We have a temple, we're industrious, and now Jacob meets different challenges with these people.

Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:11:50 We're going to see that the first part of chapter one is critical, where he's told what to write and what to focus on in his life. Since you are taking us to that next part with those two areas, and really, what it boils down to is pride, and wealth, and money. The problem isn't wealth, the problem is pride, and then the second one is almost a form of another kind of pride, which is the pride of lust, pride of thinking that you can have whatever you want, and in this case, it's the sexual immorality that they're dealing with that he's so concerned about, that falling from virtue.

00:12:20 He is seeing that they are a wealthy people. Jacob has come from nothing. He had to be on the boat that Nephi built. He didn't have all of this in his life, but now, he is concerned about what's happening. He makes it very clear it's not the money that he's dealing with, it's the pride of the people and how they're treating each other. That's his concern. So he's going to teach us



about two things, pride, in this case in the context of money, and then also the unchastity of lust.

Hank Smith: 00:12:46 So Barb, you mentioned this first part of chapter one where Jacob talks about, "What I'm supposed to write." He's deferring to Nephi and his instruction.

Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:12:56 I find this so important that the Book of Mormon, we can study so much of the history and we can study so much of other material associated with this, but I think that there's a very clear message that we find right in chapter one that Nephi has told to Jacob and now Jacob's telling us.

00:13:11 So starting in verse two, he says, "He gave me, Jacob," referring to Nephi, "Nephi gave me, Jacob, a commandment that I should write upon these plates a few of the things which I consider to be most precious, that I should not touch save it were lightly concerning the history of this people, which are called the people of Nephi, for he said that the history of this people should be engraven upon his other plates and that I should preserve these plates and hand them down unto my seed from generation to generation," and then he continues in verse four, "And if there were preaching which was sacred, or revelation which was great, or prophesying that I should engraven the heads of them upon these plates and touch upon them as much as it were possible for Christ's sake and for the sake of our people, and then for what reason? For because of faith and great anxiety, it truly had been made manifest unto us concerning our people what things should happen unto them." The answer to the struggles of his people and the answer to what they're going to need is not all the historical context. I think that's why we don't see a lot about the kings. We know that we have a new king that's going to reign after Nephi. They love this person. That's not going to be his focus here. His focus is on the spiritual, his focus is on bringing people to Christ, his focus is on helping people have faith, and you see that in verse six, "We also have had many revelations in the spirit of much prophecy, wherefore we knew of Christ and his kingdom what should come, wherefore we labor diligently among our people that we might persuade them to come unto Christ."

00:14:34 We've heard this phraseology before and partake of the goodness of God. They could really focus on the history and those are going to take place in another set of plates, but the Book of Mormon is not that. The secondary reason may be the history, but the primary reason for the Book of Mormon is to bring people to Christ, to help them and their children and posterity, in especially our day, to understand what it is that

God wants us to know for the salvation of our children, our grandchildren, and all of our posterity forever. For me, that's an extremely important part that we understand, that is a reason why this book was written, and there's a reason why Jacob is writing. He was told that by Nephi, "Focus on the spiritual and sacred things, focus on those things that change hearts and brings people to Christ."

00:15:14 There's a quote by Elder Perry where he says, "How often we read the record primarily as a history of a fallen people failing to remember that it was compiled by inspired prophets for the purpose of helping us come unto Christ. The major writers of the Book of Mormon did not intend it to be a history book at all. In fact, Jacob said that his brother Nephi commanded him that he should not touch save it were lightly concerning the history of his people." Then he continues, "Each time we read the Book of Mormon, we should probably ask ourselves, why do these writers choose these particular stories or events to include in the record? What value are they for us today?"

00:15:48 I love that the focus really is on that. Sometimes I think even myself can become sidetracked from what is most important. And clearly, what is most important to Jacob and to Nephi is bringing people to Christ through the sacred, and through these revelations, and through these things that'll build faith and help people come unto Christ and partake of his goodness. Nephi says that he's going to show us the tender mercies, and the Book of Mormon then will do that if the prophets do what Nephi asked them to do throughout this book.

John Bytheway: 00:16:15 Yeah, thank you for mentioning that. I actually asked my students, "Is the Book of Mormon a history?" Well, right here, it says, "I'm just going to touch lightly on the history." The emphasis, he's not trying to tell you everything that happened to everybody. That, at least early in the Book of Mormon, was a large plates thing. I like in verse four, "Preaching, prophesying those things that are great, I'm going to put that for Christ's sake and for the sake of our people."

Hank Smith: 00:16:38 I noticed, in those verses next, John and Barb, that he's not alone in this. He says, verse six, "We had many revelations, we knew of Christ, we labor diligently that we might persuade them to come unto Christ." I wonder if he's talking about Joseph here, "We would to God that we could persuade all men not to rebel against God."

Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:16:59 Yeah. There's a great statement by President Eyring where he's talking to teachers, to parents, to anybody who's teaching the

book, but it's specifically to Seminary Institute teachers and BYU Religion faculty. He says, "You want your students to see that their challenge is not to prove that the Book of Mormon is true, but to prove to God that they, the students, are true. When they do this, they will know that the book is true. When they prove that they will do what the book says, God will tell them more. The Book of Mormon is about people proving their belief to God little by little, and then he confirms their belief and then gives them more."

00:17:32 That's what I'm trying to do as a parent with my own two little girls. I can get into the history and try to figure out maps and everything else, which is important, although, frankly, I lose them most of the time, but I realize, with my two little daughters, I want them so desperately to come unto Christ, I want them so desperately to know that their prayers are going to be answered, I want them so desperately to know that they are going to sin, and they are going to have struggles, and they are going to have a lot of people trying to influence them in a number of ways, just like Jacob knows, and I know, hands down from my own life, the answer is turning them to Jesus because that is the only thing that has worked for me.

00:18:07 I can go with them to all of their struggles and everything else, but really, when it comes down to it, I have to help them know that the answer, as President Nelson says, really is Jesus. He is the answer to their problems. He is the only way to have peace in this world. He's the only source of hope. Other things are interesting and significant to a certain level, but nothing compares to the priority of helping them come unto Christ as we study the Book of Mormon together. I feel that way about my students, as well, or at gospel doctrine or at any of the callings I've ever had. We just have to make sure that we don't put anything in the way of the primary and the priority, which is helping them come unto Christ.

Hank Smith: 00:18:43 Barb, I love that. I recently read a quote from Elder Holland that really adjusted my teaching. I've been doing this awhile and I thought, "Wow, I need to make an adjustment." He said, "Students," we'd say our children, "are not containers to be filled, they are matches to be lit." I sometimes see my students and my children as containers to be filled. Let me give you information, let me give you information when what if we saw them as matches to be lit? Do that. Fire them up. Like you said, I want so desperately for my children to believe in Christ, not necessarily know the history of the Book of Mormon.

Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:19:22 The reality is, and this is back to Jacob, Jacob has just lost his father. He's lost his mother. He's about ready to lose his brother. I know you two are in this boat. Those of us who have lost parents and especially when you've lost both parents, this is me having lost my parents somewhat recently. There is a reality that you need to be self-reliant. I'm older than I would like to be having these children. If I pass away at the time my parents passed away from me, I need to make sure that my children are so grounded in the gospel of Jesus Christ because they have to stand firm on their own and the world is becoming more and more crazy. It's too risky not to do this. I don't have time to waste on much else. That almost sounds prudish, but the TV shows that we're watching, the books that we're reading, the scriptures that we focus on, what we focus on the scriptures, the vacations that we go on.

00:20:11 There's a purpose in everything. There is a purpose and it's fun and we laugh a lot. We enjoy things, but boy, as a mother, while I have them in my home, as a teacher, as I have people in my classroom, there's very careful intentional training going on. I have no time to waste and I see mortality is very short and I want them as prepared as I possibly can and I think that's what Jacob's experiencing here. He knows what's ahead of these people and he's not playing a game. There is good, there is evil. He knows that the Lord has told him he's going forward.

Hank Smith: 00:20:42 It reminds me of my wonderful mother-in-law, Marlene Savage, died too young, 65. I used to think that was old. She's just starting her grandparenting, but yet the fire she struck in her children and grandchildren is still burning. She was like you, Barb. She's like, "I don't have time to waste on this." And wow, are we glad she did?

Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:21:04 Yeah. Dustin and I have lost all of our parents in our forties. We're too young to have lost all of our parents at this stage, but I think for those of us who have lost those we love at a young age, you become orphans, but at the same time you also know, I have to rely on the Savior. You don't have parents to call. You have mentors in your life, which we appreciate, but the reality is you know that now it's you and the Lord. If you're going to plead for help, it's going to be the Lord you're pleading to and if you are going to get guidance and counsel, it's going to be from the Lord through his prophet, but mostly it's going to be through personal revelation and you have to build that relationship with him. Our Heavenly Father and our Savior are those people.

00:21:40 I just feel like that's where he's coming from. I felt it myself. You can call horizontally and reach horizontally as much as we want and we do want to help each other. If we're not grounded in the gospel of Jesus Christ, we are going to struggle. He loves his people too much to let that happen. He'll pay whatever price and I think that's part of the anxiety that we see from Jacob. We see that in verse three, but we see it throughout the time with Jacob. He just says, " But this day I am weighed down with much more desire and anxiety for the welfare of your souls than I have hitherto been." Well yeah, because now Nephi has passed away and he has full responsibility as parents do for their children, but it's his. I remember being in a stake conference. President Monson used to be in one of the stakes.

00:22:16 I lived in Salt Lake and I remember him one day just saying, "No one prays for Gordon like Tommy. No one. And I think that's what this is. It's just this very heavy burden to have the souls of humankind on our shoulders. We see that here too. The blood on our garments they're trying to avoid. They're not trying to avoid it because they don't want to be condemned. I don't think they want to avoid it because they love people so desperately. They'll do anything to save those they love, just like the Savior did. The closer we become to Christ, the more we care about the suffering of individuals and the more we come unto Christ, the more we want them to experience the joy as Lehi did as he's partaking of the fruit.

John Bytheway: 00:22:52 You used the word weighed down and that's in Jacob chapter two verse three. As he prepares to address them, "I'm weighed down with much more desire and anxiety for the welfare of your souls." He wasn't thinking about himself. That is that feeling of leadership. Oh my goodness, I'm responsible. I have got to teach these people now. "I'm taking over for Nephi and you see that in verse 19 of the chapter previous, taking upon ourselves or answering the sins of the people upon our own heads if we did not teach them the word of God with all diligence." Wow, that is a weight. I like that he describes it as a weight and that he feels that weight. I've got to point them to Christ. Excellent.

Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:23:36 Absolutely. I want to share one more thing about writing if I may, because he talks about the scriptures. He's going to talk about this a little bit later in chapter three as well. There's a great talk by Elder Scott. It's called to learn and teach more effectively. He talks like Jacob does here about having smaller plates and writing things. I have loved this and appreciated this and I have learned that as I have done this in my life, the Lord has guided me in what I write, especially personally in my own

journals and what I'm hoping to give to my future posterity. I wasn't planning to talk so much about death and what happens, but I have two daughters that have never met their grandparents. It's the weirdest thing to know it's not 10 generations down. It's one, but this prophesying and seeing things in the future when we know we're not going to be there and all of us know that there is a time that comes, but I love what Elder Scott, the pragmatics of what he does that for me has been very beneficial.

00:24:24 He says this. "Have you learned the enduring value of keeping a journal, of the very important spiritual experiences or sacred impressions that the Lord has communicated to you?" And then he continues. "I do not keep a detailed journal of all the events each day, but I do try to keep a record of some of the very important matters. The spiritual ones are in a sacred password protected journal that no one else can access. When I feel authorized by the Holy Ghost, I take some of those truths learned and put them in my family journal or share them in a public message. This is consistent with the principle that the scriptures confirm is true. Some personal matters are for our guidance and edification to help us grow and improve our character, our devotion and our testimony. These things are not intended for other individuals."

00:25:07 Then he continues. "Much like a patriarchal blessing is tailored for the person whom it is given, such matters should be kept reverently protected because of their inherent sacred nature. Any sacred matter that the Lord wants others to know, he can communicate to them directly through the spirit if they are worthy and in tune." I just share from personal experience, I appreciate this instruction. There are some things that I write down that will never see the light of day for anyone. They are just simply sacred and I believe that the Lord can trust Jacob because he can trust that Jacob is a confidential person and understands sacred things. There are some things though that I also recognize that the Lord will teach us that we need to share with other people, especially our family and children and when then guided by the spirit to share with other people and I hope that we can be sensitive to the Spirit and make those things known and write them.

00:25:53 The writings that I have from my parents are some of the most precious writings, almost every piece of paper, but especially my mom had a little red notebook that she kept and she had other little things that she had, little journals, my parents. And when they focus and I write those testimonies, that's what I want to read today. I want to know what my parents knew

regarding Jesus. The information is interesting, but boy, when I'm trying to raise my own family and I'm trying to teach the gospel, I want to see and I want to use the writings of my parents regarding how to come unto Christ. That's really all I care about.

- Hank Smith: 00:26:24 I spoke earlier of my mother-in-law. I remember when my daughter Madelynn was baptized and you have that little break, that little ten-minute break during a baptismal service and everyone had a chance to write down their testimonies. You fill it out and my mother-in-law took that seriously and she wrote down her testimony. My daughter still has that by her bedside. It was 10 minutes, but wow. You know what she felt, what she believed.
- Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:26:50 My parents had 13 children. We received no physical money, but we did receive testimonies. That's what the family cares most about because of their training. It wasn't that they're rich or poor, but it does matter where you're focused.
- John Bytheway: 00:27:03 Barbara, that reminds me, four of my children have absolutely no memory of their grandpa. He joined the church at age 24. I'm so grateful we have his journal because they get to read those things. Recently, my daughter uploaded for Christmas all of our little camcorder tapes. Remember the ancient camcorders before we all had one in our pocket? I have an interview with my dad from the 90s and it's so fun because it was before his Parkinson's disease telling us all this stuff and my kids are watching their grandpa. It's just a plug for grandpas and grandmas out there to write things down, make a little video so that you can share your testimony in perpetuity in the future.
- Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:27:45 I said that my parents all passed away. I was wrong, and after we adopted children, he lived two more months. Those are two of the most sacred months. He attended the sealing. He had a goal that he would be able to be sealed to all of his children and grandchildren in mortality, which was big for him coming from a broken family as a child, so that was something that mattered a lot to him. As we adopted those children, it was during COVID and so he would say, "Have they told you when you could be sealed to your children yet?" The temples were closed, so he was waiting.
- 00:28:14 We were honestly concerned that he wouldn't make it. The temples are closed and we don't know if we can be sealed, but we were sealed in August and he passed away in November and he was there and he just hugged them and that's what mattered. Again, back to Jacob, that's just what matters to

Jacob. He cares about these people, his posterity, but he cares about these people coming unto Christ. And at the end of your life, I think that that's what we are all going to be caring about if we're focusing on the right things. It's what matters, it's what sticks.

Hank Smith: 00:28:40 How wonderful. Barb, John, I have to tell you, speaking of people who have really blessed my younger years, in Jacob 1 verse 12, it says, "It came to pass that Nephi died." It's a simple verse. My seminary teacher, way back in the 1900s, Larry Gardner down at Snow Canyon High School, we had a funeral for Nephi. I still remember it because he asked me to speak at Nephi's funeral and here I am a junior in high school with a lot of unearned confidence. He said, "Will you speak?" I still remember that. I took that seriously. I wrote a talk. My friend Tanisha Hunt at the time, Tanisha Williams now, she wrote me a note after and said, "That really touched my heart what you said." That was an impactful day and it was just something that Larry Gardner did. I don't know if Brother Gardner can listen to our podcast or not, but Brother Gardner, if you're out there, that was just one of those moments where your trajectory shifts a little bit.

Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:29:37 That reminds me, my mom loved the song Savior, Redeemer of My Soul. You know that song, Savior Redeemer. It's a very sensitive song to me and mainly because my mom was a musician. I always tried to harmonize. Then she would say to me, "Why are you trying to ruin the song?" But she didn't understand it that I really wasn't trying to ruin the song, but I think everybody else in my family must've had perfect pitch because I would try to harmonize. Those are the other memories of my mom.

00:30:04 At the end of her life, one of my nephews, she would have him come and sing Savior, Redeemer of My Soul. He would sing it and sing it and sing it. Finally, there was one day we were in the front room shortly before my mom passed away and my nephew had had somebody else playing the piano and after he had sung the song and it was so good and she just turned to him and said, "Now you can sing it at my funeral. Now it will bring people to Christ." That song has a special place in my heart, but again, it was she wanted Savior, Redeemer of My Soul sung so that people would come unto Christ at her funeral. That's what you're saying, Hank. These opportunities to prepare for what's most important. They really do stick in our hearts and minds.

00:30:44 These people are mentors and Jacob's now going to be a mentor. Nephi was a mentor to Jacob. They're asking them



probably the right questions. I don't know what was being said to Jacob as Nephi was passing, but I would imagine there was a lot of training and mentoring happening there and Jacob was learning very carefully how to be the leader as he's going forward.

Hank Smith: 00:31:01 Barb, can I ask you one more thing about chapter one and that is John mentioned this, the weight of being a spiritual leader, a church leader, a teacher. And as I read this, I think how easy is it to criticize a church leader without thinking about the heavy weight that is on them? You'll hear people today, why did the prophet say this? Why did he say it that way? Why did President Oaks say it this way? Why did Elder Holland say it that way? And we, I don't know, almost flippantly criticize, not realizing the weight that is on those individuals. They feel it. It's a constant thing to feel it, so both of you, maybe you could help me with this. How can we help our listeners notice even the bishop, the stake president, the Relief Society president, the young women's president, there's a heavy weight there and they could use our sustaining vote rather than our criticism.

John Bytheway: 00:31:55 When I became a bishop, I became aware of things about good folks that no one else probably knew. I had to make decisions working around things. I heard, why didn't you ask this person this, this? And I knew why, but no one else did. There's a weight there, and I remember consciously going, I will never question this sort of thing again of leaders. I remember consciously going, okay, I see this. Another thought I had, Hank, was when Joseph Smith, Liberty Jail, and Jesus says, "Thy friends do stand by thee." When I thought about who else was standing by Joseph, it was Peter, James, John, John the Baptist. It was Jesus, and I thought, if I'm not standing by Joseph, I'm not standing by them either. That was a profound thought to me of am I going to stand by him or not? So I appreciate you just bringing that up.

00:32:56 Sometimes I hear the verbiage, if you will sustain this person, please sustain them by raising your hand, and I'm like, no, actually we are signifying that we will sustain them through the duration of their calling with our love and our heart and everything. We just signify it by this is not sustaining somebody. This is saying that you will sustain them, but sustaining them will be for the duration. That means a lot when you see those hands go up, when you're the one that is aware of your own faults and you're watching your congregation say, well, get behind this. Brought up a lot of things with your question there.

Hank Smith: 00:33:38 That's awesome, John, I love that sustaining thought.

- Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:33:41 John, that was so helpful and Hank, I love that question on how do we sustain. It brings me back to these verses here at the end of chapter one, verse 17, where Jacob says, "Wherefore I Jacob gave unto them these words as I taught them in the temple, having first obtained my errand from the Lord." I think we're seeing Jacob, as I said, he's becoming a leader and there is one question that we get from youth and young adults all the time and even people our own age and older, is how do I know what the Spirit is saying to me?
- 00:34:10 Jacob had to pay a very heavy price to receive his errand from the Lord. It's not like all of a sudden you become a prophet and the Lord just tells you everything. You have to pay the price. So number one I think is we have to respect the amount of work that these leaders have done throughout their lives to be in a position where they really have obtained their errand from the Lord, and we have to respect that this comes from a lot of sweat and tears.
- 00:34:33 I remember my parents praying for my brothers and sisters that were serving missions and we fasted for them so that they would know the errand of the Lord. I remember being in financial difficulties and them just fasting and praying, and I think there is a very heavy price that President Nelson, President Oaks, women of the church and leaders are paying. I asked Sister Dalton just recently when you were going up to speak to all the women, the young women of the church, how was that? And she just kind of laughed at first. "Oh, it was easy," and then she got really serious and just said, "It was a heavy burden. It caused anxiety for me and them knowing how much they had going forward." And she was so real, and I appreciated the realness. All of us having spoken maybe in a smaller setting and things, but we also have to pay a heavy burden and heavy price to know the errand of the Lord.
- 00:35:19 Sister Julie Beck recently in a conversation with her, she just said, "Barb, one of the hardest parts about speaking publicly, speaking at all, but especially publicly, is you pay attention to the Spirit until you say in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen. When you're speaking to people, that's a heavy price. You are constantly trying to be pure. You're constantly trying to be clean. You're constantly trying to receive the errand of the Lord for those people, and it takes a lot of work." I know for me personally, when I'm asked to speak at firesides and different things, I cringe at saying yes sometimes, although I love serving, I love speaking and I love helping any way, but I know what that is going to require of me in my personal life as I am trying to focus on one stake after another or one classroom after

another. This is a longer answer than you wanted, but first of all, recognize that they have paid a heavy price as Jacob has to receive their errand from the Lord, and I think a second thing in here is where they're talking about magnifying their office unto the Lord, taking upon us the responsibility and answering the sins of the people upon our own heads. That is such a heavy responsibility. I'm just going to give this an analogy. One day I was walking up a hill towards a school and I saw three little kids. I'm about ready to cross the crosswalk to go to the elementary school where they were. I watched the first two little boys on their bikes. They crossed the street and as they were crossing the street, it was a crosswalk, and so this car pulled ahead and just stopped, but as they were crossing, the third little child who's a little girl, went right in front of them and just fell right off her scooter.

00:36:48 Long story short, the person in the front just kept waiting, but as that person was waiting, more cars kept coming behind. The second car came and the second car got there, the car was going nowhere. The boys had obviously gone across the street. They had no idea that there was a little girl on the ground and they just started honking the horn. Just honk, honk, honk, trying to get the first one... It was like, get off your cell phone, pay attention. You could just see it, and I was watching from far enough away that I could see exactly what was going on. The person honking had no idea. Then the third car came up and started honking at the second one, they're both yelling and they're both honking. This girl eventually stands up and walks across the street and the sight of the second car and the third car, and the looks on their faces when they saw that if what the car had done was in accordance with what they had wanted, a little girl would have been killed that morning.

00:37:36 And they were completely embarrassed and shocked. The driver in the front gently pulled forward and kept going. There was no fight on his part, and to me, I guess an answer to that question, it is, as President Eyring says, "Sometimes we're in a different chair and where we sit makes all the difference." Of course, as leaders, we want to make sure that we are being wise and conscientious and following and receiving our errand from the Lord, but for those of us,

Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:38:00 the second and third and fourth car back and the 10th car back or the 100th car back, I think there's a level of respect that we need to give to that front car. Just remember that there are some things we just simply cannot see no matter how smart we think we are and how experienced we are in the world. In a sense where he says that their blood may not come upon my

garments and that moment at that first car would've gone forward, the blood of that child would've been on him and that's a scary position to be in. So I'm so grateful he stood his ground and did not listen to anybody.

Hank Smith: 00:38:29 Barb, what a great way to teach that. One of those things I get a little frustrated and I won't show my frustration here, is you hear a talk in general conference and you automatically ... He shouldn't have said it this way. She shouldn't have said it that way. They could have said this so differently. I kind of bristle going, "Well, don't shoot the messenger. That may be that likely is what the Lord would say."

Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:38:56 Hank, I'll give you one more example. Back in, I think it was 2000, President Oaks gave a talk about hanging out and maybe a different situation today, but in that moment, I was with, I don't know, 20 young adults. We were all a little bit older. The women had all just cooked dinner for all the young men. I mean, we did exactly what he told us not to do. We were just hanging out watching this fireside, not knowing that he was about ready to call us on the carpet, right? And at the end of the talk, I remember him talking about Peter Pan and not having taken upon ourselves the responsibility and everything else. And then he says, "Women stop doing that." And at the end of this 20-plus of us sitting there together in this room in Salt Lake City, the men quietly got up and left and didn't say a word and also didn't help just like he said, but that's okay. Church is still true.

00:39:45 But in that moment, all of us as women said, we're not going to do this anymore. President Oaks has just spoken and we are going to follow him. But I loved at the end of his talk where he said, "Look, I'm a general authority and some of you may be tempted to write me a letter and tell me about your personal circumstances and things. Don't worry about it. I am giving a general talk." I love that he said that. But I will say, we could have all just said, what an old man who has no idea what we're going through and in our day, we do need to hang out and we're all single and woe was us and everything else. But instead, I was so grateful for my friends in that moment who all said, "We're not doing this anymore. We're going to follow the council of President Oaks and we're going to stop hanging out."

00:40:23 And in that next, I would say five years, probably 75% of us either married each other or married somebody that was a friend of somebody in that group. Again, as Jacob talks about earlier, it's all about agency, but it would've been, and in so many cases it is so easy to just say they don't understand me,

they're just speaking to everybody else but not me. And we could have all been very offended and we could have all said, "He doesn't understand that if we don't hang out, we're not going to be happy people." I was grateful for my friends who were strong enough to say, "You know what, let's put it to the test. Let's follow the prophet and see what happens." And sure enough, he was right. Surprise, surprise. But to your point, I am with you completely. It is hard to see that people who literally give their lives to the Lord are sometimes run under the bus of the worldly.

- Hank Smith: 00:41:07 Yes. So quickly.
- Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:41:09 Yep.
- John Bytheway: 00:41:10 Just yesterday I was attempting to teach some applications of the war chapters and they make heaps of earth and then they make a work of timbers and then they make a frame of pickets and then they make a tower and then they put people in the towers. What can the people in the towers do that nobody else can? Well, they can see. Right. So imagine a watchman in the tower going, "Behold, danger approacheth 2:00." And imagine us going, "I don't see any danger."
- Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:41:38 That is exactly right.
- John Bytheway: 00:41:40 Yeah. You're on frame of picket maintenance. I can see it. I'm looking at it right here. And I love that idea of just like the person in the car, they could see something no one else could see. I love that they got to see when this little girl walked across. Oh, and if we can have that kind of humility right now and say, maybe they see something I don't see. Hank, I've heard you talk about the Matthew 26:22 thing, "Lord, is it I?" When you hear a talk like that and Barbara, you and your friends, wow, it's pretty cool that you did that after hearing that talk.
- Hank Smith: 00:42:12 So good.
- Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:42:13 And frankly, John, I'll be honest, it was hard. I mean, when you're in your early thirties, we didn't see a lot of hope around the horizon of getting married. We were in a point where we thought we were all going to be single, and if we don't hang out with our friends, that's a level of loneliness that is very real that sets in for those of us who are getting a little bit older. And so we say, "We're going to trust the Lord on this," and the reality is most of the time, we don't ever have the chance to see the little girl get up and walk across the street. No, we have to trust.

Hank Smith: 00:42:40 Yeah.

Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:42:40 Yep. But eventually, he will make himself known. He will always prove himself to us. Sometimes it takes a little bit longer. Can I throw out one more thing that I think is important in this chapter in the end of chapter one and going into chapter two is that idea of magnifying your office. I throw this out as a woman and I throw this out because sometimes when we think about magnifying our office, we think we're speaking to men in priesthood offices, which is true, but perhaps a reminder to all of us that when women are set apart, called to an office, we are responsible and are given priesthood power and authority to magnify that office and that our responsibility, just as it is for men, is to save the souls of the children of God.

00:43:19 All men and women, women and men, have the mandate to magnify our office and that we all have this responsibility to bring souls unto Christ. And it does make sense that we do have some anxiety, I would say the holy anxiety in a sense almost to care so much for the welfare of their souls because we have been given these responsibilities and this is our day and age as it says Section 84 of the Doctrine and Covenants. If we do fulfill and magnify our callings in our offices that we will have all that the Father has. As a reminder, although he has anxiety, but at the same time with this anxiety comes the possibility of incredible blessings. And becoming heirs to all that God has as women and men is perhaps seemingly selfish but not really selfish when we're talking about receiving all that God has means we are going to have eternal families. And that's what we want.

00:44:07 A shout-out I guess for women and men to understand when we're magnifying offices, we're fulfilling callings, we're using God's power and authority in our lives to bless the souls of our brothers and sisters.

Hank Smith: 00:44:17 Wonderful. We've made it through one chapter, so should we move into chapter two?

Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:44:22 Let's do it.

Hank Smith: 00:44:24 What do you see here?

Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:44:25 Chapter two, it's almost chapter one is setting the stage for us and helping us to see a little bit of who Jacob is and with his calling and what he's been told to do and setting the stage, it's almost like Nephi is now dying. He's giving us some background

of his charge. He's received this errand from the Lord. This is a sign of an incredible leader. In 17, his errand is of the Lord and he doesn't tell us quite yet what it is. But right before that, in verses 15 and 16, he tells us that he's going to be dealing with David and the wickedness of those who are doing what David and Solomon once did, and he's also going to be talking about lifting up your heart into pride. 17, he's now telling us, "The errand of the Lord that I have been given is going to be now shared with you" in chapter two.

00:45:09 I want to make it clear as he's going into chapter two that he has received this errand from the Lord. He's going to do the will of the Lord. He doesn't really have much of a choice, so he's going to these people as it says in verse seven. He says, "It grieveth me that I must use so much boldness of speech concerning you before your wives and your children, many of whose feelings are exceedingly tender and chaste and delicate before God, which thing is pleasing unto God." And then, "It supposes me that they have come up hither to hear the pleasing word of God. Yea, the word which healeth the wounded soul. Wherefore," in verse nine, "It burdeneth my soul that I should be constrained because of the strict commandments which I have received from God to admonish you according to your crimes, to enlarge the wounds of those who are already wounded instead of consoling and healing their wounds. And those who have not been wounded, instead of feasting upon the pleasing words of God, have daggers placed to pierce their souls and wound their delicate minds."

00:46:02 This is not a talk he wants to give. That's so clear. But it is the talk according to verse 17 and chapter one, that the Lord has given to him and that is a sign of a true leader. This is not my will versus thy will, it is thy will be done. Jacob has clearly no interest in having this discussion. He clearly doesn't want to bring them down. He doesn't want to have this hardness for these wonderful people, but at the same time, he has received his errand from the Lord. There are serious problems going on. He is now the prophet and he's going to have to wound some delicate souls per se in order to follow through with what the Lord would have him do.

00:46:39 So that's what we're seeing now in chapter two is a prophet who is being called of the Lord to do the Lord's will and his desire is to do the Lord's will, but that doesn't mean that he necessarily wants to be the messenger, but he'll do it because he's the prophet and because he's a leader. He's a disciple of Christ.

Hank Smith: 00:46:55 Pride over wealth and sexual sin. It's almost as if this book was written for our day.

John Bytheway: 00:47:02 Imagine that.

Hank Smith: 00:47:03 I'm sure glad we don't struggle with that anyway in this world.

Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:47:07 Yeah, clearly.

John Bytheway: 00:47:09 Barbara, I'm really glad you said what you did about Jacob. He doesn't want to give this talk. It's not a fun talk to give and it reminds me of a few instances. In April 1989, President Ezra Taft Benson just gave that classic talk, Beware of Pride. He was so sick he didn't even give it. I think President Hinckley read it, but he said, "I know the Lord wants this talk given now." In the beginning of it, Elder Lawrence Corbridge gave this talk at BYU, maybe 2019, called Stand Forever. The beginning of that talk, he said, "I actually wrote two or three others."

00:47:42 And then one more, Elder Dallin H. Oaks. So this is April 2005. He began by saying this, "My fellow holders of the Melchizedek Priesthood and also our young men, I wish to speak to you today about pornography. I know that many of you are exposed to this and that many of you are being stained by it. In concentrating my talk on this subject, I feel like the prophet Jacob who told the men of his day that it grieved him to speak so boldly in front of their sensitive wives and children, but not withstanding the difficulty of the task. He said he had to speak to the men about the subject because God had commanded him. I do so for the same reason."

00:48:22 Wow. That's a burden and that's a weight to do that. Hank and Barbara, I know you guys give talks and people ask me, "Do you get nervous?" And I usually say, "I don't get this kind of nervous," but it's always, am I in tune? Am I prepared? I don't want the Lord to say, "Well, you made them laugh, but you didn't teach them anything" someday. He gives us this spectrum, Jacob does. You probably came here to hear the pleasing word of God, which healeth the wounded soul. I've heard talks like that and I love them, but instead, I have to speak and enlarge the wounds of those who are already wounded. Sometimes those talks, we need those and other times we need our souls to be healed and the pleasing word of God, thank heavens we have inspired church leaders, men and women who are inspired to get up and say, "I'm going to tell you what I'm going to tell you because the Lord asked me to."



Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:49:23 To both of you, that also reminds me of 1995, the Family Proclamation with President Hinckley. I've been doing a number of interviews with Sister Elaine Jack. She's been incredible to interview and we've talked recently about the background of President Hinckley giving that talk. And one of the things that has really stood out to me is she and her presidency were really kind of doing a research about the needs of the women throughout the world. And they had gone and spoken personally and tried to gather the needs and they were preparing a general conference, their women's conference for that evening in September of 1995.

00:49:58 And Elaine said that she could not be settled on what she should be sharing, and she had said that they had a video that they had prepared that she decided that she didn't think that that video should be shared. She was being very cautious because she was trying to be careful with her counselors and things, but she'd said she felt sick about it and didn't know what to do. But it was in that timeframe that President Hinckley, who was just called as the prophet, President Hunter had just passed away shortly before that. The members of the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve had been working on that sacred document and he contacted Sister Jack and her counselors and asked if they could meet with him. And they did.

00:50:31 They were so excited and he said to them, "I've been thinking about the possibility of sharing this document on the family and I'm wondering, what do you think? Is it possible? Well, how would you feel about me actually giving this talk?" They hadn't read it yet, but Elaine said that she was so grateful, first of all, that he asked them their thoughts about it. But also, he sensed that there was just such a heavy responsibility that he was feeling as the prophet. But if you remember, before he gave that talk, he started it with this paragraph, before he gave the Family Proclamation.

00:51:02 He starts with this paragraph, he says, "With so much of sophistry that is passed off as truth, with so much of deception concerning standards and values, with so much of allurements and enticements to take on the slow stain of the world, we have felt to warn and forewarn. In furtherance of this, we of the First Presidency and Council of the Twelve Apostles now issue a proclamation to the church and to the world as a declaration and the reaffirmation of standards, doctrines and practices relative to the family, which the prophet, seers, and revelators of this church have repeatedly stated throughout this history."

00:51:34 And then he says, "I now take this opportunity to read this to you." Right before he does that, he shares a letter that he receives from a woman who was really struggling with the relationship with her husband and some abusive situations that were happening. And he says, "This is going to be the answer for so many of you." And again, to your point, I believe that this was a difficult document. I believe that they're prophets, seers, and revelators and they saw into the future how on many occasions this document may be undermined or people wishing that the prophets hadn't have shared it or that it wasn't a proclamation and things of that nature. But in this case, President Hinckley speaking as the prophet says, "This is going to be one of these answers."

00:52:13 And I wanted to share this letter because it fits so well with Jacob too and what's going on. He says, "I received this letter on Monday." So this is the Monday right before conference. He says, "The woman writing the letter writes: 20 years ago, last June, I was expecting a new baby and had five other little children, nine years and under. My husband chose to leave our family and walk another path. I wish I could say I was a noble pioneer, but rather I was a naive, frightened, insecure, young mother who did not know what to do and who daily made foolish mistakes. Nevertheless, I sought counsel from my leaders and obeyed even when I knew their advice would make my life more complicated. I decided it was not for me to question. And if some advice caused temporary pain for me, it must be something I should experience."

00:52:56 She continues: "I remember reading President Kimball's monthly message in the Ensign where he promised that if we would read the scriptures daily that every problem we face during the day would be answered with those Holy pages. I thought, okay, President Kimball, you're on. I have lots of problems that they sure do need answers. I gathered my children around me and we studied daily, we prayed, we fasted for our daddy and ourselves. We held family home evening and attended our meetings. We forgave our daddy and I literally gave my agency back to my Heavenly Father. I told him if I was not to have my husband for eternity as I'd originally thought, I would be pleased if he would change the love I had for him as a wife into a Christ-like love, because I would rather die than go on another minute hating or resenting the father of my children. I did not want to teach anger, hate or bitterness to them. I knew my husband was basically a good man full of potential and talent. He had made a terrible mistake and I knew he would reap his own heartaches and he has. But my personal task at hand was to care for those soon-to-be six children and to

teach them in such a way that they could not misunderstand the gospel of Jesus Christ."

00:53:56 "President Hinckley, this is a miracle if ever there was a miracle." The Lord protected and nurtured those children. He answered their prayers. He continues on. Then President Hinckley says this, "I do not share a story with you, she writes, to brag of myself, but I certainly can boast in the Lord. Atonement is very real for us. Wounded hearts have been healed, confidence has been restored, peace has been tasted in the most delicious way. Indeed, as you have said, every principle God has revealed carries its own conviction of truth. I think of my first husband, if he could only realize he has already paid the price for his mistakes. He missed the joy of seeing his talented children grow up in the Lord. He missed their school and their church achievements, their mission farewells, and their reports. All that makes life sweet. How thankful I am that I was privileged to be by their sides." And then finally, I know this is long.

00:54:42 "I know there are many single parents in the world today. How I wish I could help them see that they must never waste time reliving their own tender injuries. I have found if you cast your burden at the Savior's feet, he will carry it for you and replace anguish with love. May the Lord bless you and your family always with deepest love and appreciation." Then she signed the letter. I share this letter with you because I'm seeing this in what's happening here in Jacob too, and there are so many letters that are just like that, and that is the letter and that is the expression, and that is the struggle that leads to the family proclamation. That's how President Hinckley leads it in. This is how Jacob leads it in. He starts by saying, "There are so many people that are sorrowing and I need to talk to you," and he's speaking to men in this case, and he's saying that "I have women and men here," and I also want to make it very clear that there are women and men who both struggle and that it is not just one gender or the other that is causing and is not one or the other that is needing to repent and is not one or the other who is abusive or being abused.

00:55:39 The problem that Jacob is seeing here is that there are people who are acting in pride and there are people who are acting in ways that demeans one person over the other or under the other. And that's back to your talk on pride. That is the real issue with pride is it's putting one person above another. Usually, it's ourselves above someone else or below someone else.

- 00:55:57 So to your point with Jacob not wanting to say these things, I do believe President Hinckley wanted to say the truth, but I think it's coming from a place of heaviness. It's coming from a place as Jacob is of trying to help people. He's seen too many wounded hearts. He's seen too many people deal with the sadness of life and he wants to help, but it is a hard, hard conversation to have. But he's going to do it because he's on the errand of the Lord and he will speak what the Lord has put into his heart to speak. They're disciples of Christ. They're not on their own errand.
- 00:56:28 It's very similar to what ... Is it Mother Teresa? She says, "I'm a little pencil in God's hands. He does the thinking, he does the writing, he does everything, and sometimes it is really hard because it is a broken pencil and he has to sharpen it a little more." That's what Jacob is. He's a pencil in God's hands. He's been given as errand. It's hard, but he also wants these people to have happiness and he is going to serve the Lord. He's a true leader. He's a covenant leader of God.
- John Bytheway: 00:56:55 So good. When I was a young adult, just home from a mission, I had, she was actually, especially for youth speaker, an experienced mother, an older woman. She used the analogy of you have a blind spot. Like when you're driving and you don't see. She could have just said, "Oh, I just love you," but how loving was it to hold up a blind spot? I mean, if God really loves us, he's going to correct us. I'm so grateful for talks like that that can, because I love you, I need to show you what you're doing, and this is what Jacob had to do there and it weighed on him. How grateful we are, still benefiting from what Jacob said to his people.
- Hank Smith: 00:57:46 It reminds me of 2 Nephi 1. Remember Lehi, Laman and Lemuel, "That which you call anger is the truth."
- Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:57:51 Yeah.
- John Bytheway: 00:57:55 Yeah.
- Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:57:56 I love in verse nine where it says, "Wherefore it burden my soul that I should be constrained because of the strict commandments which I have received from God to admonish you according to your crimes, to enlarge the wounds of those who are already wounded instead of consoling and healing their wounds. And those who have not been wounded, instead of feasting upon the pleasing word of God, have daggers placed in their souls and wounded their delicate minds." These are strong words and there's a temptation that even I have that says, we

get it. We get it there. People are struggling in some ways. I think it's extremely important that we also don't minimize this.

00:58:25 We're going to talk about it even more as we go forward in chapter three, but at the same time to say the end of chapter two, we have Jacob. He says, "Behold, you have done greater iniquities than the Lamanites, our brethren, you have broken the hearts of your tender wives. You have lost the confidence of your children because of your bad examples before them and the sobbing of their hearts ascend up to God against you. And because of the strictness of the word of God which cometh down against you, many hearts died pierced with deep wounds." This isn't, we're just going to cover this over and not worry about it, and please don't do this anymore. This is, we have some serious issues going on here, men and women, and we have prophets and apostles teaching us these things today, and this is not to be skirted under the carpet.

00:59:09 We have Elder Kearon recently and others who've talked about abuse and anger and calling people to repentance. And this is a sign that Jacob understands that there is a real need here, and these individuals do need to repent and these individuals do need to watch themselves carefully. I think it's fascinating that Jacob actually says earlier, "It's not that you've already done these things. I know that you are going to do these things." He's seeing the intents of their hearts. He has this discernment.

00:59:35 He says, you are going to be doing these things, which I personally think is a very powerful part in verse five, chapter two, verse five, he says, "Behold hearken ye unto me and know that by the help of the all powerful creator of heaven and earth, I can tell you concerning your thoughts, how that you are beginning to labor in sin, which sin appeareth very abominable unto me, yea and abominable unto God. Yea and grieveth my soul and cause me to shrink with shame." It's not just that they're doing it. He's actually saying, you are thinking about doing these things and let me warn you about what you are about to do. Then he really gets into this discussion about how bad these things really can be.

Hank Smith: 01:00:13 I liked what you said. You said the wealth isn't the problem, it's pride that's the problem. What do you think is happening here? Why is it that when we become wealthy that some of us, not all of us of course, but some of us drift toward this pride, this almost hatred of other people?

Dr. Barbara Gardner: 01:00:32 I think that the answer is really what we're seeing in verse 12 and 13. I love that Jacob says, "Get them up into the temple on

the morrow and declare the word." The Lord is saying this, "declare the words, which I shall give unto you." And then he says, "Now behold, my brethren, this is the word which I declare unto you that many of you have begun to search for gold and for silver." And then he talks about what they're doing. And then verse 13, this is where the kicker is. He says, "And the hand of Providence has smiled upon you most pleasingly, that you have obtained many riches and because some of you have obtained more abundantly than that of your brethren, you are lifted up in the pride of your hearts." Now, notice the words more. So now we're saying the problem isn't the money, it's the comparison.

01:01:09 And then he says, "And wear stiff necks and high heads because of the costliness of your apparel and persecute your brethren because you suppose that you are better than they", so we have more and better. "And now my brethren, do you suppose that God justifies you in this thing? Behold I say unto you, nay, he condemneth you. And if ye persist in these things, his judgments must speedily come unto you." The problem isn't the money, the problem isn't the wealth. The problem isn't the land, the problem's not the jewelry. It has nothing to do with that. And that may be that some people, if they get money, they tend to be that way, but that's not his problem. The problem is that they think that they are more and they think that they are better. That's what President Benson discusses. He discusses the initial reason for the pride and it's the comparison of one person to another.

01:01:55 Actually in his talk he says, "The central feature of pride is enmity. Enmity towards God, enmity towards our fellow man. It is this power which Satan wishes to reign over us." And he says another major portion of this very prevalent sin is "enmity towards our fellow men. We are tempted daily to elevate ourselves above another and diminish them." And then I love this, he quotes C.S Lewis and he says, "Pride gets no pleasure out of having something. Only out of having more of it than the next man. It is the comparison that makes you proud, the pleasure of being above the rest. Once the element of competition has gone, pride has gone." And then he continues with this, which I love. He says, "Pride is a sin that can readily be seen in others but is rarely admitted in ourselves. Most of us consider pride to be a sin of those on the top, such as the rich and the learned looking down on the rest of us. There is, however, a far more common element among us, and that is pride from the bottom looking up."

01:02:51 It doesn't matter if it's from the bottom looking up or the top looking down, the problem is the comparison between the two and one person thinking that they are more righteous because they're so humble. That's the irony of humility and pride is that person is so prideful. The moment we say that person is so prideful, we're being prideful. That's the ugly reality of pride is pride is a comparison and it's putting you in a position. So if you're more righteous than the other person, you are actually probably the prideful one. That's the concern with this pride, but that is what's happening. And because of the pride, they're putting their people in a very, very precarious and dangerous situation. This pride is what leads to racism. This pride is what leads to gender inequality. This pride is what leads to the destruction of a people. It's the pride that President Nelson and President Oaks have warned prolifically over the last few years regarding how we need to treat other people and see each other as God's children. That is the issue.

01:03:45 And then you see that in verse 18. He says, "But before you seek for riches, seek ye for the kingdom of God. After you obtained a hope in Christ, you shall obtain riches if you seek them and you'll seek them for the intent to do good. To clothe the naked, to feed the hungry, to liberate the captive and to administer relief to the sick and the afflicted. And now my brethren, I have spoken unto you concerning pride." And this is the key. A wealthy person who is humble will do whatever he can to clothe the naked, to feed the hungry and to liberate the captive. And what we were trying to do is God's purpose is to save the souls of the children of men. And if you have money, you're able to do it in a way that is different from somebody else. The reality is we're all trying to consecrate ourselves and to become unified and become one just as the Savior was.

01:04:31 So the issue is not the wealth. The issue is the motivation and the desire and the understanding of who we are as children of God and all of us becoming eventual heirs to the throne. One of the things I love about God is he's not trying to keep us below him. He's trying to help us become like him. And pride is Satan's tactic of there is Satan who receives the glory and all of us in a sense stay below him. That is not the Lord's way. He wants us to all receive what he has. He wants all of us to be heirs to the throne. He wants all of us to use this. Is his power for the salvation and the joy of other people. That's what we're searching here, and that's why in a sense, this becomes so dangerous. It's because in this case for Jacob, he sees the utter destruction, the possibility of what happens. He saw the pride of his own brothers. He does not want it happening here.

- 01:05:16 The Lord is calling him to come out and speak to this. Pride is a dangerous sin. Pride is what caused the fall of the Lamanites. Pride is the warning of President Nelson for us in our day. Sometimes I'm afraid that we may not understand how absolutely destructive pride can be. I'll give you one more quote from President Benson here. He says, "Pride adversely affects all of our relationships, our relationship with God and his servants, the relationship between husband and wife, parent and child, employer and employee, teacher and student and all mankind. Our degree of pride determines how we treat our God and our brothers and sisters. Christ wants to lift us to where he is. Do we desire that same thing for others?"
- 01:05:55 And then of course God will have a humble people, Alma 32. He's going to have a humble people. Whether we decide to be humble or not, we will be humble. Every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is the Christ. For us I almost think the question is how painful is it going to be for us to get to that process? President Benson talks about this, but one of the antidotes to pride really is love. Seeing people as God sees them, and that comes from keeping covenants and making covenants, which that leads us into this next part, but if we're a covenant keeping people, then we shouldn't be filled with pride. It's a hard thing to understand.
- Hank Smith: 01:06:29 The manual references Because I Have Been Given Much, Hymn 219 Because I have been given much, I too must give. Because of thy great bounty Lord, each day I live. I shall divide my gifts from thee with every brother that I see who has the need of help from me. Just beautiful. Can I read you something from Brigham Young? "The worst fear I have about this people is that they will get rich in this country, forget God and his people, wax fat and kick themselves out of the church and go to hell. This people will stand mobbing, robbing, poverty and all manner of persecution and be true, but my greatest fear is that they cannot stand wealth."
- John Bytheway: 01:07:12 I have used that quotation in my classes before and I say, "How many of you woke up in the middle of the night having this nightmare and you were so glad you woke up?" Oh, I had this dream that I got rich. It was just a horrible, horrible trial.
- Hank Smith: 01:07:24 Yeah.
- John Bytheway: 01:07:25 I love that Brigham Young would say this, people will stand all of this and they'll be true. Do you know what this reminds me of? President Nelson has said that really quotable line about the joy we feel has less to do with the circumstances of our lives and



more to do with the focus of our lives. And a lot of times we look to Christ in times of hardship and poverty. Now, Jacob's people are being tested, will you look to Christ in a time of abundance or will you switch real estate? You've built your heart on Christ, you've built your foundation on Christ. Now, are you going to build your foundation on your stuff? That's a different challenge. Will you still focus on Christ when you have abundance in your life? Thankfully, as you've mentioned, we all know people who do and who have, and it's inspiring to know people that are pretty wealthy but who are so consecrated.

- Hank Smith: 01:08:21 I like my trials in cash too, John.
- Dr. Barbara Gardner: 01:08:26 Isn't it nice?
- John Bytheway: 01:08:28 Can I read a really cool Old Testament verse that I think is so fascinating? This is Ezekiel 16:49. "Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom." We all know what happened to Sodom and Gomorrah. Pride, fullness of bread, which is a great way to say abundance. When its famine, it says cleanness of teeth in the Old Testament, but when there's abundance, it's pride, "fullness of bread and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters. Neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy." What a great description. The idea of abundance of idleness is part of this. You have time to seek gold and silver. You're not thinking every day, how do I feed my family? Now you've got leisure time and that's a doorway to a lot of temptation when you've got nothing to do. There's an old saying that Jesus chose his disciples when they were working. Satan chooses his when they're idle.
- Dr. Barbara Gardner: 01:09:29 Oh, that's really good. That's what Nephi does when he's separating himself from his brothers and that's one of the first things you see them do is that hard work, that industriousness that comes through there. I love in verse 18 where it says, "But before you seek for riches, seek ye for the kingdom of God." That solves so many problems. It's really about our motivation. Richness is relative. It's that comparison that's the problem. It's all relative, but the answer for so much of this is before you seek for riches, seek you first the kingdom of God. There's a great quote from Elder Maxwell. He says this, "Therefore, what we insistently desire over time is what we will eventually become and what we will receive in the eternity. If we desire to get rich, we're going to lose it all anyway. If we desire to build up the kingdom of God, we are going to be in the next life abundantly filled with the relationships of people that we genuinely desire to serve and bring unto the Lord."

- 01:10:24 I think that's what's so beautiful about Jacob. You just know that he is seeking the kingdom of God. We don't know his wealth status, we have no idea. But there's one thing we do know about Jacob and that is his intentions and his motivations are pure, so it seems. He's seeking the kingdom of God and he's seeking whatever he can do to help people. It's the same motivation of King Benjamin. It's what we saw with Benjamin. It's what we saw with Nephi. It's what we see with Esther. It's what we see with Sarah. It's what we see with Eve. It's this focus of both these women and men of trying to do all that they can to put their own lives in the hands of the Lord, to serve other people and bring them to Christ. That's the issue. One of the best ways we get rid of pride is to focus outward.
- 01:11:05 Elder Bednar has this incredible talk called the Character of Christ, and in this talk he talks about reaching outward and reaching out beyond ourselves. This is one of the answers to this comparison. It's putting ourselves in a position where we really are trying to clothe the naked and feed the hungry. He gives one story of a woman he was talking to on the phone. She was the Stake Relief Society president, and she calls him and tells him that there has been an accident and three of the young women in his stake have been involved and one of them has already passed away and they don't have the identities of any of them.
- 01:11:35 President Bednar, he's the stake president is on the other line and he says, "Early one summer morning I was showering. My wife called me in the middle of my shower, indicated that I was needed immediately on the telephone. This was the day before cell phones and cordless phones. I quickly put on my robe and hurried to the phone. I next heard the voice of a dear sister and friend inform me of a tragic automobile accident that had just occurred in a remote area involving three teenage young women from my stake. Our friend indicated that one of the young women had already been pronounced dead at the scene of the accident and that the two other young women were badly injured and presently were being transported to the regional medical center in Fayetteville. She further reported that the identity of the deceased young woman was not yet known. There was an urgency in her voice, but there was no panic or excessive alarm. She then asked if I could go to the hospital, meet the ambulance when it arrived, and assist, assist in identifying the young woman. I answered that I would leave immediately."
- 01:12:29 Then he continues, " During the course of our telephone conversation, as I listened to both the information being

conveyed and the voice of our friend, I gradually became aware of two things. First, this friend's daughter was one of the young women involved in the accident. Our friend lived approximately 35 miles from the hospital and therefore needed the assistance of someone who lived closer to the city. Second, I detected that the mother simultaneously was using two telephone handsets with one in each hand pressed to each of her ears. I became aware that as she was talking with me, she was also talking with the nurse at a small rural hospital who had initially attended to the three accident victims. Our friend was receiving updated information about the conditions of the young woman in the very moment she was informing me about the accident and requesting my help. I then heard one of the most remarkable things I have ever heard in my life. I faintly heard the nurse telling this faithful mother and friend that the young woman pronounced dead at the scene of the accident had been positively identified as her own daughter.

01:13:29 I could not believe what I was hearing. I was listening to this good woman in the very moment that she learned of the death of her precious daughter. Without hesitation and with a calm and most deliberate voice, our friend next said, President Bednar, we must get in contact with the other two mothers. We must let them know as much as we can about the conditions of their daughters and that they will soon be in the hospital in Fayetteville. The Christ-like character of this devoted woman was manifested in her immediate and almost instinctive, turning outward to attend to the needs of the other suffering mothers. It was a moment and a lesson that I have never forgotten. In a moment of ultimate grief, this dear friend reached outward when I likely would've turned inward."

01:14:11 He then talks about going to the hospital, identifying these women and eventually finds that all three of them have been killed, and then he tells the next story of another mother who was a Ward Relief Society president, and after identifying that her daughter had also been killed, she was asked before speaking at a funeral, she receives a phone call from another woman who says, "I am sick and I need help and I need you to bring food to my house." Not realizing that that exact day this mother was going to the funeral of her daughter. And he just says, these people are learning to think outward. This is the character of Christ. Although I recognize that this is such a high moral standard for all of us to live and difficult to even imagine, this is what Jacob is trying to teach here, that we need to care about each other, that we need to feed the hungry, liberate the captive, administer to relief to those who are afflicted.

01:15:01 Everyone is our friend. Everyone is our brother and sister. Everyone is somebody that should be cared for and taken care of at the highest levels. And Jacob gets it, but it's a hard lesson to learn. That's his concern is that that is not happening among these people. They are comparing themselves and rather than serving and helping and lifting each other, they're comparing and thinking they're better than each other. That's a serious sin, but something that in our day I think is perhaps too common.

Hank Smith: 01:15:28 Wow. Barb, what a story.

John Bytheway: 01:15:30 Yeah, that is brutal.

Hank Smith: 01:15:32 I remember back in April of 2010, Elder Uchtdorf talked about Center of the Universe syndrome. He says, "You can get center of the Universe syndrome, which leads people to believe that the world revolves around them and that all others are just supporting cast in the Grand Theater of Mortality in which they have the starring role."



## Blessing my WWII Enemy

GUEST: BARBARA MORGAN GARDNER



- John Bytheway: 00:01 Welcome to part two with Dr. Barbara Morgan Gardner. Jacob, Chapters 1-4.
- 00:07 Barbara, I'm looking at Jacob 2:17, "Think of your brethren like unto yourselves and be familiar." I always ask my students, what's the word inside of familiar? It's family, be family, and that's what you're describing. Hank, it was Aislin Dyer that said something I'll never forget on a previous podcast where she said, "An adult is someone who contributes more than he consumes or she contributes more than she consumes."
- Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:36 Oh, that's good.
- John Bytheway: 00:36 And I thought, whoa, that's outward thinking you're talking about.
- Dr. Barbara Gardner: 00:40 Hank and John, I remember being at a chaplaincy meeting. It was all chaplains in the church. We were having a training from the head chaplain of the Air Force. She came and she said, "I have a question I would love for you to teach me. Help me understand what goes on here." And she said, "It's the craziest thing with Latter-day Saint Chaplains that it doesn't matter if it's an enemy or a friend, our LDS chaplains serve them both as if they are their brothers and sisters." And she said, "Can you help me understand that? What is it about your teachings? What is it about your religion that makes that such an outstanding element of your Latter-day Saint Chaplains?" We all were sitting in that auditorium in the administration building of the church, and I think we all just thought to ourselves, because we are. We do take care of each other, and to me it was so interesting to see this head chaplain not be able to really put her teeth into why this was so real for us.
- 01:34 Those chaplains and those people that are serving in those areas of the world where they're seeing such great sorrow and warfare and things, the reality was they did see each other as brothers and sisters and they were willing to give their lives for

their enemy or for their friend because they really were all family. As you're saying, John, they were familiar with all and free with their substance. Free with their prayers, free with their blessings, free with anything they could offer because they really did see each other as brothers and sisters even on the battlefield. It's an incredible compliment from this woman in that situation.

- Hank Smith: 02:05 John and Barb, you'll both remember that so many of the Savior's parables are about this very issue of pride and riches. The parable of the laborers in the vineyard. How come they got more than me? How come they even got the same as me? You've esteemed them like unto us or the deceitfulness of riches, parable of the sower, the deceitfulness of riches. What's the lie of money?
- John Bytheway: 02:31 The prodigal son is the idea of comparing, and that's what you are saying in verse 13 and President Benson and CS Lewis about, I've got more than you. And the laborers in the vineyards love that because they all got paid the same and everything was fine until they looked sideways. "Hey, what did you get? Yeah, hey, what did you get?" And then everything went south.
- 02:52 We have a listener named Lyndon Robison who sent me a book that he wrote. He quoted this experience of Wilson P. Lawetsan in World War II. He said, "We were fighting in the Battle of the Bulge near the town of Ammonius, Belgium. By that time the Germans were on the defensive. We had just succeeded in cutting off or surrounding a sector of the German line. They were surrendering in large numbers. As we were disarming the soldiers, one of them said to me in broken English, 'Would you know if there are any Mormon soldiers in your unit?'"
- 03:21 "I responded, 'Yes, I'm a Mormon.' He asked, 'Do you have the priesthood?' 'Yes I do,' I answered. 'I was married in the temple.' 'Would you be so kind to come with me to that shell hole over there and administer to my friend? He was pretty shaken up and badly wounded.' Of course I consented to go. We found his friend was in bad condition suffering much pain. Then the two of us who a few short hours before had been on opposite sides in the bitter struggle, knelt down and administered to the wounded lad."
- 03:50 "As we did so, I felt the spirit of the Lord very strongly. I know that the feeling was shared by them, too. As we finished, the litter bearers were there. We lifted the broken body to the stretcher. Then our ways parted. The wounded boy was taken

to the hospital. The German soldier sent back with the other prisoners and I went on with my other duties."

04:10 But that brother/sister thing that's interesting, the chaplain that you were talking about, Barbara would ask that question. We're like, "We actually use that as a title. We've been drumming into each other since primary."

Hank Smith: 04:20 Right. You're my brothers and sisters.

Dr. Barbara Gardner: 04:24 It was so obvious, we all looked at each other like, he is. It was so ingrained in us that that was the answer.

Hank Smith: 04:31 It's almost as if you see them as family.

Dr. Barbara Gardner: 04:34 Yeah. Almost as if. This is a cheesy story, but I remember going to elementary school being in the first grade and my brother in the second grade, and a year older than I am, and I remember my parents would give us a dollar to get a lunch once in a million years it feels like. But I remember one time my parents gave me a dollar for lunch and I put it in my pocket. We were walking along and my brother said to me, "Would you mind if I traded you your dollar for 100 pennies?" A lot of people would think, "Well, he wants to get rid of his 100 pennies and he wants your dollar."

05:06 But with him it was the exact opposite and I knew it even in the moment. Although at the time I didn't really know what he was doing, but I said, "Sure." And I gave him my dollar and he had counted meticulously. He's now an accountant. But he had counted meticulously his 100 pennies and he put it into my pocket and he said, "I'm just afraid that you might lose your dollar and you're less likely to lose a dollar if you have a hundred pennies." It was just such a tender little brother, second grade-first grader thing to do. But I think about it, his very tender, sweet, brother mind, he was trying to keep his little sister from not having lunch that day.

05:39 I think brothers and sisters, when we do things right now, President Benson, we've talked a lot about him today. He talks about how we should be each other's best friends and what a beautiful thing it is when we really can see each other and we're motivated in our families to be each other's best friends, but then also to see other people as brothers and sisters.

05:56 There's one story that I want to share with President Oaks and I think that this helps as well to understand this idea of

motivation. It's so good. You guys may remember the story of Aaron Ralston. It's the story of the man who was stuck underneath a rock. He says, "Few will have the kind of crisis that motivated Aaron Ralston, but his experience provides a valuable lesson about developing desires." And here's the story. He says, "Well, Ralston was hiking in a remote canyon in southern Utah. An 800 pound rock shifted suddenly and trapped his right arm. For five lonely days, he struggled to free himself when he was about to give up and accept death, he had a vision of a three-year-old boy running towards him and being scooped up with his left arm. Understanding this as a vision of his future son and an assurance that he could still live, Ralston summoned the courage and took drastic action to save his life before his strength ran out."

06:47 "He broke the two bones in his trapped right arm and then used the knife in his multi-tool to cut off that arm. He then summoned the strength to hike five miles for help." And then President Oaks says, "What an example of the power of an overwhelming desire. When we have a vision of what we can become, our desires and our powers to act increase enormously." For me, this is what this is talking about. The motivation is to serve other people. The motivation for this Ralston is he sees this boy and he is the father and he sees his son. He'll do anything for him. That's the atonement of Jesus Christ at it's finest, which Jacob of course knows. But I would imagine in our lives we know of people and hopefully we are the same way that we are willing to give what it takes to bring people back to the kingdom of God. We're willing to do whatever it takes to save our brothers and sisters because they are our brothers and sisters.

Hank Smith: 07:37 Barb, John, honestly, we could talk about this forever. I'm thinking of talks from Elder Uchtdorf, The Greatest Among You, Continue In Patience, Pride and The Priesthood. I could quote those whole talks. There is so much available to us that if we really wanted to address this issue in our hearts, it's there. The teachings, the doctrine, the stories, the helps. It's there.

John Bytheway: 08:00 It's never been easier than it is right now with our little library on our phone. It's crazy.

Hank Smith: 08:07 Yeah, let's move forward. Isn't this where Jacob says, "Hey, if pride was your only problem, I actually would feel pretty good."

John Bytheway: 08:15 We could have a closing prayer and go home.

Hank Smith: 08:17 There's more to talk about. Barb, where should we go?



- Dr. Barbara Gardner: 08:20 You're referring to verse 22, I think of chapter two where he says, "Now I make an end of speaking unto you considering this pride. And were it not that I must speak unto you concerning a grosser crime. My heart would rejoice exceedingly because of you." Thank you. That's so warming and thoughtful and kind.
- 08:36 "But the word of God burdens me because of your grosser crimes for behold, thus saith the Lord, this people begin to wax in iniquity. They understand not the scriptures for they seek to excuse themselves in committing whoredoms." And then he brings in this point, "Because of the things which were written concerning David and Solomon, his son." So you're not understanding the scriptures well. There is a part of the scriptures that talks about David and Solomon is what he is talking about. He's going to explain this to us. "Behold David and Solomon," Jacob teaches, "Truly had many wives and concubines which seeming was abominable before me, saith the Lord. Wherefore, thus saith the Lord. I have led this people forth out of the land of Jerusalem by the power of mine arm that I might raise up unto me a righteous branch from the fruit of the loins of Joseph. Wherefore I the Lord God will not suffer that this people shall do like unto them of old."
- 09:24 So he's saying, you've read the scriptures and the scriptures do teach of David and Solomon, and they did have many wives, but he says, you're not getting the point here. The point that we're dealing with is yes, from time to time the Lord has commanded people to have more than one wife. But David and Solomon, when they did so, they were going against the teachings of the Lord in that they put their own lust and they put their own desires above that of the Lord. And again, that's where we're starting to get into this wickedness. It's they're putting their will in front of God's will.
- 09:56 He explains it a little bit more I think as we continue on in verse 27, "Wherefore my brethren, hear me and hearken to the word of the Lord, for there shall not any man among you have save it be one wife, and concubines he shall have none. For I the Lord God, delight in the chastity of women and whoredoms are an abomination before me thus saith the Lord of hosts. Wherefore this people shall keep my commandments, saith the Lord of hosts or cursed, be the land for their sake."
- 10:19 And then here's the explanation. "For if I will saith the Lord of hosts, raise up seed unto me I will command my people, otherwise they shall hearken unto these things." In other words, the foundational doctrine of family is husband and wife. One man, one woman. That's the doctrine behind it. We have an

understanding that this is how God continually lives his laws, and this is how families are on the earth. But there are an occasional exception and we talk about policies and procedures and applications. The doctrine doesn't change, plan of salvation doesn't change, the reality of eternal family and the covenant relationship between a husband and a wife does not change.

10:59

But there is a policy from time to time where the Lord has commanded for very specific individuals during a very specific time to enter into what we often talk about as polygamy or plurality of wives. There are a few instances, but very rare. And the Lord just gives us one explanation. We typically don't get the why, but in this case we get one why and it is to bring seed. And he's saying that was for them of their time of old, that was for Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, but it is not for you. But they're entering into this and he's saying, "You have not been commanded of God to do this. You have been commanded of God to have one wife. You have been commanded of God to care for the chastity of your women, and you are not doing that. And therefore I am very concerned for you and you are likely under the condemnation."

11:43

And then I love in verse 31, 32 and 33 where he says, "I have seen the sorrow and heard the mourning of your daughters." And then verse 32, "The cries of their fair daughters." And then verse 33, "For they shall not lead away captive their daughters." For me, it's a little bit sensitive, obviously as a woman, as I'm seeing some of these things happen,

Dr. Barbara Gardner: 12:00

but I know it's sensitive for you both as well as I know you and I know the most righteous men in my life could get very tender about this, care for God's daughters. My father, my husband, my brothers, it's about the daughters. Somehow in all the selfishness and the pride of their hearts and the desires for their lusts, they have forgotten the daughters of God, and they are very prideful and they're very selfish. He's putting them on the spot. It's fascinating in verse 35 where he says, "Ye have done greater iniquities than the Lamanites." The Lamanites are supposed to be the wicked ones. This isn't like thousands of years later. These are their brothers and their cousins and he's calling his own people on the carpet, "Ye have done greater iniquities than the Lamanites, our brethren. You have broken the hearts of your tender wives, you have lost the confidence of your children, because of your bad examples before them, and the sobbings of their hearts ascend up to God against you. Because of the strictness of the words of God which cometh down against you, many hearts died, pierced with deep wounds."

- 12:59 This is a very, very hard and very difficult topic for I'm sure Jacob to be discussing, but at the same time, like his brother Nephi, he is a protector. He is protecting society. He's leaning towards righteousness and his desire is to have peace and his desire is to have joy and it is not happening because of the loss of chastity among these people. These are some heavy verses and very important verses.
- John Bytheway: 13:25 In verse 23, I'm thinking of John Hilton. Our friend did a talk years ago about excuses and he used some of these great verses in here. Instead of trying to discover the word of God, they're going to the word of God to find excuses to do what David and Solomon did.
- Hank Smith: 13:41 Barb, there's yet another talk. We are giving so many assignments for talks this week. This one's called Place No More for the Enemy of my Soul, Jeffrey R. Holland, 2010. He says, "Why is lust such a deadly sin? Well, in addition to the completely spirit destroying impact it has on our souls, I think it is a sin because it defiles the highest and holiest relationship God has given us in mortality, the love that a man and a woman have for each other and the desire that couple has to bring children into a family intended to be forever. Someone said once that true love must include the idea of permanence."
- 14:18 "True love endures, but lust changes as quickly as it can turn a pornographic page or glance at yet another potential object for gratification walking by, male or female. True love we are absolutely giddy about as I am about Sister Holland. We shout it from the rooftops, but lust is characterized by shame, stealth, and is almost pathologically clandestine. The later and darker the hour the better with a double bolted door just in case. Love makes us instinctively reach out to God and other people. Lust on the other hand is anything but godly and celebrates self-indulgence. Love comes with open hands and open heart. Lust comes only with an open appetite."
- 15:04 Again, Place No More for the Enemy of My Soul, great one to read this week.
- Dr. Barbara Gardner: 15:09 Hank, I love that one. I want to share the next paragraph in that same talk. He says, "These are just some of the reasons that prostituting the true meaning of love, either with imagination or another person, is so destructive." And I love this. "It destroys that which is second only to our faith in God, namely faith in those we love." To me, I think that's one of the major problems we have here is it causes us to lose faith both in God, it causes us to lose the faith in love that we have for other people. That is

so damaging. It's becoming common perhaps in this world today, but how destructive is it when we can't trust and love each other in purity and in faith? That is what's going on. That's the sadness of Jacob.

15:48 I do want to share something here. Because of my own children who have a different skin color than I do and who sometimes it becomes difficult as we look through scriptures and helping them understand the principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and I think what he's teaching here is an extremely important principle. He's already taught that the Lamanites are more righteous than you because of how they're treating their family.

16:10 And then sometimes we think about this curse and skin color is the problem, but if you listen carefully to what he's saying, he says, "Woe unto you that are not pure in heart, that are filthy this day before God for except you repent, the land is cursed for your sakes and the Lamanites, which are not filthy like unto you, nevertheless they're cursed with the sore cursing, shall scourge you even unto destruction. The time speedily cometh that except you repent, they shall possess this land of your inheritance and the Lord God will lead away the righteous out from among you. Behold the Lamanites, your brethren whom you hate because of their filthiness and the cursings which have come upon your skins are more righteous than you for they have not forgotten their commandments of the Lord which was given unto your father, that they should have save it were one wife and concubines they should have none and there should not be whoredoms committed among them."

16:53 "Now this commandment they observe to keep. Wherefore, because of this observance in keeping this commandment, the Lord God will not destroy them but will be merciful unto them and one day they shall become a blessed people. Behold..." And this is so important, these people that the Nephites hate, "Behold, their husbands love their wives, their wives love their husbands, their husbands and their wives love their children, and their unbelief and their hatred towards you is because of the iniquity of their fathers. Wherefore, how much better are you than they in the sight of your great creator? Oh my brethren, I fear that unless you shall repent of your sins, that their skin will be whiter than yours..." So we're not talking about a skin necessarily, we're talking about righteousness.

17:34 "When ye shall be brought with them before the throne of God, wherefore a commandment I give unto you, which is the word of God that you revile no more against them because of the darkness of their skins, neither shall you revile against them

because of their filthiness, but ye shall remember your own filthiness. Remember that their filthiness came because of their fathers. Wherefore, ye shall remember your children, how that ye have grieved their hearts of your example that ye have set before them and also remember that ye may because of your filthiness bring your children unto destruction and their sins be heaped upon your heads in the last day."

18:08 And then this very strong admonition. "Shake yourselves that ye may awake from the slumber of death and loose yourself from the pains of hell that ye may not become angels of the devil to be cast into that lake of fire and brimstone, which is the second death." This is really strong, but I think that this point for our day is absolutely critical. We could think that because we are baptized members of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, or because we have been to the temple or because of any other set of circumstances in our lives that we may be better than another person for any reason whether it's as we saw in 2 Nephi 26, we may have reason to think that we may be better. The falsehood of that is dangerous. If we are treating our own family poorly, those who are not of the covenant in a sense are better than us. They are more righteous because of how they're treating their families and we need to be so careful to think that we are above them in any way.

19:01 This is a call for people to look inside themselves and say, who am I really? What am I really standing for? What kind of disciple of Jesus Christ am I really? Do I really think I'm better than another group of people and can I not see that if I have reasons to repent, it's the, "Lord, is it I?" syndrome that we need to have upon ourselves? We could very mistakenly think that we may be better than another person, but often the way we see this amongst ourselves is how we treat people within our own home, how we treat our wife, how we treat our husband. You could ask yourself those questions and it could get a little bit tricky, but to really be true, one of the things that we've had leaders of the church talk about so much recently is what about anger? How are we responding to people in our own home? Do we treat those that we love the most as our dearest friends and our eternal companions or are these ones that we are cowardly with and deceitful with and not accepting of who they are?

19:55 Are we demeaning in any way? And it's not the sin of adultery or of polygamy as he's talking about here, but what is our heart? What are we really doing? How do we see those people around us? Do we really see them as equals and do we really love those who are with us? That was the message of President Nelson recently on his talk regarding abuse. That was a recent

message of Elder Kearon and abuse. We've heard that so often in our own general conference talks, but this is the concern of Jacob is, "How are we treating those people that are within our own homes? How are we treating those people that we may have responsibility over but could so easily put ourselves in a position where we could be hurting them?" And we need to be so careful and we hopefully need to become so much more loving.

20:37 And as we attend the temple and as we make and keep sacred covenants with the Lord, he will help improve our capacity to be more loving. As we reach out to other people and as we study the scriptures with the intent to become like Christ, he can help us become better people. All of us have pieces of our rocks that need to be taken off, but the reality is there's only one way that we can get rid of all these rocks and there's only one way that we can really be sensitive to other people's needs and that is coming unto Christ and letting him perfect us. This is a serious concern and it's a concern from the leaders of the church today.

21:10 I'll give you this, Elder Kearon, I love this when he's talking about those who are pure in heart. He says, "Jesus has overcome the abuses of this world to give power to not only survive one day through him, to overcome and even conquer. The abuse was not, is not, and never will be your fault no matter what the abuser or anyone else may have said to the contrary. When you have been a victim of cruelty, incest, or any other perversion, you are not the one who needs to repent, you are not responsible. You are not less worthy or less valuable or less loved as a human being or as a daughter or son of God because of what someone else has done to you."

21:46 "God does not now see nor has he ever seen you as someone to be despised. Whatever has happened to you, he is not ashamed of you or disappointed in you. He loves you in a way that you have yet to discover and you will discover it as you trust in his promises and as you learn to believe him when he says you are precious in his sight. You are not defined by these terrible things that have been done to you. You are in glorious truth defined by your eternally existing identity as a son or daughter of God, by your creator's perfect infinite love and invitation to whole and complete healing."

22:21 And then I love this statement, "Jesus specializes in the seemingly impossible. He came here to make the impossible possible, the irredeemable redeemable, to heal the unhealable, to right the unrightable, to promise the unpromisable, and he's really good at it. In fact, he's perfect at it." For all of this, as

we're talking about what's happening here and how people are treating each other, for me, my heart goes to those who have been treated this way. It goes to the people who have suffered and it goes to the people who really are trying to get themselves back on their feet. Jacob's heart is with them. He's praying for them. He says he's hoping for their consolation. He's hoping to get them out of affliction in some ways, and so he is talking to these people, but these little moments where he is talking to those who have been hurt, I so appreciate it when we have leaders at the church who remember we can have hope in Christ.

23:10 I love that focus, that Jacob has been treated poorly, Jacob has been in a sense even abused by his brothers. Jacob knows what it's like to have a pure heart and be slapped in the face over and over and over again, and I love in verse two of chapter three where Jacob says, "Feast upon his love," pleading with them, "Remember Jesus, remember the Savior, remember what he's done for you and get back there," and then he goes right back and tells them to stop. You can see he knows the suffering of the suffered. He knows what it's like to be in those positions and he is a protector, which I will say in the family proclamation that is one thing that I appreciate, that the responsibility of these fathers and husbands is to protect. I am so grateful for the protection of righteous men in my life. I cannot say that strongly enough. As a woman, and I may not be speaking for every woman, but as a woman, a covenant woman of God, the appreciation I have for the men who protect us is beyond my capacity to express. So I appreciate Jacob.

24:08 But I appreciate you John, and you, Hank. You may not all be perfect, I get that, but boy, are we grateful for the protection that comes from righteous men of God.

Hank Smith: 24:18 Barb, this is fantastic.

John Bytheway: 24:19 Yeah. Thank you so much. I love what you're saying about Elder Kearon and those victims of abuse and so forth.

24:25 There's a talk that I ask my students to read, I give them extra credit if they'll read it, called Be 100% Responsible.

24:31 And I'm doing that so that they'll remember the test, by the way.

24:35 In the middle of that talk, he has a whole thing about people that are in marriages that are abusive. And it's so helpful to

have that in there, because I think one of the things that is so hard for marriage counselors to convince people is that if they had been abused, that it's not their fault. And that's why we have to keep having reminders like Elder Kearon and For the Strength of Youth guide and everything else. If this has happened to you, I wanted to throw that talk out there, because it's a blessing for people to read to know what forgiving means in that case.

25:09 Elder Robbins says it very beautifully. I don't want to do this wrong, you guys. This is so important. He said something like, "You forgiving them does not mean they are forgiven. Forgiveness only comes through sincere repentance from God." I've really appreciated that idea. For those that think that they have to stay in an abusive relationship because, "I have to be forgiving", that's not the case.

25:35 So I hope they'll read these talks.

25:37 And on a happier note, I just want to say that in the Aaronic Priesthood Quorum Theme, there's a line that says, "I will use his priesthood to serve others beginning in my own home."

25:49 Sometimes when we talk about 'love your neighbor', or 'strengthen your brother' or 'strengthen your sisters', we think of neighbors of the definition of those around me. That should start in our own home and then extend to the neighborhood, not the other way around. That should start with my wife and my children and my family and then extend to the neighbors so it doesn't look like I'm treating the neighbors better than my family.

Hank Smith: 26:15 Yeah, John, someone said once, "If you only have one smile to give, don't give it to a stranger. Give it to the person you live with." I think the idea is that's your energy, your focus; like Barb said, your protection; those closest to you.

John Bytheway: 26:31 I remember reading a book a marriage counselor wrote ... I thought this was such a good question. He had a list of them. I think it was Kenneth Matheson. One of them was, "What is it like to be married to me? Just ask yourself that. Would I be happy if I were married to me? Would I be happy to come home? Would I be excited to talk to me? If I were married to me, what would that be like?"

26:53 That's a very introspection type question, like you're asking, Barbara, to look at your own marriage and say, "What can I



do?" And I feel like Jacob is concerned about marriages within his people.

- Dr. Barbara Gardner: 27:04 President Nelson has that great quote that I love where he says to the priesthood holders of the church, "Your first and foremost duty is to love and care for your wife."
- 27:13 As a daughter of a righteous Priesthood holder, the confidence that comes to a daughter, knowing that my mother was my dad's first and foremost responsibility, you can't buy that. You can't provide enough vacations, you can't read enough scriptures, you can't say enough prayers. How a father treats his wife, how the father treats my mother ...
- 27:32 I remember, at the end of my mother's life, my dad sitting at the door by her bedside until she literally passed away; not leaving her, making sure that no wrong person came in, no wrong thing was said. He just held her in his arms. She passed away of brain cancer, but he protected her to the final breath. And as a daughter, the expectation for my husband is very high.
- 28:01 But I will be honest, he does the same thing. When we could not have children, I remember sitting watching him on the couch and thinking to myself, "We have to have children because they need him as a father." Because I knew of the protection and the love he would give.
- 28:17 I think for women, that is something ... It's such an anomaly in a sense, it's such a paradox for a woman to be treated poorly by a man, because it is a man that provides so much of that protection. And again, this is not meant to be a gender thing. There are different genders and are different people and there's a reason why a man does protect. But there is so much beauty and so much joy and so much happiness in a woman's life that comes from righteous men. It is the most beautiful and handsome and fantastic thing, I think, to see a righteous man of God protecting.
- 28:47 And I think it's probably the same in some ways for men. I mean, women are different. I would let you speak to that if you wanted to. But as women, I think our number one responsibility is also, as those who have power and authority of God on this earth, is to love and protect our husbands and our children; that their names are safe in our home, but who they are is safe with us. We are protectors of God's children.

John Bytheway: 29:09 And their names are safe when we go out and we tell our friends about our wives or our husbands; that they're safe, that they don't feel like they're going to be part of a joke or something. I love all of that that you just said.

29:21 It just reminds me of Lehi, "Rise up from the dust and be men." They were males. He knew they were males. There is something more. And he knew they were awake. There's something more about being a man, not just being a male. And that's what you're talking about, Barbara.

Hank Smith: 29:39 Barb, John, we have one chapter left: Jacob chapter four.

29:44 John, I've heard you reference Jacob 4:3, talking about Eve. Will you just do that real quick?

John Bytheway: 29:52 I would love to because I love Second Nephi, chapter two. I think it's one of the most profound chapters in the whole Book of Mormon. It's Lehi talking to Jacob and teaching him that Adam fell that men might be, and men are that they might have joy.

30:08 Lehi beautifully explains to Jacob about Adam and Eve and the Fall. And we call it a fortunate fall in our theology. You remember President Nelson's talk about the Book of Mormon? "What would your life be like without it?" He talks about the Book of Mormon affirms the wisdom of Eve in the episode called The Fall.

30:25 I'm just wondering if Jacob's thinking about Second Nephi, chapter two when he writes this verse: "We labor diligently to engraven our words upon plates, hoping our beloved brethren and our children will receive them with thankful hearts, and look upon them that they may learn with joy and not with sorrow, neither with contempt, concerning their first parents."

30:46 Is that about Adam and Eve? Who else is it if it's not their first parents?

Hank Smith: 30:51 I love that, John.

Dr. Barbara Gardner: 30:53 I always thought it was Adam and Eve.

John Bytheway: 30:54 Yeah. Because of what he learned, Adam fell that men might be, men are that they might have joy, they're going to learn with joy, not with contempt about Adam and Eve, that they messed everything up.

- 31:05 Our friend Brad Wilcox says the Atonement was plan A, not plan B. The Atonement wasn't to clean up the mess that Adam and Eve made of the world.
- Dr. Barbara Gardner: 31:15 That Second Nephi, chapter two, this is Jacob's blessing from his father that Jacob needs to know about Adam and Eve. So you see that all through this.
- 31:23 And you see in verse 24, as you said, "But behold, all these things have been done in the wisdom of him who knoweth all things. Adam fell that men might be, men are that they might have joy." I can't imagine that Jacob has given such a beautiful understanding about his father regarding Adam and Eve and the Lord teaching pure true doctrine ...
- 31:41 Which really is, as you mentioned ... It's section 138 of the Doctrine and Covenants where we hear of this beautiful vision. And you know this where Joseph sees among the great and mighty ones who assembled, this is 138, verse 38, "Who were assembled in this vast congregation of the righteous where Father Adam, the Ancient of Days and the father of all, and our glorious mother Eve with many of her faithful daughters who had lived through the ages and worshiped the true and living God."
- 32:07 Of course I love that you brought that up. I could talk about Eve all day.
- 32:11 Yes. "That they can see with joy." It's Eve who President Nelson says that we as women must have the courage of Mother Eve. And it's the purpose of the lives of Adam and Eve, and these are these first parents and we have so much joy in them. Had they not made that decision to eat the fruit, we would not exist.
- 32:29 That's the reality. We haven't talked about this a lot, but Jacob has taught us to really study our scriptures and to be firm in knowing the doctrine so we're not confused. I'm confident that Jacob knows the truth regarding our first parents and the truth regarding Adam and Eve, for sure. It's a great insight.
- John Bytheway: 32:46 He maybe knows what the world has done with Adam and Eve. You either don't believe in them, like I said, or think they messed up everything; we'd all be living in paradise if it weren't for them. And Jacob learned something totally different from his father Lehi. So I'm wondering if he's going back to that and saying, "I want you to learn with joy about Adam and Eve."

Hank Smith: 33:05 And just to tie it to Jacob two and three, what Barb's been teaching us about protecting women and how the story of Eve can be used to hurt women, it has been used.

John Bytheway: 33:18 Over the centuries. Elder Oaks said that. He said that many people think Eve and her daughters have been tainted by that story.

33:25 And I love that when Joseph F. Smith had that revelation that you just read, Barbara, he said, "And our glorious mother Eve with many of her faithful daughters."

Dr. Barbara Gardner: 33:33 Yep. Exactly.

John Bytheway: 33:35 Yes.

Dr. Barbara Gardner: 33:35 The October of 2018 general conference, I love that President Nelson, President Oaks, and President Eyring, every member of the first presidency, specifically spoke of the righteousness of Mother Eve in that conference.

33:48 And President Eyring asking us as women to be more like Mother Eve and recognize that one of our primary responsibilities, speaking of the gospel, is to be the primary nurturers in our own homes. And he says, by being nurturers, he says, "And that means being the primary gospel instructors." I love that President Eyring called upon the women of the church to be the primary gospel instructors in their homes.

34:12 I love that President Oaks quotes President Nelson in talking about the important role of Mother Eve, and then President Nelson reminding us all of the important role that Eve has in the whole plan of salvation.

34:25 I mean, those talks ... So I highly recommend going back to those three talks in 2018 and seeing what the first presidency speaks specifically of regarding Mother Eve and how important her role is in this.

John Bytheway: 34:37 And mothers afterwards. The Stripling Warriors did not say, "Behold, they had been taught by their Come, Follow Me instructors that if they would not doubt, God would deliver them."

Hank Smith: 34:45 Yeah.

John Bytheway: 34:46 I hope they are taught that, but they were taught by their mothers. Home centered.

Dr. Barbara Gardner: 34:52 Since you went there, I can't miss this opportunity.

John Bytheway: 34:55 It cannot be restrained.

Dr. Barbara Gardner: 34:56 Yeah, it cannot be restrained.

34:57 So this is President Nelson, The Participation of Sisters in the Gathering of Israel. He says, "Please teach those whom you love that you are learning from the scriptures. Teach them how to turn to the Savior for his healing and cleansing power when they sin. Teach them how to draw upon his strengthening power every day of their lives." This is to the women of the church.

35:16 And then President Nelson also says this: "Let me add that we need women who know how to make important things happen. We need women who are devoted to shepherding God's children along the covenant path towards exaltation; women who know how to receive personal revelation and understand the power and the peace of the Temple Endowment; women who know how to call upon the powers of heaven to protect and strengthen children and families; women who teach."

35:39 But he also says, "Attacks against the church's doctrine and our way of life are going to increase. Because of this, we need women who have a bedrock understanding of the doctrine of Christ and who will use that understanding to teach and help raise a sin resistant generation. We need women who can detect deception in all its forms. We need women who know how to access God's power to make available to the covenant keepers, and who express their beliefs with confidence and with charity. We need women who have the courage and the vision of our Mother Eve. I love that in terms of what you were just saying, and I also love that in terms of this chapter, where we have in Jacob 4:7, he says, "Nevertheless, the Lord God showeth us our weakness that we may know that it is by his grace," which is another word that I love, "And his great condescension unto the children of men that we have power to do these things." Then you see in Verse Nine, "For behold, by the power of his word, man came upon the face of the earth." And then, we see in Verse 11, "Wherefore beloved brethren," and I would say sisters in this case, "Be reconciled unto him through the atonement of Christ, his only-begotten son, that you may obtain a resurrection according to the power of the resurrection."

36:45 There's so much that is being spoken of about power here, and power comes through keeping covenants and worthiness, and this is both available to women and men. And I love that after all of this difficult discussion that Jacob has with these people, he's begging them to say, in Verse Seven, "Bring your weaknesses to the Lord. He will fill you with his grace, he will put you back on your feet," in a sense, "He is going to work this marvelous work in your lives. He's going to give you the mysteries of the Kingdom of God, and he's going to save you." I just love, in Verse 12, where he says then, "And now behold, marvel not that I tell you these things, for why not speak of the atonement of Christ and attain to a perfect knowledge of him, as to attain to the knowledge of a resurrection and the world to come?" After bringing them all to their knees almost and helping them see their wickedness of their ways, the answer is, and always will be, Jesus Christ.

37:38 I've always loved that question by Jacob. Elder Maxwell has such a great quote with this too, where he says, "Brothers and sisters, given man's true self-interest, why should we really speak of much of anything else? Why not speak of the atonement of Christ?" Why not? Is there really anything else more important to be talking about? Let's speak of Christ. Let's speak of him as often as we can. Let's talk about the reconciliation that comes. Let's talk of his grace, let's talk of his hope, let's talk of his resurrection. Let's talk about his perfect ability to give knowledge and to help people repent. Let's talk about him plainly, let's talk about him powerfully. Let's bring people to Christ. Why not talk about him? I love that the name of the church is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Why not talk about the Church of Jesus Christ, why not use his name? It's so powerful that Jacob finishes this whole sermon on Jesus Christ, "And be plain in speaking of him, for the salvation of your souls."

Hank Smith: 38:32 Barb, John, someone listening might think, "Man, this is hard for me to hear." To go through this and to see where I'm falling short, or where I really was headed in the wrong direction." Elder Holland said this back in 1998, he said, "To you is extended the peace and renewal of repentance available through the atoning sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ. In these serious matters, the path of repentance is not easily begun, nor painlessly traveled, but the Savior of the world will walk that essential journey with you. He will strengthen you when you waver. He will be your light when it seems most dark. He will take your hand and be your hope when hope seems all you have left." We definitely don't want anyone to walk away from our time together today thinking, "I'm broken, I'm irreparable."

- John Bytheway: 39:24 Jacob answers that question, I think. If you are feeling that way, I love that in Jacob Chapter 3, at the very beginning, he's like, Okay, I've been ripping on everybody, mostly the husbands in Jacob Chapter 2, "And now let me speak to you that are pure in heart," and he gives just this simple, "Look to God with firmness of mind, pray to him with exceeding faith. He will console you in your afflictions," and maybe we could add your inadequacies. "He'll plead your cause, send down justice upon those who seek your destruction." One more verse, "Oh, all you that are pure in heart, lift up your heads, don't hang down your heads, receive," receive as an action word, "Receive the pleasing word of God, give place. Feast upon his love, for you may, if your minds are firm, forever." The next 11 verses he goes back to ripping on everyone else.
- 40:18 So I feel like there's an interesting ratio here. Pure in heart get two verses. What a tough assignment. He's got to speak to both the pure in heart and those that are not pure in heart in the same talk. There are some, Hank, you know this, Barbara, you know this, you've got a youth group, some kid is feeling guilty because he stole a Twix, at 7-Eleven when he was seven years old and somebody else has some real serious struggles, but they're not thinking anything of it. How do you talk to both of them at the same time? And the answer is you have to be inspired. You have to speak by the power of the spirit.
- Dr. Barbara Gardner: 40:55 John, I can't help but think when you're saying that of the parable of the prodigal son, where you have three main characters. You have the father, you have the prodigal, and you have the righteous son. That parable is taught so well by Christ. Elder Uchtdorf, I love this last general conference talk he gave in October of 2023. To Hank's question, I think Elder Uchtdorf has such a great answer. He says, "Who among us has not departed from the path of holiness foolishly thinking that we could find more happiness going our own self-centered way? Who among us has not felt humbled, broken, brokenhearted, and desperate for forgiveness and mercy? Perhaps some may even wonder, is it possible to go back? Will I be labeled forever, rejected and avoided by my former friends? Is it better to just stay lost? How will God react if I try to return?"
- 41:42 And then he says, the parable itself is being answered by the Savior. He says, "Our heavenly Father will run to us, his heart overflowing with love and compassion. He will embrace us, place a robe around our shoulders, a ring on our fingers, sandals on our feet, and proclaim, 'Today we celebrate, for my child who was once dead has come back to life. Heaven will rejoice at our return.' May I just speak to you individually for a moment?"

And it's just the Elder Uchtdorf way of saying, "Let me just talk to you." And he says, "No matter what may have happened in your life, I echo what Elder Jeffrey R. Holland has said, 'It is not possible for you to sink lower than the infinite light of Christ's Atonement shines.'" I just love that statement.

42:25 And then this, "Though choices may have taken you far away from the Savior and his church, the master healer stands at the road that leads home welcoming you. And we as members of the Church of Jesus Christ seek to follow his example and embrace you as our brothers and sisters, as our friends. We rejoice and we celebrate with you. Your return will not diminish the blessings of others for the Father's bounty is infinite and what is given to one does not in the slightest diminish the birthright of others." I love this reality of what Hank is asking and Elder Uchtdorf says this so clearly, "I do not pretend that coming back is an easy thing to do. I can testify that it may in fact be the toughest choice you will ever make, but I bear witness at the moment you decide to return and walk in the way of your Savior and Redeemer, his power will enter into your life and transform it. Angels in heaven will rejoice, so will we, your family in Christ."

43:26 I love that this is a family story. I love that the people that Jacob is talking to are family members. These are his posterity, these are his nephews and nieces. These are his cousins. These are people he loves so much. And I love in Verse 10 and 11, "Wherefore brethren, seek not to counsel the Lord, but take counsel from his hand. For behold, ye yourselves know that he counseled in wisdom and in justice and in great mercy over all his works. Wherefore beloved brethren be reconciled unto him through the atonement of Christ, his only-begotten son, and ye may obtain a resurrection according to the power of resurrection."

43:58 It is hard. The reality is some things are hard. I have repented of stupid things in my life before and it is humiliating and it is hard, but there is nothing, the hardness does not even slightly compare to the joy on the other side of the difficulty.

44:17 I remember one moment in my life where I was preparing for my mission and I was recognizing that I had some things to repent of before I went and my dad was my stake president. And long story short, it was the hardest moment of my life, I think up to that point, admitting to my father, as the stake president, that I had done something wrong, as if he thought that I was perfect. But I also learned in that moment that, as it teaches us in Mosiah, that we have to be as a child, submissive,



meek, humble, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon us, even as a child doth submit to his father.

44:53 I personally believe that one of the reasons that repentance is difficult is because it helps us to recognize the intense tender mercy of the Savior of the world who suffered all things and went below all things. Our own suffering allows us then to be compassionate and understanding of the Savior of the world. He is already compassionate for us, it allows us to be compassionate towards him and towards all people who also suffer. We understand it's worth every ounce of pain to be able to feel the love of Jesus Christ and to be reconciled to him. No question.

Hank Smith: 45:27 Elder Callister once taught, "It breathes new life into a hopeless heart." Barb, is there anything we missed?

Dr. Barbara Gardner: 45:33 One thing that keeps coming back to me and it's the errand of the Lord. Jacob has received this errand of the Lord. I want to say with women and leadership and things, sometimes we look at this errand of the Lord and so therefore he's the prophet, he's going to go tell everyone. I think that important understanding that as women and men, but especially as women, we deal with ambiguity and each of us receives our own errand from the Lord. And for some that may be that we go on missions and some may be that that means that we marry at a certain age. And for some that may be that we have children at a certain age. Regardless of what decision we are making, the Lord will use us just as he used Jacob in his life, that we each have our own errand and the key for us then is submit our will to His.

46:19 That women and men both, the way to be a true leader as Jacob is to receive the errand from the Lord and then recognize that that errand is personal to us. Jacob's receiving it as the leader of the community. We receive general errands from the Lord. For our time, the gathering of Israel is an errand of the Lord that the Lord has given to us, but each individual person receives their own errand from the Lord. And I love that Jacob finds that errand in the temple and that is one of the greatest places that we can receive our errand from the Lord is to continually return to the temple, stay close to the Lord, go to his home with a desire to do his will, not my will, but thine be done. That's a true disciple of Jesus Christ, and Jacob is an example of that. There are as many varied errands as there are humans on the earth. When we understand God's errand, we'll be filled with his power to be able to fulfill that errand just as Jacob was.

Hank Smith:

47:08

And with that, Barbara, I don't think we could add anything else. What a beautiful way to finish. We want to remind you all of Barb's podcast Grounded. We hope you'll go look that up. We want to thank Barbara for spending her time with us today. We want to thank our executive producer Shannon Sorensen, our sponsors David and Verla Sorensen, and we always remember our founder Steve Sorensen. We hope you'll join us next week, we're going to cover more of the book of Jacob on FollowHIM.

## FLY FAST & LOW



- Hank Smith: 00:02 Hello everyone. Welcome to another followHIM Favorites. John and I are sharing a single story to go with each week's lesson. John, we're in Jacob: 1-4 and you've told me you have an experience to share.
- John Bytheway: 00:15 I do. There's something in Jacob 4:13. There's one word that I just love. Okay, so Hank, I'm going to quiz you first. What is the definition of truth given in section 93, the Doctrine of Covenants.
- Hank Smith: 00:26 Oh, John, you're asking me to know my scriptures.
- John Bytheway: 00:28 Truth is a knowledge of things as they are, as they were and as they will be. Something like that as that.
- Hank Smith: 00:35 As they are to come. Something like that, right? It's a knowledge of things as they are. As they are and as they are to come.
- John Bytheway: 00:40 Okay, so go way back, Hank. I'm 17 years old, I don't even know where you are. Probably pre-mortal existence. I was bowling at Fairmont Bowl and I remember looking at the end of the lane and there's a little number one that says First ball and a number two that says Second ball. It was a green number one and Hank, it looked like an 11. And I remember going, "Did they change the rules? What's wrong?" I'm pushing on my head and the one is going... and I'm like, "Why? There is something wrong with my eyes." So I finish bowling. I say, mom, "I got to go see an eye doctor." And the eye doctor says, "You have astigmatism." And I'm like, "Bless you."
- 01:17 And he said, "No, you have astigmatism." I'm like, what's astigmatism? He says, "Your eyes are shaped more like a football than a basketball." And I was like, "Oh, I watched too much football." And Hank, I can't even express. This was heartbreaking. My plan was to be a fighter pilot. You had to have 20-20 vision to be a military pilot. And all of that went out the window right there. I don't know what it is now with LASIK,

but that was all gone. I remember going a few weeks later and picking up my glasses. I remember putting those glasses on. Hank, I don't know how long my vision had been blurry from distance and close. That's astigmatism. It was distorted at any length. And I put on those glasses and it was like the first time you saw a high-definition television and just went, "Whoa." That's how I felt. I put them on. I can see the leaves in the trees so distinctly. My mom's driving me home. I'm like, "This is amazing." Next time I went bowling, it's like 11, 1, 11, 1.

Hank Smith: 02:17

You're like, "I can see."

John Bytheway: 02:18

This is so sharp and everything was so clear and defined. I had no idea how long, like I said, it had been distorted for me. Well, here's the thing. Today we have resources like crazy. You can ask a question in the air, you can ask Google or Alexa or Siri, and they will tell you the way they think things are. And AI will tell you the way they think things are from their database. And there's a chance it might be true. So we've joked about this before. If you lack information, ask Google. If you lack wisdom, that's a different question. So when you get to Jacob 4:13, he has something better than Google, than Alexa, than Siri, than chat GPT. And this is what he says in Jacob 4:13. In Jacob 4:13, he adds one word to that definition of truth in Section 93. And I just love it.

03:11

Let me start. "Behold my brethren, he that prophesieth let him prophesy to the understanding of men. For the Spirit speaketh the truth and lieth not. Wherefore it speaketh of things as they really are and of things as they really will be." I just love the extra word really in there. So many sources that'll tell you something. But I don't want AI, I want II. I want Infinite Intelligence to tell me. And the spirit will speak of things as they really are and of things as they really will be. All of us as much as possible get in places where the spirit of the Lord is and then we can sense things the way they really are. And that's how I felt, first time I put on those glasses.

Hank Smith: 04:01

Oh, I love it. Fantastic. I love the idea that I didn't know I couldn't see until I saw.

John Bytheway: 04:09

And then I went, "Oh, this is the way things really look."

Hank Smith: 04:13

This is what it's like to see. And we can go through that same thing spiritually. "Oh, I can see. I can see." Why don't we see if you really see.

John Bytheway: 04:21 See the way things really are.

Hank Smith: 04:23 I bet you sing Amazing Grace differently, right?

John Bytheway: 04:26 I once was blind, but now I see.

Hank Smith: 04:29 He's like, "I've felt that brother." John, well, I think families all over the planet are grateful you didn't become a fighter pilot, but you became a church speaker and you've blessed a lot of lives.

John Bytheway: 04:41 Maybe in the next life. I don't want to shoot anybody. I just want something grossly overpowered. That's what I tell people.

Hank Smith: 04:47 I want to fly. What'd you say? Fast and low. I've heard you say that before.

John Bytheway: 04:51 Yeah. I want to go really fast and really low. Really low. That'd be so fun.

Hank Smith: 04:55 Come join us on our full podcast. It's called followHIM. You can get it wherever you get your podcasts. We're with Dr. Barbara Morgan Gardner this week. You're going to love what she does with this first half of Jacob. And then join us next week for another followHIM Favorites.