

"Learn of Me"

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 is the Savior's solution to our dark clouds and struggles? Brother Andy Horton examines Doctrine and Covenants 19, the printing of the Book of Mormon, Martin Harris's challenges at home, and the joy found in repentance.

Part 2:

Brother Andy Horton continues to explore the commandments given to Martin Harris in Doctrine and Covenants 19. He also explores how Jesus can change suffering and pain into joy.

Timecodes:

Part 1 -

- 00:00 Part 1 Brother Andy Horton
- 05:22 Come, Follow Me Manual
- 06:42 Background to Section 19
- 10:34 Martin as on of the Three Witnesses
- 12:59 Finding a printer
- 16:38 Remembering people for their strengths
- 18:38 E.B Grandin and printing challenges
- 20:51 Abner Cole and other challenges
- 22:59 "Be still, and know"
- 26:03 Martin's concerns
- 32:33 The worldly pressure to not keep covenants
- 34:49 The Lord calls when our nets are full
- 37:34 Martin receives Section 19
- 39:27 D&C 19:1-3 What is at stake
- 44:24 "It is finished"
- 46:24 Repent or suffer
- 29:19 Celebrate repentance
- 54:34 Infinite Atonement of Jesus
- 58:03 Eternal is His name
- 1:03:28 D&C 19:7 Different forms of the word
- 1:06:02 D&C 19:13-15 A story of repentance
- 1:13:48 End of Part 1 Brother Andy Horton

Part 2 -

- 00:00 Part 2 Brother Andy Horton
- 00:16 D&C 19:16 Experience the love of God
- 03:10 What do others believe about Luke 22:44
- 06:07 D&C 19:16 Why does Jesus suffer?
- 07:50 Taking your father for a milkshake
- 12:20 D&C 19:15 Pressing olives
- 15:11 D&C 19:19-20 Finishing preparations
- 17:34 A reconversion story prepared but unshared
- 22:01 D&C 19:21-23 A great pattern for happy living
- 25:15 Let God prevail
- 28:35 Section 19 as missionary section
- 32:56 Pray vocally and in private
- 34:48 Martin mortgages his farm
- 37:59 So many tenets
- 42:16 D&C 19:23 A missionary returns to her mission

- 46:16 D&C 19:38 Being paralyzed by fear
- 50:25 God takes suffering and lose and turns it into joy
- 56:06 Joseph Smith is a prophet
- 58:38 Brother Andy Horton shares his testimony of Jesus Christ and his prophet, Joseph
- 01:06:48 End of Part II Brother Andy Horton

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Biographical Information:



Andy Horton grew up in Provo Utah. He served a Spanish-speaking mission to San Bernardino, California where he discovered the beauty and power of the scriptures.

Soon after, he met and married Stephanie Gillespie. He says, "when Steph married me, it was the kindest thing anyone had ever done for me." Andy and Steph have 6 children and 6 grandchildren. Andy teaches at the Utah Valley Institute at UVU. He earned his undergraduate degree in Zoology, and later a master's in education. One highlight in his career was spending 8 years helping produce films and other media for the Church. This clearly came about because of his degree in Zoology.

Serving in and working for the Church has helped the Hortons connect with so many wonderful youth, young adults, and leaders. They have loved helping gather Israel while serving in the Utah Orem Mission presidency for the past few years.

Andy enjoys woodworking, audiobooks, and finding good Thai food with his wife.

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Hank Smith: 00:00:00 Coming up in this episode on Follow Him.

Andy Horton: 00:00:03 I had a lady come into my office. She had committed a pretty

serious sin months ago, and as I share this, I want to throw in a little caveat that says, the spirit directs you to handle situations differently with every individual. This outcome may be different with someone else, but she came in, she was so terrified. For some reason she had skipped over her bishop and had come to confess to me, and she was so terrified of the event of confession that she brought her home teacher with her, which is a compliment to that home teacher that she trusted him that much. But the two of them are sitting in my office and she goes

on to confess a pretty serious sin that she had committed.

Hank Smith: 00:00:50 Hello everyone. Welcome to another episode of Follow Him. My

name is Hank Smith. I am your host and I'm here with my cohost John Bytheway, who walks in meekness. John, Doctrine

and Covenants, Section 19.

John Bytheway: 00:01:04 Yeah, it's hard to get off the soles of my feet at night, but I walk.

Hank Smith: 00:01:09 He walks in meekness.

John Bytheway: 00:01:10 It's a creek behind my home.

Hank Smith: 00:01:15 John, we are joined by a fantastic teacher, brother Andy Horton

is with us. John, what are you looking forward to today?

John Bytheway: 00:01:22 And I've said this before and then I'm always nervous, should I

even say that because I might change my mind next week, but I feel like Section 19 is one of my favorites of the whole Doctrine and Covenants. It's to Martin Harris, who I relate to more in some ways than others. There's some amazing doctrine right at the beginning. There's some beautiful advice about prayer at

section. Hank Smith: 00:01:48 Yeah, me too. Me too. Andy, what are we going to do today? Well, I'm excited to talk about it because I feel a lot of us are a Andy Horton: 00:01:52 lot like Martin Harris. He is in the midst of a struggle. Dark clouds are gathering a little bit for him, and all of us have experienced some dark clouds in life. I'm excited to talk about what the Savior's solution is to dark clouds and struggles. Hank Smith: 00:02:12 I love that. John, Andy has never been with us before on the show, so we probably ought to give him a little bit of an introduction. John Bytheway: 00:02:22 Yes, and Andy Horton has been someone that we've known for a long time. He's taught for 30 years in seminaries and institutes for a long time up at the church headquarters making movies. And that's where he used his degree in Zoology to make those, right? He served his mission in San Bernardino, Spanish speaking, married Stephanie. What was it? Provo and Timpview. You both. You were at different schools down there. Andy Horton: 00:02:46 Yeah, avid rivals, but we're starting to get along now after 30 years of marriage. 00:02:50 John Bytheway: So glad. Six children, six grandchildren. We're just really glad to have him, Hank, because this is someone we've known for a long time. Hank Smith: 00:02:58 So your wife's from Utah County? Andy, what was her maiden name? 00:03:03 Gillespie. Her dad was a coach up at Timpview High School. A lot Andy Horton: of people know him from being a coach. 00:03:10 Hank Smith: Nice. Andy was a stake president for many years. And Andy, I know this story, but maybe we just let our listeners in on a little bit. You were not expecting to be called a stake president. 00:03:24 Andy Horton: Do you want the story? Do you really want the story? If you don't mind. I was not expecting. I was on the High Council. The only reason I was interviewed in my mind was because I was on the High Council. They interview bishops and high counselors and a couple others. So I go to the interview, it's three minutes, and then I left there knowing very well that I'm not going to be the new stake president. So I go to watch a basketball game

the end. I'm looking forward to the whole thing. I love this

with my wife. Our son was playing, and I thought, well, I should prank my wife. So I text my daughter and I say, Hey, call my phone. So Malia calls pick up my phone and I look at it and I look at my wife with big eyes and I run out of the gym. When I came back in, I said, wow, we have to go to the stake center for I guess another interview.

00:04:07

She goes, no, tell me that's not true. And I said, I'm just kidding. And I thought I was so funny. I thought I was so funny. I set my phone down and it literally rings three minutes later and I pick it up and it has the name of the current stake president and I show my wife and she says, this little proud look on her face. She says, oh, it's not so funny now, is it? So I run back out of the gym, come back in. We really go over. We really get called pretty crazy. There's more to the story, but I may tell it a little bit in a few minutes. I thought you had to be a Bishop first. It was kind of a prerequisite and I hadn't been. I'm thinking, wow, some poor chump's going to get called and here's the chump. The chump got called.

Hank Smith: 00:04:50 Some poor chumps gonna get.. and he was, he was.

Andy Horton: 00:04:56 Yeah, it was quite a surprise.

John Bytheway: 00:04:58 That's a great story. I might try that, but then as soon as I try it,

I'm going to turn the phone off. Completely off.

Hank Smith: 00:05:06 It's gone. And the return, the voicemail says something like,

John is not here, nor will he ever be. So call someone else.

John Bytheway: 00:05:18 He's eternally not here in keeping with the section we're

covering today.

Hank Smith: 00:05:22 Right. Hey, I'm going to read from the Come, Follow Me manual and then Andy, take us where you want to go. I'm happy to hear

you've been preparing and I think our listeners are going to love what you have to share. Here's how the Come, Follow Me
Manual starts. It took Martin and Lucy Harris years to acquire one of the finest farms in Palmyra, New York. But in 1829, it became clear that the Book of Mormon could be published only if Martin mortgaged his farm to pay the printer. Martin had a testimony of the Book of Mormon, but Lucy did not. If Martin went forward with the mortgage and the Book of Mormon did not sell well, he would lose his farm, put his marriage at risk, and damage his reputation in the community. Although our circumstances are different from Martins at some time or

another, we all face difficult questions like those he faced. What

is the gospel of Jesus Christ worth to me? What am I willing to sacrifice to help build God's kingdom? Martin Harris ultimately decided that he would mortgage his farm. So the first 5,000 copies of the Book Mormon could be printed, but even this sacrifice and any sacrifice we might make is small compared to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the greatest of all who bled from every pore to save the repentant. Beautiful opener. Andy, with that, what do you want to do first?

Andy Horton: 00:06:42

Let me give you a little bit of detail on what's going on with Martin. I've felt as I've prepared this, if you don't have the backstory on what's been going on in Martin's life, it takes away from some of the power in Section 19. You can't live life on this earth without going through troubles. Some trials, sacred experiences, if you will. Our troubles today really are not very different from what Martin is facing. I hope I can make that connection. It can be really hard sometimes to do what the Lord's asking, when these influences--I like to use the word perfectly--they perfectly push against us to try and stop us from making the right choices. I've learned and seen in this section that the Lord, his light seems to shine the brightest when things seem the most impossible. Martin was born in New York in 1783, but he married his first cousin, Lucy.

00:07:36

He and Lucy owned, this number matters, they owned 320 acres in Palmyra, eventually. He reportedly investigated the Quaker religion, universalist, restorationists, Baptist, Methodists, and Presbyterians, and some may not know that he kind of believed in the restorationists idea. He looked for the return of Christianity. In fact, he is quoted as saying that in the year 1818, he says, I was inspired of the Lord and taught of the spirit that I should not join any church. Well, that sounds really familiar, doesn't it? Compared to what Joseph experienced. So he's waiting for the truth, looking for it. Well, that revelation to him took place in 1818. Well then by 1824, a few years later, Martin met Joseph Smith. He knew of his vision. He knew of the gold plates and of the angel Moroni, but he felt he needed a witness that Joseph was the real deal.

00:08:37

So in the fall of 1827, Martin had set his mind on asking God to show him that Joseph really was indeed God's chosen prophet and that it was God's work. So this is a really cool story to me. I hope I don't get emotional telling it, but he retires to his room, kneels down to pray. He prays, oh Lord God, show me these things concerning the plates Joseph has, and I covenant that if it is thy work and thou wilt show me so, I will put forth my best ability to bring them before the world. Wow. And he says, in the still small voice spoken to the soul, Martin was told that

Joseph's work was the real deal. And that pinnacle moment is critical throughout everything we look at today. It's the source of a decision that Martin's ultimately going to have to make. So he places himself under covenant to help Joseph to protect the plates and help publish the book.

00:09:40

And we need to remember that he even gave Joseph at one point \$50 to help him get moved to Harmony. As the translation continued. In February, 1828, Martin went from Palmyra to Harmony to check on Joseph, and it's during that time when he started helping Joseph translate. He also at one point took some of the hieroglyphs back east to get those verified, and that was a good experience. So he came back just on fire, just excited about the work. So now he has the Lord telling him that this is a prophet he's working with and that the work they're doing is legitimate. A few months later, June, we have the painful story of the loss transcript. I think most of us are familiar with that over the years. As I've asked my students, what do you remember about Martin Harris? You know, they always bring up the lost manuscript.

00:10:34

There is so much more to Martin Harris as we'll see today, so much more. Well, by June, 1829, the translation's done and Martin has been invited to be one of the three witnesses. Joseph approaches him and encourages him very heavily. Look, Martin, I want you to have this experience, but you've been told by the Lord, you need to repent. You need to prepare yourself. If you want to be a witness, we know how that plays out. They go into the woods when I say they, we have Martin Harris and Oliver and David Whitmer and Joseph going into the woods to pray to have this experience and nothing happens. I've had prayers like that where nothing happens. He found Martin finally, I'm sure a little bit hesitantly, raised his hand and said, sorry, it's me, my bad. And he retreats into the woods and goes and has some time with himself and the Lord to repent.

00:11:30

The angel appears to the other three and shows them the plates and they have a sacred experience. Eventually, Joseph goes and finds Martin and he's praying in the woods. They try again in prayer to invite the angel to come. The angel does come and gives Martin a little look-see. I think look-see, it's got to be a reformed Egyptian word just came to me. Martin, of course, is ecstatic. This takes him over the edge. He exclaims tis enough. My eyes have beheld, my eyes have beheld. And he comes into the Whitmer home testifying of what he saw. Martin, he's received a revelation that the prophet's the real thing, and now he's handled the plates. He is energized, he's on fire. Very exciting time for Martin and for Joseph for that sake.

John Bytheway:

00:12:26

He's excited about this work, but he's also trying to keep his marriage together. Here's his wife who wants some evidence of what's been going on, and I can understand that. All this time and resources to bring this forward. But it's kind of like when you look at the family of Lehi and Sariah. There's a few who ask and who get answers and some who don't. And it causes all this dissension within the family. And I feel for Martin, I mean, I wonder how many times tried to explain to Lucy what was happening and what he had heard and seen and felt.

Andy Horton:

00:12:59

And now it's only going to get thicker because now that the translation's done, they need to find a printer. And part of the deal is, as we'll see, is that they have to prepay. That money has to come from Martin. No one else has those resources. They have 300 and something acres and he's going to have to commit. He already made a covenant with the Lord that he would do this. And I don't know how much of that he's broken to Lucy yet. I don't think she comes around. Yeah, tough moment.

Hank Smith: 00:13:29

There's this statement from Lucy Mack. This is in the Voices of the Restoration we did a couple of weeks ago, John, with Dr. Dirkmaat. I want to read it again. This is after the angel. Martin Harris particularly seemed altogether unable to give vent to his feelings in words. He said, I have now seen an angel from heaven who has of assurity testified of the truth of all that I have heard concerning the record. My eyes have beheld him. I've also looked upon the plates and handled them. I can testify of the same to the whole world, but I have received for myself a witness that words cannot express, that no tongue can describe. And I bless God in the sincerity of my soul that he has condescended to make me even me, a witness of the greatness of his work and designs in behalf of the children of men. That's beautiful. Andy, you said earlier that here's the one thing he's known for is the loss of those pages, but why isn't he known for this? He saw an angel and the expression of no tongue can describe, I bless God in the sincerity of my soul, and then he's going to go on and make such a sacrifice for the Book of Mormon. Maybe both of you. I could ask you, why do we remember people for their biggest mistakes? Why is that our focus? Doubting Thomas?

Andy Horton:

00:14:51

Yeah, human nature. I don't know why we do that. I sure don't want to be remembered for my biggest mistakes. I've got plenty of them. And maybe that's what we're celebrating in this section is the fact that we can repent and move on. And the Savior surely doesn't remember our biggest mistakes. Maybe that's what we're celebrating.

Hank Smith: 00:15:12 Yeah. Does he even bring it up in Section 19 like, Hey, I need

you to do this. Remember, remember you owe me. I saved you

from that.

Andy Horton: 00:15:23 There is that moment where he's reminded of that time when

he lost the spirit and you felt in the least degree. You tasted at the time I withdrew my spirit. I'm sure they're thinking back to that and other things, but I'm grateful the Lord doesn't hold

grudges against us. Grateful for that.

John Bytheway: 00:15:42 And let's remember the order of events here. Wasn't this before

Martin was baptized and don't we believe in baptism by immersion for the remission of sins and well, did he have his sins remitted or not? I like to remember that. And also for me it was, I can't remember how many years ago Hank, when a President Dallin H. Oaks, said something in a talk-Dallin Harris Oaks I might add-when he said, it's time to let Martin out from under the shadow of that experience. And boy, that was motivating for me. Yeah, this was before he was even baptized and look at what he actually did do. Let's focus more on that. So

I think we've talked about it before, but it's a good reminder.

Hank Smith: 00:16:28 It needs to be talked about again and again. John, I've told this

story before, Andy, I don't know if you've heard it. On a seminary faculty. I was on years ago. I had a friend, a close friend, his name is Quinn, and Quinn just did funny things that made me laugh. Sometimes very embarrassing for him. He would make a certain mistake and I would laugh and we were close friends. I don't feel like I was being a bully. I guess I'll have to ask him. We got a new faculty member a couple of years in and I started to tell them this new faculty member, a story about my friend Quinn. Well, another teacher that I was working with, he stopped me in the middle of my story, right in the very beginning. His name was John. He said, can I talk to you for a quick second? And I said, well, I'm telling this story. He said, how about we talk right now? So I went over to him and he

said, it was such a good lesson for me. He said, I think he wants

to forget that story. And I said, well, it's funny.

John Bytheway: 00:17:29 Yeah, but it's funny.

Hank Smith: 00:17:31 Yeah. And he said, it's not funny to him. He laughs about it, but I

think he wants it gone. So he said, Hank, I hope you'll never tell that story again. And I went, but it's funny. So maybe we could give that challenge to somebody who's listening. If you know a story about someone that they would rather forget, maybe it could be a good thing to make a commitment and say, I'm never

going to tell that story again. I'm going ro leave it and leave it alone.

Andy Horton: 00:18:06 From now on, when I think of Martin Harris, I'm going to think

of -this is the guy who, I mean spoiler alert, because of him, I'm able to study Mosiah 24, my favorite chapter. I'm able to feel what's in second Nephi two and second Nephi 9 and Alma 36.

Hank Smith: 00:18:25 When they bury Martin Harris in Clarkson, I believe. They bury

him with an original copy of the Book of Mormon in his hand.

Andy Horton: 00:18:33 I didn't know that. That's cool.

John Bytheway: 00:18:35 Didn't we hear he had a Book of Mormon in one hand and a

Doctrine of Covenants in the other?

Hank Smith: 00:18:38 I think a Doctrine and Covenants the other. Yeah. Alright, Andy,

what do you want to do next?

Andy Horton: 00:18:44 Well, let me tell you. So we're at a spot now where the Book

Mormon is translated, they need to find a printer. I mean, back then you couldn't just load the transcript into your pony and go down to the Palmyra Kinkos. So they go find the printers that there are. They first go to E.B. Grandin. I think from what I've read, for probably social reasons. He declined the offer because of the rumors going around. They approached three other printers. Ultimately they do find one that's 25 miles away that agrees to it, but again, he's 25 miles away. Joseph didn't want to have to deal with those logistics. So he comes back to Grandin and says, look, we have found someone to do it. It's going to be printed. Ultimately, we would much rather print it closer to home if you're willing and he's willing with a catch. Joseph wants 5,000 copies. Grandin says he'll do that for \$3,000. Wow. \$3,000. That's not money Joseph has. And not only that, Grandin wants it upfront. He doesn't want a down payment. A lot of book printers back then, they would carry the costs. They would go and they would buy the pica, the little letters. They'd buy the paper and everything they needed, and then they would hope that the book sells and that's when they would get

money up front. That's a lot to ask.

Hank Smith: 00:20:08 Yeah, that tells you what he thinks was going to happen.

Andy Horton: 00:20:11 And to make it worse, even eventually when he agrees to print,

he starts printing other things that derail the Book of Mormon. So here he is printing a project that's going to come off his

their money back, but not Grandin. He says he wanted all the

presses, but he's discouraging people from buying it or reading it, telling them it's a bunch of baloney. Really. It doesn't seem like a good way to do business, but he'll have his money so he doesn't care.

Hank Smith: 00:20:35

Yeah. Sometimes I think Grandin gets more credit than Harris and Grandin, he's not really taking any risk here. In fact, he's never printed a book and he's never going to print another book. He sells the press just a couple of years later.

Andy Horton: 00:20:51

So to make it worse at some point he goes home and he tells Lucy of his plan. Now, like you read from the Come Follow Me manual, they had one of the finest farms in Palmyra and it had taken them years to develop that farm. They'd raised their family there, and so his marriage is already in jeopardy. You can imagine the fear that starts to set in when he says he's going to have to mortgage half the farm to print the book. Opposition to the Book of Mormon was intense already before its publication. Then we meet this guy named Abner Cole who comes along and he had somehow gained access to the transcript and he was attempting to publish parts of it behind Joseph's back, and fortunately Joseph was able to put a stop to that by threatening legal action. But there's things coming at Martin from different directions that are not making this look like it's going to be a successful print job.

Hank Smith: 00:21:47

Right. You're going to lose all your money. You're going to lose

your 401k.

Andy Horton: 00:21:51

Yeah, exactly. With these things going on, Martin learns about a

planned boycott from the citizens in Palmyra that people are

actually telling others not to buy the book.

John Bytheway: 00:22:05

It's like, okay, Nephi, go feed the family. Okay, well, I just broke

my bow.

Hank Smith: C

00:22:10 Yeah, yeah.

John Bytheway: 00:22:11

How come you're making it hard?

Hank Smith: 00:22:12

Yeah. How come you're making it hard?

Andy Horton: 00:22:14

Great question. Yeah. Well, and at this point Martin starts to panic a little. I don't know who wouldn't start to panic. He starts to feel like no one's going to buy the books and he's going to lose his farm and he panics. He goes back to Joseph, he says, you know what? No one's going to buy these books. They're not

going to sell. And Joseph says, I think they will sell well. And Martin says, well, I need a commandment. And what he means is I need a revelation.

John Bytheway: 00:22:42

I just like that he persisted with that. I need a commandment. It just reminds me that we call it the Book of Commandments, or we used to call it the Book of Commandments. Well, I want one too. And as we've seen others have asked and have received things--like the Whitmers. Here's Martin Harris, I want one. I want a commandment. Tell me what to do here.

Andy Horton: 00:22:59

This is a moment of decision. We have all faced them. In fact, if I could divert for a second and finish my story about getting called a stake president, it might help here. Because when that call came, let me tell you, we went home from watching my son play basketball and we went in to change our clothes. As we went over to the stake center, we walked in and the general authority, it was an Elder Kevin Duncan, he and the other visiting authority took my wife into the office to interview her. So I'm sitting out in the foyer, this is kind of comical. I'm sitting out in the foyer on these chairs next to the current Stake President. He thinks that I know that I'm being called a Stake President. I'm still not aware of this. I think is like a second round of interviews or maybe they forgot to ask my favorite color. I don't know what it is. So he says to me, and this is how I find out, the call is coming. He says, so Andy, you'll have 12 minutes to select counselors.

Hank Smith: 00:24:03 That's how you found out.

Andy Horton: 00:24:04 I'm not making this up. My first thought was, well, why don't

they have the new guy pick his own? Why am I picking the new stake president? And then it hit me what he meant. The light went on and then the door opens, they invite me in, they

extend the calling. Sure enough, 12 minutes.

Hank Smith: 00:24:24 Did you say? Yeah, so-and-so told me outside.

Andy Horton: 00:24:28 Yeah, yeah. And I've got the counselors for whoever the new

guy is.

Hank Smith: 00:24:31 Right? Yeah.

Andy Horton: 00:24:33 They left. We picked counselors and my wife was a great help.

She said, I fell on the floor and looked like I was going to be sick. Well, we went home that night and it gets worse. We eventually went to the adult session of stake conference. Came home from

that. As you know, a new stake president would be sustained the next morning in the general session conference. We go home that night and my wife gathers our six children around. They don't really care or understand what this is about. Their ages went from age four up to about 15. I had six kids. I'm laying on the couch with a pillow literally over my face trying to hide from the world. I can't express to you the terror. I felt I'd never been in a calling like this or anything similar to it. I felt overwhelmed, underqualified. And my wife gathers the kids out there and says, Hey, you can't tell anyone this yet, but tomorrow your dad will be sustained as the stake president. And my oldest daughter Keena looks over at me on the couch and she says, dad, there is no way you can do that. Keena, I already know that. You don't have to tell me that. Thank you for the vote of

John Bytheway: 00:25:45 Confidence.

Andy Horton: 00:25:48 That night I go to bed and they couldn't sleep. So I pulled out

the church handbook, thought, well, I better read what it is

stake presidents do.

Hank Smith: 00:25:54 What did they even do?

Andy Horton: 00:25:56 I'll tell you what, if you ever can't sleep, that's what you read is

the church handbook. I set it on the nightstand and I fell asleep.

The next morning I wake up,

Hank Smith: 00:26:06 Did it hit you again, when you woke up? You're like, oh, that

was a bad dream.

Andy Horton: 00:26:09 Yes, that's exactly I thought it was. I had the worst nightmare.

Then I look over and I see the handbook. I'm like, oh, it was real. I kneel down, I pray. I go in to get ready for the meetings. I get a text from my oldest sister, Laura, and she says, Hey, I'm sorry I can't be there today. It's back when we had flip phones. So I am typing to her, Laura, it's okay. And just so you know, I have no idea how to be a stake president. I don't know how to do this. The terror and the fear and the dark cloud I mentioned was very real. And I sent that to her and she responded with four words. Four words that I've never forgotten that our listeners will be familiar with. Found a couple times in the scriptures. But she

said, simply, Be Still and Know.

00:26:57 What that meant to me was remember, this is not your stake.

This entire burden is not on you. You have a loving, living Savior

behind you and if you will just turn around and look, he's right

there. And I felt the burden lift. And I realized that's right. I am under covenant. I am eligible for Revelation. I can do this, I can do this. I'm under covenant. And the burden was gone. Went to the meeting. The people actually were crazy enough to sustain me, and I served for nine years. So when I read section 19, what I am seeing here is Martin is about to have a "be still and know" experience. He is in full on panic mode at this point. He's feeling the pressure of the world. He's feeling like his wife is going to have his head on a platter. And I think it's helpful actually.

00:27:59

If we look at, let me share with you just a list of some of the specific things that he's facing, as he's facing this decision. It's not a small list. If you've ever gone to Helaman five and you've read about Lehi and Nephi, they've been baptizing converts. They're in prison with 300 people in this dark cloud hovers over them. This is exactly what Martin's experiencing because these people, they say, what shall we do that this cloud of darkness may be removed? And the answer is simply, you must repent. You must repent. And the cloud is dispersed and they all get to have this experience with the Savior. There is a series of events that are coming at him from every direction. First of all, he's literally betting the farm on this project. I call it--he's going to have to have some farm faith if he's going to make it through this.

00:28:52

It comes in different shapes and sizes. But for Martin, his challenge is shaped literally like 151 acres of dirt with a house on it. Sometimes it's shaped like leaving on a mission or learning a language or sending a child on a mission or receiving a call, going to college. The list is endless or losing a job. But Martin's is the idea of losing his farm. And then in addition, Lucy has become angry because Joseph wouldn't let her see the actual plates. And because of the risk of the farm, Lucy had told Martin he was forbidden from paying for any of the costs associated with the translation. In fact, as a side note, I found that Martin actually deeded some 80 acres of his farm to Lucy to make her feel a little better by way of her brother, which he couldn't sell. Martin couldn't sell it without her permission. I think that was to give her a little peace of mind. Every printer he approached, which was four in total. Every single printer, told him this was going to be a colossal financial failure. Martin knew that this would require him risking more than half of his assets.

against Joseph. She was determined to prove, and I quote that

Hank Smith: 00:30:02 The experts are saying, this is not going to work.

Andy Horton: 00:30:05 And then to make it worse, Lucy had reportedly gathered witnesses to testify. So she's forming a court case to testify

Joseph had knowingly committed fraud by claiming the gold plates existed. Each was willing to testify. Every witness she found was willing to testify that Joseph had admitted to them that the gold plates did not exist. Of course, none of this is real. And he had concocted the whole story to fraudulently rob Martin of his money. It's right here where this dark cloud is breathing it in, and it is just about more than he can handle. And so I think this is probably about the time that Martin falls back on that covenant he made. And that is where we receive the section 19. It didn't come immediately, but it came later in the day. And I have to pause here. I don't know. Imagine if one of your children came to you because Martin's kind of stomping his feet here. You say, look, I don't know if I can go through with this unless this happens and this happens. I need some reassurance that my faith is going to pay off here. Demands from a toddler are one thing, but he's a grown man and it seems like he's kind of demanding from God a guarantee that things will work out. And I think that would sure be nice wouldn't it?

Hank Smith: 00:31:32

Yeah, I'm sure there's listeners out there who are feeling some sort of worldly pressure to not keep their covenants. This isn't small, this isn't something that you just go, huh, no big deal. And then we have youth I'm sure out there, a lot of pressure to fit in from friends saying, Hey, look. I remember as a seminary teacher, students would say that they're under a lot of pressure to cheat. Not the pressure to get answers from people, but the pressure to give answers to people who are their friends. And they're saying, Hey, come on, come through for me here. It's not really cheating. So can either of you think of situations today that might look similar? Maybe not to serve a mission? Don't go. Don't go. It's not going to work. Two years, 18 months. That's a long time.

Andy Horton: 00:32:23

I was thinking back to an experience I had where, this is very simple, but my wife and I, when our kids were very young, we saw off to the side of the road in Provo, we saw four young men who had their fists up. They were just about ready to lean into each other and start throwing fists. And I didn't know any of them, but I had this prompting to pull over and see if I can help. And come to find out that the two older ones had pushed the two younger ones off the road into the gravel that --the younger ones were on skateboards--and the other two were in a car, had forced 'em off. They're about to start throwing fists. And that's when I walked up in my cape, I guess. You kind of say in those moments when it's tense, the Holy Ghost seems to be right at the level in those moments you feel promptings a little more quickly at times.

00:33:13

Well, I felt prompted to say of all things, you can probably only get away with this in Provo, Utah, but I said, Hey, are you guys members of the church? And anywhere else they would say, what church are you talking about? But I said, members of the church, meaning the LDS church, and this one tall kid kind of looked at me and he kind of grunted a yes. He raised his hand up and he looked at the dirt and he said yes. He was about to go down a path that was so much something he would not normally do, knocking other kids' lights out. I remember getting another prompting that said, well, are you, I said it to him, are you a priesthood holder? And the strangest thing happened. A shroud of humility came over this kid and he raised his hand a little bit and he said, I am.

00:34:03

And I am so sorry. In other words, he's saying, man, this is not me. I don't know what just happened. And he turned and he went over and he got in his car. His buddy went with him and they drove off. And now I'm standing here next to these two skateboarders and thinking what just happened? But I saw a kid that was going down this path, but as soon as he was reminded of who he was, he got back on the right path. Like when your mom said, when you were leaving, when you were younger, hey, you remember who you are. And I always wondered, what does she mean? Does she know who I am? Is that my mom? And he remembered I saw it right there in front of me, got back on the right path simply because he had forgotten. He was back on track now.

John Bytheway: 00:34:49

I was thinking of something that Dr. Michael Wilcox said when he was with us, Hank, that Jesus tends to ask you to follow him when the nets are full. Remember him saying that? So Peter has the most amazing catch ever, and that's when it's like, leave all that and follow me. And he gave examples of you just got a scholarship to play sports for your favorite university. And the Lord says, go on a mission. You just got the best farm in Palmyra. And the Lord says, finance the printing of this bookthat not everybody, including your wife is supporting right now. That's tough.

Hank Smith: 00:35:27

I have a friend, some friends Jason and Amber Kilgore, who are you know, just, you get those kids raised up, they're adults, they're just brand new married, and you're going to hit this new phase of grandkids. You both are in that phase. I've heard it's pretty good. And here comes a call from the church to go down to Chile and be mission president and your friends look at you like you're crazy. You, you've just hit the time of your life.

John Bytheway: 00:35:55 The nets are full.

Hank Smith: 00:35:57 Yeah, why would you walk away from this? Or anyone who

chooses to go on a senior mission, right? The couple that says here, you're finally at a spot in life where you probably have some bills paid and some time to maybe travel and go do some things. And yet there's some pressure of why would you do

this? Why would you give all this up?

Andy Horton: 00:36:20 Pretty impressive when they do. We see it all the time. And I

don't know if you've seen a pattern in the scriptures. It seems like there is a pattern where the Lord really liked to see how we respond when it's the most difficult. He did invite Peter to come follow me, but he did wait until the nets were full. He could

have invited him before that, but he didn't. He waited.

Hank Smith: 00:36:42 And Peter's like, well, I got nothing else to do, so I might as well

go.

John Bytheway: 00:36:45 I'm going to wait until you have a tough choice to make.

Andy Horton: 00:36:49 Yeah, I think about Gideon in judges when the Lord makes him.

Well, it'd be too easy to win the war right now. Let's reduce your military down to 300 people. That'd be way too easy the other way. Let's make it so it's obvious you couldn't have done it without my help or let's make it. So Goliath is nine and a half feet tall and David is three foot nothing without armor, without

anything. So, so many examples out there.

Hank Smith: 00:37:17 I was going to throw in Shadrach, Meshac, Abed-nego. You're

going to worship this statue or we're going to put you in that furnace. And how easy would it be just to kneel down and

worship the statue? Just do it. Let it pass.

Andy Horton: 00:37:32 Yep. Pretty crazy. So that's where Martin is. He is in this

moment where it really could not be harder. What will he do? Well, he received section 19 and the way I pictured section 19 when I was about 15, 14, maybe my dad one morning pulled me aside and he said, Hey, can I talk to you for a minute? He took me across the street. We had a big park across the street. We went for a walk and he proceeded to tell me something that was really hard to hear. I had a cousin that had taken his life, but my dad took me over there. He put his arm around me and he said, look, this is tough. You're in a tough moment. And that's what I feel like the Savior is doing with Section 19 with Martin. He says, I know you're in a tough situation, but let me

introduce myself to you.

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I am Alpha and Omega. It starts out right with the Savior telling him, reminding them, look, this is who I am. And of course, alpha and Omega beginning and end, I will be with you from the beginning of this project to the end of this project. There's no reason for you to be afraid. I've got you. I've got your back. If you'll put some confidence in me. Do you remember when Elder Holland, this was a conference a few years ago when he was in a priesthood meeting. He says, this is a life and death contest we are in. Do you remember this moment in conference? And he says, I'm going to get in your face a little nose to nose with just enough fire in my voice to singe your eyebrows a little. The way coaches do when the game is close and victory means everything. And in this moment with Martin, the game is close. Victory is everything. I love how the section starts. I am Alpha and Omega, Christ the Lord. Yay. Even I am He, the beginning and the end, the Redeemer of the world. And it starts from there, one verse after another in power. So beautiful.

Hank Smith: 00:39:27 And verse one maybe is let me give you some perspective. I know what the booksellers are saying. I know what the publishers are saying. I know what your wife is saying. I know what the lawyers are saying, but I'm a little bit bigger than that.

Andy Horton: 00:39:45 Yeah, I've often wondered, I wondered if Martin really understands what is at stake. I doubt it. I doubt he has a full understanding of what big of a deal this is for him to follow through. He's got this farm. I wonder why he has this farm. I wonder why the Lord has helped him develop this farm over the years.

Hank Smith: 00:40:06 Now I wonder if the Lord says, now, look, it weren't for me you

wouldn't even have this farm to give up.

Andy Horton: 00:40:12 Yeah, it's beautiful. As I look at these first couple of verses, I do want to clarify-my situation of being called as stake president was very different from Martins. I didn't have to give up my farm. I didn't have a farm at the time. We had a pet rabbit.

Actually, we did have a pet rabbit, but...

Hank Smith: 00:40:27 You had to give him up.

Andy Horton: 00:40:30

I would've gladly given up the pet rabbit. But I did have a problem and I was afraid. And I think that's where Martin is. I believe what brought peace to me and peace to Martin is the same thing. It is that knowledge that the savior is right there behind you. And sometimes we really just have to turn around and look. I remember one quote that helped me with <u>President</u> Monson. This is April, 2005, when he said, remember that this

work is not yours and mine alone. It is the Lord's work. And when we are on the Lord's errand, we are entitled to the Lord's help. Remember that the Lord will shape the back to bear the burden placed upon it. Whether he heard that quote or not, the truth I think is what he felt that the Lord would be with him. And Martin did the very thing he covenanted to do and he mortgaged his farm. So pause for a minute. Picture your house, picture your bedroom. Picture your living room where scriptures sit. I have in my office, at the institute, I have on one shelf, I have four or five different versions of the Book of Mormons sitting there. I have those because of Martin Harris. We can't ever forget who he is and what he did for us.

Hank Smith: 00:41:43

The year we had last year studying the book of Mormon was magnificent to me. The things that I found, the things that I saw, the things I was taught, and Martin does have something to do with that.

Andy Horton: 00:41:55

Powerful. The Savior kind of points it out in verse, well, verses one and two are so powerful. Verse two, it reminds Martin, look, I faced something very difficult too. I wouldn't dare compare the two, what the Savior went through compared to what Martin went through, but it's the savior that makes the comparison throughout this whole section. But he says, I having accomplished and finished the will of him whose I am, even the Father concerning me having done this, that I might subdue all things unto myself. That word finished is critical because Martin, you've started this project and I need you to follow my example and be a finisher. You need to follow through. That's got to be reassuring to him. And I think we'll start to see some things about Martin and about the Savior here that are very helpful as we go through our lives and face difficult challenges. Subdue all things...

00:42:51

So that word subdue in verse two is something I looked up. The definition it means to put down or defeat. It can also be defined as to overcome, take control or bring under control. An interesting question to consider here is what is it that Martin is trying to gain control over? And I think simply put, it would just be fear and despair and doubt. And he's afraid of his wife. He's afraid of consequences of the book not selling and the list goes on. One of the classes I teach at the Institute is the Divine Gift of Forgiveness based on Elder Andersen's book. And there is a quote in there. He says that repentance is turning away from our sins and from thinking of the world and turning toward the Savior, that is what he's missing right now. He just needs to turn towards the Savior and recognize that he's there with him.

00:43:44

It means as <u>President Nelson</u> would say, you might recall when he introduced the word metanoia to us and he said that it means conversion or to completely turn around, but to turn around with the Savior. It's not on your own. The Savior is there the whole time. And so I'm excited to see what the Savior's going to subdue, what he's going to bring under control as Martin turns to him. He's going to put down or defeat these fears. He's going to help Martin overcome those fears as Martin puts faith in the savior. Powerful stuff.

Hank Smith: 00:44:23 Wow.

John Bytheway: 00:44:23

Yeah. Thank you for bringing up that word. You brought up subdue, but also the word finished. Verse two: I having accomplished and finished the will of Him, and then again in verse 19: Nevertheless, glory be to the Father and I partook and finished. We all remember some of Jesus's last words on the cross. It is finished. I used to think that he meant my suffering is finished, but the JST adds, it is finished. Thy will is done. Even then he wasn't even thinking about himself. He was thinking about, I'm going to do the Father's will and being a finisher. I think that's a greatest example, is Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

Andy Horton: 00:45:07

Powerful. Let's look at verse three. The Savior says, retaining all power even to the destroying of Satan and his works at the end of the world. I just finished teaching the book of Revelation in institute and boy, I got to witness the end of Revelation when the Savior literally destroy Satan. Casts him out. And then it goes on. It says at that last great day of judgment, which I shall pass upon the inhabitants thereof, judging every man according to his works and deeds, which he has done. And then we get to verse four, this is a beautiful verse. The Savior simplifies the concept of repentance here, at least for me, and surely every man must repent or suffer for I God am endless. I'm guessing, well, probably all three of us have something to say about this verse, but I believe this is a hinge point in our story that the Savior knows Martin is suffering. So he gives him, he makes it very clear you can continue to suffer like you are because at this point he hasn't mortgaged his farm yet. He's saying you can continue to suffer and carry this burden, this dark cloud of not sure what to do and fear or you can repent and he simplifies it. It's beautiful.

John Bytheway: 00:46:24 Have you guys ever had an experience where you had an insight that came to you in such a way that you remember where you were sitting or what you were doing? I was sitting in the Marriott Center and Elder Henry B. Eyring gave a talk there and I

bet I could take you to the chair where I was sitting because it had that kind of an impact on me. And he talked about Elder A. Theodore Tuttle reading this section of the Doctrine and Covenants in some meeting that he was in. Talking about that verse, and surely every man must repent or suffer. And then this is what today President Eyring said, and this is what stopped me in my tracks. It won't stop everybody, but for me it did. He said, somehow I had gotten the idea that the choice was between repenting or not, and what the verse says is repent or suffer.

00:47:17

That was an impactful thing. The choice isn't should I repent or not. It was repent or suffer. And then he talked about even whatever pain repentance might bring in this life, it was no more than the pain I would face if I did not repent. And yet that later pain could not lift me home. I don't remember the rest of the talk because I was stuck on that idea. When did I think the choice was should I repent or not? It's not, it's repent or suffer and I don't know about you guys, but for me, I guess I needed that day.

Andy Horton: 00:47:50 That was in his book

John Bytheway: 00:47:51 To Draw Closer to God.

Andy Horton: 00:47:53 Yeah, great story. Fantastic. This is such a clear teaching, repent

or suffer. One of the questions I ask my repentance classes, my forgiveness class is true or false: We have to suffer to repent. I think there's some misunderstandings about that concept. I do believe we sometimes feel and maybe even unfortunately teach in the church that there's a level of suffering that we have to experience in order to be redeemed. As if our suffering accomplishes something. I don't think that is true. Elder Christofferson actually said that suffering for sin does not by itself change anything for the better. Now, sin does cause suffering. But in his words, it's only repentance that leads to a better life, but it's not the repentance that causes the suffering. It's the sin that causes the suffering. Elder Andersen shares the example of if someone has to go in for a cancer surgery, although the surgery may be uncomfortable for a bit, the surgery isn't the villain, the cancer is the villain. Just like repentance is the solution. Somehow, I don't know how he's done it, but Satan has managed to make us think that repentance is something to run away from when it's actually one of the greatest sources of joy that we have access to.

Hank Smith: 00:49:19 John, I don't remember who it was long time ago on our show, said, if you look at the first four principles and ordinances of the

gospel, we celebrate three out of four. We love faith, have faith. We gather the family for baptism, we get everybody around and confirm someone, a member of the church and give 'em the gift of the Holy Ghost and we have food afterwards. And then when it comes to repent, we all back away. Right? We all, what did you do wrong?

John Bytheway: 00:49:51

And <u>Elder Jeffrey R. Holland</u>, remember this famous statement that repentance is perhaps the most hopeful and encouraging word in the Christian vocabulary. And then in the Bible dictionary it has a wonderful definition, a fresh view about God, about oneself and about the world. Who wouldn't want that? Right?

Andy Horton:

00:50:11

A new perspective.

John Bytheway:

00:50:12

I need to look at everything differently. What an opportunity.

That's part of it.

Andy Horton: 00:50:17

Yeah, brand new perspective. So he makes the options very simple here for Martin. Look, either repent, let me help you in

this or continue suffer.

Hank Smith:

00:50:27

00:50:29

Let me help you. I like that.

Andy Horton:

Yeah. That's verse four. We start to see some words like endless and eternal, and they show up eight or nine times in these verses from eight down through 12. Well, let's read it. Pay close attention to some of the feeling that comes from some of these words. It's easy to misinterpret, I think, what the Lord's teaching us here. He really starts in verse four when he says, I am endless. That is critical to see those three words right there. I, that is the Lord Jesus Christ, I God am endless. He just gave himself a name. In fact, I'm surprised the E isn't capitalized in my scriptures right here. Wherefore, I revoke not the judgments which I shall pass, but woes shall go forth weeping, wailing, gnashing of teeth, yay to those who are found on my left hand. Nevertheless, it is not written that there shall be no end to this torment, but it is written endless torment. I chuckle there because clearly that doesn't mean there's no end, it just means endless.

Hank Smith:

00:51:34

Yeah, looked it up. I'm pretty sure endless means.

Andy Horton:

Hank Smith:

00:51:38

00:51:39

Yeah. Missing an end less.

Yeah,

Andy Horton: 00:51:41

Yeah, he keeps going. He says, again, it is written. We'll come back to that again. It is written in eternal damnation. Therefore, it is more expressed than other scriptures that it might work upon the hearts of the children of men. I think we can get a glimpse of what's happening here. I think the Savior is talking to Martin, very descriptive, and sometimes he talks to us like this to be very motivating, to help us repent, to see what the option is. The alternative from repentance, and he says, I will explain unto you this mystery. Well, what is the mystery? Well, the mystery is what is endless torment? What is eternal damnation. In fact, verse six is a mystery to say it. Not that it won't end, but it is endless, so that's a mystery, if you don't understand. For it is meet unto you to know this, even as mine apostles. I speak unto you that are chosen in this thing, even as one, that you may enter into my rest. For, behold, the mystery of godliness, how great, is it! For, behold, I am endless. There it is again, and the punishment for which is given from my hand is endless punishment, for Endless is my name. Three times there, he's given himself that title. Wherefore- Eternal punishment is God's punishment. Endless punishment is God's punishment. Now, it's real easy to assume what in these verses that it means punishment that never ends sounds horrible.

Hank Smith: 00:53:09

And Andy, when he says, I leave it that way, it is more expressed than other scriptures that it might work upon the hearts of the children of men, meaning when you read it that first way, it actually is pretty good for you to think that for a little while, maybe some timing.

Andy Horton: 00:53:25

And I believe there's some of us who are very fragile and talking like this is too much for us. We don't need this kind of talk. All you have to say is you should probably change your ways and that will take that individual into the next steps of repentance. There's others, who probably me sometimes, needs to have it said bluntly that look, if you don't repent, you're going to suffer forever. Even though it's not forever. But he's telling Martin, look, if you don't change your ways, then I'm going to call you to repentance here in a way that's going to shake you down to your boots. And I hope it's a motivator for you that you'll change your ways that you'll see I am with you, I've got your back. But let's talk about what this endless torment means. It helps me to say effective torment instead of endless torment. Endless torment is not one of duration. It's not torment having no end. It's a different kind of torment. It's like I said, qualitative suffering, not quantitative. One of his names is Endless.

Hank Smith: 00:54:31 Andy, could you say almost like purposeful?

Andy Horton:

00:54:34

Yeah, meaningful. If we talk about an infinite atonement, we have to talk about the event and we have to talk about the effects of the atonement. The event has ended and there's no sin I can commit. That's going to add to the suffering that the Savior experienced already. Sometimes I hear that get taught -- don't add to his suffering. His suffering is done. It was eternal to cover every sin any of us did or will or could commit. But the event is done, but the effects are eternal. The effects we will always be grateful for. We will always be grateful. We will always appreciate them. There's a favorite verse. This is such a cool verse to me. It probably doesn't get seen very often, but in Revelation 4, this is where we're being shown God's throne room and for us, God's throne room is the celestial room.

00:55:34

It's the Holy of Holies, which anciently was the second room in the tabernacle. Nowadays, the Holy of Holies would be the celestial room, although some temples have a little room called the Holy of Holies, but for us, for our use today, the Holy of Holies is the Celestial room. That's God's throne room. That's where we strive to end up when we go to the temple. In Revelation 4, verse 10, it's describing this throne room and there's 24 high priests in this room. God, the father is in the middle of the room. He's got these four beasts around him that all represent different things. But these 24 high priests it says in verse 10, the 4 and 20 elders, they fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth forever and ever and cast their crowns before the throne saying, thou art worth oh Lord, to receive glory and honor and power.

00:56:28

These high priests are dressed in white and they have crown. Which tells me that they have been crowned with eternal life and exaltation. Yet they still take the time to remove that crown in honor and in humility--in honor of the Lord who is sitting there, the Father and the Son who is also present and express their gratitude. That's because there will never be a time when we stop being grateful for the effects of the atonement, because we will always be living in gratitude for what He did. We'll be resurrected and receive some sort of eternal glory. But I love the evidence that even though they're exalted, they never forget that God the Father is their God. Well, this suffering, the Lord's talking about it's endless, not in the sense that it will never end, but it's endless in the type of suffering. In degree, it will be hard to forget, if you will, fostering eternal and endless thoughts of gratitude and offer him that we don't have to experience it. I love in verse seven where it says that it might work upon the hearts of the children of men altogether for my name's glory. He's saying this in a certain way to motivate so we don't have to experience this type of suffering. Just ask yourself, what did the Savior choose? Repent or suffer. Jesus chose suffer so that we could choose repent. That's beautiful to me. I don't remember who I heard say that, but I love that visual.

John Bytheway:

00:58:03

I believe I was 16 years old and I read this for seminary. For me it was just dynamite because I could not conceive of a God who would have people burning to death forever. That just didn't seem just to me. I can't think of a worse way to die than burning to death. That didn't sound right. And I remember reading that and I didn't say the punishment would have no end. I said it was endless because Endless is my name. It's one of the reasons. This is one of my favorite sections. And in Book of Mormon class, I like to mention that Alma, the younger, suffered eternal torment for three days. Okay, how's that possible? How can you have eternal torment for three days?

00:58:51

The Book of Mormon is hinting at this very thing. It's because eternal is his name. That's like Alma 36:12 if you want that. And also we speak of Moses 1:39. This is my work, my glory to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man. And I asked my students, what's the difference? I thought immortality means live forever and so does eternal life live forever. No, eternal life is a quality, not just a duration of life. An eternal is one of his names. So it's the kind of life that God lives. So that's the flip side of it. Verse 11, eternal punishment is God's punishment, but eternal life is the kind of life that he lived. It's forever, but it's also a quality of life. I get that right, guys?

Andy Horton:

00:59:32

I think so.

John Bytheway:

00:59:33

So, for me, this is theological dynamite that no, I didn't say that it would have no end. I said it was endless because the endless is my name. I just think that's the most amazing. Aren't we pretty unique in this brethren? President Oaks in a couple of recent talks spoke about section 76 and he said that everybody with very few exceptions will inherit a kingdom of glory. It's very different view of what God is like. The first vision says God is real and then the rest of the Doctrine and Covenants, and this is what God is like and this section for me tells us something wonderful about what he's like.

Hank Smith: 01:00:12

Yeah, this is one of the reasons we love the prophet Joseph Smith because the church is born into Protestant America and Protestant America is the vast majority of people are going to suffer in hell for eternity. And what does that tell you God is like? God is a cruel being and you can see why he said all those creeds are an abomination in my sight. Or in other words, that's not me. They're saying things about me that aren't true. They're

saying that I would make someone suffer for eternity. That's not me. I'm not going to do that. And here comes section 76 that says, actually the vast majority of people are going to heaven. But Andy, I think you're right. I think we've then, maybe as Latter Day Saints we're a little uncomfortable with that. So we reversed it back and we said, oh no, only the highest degree of the celestial, that's heaven. Everyone else is going to suffer because they're not there. We just put it back to where it was before.

Andy Horton: 01:01:15

Yeah, I think you're right. I think it's easy to get stuck on taking that literally. I found, this is a quote by Steven Harper. He said, it's not written that their torment never ends. Scriptures that speak of endless damnation are not well understood. His punishment is endless in the sense that it comes from Him. The eternal Christ gives eternal punishment, not necessarily punishment that lasts forever, but the purposes, effects, and outcomes of his punishment last forever. Though the punishment itself may not,. We would learn lessons we would never forget from that suffering, but again, the Savior chose suffer so we don't have to. He's saying, please repent. I don't want you to experience this. Here he's talking very frankly. In other situations, he doesn't need to talk that frankly. Our good friend, Jared Halverson, compares it to bumper bowling. He says sometimes the Savior has to talk on a very justice focused level to get us to wake up.

01:02:21

And when we lean too far towards justice, we feel like there's no hope and we've gone too far to repent. If we lean too far towards mercy, then we think we don't need to repent. And so I think the Savior talks within that entire span of truth. He bumps us back and forth to the middle, because when we discover the Savior and we repent on a daily basis, then we use both justice and mercy on healthy levels. It's balanced and we stay in the middle of the straight and narrow even though we sin, but we use scriptures like this as a reminder that he suffered for us so we don't need to suffer at that level. But don't for a minute ever think that I don't need to suffer. I'll get a few stripes in heaven. It'll all be good. No, there is a suffering and God defines it very clearly here. It's beautiful.

Hank Smith: 01:03:15 And effective.

Andy Horton: 01:03:17 Effective suffering. Yeah.

Hank Smith: 01:03:18 John, do you have anything else before we move on? I really like this topic I can think of. Let's speak to those who think I've done

too much. I've gone too far.

Andy Horton:

01:03:28

We might want to talk about the term he brings eternal damnation because there's a couple different forms of the word being damned. Or he says in verse seven, it's written eternal damnation. This phrase is found elsewhere in scripture only in Mark 3:29 and Doctrine and Covenants 29 where it's used concerning those who sin against the Holy Ghost will not repent either in this life or the next. But interestingly dammed, D-A-M-M-E-D and damned D-A-M-N-E-D, they don't mean the same thing. They're not two forms of the same word. Dammed D-A-M-M-E-D comes from old and middle German. It means to hinder, it comes from a root word, damjan means to hinder like when you build a dam. Okay, you hinder the water. Whereas damned D-A-M-N-E-D comes from the Latin damnnare, which means to inflict injury or loss. Damnare is spelled D-A-M-N-A-R-E, and it means to inflict injury or loss. Hank might say when he is woodworking, I damnare cut my finger off. So dammed and damned, they sound the same. But eternal damnation means you've had injury inflicted on you that you will remember forever. What you felt in that suffering. You'll remember, whereas dammed D-A-M-M-E-D is, you've been stopped. You've been hindered. So interesting, very different. They don't mean the same thing.

Hank Smith:

01:05:16

Andy, when you brought up the book of Revelation, you reminded me of a verse in chapter 18 and it seems to fit really well here. This is the Lord speaking, I believe, and he's looking at what you and I would call the great and spacious building. It's going to come down. He knows it's going to come down. This is what it says. I heard another voice from heaven saying, come out of her, my people, lest you share of her sins and receive of her plagues. Doesn't that sound a little bit like section 19? Please repent because the building's coming down, I don't want you to be in there. So when he says repent or suffer, he's not saying repent or I'm going to cause you to suffer. It's please come out of that sin because that sin is going to destroy you.

Andy Horton: 01:06:02

Yeah, wow. What a great verse. That goes really well with this. In fact, the next verse: For her sins have reached unto heaven and God has remembered how much I care about Martin. It says, I remembered her iniquities, but I remember I love Martin. I got to go down and talk to this guy. He is forgotten. Could we talk about in verse 15, there's this word anger all through 13 and 15, you see the word repent three different times in there, maybe more. I command you to repent, keep the commandments that you've received by the hand of my servant Joseph Smith, and he's also received a commandment from the Lord when he covenanted long ago in his bedroom, Martin did. It is by my almighty power that you have received them. Well.

Then he says, I command you to repent. Repent lest I smite you by the rod of my mouth, and by my wrath, and by my anger and your sufferings be sore--

01:07:01

How sore you know not, how exquisite you know not, yea, how hard to bear you know not. I was reminded of a quote by Elder Maxwell when he's talking about this anger and it's easy to think well in that setting, clearly God is going to be angry with me. I've always been uncomfortable with that. I have never, ever in my life felt that God was angry with me. That doesn't sound like him. And Elder Maxwell said, God's anger is actually kindled, not because we have harmed Him, but because we have harmed ourselves. That is a defensive mechanism there that he's feeling because we are doing things. This is a loving father trying to prevent us from hurting ourselves. Isn't that beautiful? When you look at it with prophetic insight there. Story of a loving father trying to prevent further harm.

Hank Smith: 01:07:58

I imagine Andy as stake president, you got to work with those who in membership councils and maybe you shared that with them. Look, this isn't about God being angry with you. This is God not wanting you to suffer. What did you say there? Anger at you hurting you.

Andy Horton: 01:08:18

Yeah. Not because God's not mad at you. He's mad because you're hurting yourself and he doesn't want to see that. He's trying to prevent further suffering. You remind me, Hank bringing that up. I had a lady come into my office. She had committed a pretty serious sin months ago, and as I share this, I want to throw in a little caveat that says, the spirit directs you to handle situations differently with every individual. This outcome may be different with someone else, but she came in, she was so terrified. For some reason she had skipped over her bishop and had come to confess to me, and she was so terrified of the event of confession that she brought her home teacher with her, which is a compliment to that home teacher that she trusted him that much. But the two of them are sitting in my office and she goes on to confess pretty serious sin that she had committed.

O1:09:13 She was under the impression that as soon as she confessed this sin that she would lose her membership in the church. Right there in my office, that I would pronounce, your membership's gone. Hand me your recommend. That's it. You're done. We beat ourselves up. Well, I was prompted to go a completely different direction, which also surprised me, but the prompting told me how much the Savior loves her. I felt prompted to say,

you haven't been to church yet today. Right? This was in the

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morning on a Sunday, and she says, no, and she's just weeping, just broken. And I felt prompted to say, look, when you go to church today, I want you to take the sacrament. Which sometimes is the opposite of what you think you might hear, but I felt like she had beat herself up. She had caused herself to suffer so much in the past six or eight months that it was time for that to end, and she needed to feel the love of the Savior.

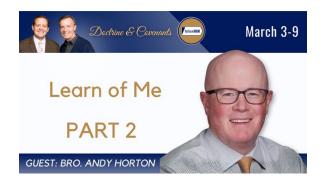
01:10:10

I said, I want you to go to church. How long has it been since you took the sacrament? She says, oh, probably 10 months, which she had prescribed herself. I said, I want you to take the sacrament, which she did. But when I said that, she continued to weep, but the weeping shifted a little as she started to feel that there was hope for her. There was mercy and she could repent and be forgiven, and that was step one. She needed to take the sacrament. So the Lord really does talks a talk here that makes him sound mean and angry and tough, but I don't think that's the Lord He wants to be seen as. I think this is a motivating scripture. It is saying, Martin, look, you either need to repent or this type of suffering is what you're going to experience, but I don't want you to experience that. It angers me to think that you would do that to yourself. Please repent. Please, let's mortgage your farm. Let's get the Book of Mormon printed. It's a beautiful portrayal of loving Father, and then we get into these verses that are not found anywhere else. This is the only place, as I understand that in scripture, where we get a firsthand account of Jesus Christ describing what he went through in the atonement where he suffered for us.

Hank Smith: 01:11:32 Coming up in part two of this episode:

Andy Horton: 01:11:33 I called the missionary department. The missionary department

is very good at trusting keys. I said, I know this goes against the Council of the professional, which it's always good to follow the council of professionals. They know what they're talking about, but this came from the Lord and I had to put my trust in Him.



John Bytheway: 00:00:00 Keep listening for part two with Andy Horton. Doctrine and

Covenants Section 19.

Hank Smith: 00:00:07 It's not very long, Andy. He seems to say, look, we give you a

tiny little description. And then he moves on in verse 19.

Nevertheless...

Andy Horton: 00:00:16 We have to read it. Let's start in 16. Read for a minute. He says:

For behold, I, God have suffered these things. In other words, Martin, I've already felt what I'm trying to encourage you to avoid feeling. You're gonna feel it in a little degree. I felt it to an extreme infinite degree. I have suffered these things for all that they might not suffer. You might not suffer if you would repent. I don't know if there's any of our listeners out there that are right on the edge of, should I go see my bishop? It sounds terrifying. My bishop is scary. I just don't know if I can do this. I would say, wow. Go experience the love of your Heavenly Father and his Son. Go find out what happens when you trust God. For if they would not repent, they must suffer even as I, which suffering caused myself, even God, the greatest of all to tremble because of pain and to bleed at every pore and to

suffer both body and spirit.

00:01:20 And would that I might not drink the bitter cup and shrink. Love

this verse. I think there's only three places in scripture which talks about, uh, bleeding from every pore. Some might think it's metaphorical. I know it's mentioned in Luke 22, Mosiah 3:7, and then right here in Doctrine and Covenants. Now I wanna look specifically at the one in Luke. Joseph makes a change here. That changes something for me. This says in verse 44, this is Luke 22:44: Being in agony, he prayed more earnestly and his sweat was, as it were, great drops of blood falling down to the ground. In the Joseph Smith translation, down in the footnotes, you find out that Joseph changes the word sweat from a noun to a verb. In the original, it says His sweat was, as it were, that's a noun. He changes it to a verb. So now it would read and he sweat as it were, great drops of blood. Why would it be

significant that we change that from a noun to a verb? That changes things drastically for me because it turns it into an action. It turns it into work. He's sweating blood because he's doing the work of salvation, work for the dead, work for the living, work for all the souls of mankind. It becomes eternal work. Which completely changes Moses:1 39. For me, behold, this is my work and my, that is work and glory to bring, to pass mortality and eternal life of men. Do either of you know David Durphy? Do you know that name? Do you remember Brother Durphy?

Hank Smith: 00:03:08 Yeah. Institute director.

Andy Horton: 00:03:10

Yeah. Fantastic individual. I miss him. He's retired, taught me a lot. In fact, he helped <u>Elder Anderson</u> write this book, Divine Gift of Forgiveness, had some input on that. He shared an experience a few years ago with our faculty. He used to live out in Minnesota where he taught. One summer he got thinking about Luke 22:44, and he wondered, I wonder what other churches believe about this. Do they believe this is literal? Imagine a summer where we have a little more time in the summer as seminary and institute teachers to study and to sharpen our axes, if you will. Don't take that wrong. We don't chop our students, but sharpen our skills and become better teachers. Well, he's pondering the atonement one day of Jesus Christ, and he decides to call 34 different Christian churches in the area and to ask them, how do you teach this?

00:04:00

How do you understand what is happening in Luke 22:44? Didn't really give a lot of background on what he was doing, but he asked them. Of those 34 churches, 32 believed that he was perspiring and sweating and thinking about the great drops of blood he would shed on the cross. And so he's thinking about it. Two. So that's 32. There's only two left. 32 other churches said there might have been a little blood in his sweat. And that's it. What do we teach? I don't know how you have taught this. I've always believed it was literal. We have three prophetic sources here that teach it. I do know there's a condition, I think it's pronounced hematohidrosis. I have a zoology degree, I should know how to pronounce that word. But I know that under extreme pressure, capillaries burst, that blood from those capillaries mixes with the sweat, and it comes outta the pores.

00:05:03 And I think that's called hematohidrosis. That would make, if you follow the schedule that night when he is arrested. He has come from Gethsemane where he literally bled from every pore

that would cause bruising all throughout his body. Then he is arrested. His body would be sore enough that I imagine even a

kiss of betrayal would be painful. At least. At the very least, the flogging he received 39 times carrying, having the cross placed on his back, I think would cause a sensation, unforgettable of pain. We've all come from working out a couple days later where our muscles are sore and or, or I think of a sunburn where, please don't touch me--painful. And where his body was literally pressed like olives are pressed enough to cause that bleeding. That was work. He worked for my salvation. He worked for yours. That changes me to read that verse, to know that I can receive forgiveness because he worked very hard to make it possible. It's a beautiful scripture

John Bytheway: 00:06:27

I've always loved. Verse 16: For behold, I God have suffered these things for all, comma -and then this phrase -that they might not suffer. What was the motivation behind all of this? Was it, well, I said I would do this? This is what I was called to do. No, it was, I would prefer to suffer myself than to see you suffer. That's got love written all over it. I have suffered these things for all that they might not suffer if they would repent. And what an invitation there that's so loving. In fact, it reminds me, remember Elder Maxwell used to read this verse a lot in general conference first, Nephi 19:9: And the world because of their iniquity shall judge him to be a thing of naught; wherefore, they scourge him and he suffereth it; and they smite him, and he suffereth it. Yea, they spit upon him, and he suffereth it, because--just what we said, his duty, his no,--because of his loving kindness and his long-suffering towards the children of men. I see there love and patience. I see there in section 19, verse 16, I would prefer to suffer than to see you suffer. So I've suffered these things for all that they might not suffer if they would repent.

Hank Smith: 00:07:50

I thought I might share a story here just that I've been thinking of. Years and years ago, I was a young seminary teacher. I had a young man stay after class and he was frustrated. He kept looking down and he'd want to start to tell me something and he'd look away and I, I said, what's going on? Name's Trevor. And he said, I'm struggling with a pornography problem and I just don't know what to do. And I, you know, I said, well, you know your bishop, your parents, and--It was interesting. He said, he said, oh, I, I think I could tell my, my bishop, is he gonna make me tell my parents? And I said, that's interesting. Usually it's maybe reversed. I could talk to my parents, but am I gonna have to talk to the bishop? It was backwards for him. And I said, your parents they're gonna be okay?

00:08:37 And he said, no, no, you don't understand. My father has a really high expectations. I am the oldest child. We don't make

mistakes in our family. He was really struggling with this idea. And you know, I hope I was being led by the Holy Ghost. Uh, I had an idea. Uh, I think we had talked one or two times and I said, do something for me. When you get home from school, I want you to go find your dad and say, dad, do you wanna go get a milkshake and you buy? He said, me, I have to buy. And I was like, yeah, you're, you're gonna buy the milkshake and when you're there with your milkshake, just you and your dad, ask him if he's ever had to see the bishop.

00:09:20

And then just let the conversation go from there. Like, I think that was like a Thursday. He came back on the Monday and he just looks like he had a weight off his shoulders. I said, what happened? It was pretty funny. He said, uh, he said, I got home and my dad was in the garage and I didn't know really what to say. He said, dad, you want to go get a milkshake right? Really fast. And his dad turned and said, what? And he said, do you wanna go get a milkshake? And his dad said, right now? He said, yes. Why? And he's like, dad! Do you want to go get a milkshake? And he said his dad kinda looked at him and said, what? I guess. Sure. He said, my dad poked his head inside the house for the garage. And he said, honey, Trevor's being weird.

00:10:13

We're gonna go get a milkshake, right? He said, so we went to this little fast food place and we sat down with our milkshake and he said, I'm just staring straight down at my milkshake, right? Just eating my milkshake. And he said, my dad's just staring at me across the table. He hasn't touched his milkshake. What is going on? And then he said, it was just so sweet, this young man, he's probably, I think he was a junior in high school. He just started to cry over this milkshake, right? I'm sure his dad is going, ah, this kid.

Andy Horton:

00:10:49

Bad milkshake.

Hank Smith:

00:10:49

Yeah, he, he wants his milkshake. He said, dad, have you, have you ever, have you ever had to go talk to the bishop? And his dad said, um, uh, yeah, yeah, why? Why do ya ask? And he just, he said, he kept his head down. He said, dad, I think I need to go talk to the bishop. And he said, I just sat there, Brother Smith like, oh no, here it comes. He's gonna be so mad at me. And he said, I'm just staring down. And all of a sudden I felt this big hand reach over the table and just rub my shoulder. And he said, it's gonna be okay. Hey, it's gonna be okay. Hey, hey, I'm, I'm with you. And he said, we sat there and we talked for a good two hours. You know, I told him what was going on and he cried with me. And he said, my dad was mad, but he wasn't mad at me. He was mad at himself. He said, I

should have been taking better care of you. I should have been watching out for you. And they went and saw the bishop together. It was just a beautiful thing. And I think of that here, Andy, that the Lord doesn't, he said, I don't want you to suffer. I want you to get out of this. What did you say? He, he suffered so I could repent.

Andy Horton: 00:12:20 Yeah.

John Bytheway: 00:12:20 That they might not suffer.

Andy Horton: 00:12:21 He chose suffering for us. Your story sheds a new light on verse

15 too, about anger again, because the father, it sounds like he was mad at himself. He was angry with himself. Why didn't I do more? And heaven knows the Lord's gonna do everything he can to help us take advantage of his suffering. He's gonna say everything he can to motivate us and get us to partake of that heavenly gift to the extent that he will bleed from every poor. I did my master's project on the olive tree, the olive, olive oil. First of all, I didn't know the olives, when you pick 'em off the tree, they're, they're bitter, they're nasty. And when they harvest them, they put 'em in these things called strong bags. They layer them and then they sprinkle them with salt and with vinegar. And I guess the vinegar purges the bitterness out of the

olive.

O0:13:22 Then they put another bag on top. More olives, more salt, more vinegar. And they'll do like 12 or 15 layers of olives. And then they'll put 'em in the <u>press</u>. And under <u>extreme pressure</u>, of

course the olive oil is harvested under the weight, extreme pressure. And they either put 'em in the kind where you turn the winch. You put a quarter in the donkey and it walks around for hours and makes all the oil get squished out. And I guess it comes out blood red when it comes out. Initially, we've been taught. I was thinking about when the Savior was on the cross and they offered him vinegar and he was offered vinegar twice. The first time He said no, because it is a natural sedative. And He was, I believe, trying to avoid sedation of any kind because He needed to feel. And then finally the second time they offer him the vinegar.

00:14:17

And it was soon after that He partook and He soon gave up the ghost. And I've thought about that, how vinegar is used to purge bitterness. And there He is on the cross and He just came from the garden and He's suffering. The only bitterness He might be feeling is the bitterness of our sins. And yet he was given vinegar. And I wonder if there's a symbolism there about having

his bitterness, our bitterness purged through repentance. He did that for us.

Hank Smith: 00:14:55 It can become sweet.

00:14:57 Yeah, it can become sweet useful. That olive oil, once it's purged, it becomes very useful. Um, goodness using dressings

and medicines and all sorts of things. But beautiful visual.

00:15:10 That is.

Andy Horton: 00:15:11 Well, we can't jump over verse 19. Nevertheless, glory be to the

Father, and I partook and finished my preparations unto the children of men. That is an amazing verse that I had always looked past. But now something has been prepared, an avenue, a resource of the greatest gift in the world, we now have access to. He has prepared that next time I make a mistake, which is daily, He is now prepared to save me from myself. I am ready to accept your pleadings and be your mediator because of what I have gone through and because of the work I just did. I understand your strugglings and will have the ability to strengthen you. And like the Book of Mormon says, uh, snatch

you up from sin, beautiful visual.

O0:16:02 And if you go down to verse 20, so again, he says, I command you again to repent, lest, I humble you with my almighty power;

and that you confess your sins, lest you suffer these punishments of which I have spoken, of and which I've suffered, of which in the smallest yea, even in the least degree you have tasted at the time I withdrew my spirit. I don't know about you, but I have noticed over the years as I've gotten older, I've noticed the times when I feel the withdrawal of the spirit the most is when I've said something to my wife or one of my kids, or even in a class when I've said something that was off. It came out wrong. It was a little too aggressive, it was a little too ornery. And bless my wife, she's actually very helpful. To tell me, why are you being fussy? Why are you being fussy to me? Sometimes I don't realize I'm being fussy. And when she points out, I'm like, oh goodness, you're right. I am being fussy. I must be either be hungry, or angry, or hungry. But those are the most acute moments when I notice a decrease in the spirit is when I have said something to someone that was not kind or done

something. I'll give you an example. This was hard. This was one of my fears when I was called to Stake President that I would

ruin the church.

00:17:26 It's actually prideful because I don't have the authority to ruin

the church. But your thoughts go there.

Hank Smith: 00:17:32 No unhallowed hand, right?

Andy Horton: 00:17:34 That's right. We had our interviews on Wednesday nights. I had

a lady come in who had just come back into the church and she told me her reconversion story. It is beautiful. Which makes this story even worse. I said, that's beautiful what you've been through. I appreciate your faith, your testimony. How would you like to share that in stake conference in a month, month and a half? And of course that's overwhelming to anyone to be asked to speak in stake conference. But she says, yeah, yeah, I could do that. I said, just briefly, you know, 10 minutes, five or 10 minutes, share what you just shared with me. Time went by. We planned our stake conference. We had the sessions on Saturday. We had our session on Sunday. And at the end of the Sunday session, her bishop came up to me and he said, President, great conference.

00:18:23 What happened with Amy? He goes, he goes, yeah, she was up

on the stand and ready to speak, but she never spoke. And my stomach fell out from under me. I remember I looked down at the chairs where she would've been, and they're empty now. Oh no, I didn't add it to our agenda. Oh no, I am the worst person. I started to feel what I feel is kind of described here, suffering. I felt the spirit just jabbing me. You've gotta take care of this. So I tried to get a hold of her all day on Sunday. I couldn't find her, couldn't, couldn't find her, which made it even worse to be honest. The next morning was Monday. I got my counselor to go with me. He's a big guy. He was my bodyguard. We knocked on the door and we had the biggest, most beautiful bouquet of flowers with us. We knocked on the door. She was a single mom. She opened the door and she smiled when she opened the door, which was more than I deserved, I said, hi,

00:19:41 And she smiled again. And I said, I got a little emotional. I still do

whenI tell the story. I owe you an apology. I just stumbled through my words. But in the end I said, I didn't get you on the agenda and I am so sorry that you didn't get to speak and testify Before I tell you how she responded. I believe that there is a power in the phrase, I'm sorry. I believe that when you speak it sincerely, it invites the power of Jesus Christ into the relationship. And I felt it. I said, I'm sorry, I'm so sorry. And she said so graciously, she said, President Horton, I never needed to give the talk. I just needed to prepare it. It was so kind. And she forgave me. And she didn't have to. I have felt that, what Martin felt,in the smallest we all have, when you lose the spirit a little for something you did, it's very motivational. How grateful I am that I have the choice to repent. I could go apologize to her and

how are you?

fix it or I could continue to suffer. And it was a very clear choice that day for me. It's an exciting thing in repentance that we can do that. That we have that out.

John Bytheway: 00:20:59

One time, uh, when I was a bishop, I had one student graduating from seminary. The seminary graduation was held at the stake center. It was on my calendar. I just plain forgot. I got online. I, I bought her a hoodie from the university she was gonna go to and some swag. They were gracious. And it was so I wasn't, yeah, just the worst. Are we thinking that the Lord's reminding Martin of what he felt when he lost them or when the manuscript was stolen or lost?

Andy Horton: 00:21:43 I think so.

John Bytheway: 00:21:43 That what we think in verse 20. You felt this before Martin? Oh,

when I withdrew my spirit. That's so interesting.

Hank Smith: 00:21:54 And he said, remember how much pain you were in and that

was the smallest degree.

John Bytheway: 00:21:58 You got a taste. A tiny taste of this.

Andy Horton: 00:22:01 Yeah. And usually that's enough. I don't like to taste that.

Especially when with situations with with my wife and people you live with. There's a tension in the air and it's not comfortable. And I have a hard time going to work and teaching if there's tension there. It's kind of like when you feel like Joseph couldn't translate. Can't translate, Joseph? Yeah. Sorry

about what I said.

John Bytheway: 00:22:27 Gotta fix something first.

Andy Horton: 00:22:29 Beautiful verses. Well we get into verse 21, 22 and 23. 22, I

think the savior is saying some of these things I've just taught, these aren't for everyone. As you go preach the gospel, verse 21 says, preach nothing but repentance. Not but repentance. Show not these things under the world until it's wisdom in me. For they cannot bear meat, now. Give them some chocolate milk. Give them the sweetness of the gospel of repentance. But you don't need to go preach hellfire and damnation to them right now unless it's necessary. They must not know these things, lest they perish. Learn of me. I think verse 23 could be a summary of the whole section and a great pattern for happy living. Learn of me. Listen to my words. Walk in the meekness of my spirit. Those are three recipe items to have a peaceful life. That's

beautiful. What a great verse.

John Bytheway: 00:23:24 This was a youth theme a few years ago. I just love the me, my, my, me in there. When we think of Martin's backstory, should I mortgage my farm? Can I take the characters and find out if they're really ancient? Can I borrow the 116 pages and show Lucy and her friends? I'm not sure of the timing of all of these, but it's as if the Lord's saying, Martin, keep it right here. You guys both have seen the gesture before where you point at your eyes and then you point at everybody out there. Hank Smith: 00:23:57 Right? John Bytheway: 00:23:58 As if to say, I've got eyes on you. Yeah. And Hank, this never happens to you and Andy, this never happens to you. But my students get bored and I have to do the opposite and go, Hey you guys look at me. Hank Smith: 00:24:11 Yeah. John Bytheway: 00:24:11 And I feel like if there were a verse of scripture to match that gesture, there it is. Where the Lord's saying, Martin, you're looking at all the wrong stuff. You're listening to all the wrong people and you're looking for peace in all the wrong places. Martin, keep it right here. When the Lord says you'll have peace in me. He's also saying you won't find peace anywhere else and you won't find peace by listening to anybody else. You're gonna find it right here. We sing the song, where can I turn for peace? We know the answer, but we still need the reminder. Don't we? We sure do. This is the place where peace is found. Learn of me. Listen to my words. And one more thing, it always reminds me of Peter's walking on water story. Of Peter, keep it right here. As soon as you look at the wind in the waves and there's a lot of wins and waves these days. Every issue you can imagine, this reminds us. No, keep your eyes on Christ. Andy Horton: 00:25:09 Yeah, you remind me of President Nelson. John Bytheway: 00:25:12 Gosh, I've never heard that before. That's about the best thing I've ever heard Andy Horton: 00:25:15 In my life. You remind me of the prophet when he says, I mean, think of his, some of his things he's taught us about letting God prevail. Mm-hmm <affirmative> 00:25:23 John Bytheway: 00:25:23 Let him. Be in the forefront of your mind. Think celestial. And Andy Horton: one of the things the book of Revelation talks about is having

the name of the father printed in your forehead. I have a bigger forehead than most mine's all forehead. But, but your forehead is actually, we usually think it's right here, but it's actually right between your eyes. And that is because that's what you focus on both eyes. It takes both eyes to focus, get depth perception. So I love this visual of focus on what matters. There's a lady used to be in my ward, sister Quinn, she taught this so well. My glasses, you can't tell. But the, the top is for distance and the bottom has bifocals for reading. I think it is so easy in mortality. This is happening to Martin right now. It's so easy to only focus and what's right in front of us.

00:26:13

The farm, my wife, what the printers are saying, the terror that could happen if I go through with this, instead of taking the long view, which so many prophets have spoken of. What the prophet has said, think celestial, think way out there. Keep your eye on me. Don't look at the wind, don't get distracted. So I love that visual John. That is powerful. Good reminder.

Hank Smith:

00:26:39

Learn, listen, walk.

Andy Horton:

00:26:43

I have a daughter serving in, in California in the Roseville California mission. She was assigned to Lima, Peru but had some health challenges. And so now she's gonna be wrapping up her mission here in like 25 days. But who's counting? Wow. 35. 35 days. No one's counting.

Hank Smith:

00:27:00

Yeah.

Andy Horton:

00:27:01

No one's counting at all. This was back in April when she sent us this letter. It's pretty simple. But listen to the changes that are going on in her life as she teaches and becomes a greater disciple. She says it's days like Thursday that make me love being a missionary. We were sitting on the church steps in the rain teaching a complete stranger. I mean that's miraculous right there. In a language I knew nothing about just nine months ago. That's a change. She's talking to a stranger in the rain on the steps in a language she didn't know just a year ago while drinking some juice. He brought us from the gas station. So sketchy juice. Seriously, it's the best thing ever. She goes on and she says, being a missionary teaches you how to love. Never in my life would I even notice if a non-member showed up at church.

00:27:52

But now it's all I pray and think about leading up to Sunday. Nothing brings more joy than seeing others grow closer to Jesus Christ. So what is it that happened that brought this girl to think of things like, did this person show up at church? When she wasn't thinking about that two years ago. And now she says, it's all I pray about and think about leading up to Sunday. And her letters often have, somewhere at the beginning, I remember one recently, we had 10 people show up at church Sunday. She was ecstatic. It's crazy what the Savior can do when we turn to him and try to live like him. Pretty neat. Pretty neat to see.

Hank Smith:	00:28:35
Halik Siliki.	00.20.3.

You wouldn't see section 19 as a missionary section, but it really can be, in a way, if you say the farm is like the life we don't wanna leave to head out in the mission field. I have a son, Mason, who is filling out papers and getting ready to go. And you can kind of see that ache of I like my family. I like family vacations. I like my mother. I hope he likes his father. I like my siblings. I don't know if I want to give this up. I don't know if I wanna walk away from this for a while. And section 19 kind of answers that, doesn't it?

Andy Horton: 00:29:13

It really does. I mean 21 says, I command you to preach not but repentance. In other words, keep it simple. Go preach the doctrine of Christ. Don't complicate it any more than that.

Hank Smith: 00:29:24

And hand over the farm, hand over your life to me. I will take care of it. I promise you will have peace in me.

Andy Horton: 00:29:33

Yeah.

Hank Smith: 00:29:34

And maybe since it's on my mind, Andy, both of you have been parents of missionaries. Maybe the farm for some parents is that child where the Lord says, hand them over to me. Hand that missionary over to me.

John Bytheway: 00:29:47

Some were easier to drop off than others.

Andy Horton: 00:29:5

00:29:53 Drop off what, John?

Hank Smith: 00:29:57

Yeah, you take 'em. They're your problem now.

John Bytheway:

00:29:58 There you go.

Andy Horton: 00:30:00

Look at 25. That really goes well with what you're talking about, Hank. He says, I command you thee that thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife; nor seek thy neighbor's life. And again, I command thee thou shalt not covet thine own property. I feel in that sentence, thine own property. Because how much of Martin's farm really is Martin's? He only has it because the Lord allotted it to him. I don't think the Lord talks in sarcastic tones. If I had spoken that, being myself, and said, don't covet thine

own property. Right? It really isn't yours to begin with. So give it up. 25's interesting. I wonder if Martin's going now. Hold on. Whoa. I haven't been chasing women. Don't covet thy neighbor's wife. But I have, I wondered about this this morning. I thought, why did the Lord tell him that? Well if Lucy's coming down on him hard, there's a good chance he had thoughts like, man, why couldn't I have married someone that would make this easier for me?

Hank Smith:	00:31:03	Right? Yeah.

Andy Horton:	00:31:04	Why couldn't I have married farmer, Larry's wife over there who
		lets him do whatever he wants , but, so you have to wonder

what kind of thoughts provoked this from the Lord?

Hank Smith: 00:31:18 Oh that's interesting Andy. I love where you're going with this.

You said earlier, back when we were getting started, look, if it weren't for me, the Lord says you wouldn't have this farm to give up. We could say that same thing for everything we are not wanting to give up. The Lord's saying, I gave it to you for this purpose. Think about my son or any of your children or any listener out there who, uh, child decided to go on a mission or a senior couple that decided to go on a mission and they give up a lot. And the Lord might be saying what you just said, your stuff? Actually I gave that to you for this purpose so you could give it up for me. I like how you said that. Don't covet your property. Yeah. Yours.

Andy Horton: 00:32:09 The Lord's probably chuckling. Your property. Huh? That's

funny. That is my dirt. I gave it to you to take care of while

you're on the earth.

Hank Smith: 00:32:16 Yeah. I'm just asking for my own thing back. That's all.

Andy Horton: 00:32:21 I wonder what farm is there that's holding me back. What's

keeping me from handing over my heart to the Lord? Completely. There's stuff we can all think of stuff. Probably the ones that are hardest to give up are the ones we don't want to admit that it's holding us back. 26 wraps up: ...impart it freely to the printing of the Book of Mormon, which contains the truth and the word of God. Which is my word to the Gentile. Soon it may go to the Jew of whom the Lamanites are a remnant. That they may believe the gospel and look not for a Messiah to come

who has already come.

00:32:56 Talk about an important sentence right there because that's one

of the very purposes of the Book of Mormon right there. Which

Martin probably doesn't even know. And again, I command thee thou shalt pray vocally as well as in thy heart; yea, before the world as well as in secret, in public as well as in private. And thou shalt declare glad tidings, yea, publish it upon the mountainsl and upon every high place, and among every people that thou shalt be permitted to see. And then this potent verse: thou shalt do it with all humility, trusting in me, reviling not against revilers. I've wondered this morning, what are the revilers? Well, you've got these print shops that have told him that he's insane to even go through with this. He's gonna give up the farm. His wife is reviling against him, probably threatening all sorts of things.

00:33:49

He's going through it. I love how the very next thing that the Savior shifts into the doctrine of Christ. Of the tenets, thou shalt not talk. This becomes a missionary scripture again. Thou shalt declare repentance and faith on the Savior, and remission of sins by baptism, by fire, even the Holy Ghost. And this is the last commandment which I shall give unto you concerning this matter. For this shall suffice for thy daily walk, even unto the end of thy life. That is just powerful. How grateful I am that the Savior is right there behind us. Misery thou shalt receive if thou wilt slight these councils, yea, even the destruction of thyself and property. Impart a portion of thy property, even part of thy lands. And all save the support of thy family. So the Lord understands he still needs to support his family. Pay the debt. That is the step he needs to take that will release himself from bondage.

00:34:48

He needs to go ahead and mortgage his property. Now Martin, as I understand he, he went ahead with it. He mortgaged 151 acres to Egbert Grandin. And why did he mortgage it? What does that mean? Well, by paying for the printing in the form of a mortgage, it gave him some freedom. Gave Martin greater flexibility than paying by cash. It did a couple of things. It gave Grandin legal access to the farm. He had ownership. But Martin was still able to occupy the property during the printing until the printing was done. It had a time period on it. If by chance, the mortgage, if he wanted to reclaim his land because he was able to pay in cash for the printing, then he had 18 months to do that. If he came up with the money, say they sold the books, he was able to pay Grandin and keep his farm. That was an option. And then additionally, if he sold it for more than 3000, then Martin would be able to legally keep the excess money. So there were some bonuses to mortgaging the property instead of just selling it outright and giving him the money. But either way, E.B. Grandin held the mortgage, he held access to the farm.

What a step. Can you believe that we all work really hard to pay a mortgage, don't we?

Hank Smith:	00:36:10	Yeah. And then get to turn around and take it all back on. Andy, you, you mentioned this phrase in verse 30, I really had never noticed before. He says declare glad tidings publish it upon the mountains. Do it with humility, trusting in me. And then he throws this in reviling, not against the revilers. I can hear Martin saying, well at least I can talk badly about these people. Like at least give me that, that I can criticize and insult these people who are criticizing and insulting me. And the Lord's no, at least give me that satisfaction of talking bad about them. And the Lord, no, we're not gonna revile against the revilers either. And then back to repentance, faith, baptism, and the Holy Ghost. I just thought, what did we say, John, before the Lord is easy to please and difficult, almost impossible to satisfy. Right?
John Bytheway:	00:37:08	To satisfy.
Hank Smith:	00:37:09	At least let me talk badly about people. Oh yeah, I'll hand over my farm. But you're gonna give me that, right? No.
John Bytheway:	00:37:15	It reminds me of Moroni. Lord, the Gentiles are gonna mock this. Yeah. Mockers mock. That's what they do. Revilers, revile, eh? Yeah. Do you guys know what tenants are?
Andy Horton:	00:37:28	This is from the <u>1828 dictionary</u> of the English language, which is probably more appropriate to use 'cause that's when they're using it. The description there is any opinion, principle, dogma or doctrine which a person believes or maintains as true. The tenets of Christians are adopted from the scriptures, but different interpretations give rise to a great diversity of tenets. It's really what Joseph was fighting against, which led him into the grove to be honest. Wow.
John Bytheway:	00:37:59	Oh Hank. You know what I love to say? When we see the doctrine of Christ there. There's just so many tenets. There's just so many ideas and principles and doctrines and teachings. If only somebody would just come out and say, here's the first principles and ordinances of the gospel. If anybody would just do that.
Hank Smith:	00:38:19	Someone would just tell us what to focus on first, that would be really
		and the state of the state of

Nice. And there they are, right there,

John Bytheway:

00:38:22

Hank Smith:

00:38:24

And isn't that great? Here's faith, repentance, baptism, the Holy Ghost. Just that--that will last you the rest your life. Hmm. How many times does he come back to it? In the Book of Mormon? Third Nephi 11. It's the first thing he teaches. When 3 Nephi 27 when the apostles say, what do we call the church? He says, we're gonna call it after my name. And by the way, let's go through this again and man, that will suffice for your daily walk. Maybe that's why we don't go too far beyond that, right? I wanna ask the Lord if the pearly gates, if they swing open or if they roll open and he said, yeah, I really, these four are gonna take you the rest of your life.

Andy Horton:

00:39:10

That's fantastic. I've fallen in love with verse 35 too. It goes right there where it says, release thyself from bondage. It reminds me of, is it Mosiah 24:14 where these are the people, Amulon and Alma and his people. But that promise, I will covenant with my people and deliver them out of bondage. And I will ease the burdens which are put upon your shoulders that even you cannot feel them upon your backs even while you are in bondage. Because to be honest, even when he mortgaged the farm, his wife is still gonna be mad. And so he'll still be in bondage. Yet, kinda like when my sister messaged me and said, be still and know. That I was still going to be Stake President. I would still face some fears, but for some reason the weight of it was just lifted off. The Savior is so masterful at changing perspectives.

00:40:10

He is so good at converting, who was it that said he's the master alchemizer at converting misery and sorrow and pain into wisdom, understanding even joy. He's so good at converting what hurts into things that bring joy. Even though our circumstances haven't changed, we see them differently. He release thyself from bondage. Martin, pay the debt and watch what's gonna happen. You are gonna be a part of bringing a book onto the planet that's gonna change lives for generations. I don't know if you guys know this, but the Book of Mormon is in the top three reasons why recent converts made the decision to be baptized. They felt something when they read it. And Martin, deciding to act in faith here became a major player in making that happen.

Hank Smith:

00:41:07

That is really neat. And I like what you just said, Andy. Section 19 is just a big shift in perspective. Let me show you this from my perspective and just that. It doesn't change the trial. All the circumstances are the same. But wow, I think Martin can say, yeah, now I can move forward. I hadn't thought about that. I really like that.

John Bytheway:	00:41:30	No, I guess that perspective changes looking through the top part of your lenses, like you were saying before.
Andy Horton:	00:41:37	Yeah. Quit worrying about so much about what's in front of you and in your eyes a little bit.
Hank Smith:	00:41:43	That's fascinating Andy, because sometimes I think when we're in the middle of really something difficult and we think, no, I need my circumstances to change. I don't need my perspective to change. I need you to change the circumstances. And yet we go to the Lord and the Lord wants us to change our perspective. And how often do I pray for my circumstances to change, not my perspective.
John Bytheway:	00:42:06	That reminds me of <u>President Nelson's</u> statement that the joy we feel has less to do with the circumstances of our lives and everything to do with the focus of our lives.
Hank Smith:	00:42:16	Way back in verse 23, I just looked at it again. Listen to my words, my perspective. There's plenty of people who are sending you words. Listen to my words. In the days of the internet, right? How many people have a voice?
John Bytheway:	00:42:34	Sending you words.
Hank Smith:	00:42:36	Sending you words. Lots of words to listen to. Martin, how about my words? Listen to my words. Not theirs. Not the printers. Not anybody else. Listen to my words.
Andy Horton:	00:42:47	Yeah, good stuff. And I'll say, when you do finally catch a glimpse, um, you see things differently. Suddenly the whole world has opened up to you. I remember when Susan H. Porter said, she said, once you see things as God does, you come to know and understand how loved you are. It changes everything. But also you feel different about yourself when you make mistakes. It changes how you feel when difficult things happen. Changes your view of commandments. It changes your view of others and your capacity to make a difference. But it, it requires trust. Like it says in that verse, trust in me and I'll show you what happens to people that trust in me. I had a young lady in my stake not long ago who she went on her mission, came home early for reasons of anxiety, pretty intense anxiety. She came home and we got her in with a counselor and, and she'd been home about six or seven months, maybe a little longer.
	00:43:47	And the time had come where we needed to decide what to do. Are we gonna send her back out on our mission? Maybe get her

connected with a service mission? What are we gonna do? I had talked with her counselor. Their recommendation was to keep her home and put her in a service assignment. So I invited her to my office. She came in. I had this habit of when they would come in I'd say, Hey, tell me about your day. And I did that. I shut the door and I went over to sit down and listened to her. And as I looked up at her as she's telling me about her day, she was kind of a timid little thing. But tell me about her day. And for just a second, for just a second, I saw her differently. She was not the same young lady I had called on the phone to schedule the interview.

00:44:32

I saw her in a different light. It's hard to explain. And as I'm seeing her like that, I had this feeling that said for her to become that, she needs to go back on her teaching mission. And I was a little overwhelmed. Wow, okay. That's not the way I was leaning. So unfortunately I didn't hear a thing she said because my mind was on that. She finished describing her day. And I said, fantastic, well it's great to have you here. Let's pray and then we'll talk about your mission. And we prayed. And then I said, well, let me tell you what just happened. And I told her about the experience. She just started to weep. I called the missionary department. The missionary department is very good at trusting keys. I said, I know this goes against the council of the professional. Which it's always good to follow the council of professionals.

00:45:24

They know what they're talking about. But this came from the Lord and I had to put my trust in Him. We sent her out on the mission and 12 months later she came home flying colors. Totally successful missionary. She was on the path to becoming what the Savior needed her to become. But it was a little tough to put my trust in what I saw and felt, even though everything out here was kind of pointing the other direction. So I am appreciative of Martin Harris for trusting in the Savior. Whenever it happened, somewhere in this section or maybe when he got to the end, he had a wake up moment stopped. And what does it say in verse 40? Canst thou run about longer as a blind guide? The the blindness was gone, his eyes were opened and he realized there's more important things than 151 acres of dirt.

Hank Smith: 00:46:16

I love it. Andy, I think you've shown us here that we have a section of the Doctrine and Covenants that can take us from fear. I'm paralyzed. I can't do this to look at over verse 39. Can you not read this without rejoicing and lifting up your heart for gladness? So in 38 verses, the Lord can take you from fear,

paralyzed-- I cannot sacrifice this. I cannot move forward, to, okay, I can do this.

Andy Horton:

00:46:47

It's beautiful. Am I allowed to quote the movie Dune? 'cause there is a great quote on fear. This is comes from Lady Jessica, who's played by Rebecca Ferguson and she and her son, Timothy Chalamet, they're stuck in a tent in the middle of the desert. The tent helps produce the water for 'em and their whole kingdom has been wiped out just now. And she makes this statement, I must not fear. Fear is the mind killer. Fear is the little death that brings obliteration and destruction. I mean, President Hunter even said fear is the principle weapon that in the arsenal which Satan uses to make us unhappy. Where am I allowing fear to hold me back from turning to the Savior more? Where am I allowing that to happen? And too often the fears are not even realistic. They're built up way bigger than they need to be.

00:47:45

I think it was in, yeah, when the Nephites were faced with the Lamanites, this is Mosiah 23. It says they were much frightened because of the appearance of the Lamanites. I wonder what the difference is between being afraid of the Lamanites and being afraid of the appearance of the Lamanites. I think Martin was so afraid of what could happen, the appearance of the Lamanites, that he let it take control. When if he would just back up for a minute, look through the right lenses. The very next verse says, Alma stood among them and exhorted them. They should not be frightened, but they should remember the Lord their God. And he would deliver them. And then it says in verse 28, therefore they hushed their fears. Not the Savior hushed their fears, they hushed their fears and began to cry unto the Lord. So remembering the Savior and his power, trusting in him can empower us to be able to hush our own fears as we have confidence in the creator of the world, Son of God, our Redeemer.

00:48:48

It's pretty cool. Fear too often, I mean when you invite me to be on the podcast or do something like this that's new, it's fear is one of the first things you feel in moments like this. Great, I'm gonna go on and ruin their podcast. You know. It's very realistic that you have thoughts like that. When anything new enters. Adam and Eve in the beginning, in the garden, what was their first emotion? They felt negative emotion. I'm grateful that Martin stopped being afraid and started to trust the Savior. Great section. Wow. It's loaded. 41 verses of good stuff.

Hank Smith:

00:49:23

It remind me of a student I had, maybe it was a year ago, maybe it was less than that. Her name is Evelyn Phipps and oldest child

in her family, very close family. They love to be together. And she was feeling this pull to serve a mission. And she did not want to., And it wasn't a matter of I don't love the Lord. It was, uh, look at all this good that's in my life and my family is everything to me. It's very uncomfortable, especially being first. First in the family. John, when Ashley went out on a mission, no one's ever done this before in our group, our kid group. But she did it. She went out and..

John Bytheway: 00:50:10

And it was not her plan. It was, thanks for saying that Hank, because it just suddenly came to her, I need to go, I should go. Well what a life changer that was for her and met her husband. Oh man, it's been great.

Andy Horton: 00:50:25

So there is a quote from a book called The Christ Who Heals. This is from Fiona and Terryl Givens And they say God's omnipotence lies in the divine power to alchemize suffering, tragedy, and loss into wisdom, understanding, and even joy. He can take pain and turn it into joy. Something that we celebrate about Him. Pretty impressive. Alchemized means--it's usually used in chemistry--when we talk about converting something from one substance to another, like turning lead to gold. Wish we had that superpower.

Hank Smith: 00:51:06

And you know, Sister Phipps left and and went to Oregon and is loving her mission. Maybe the bondage of verse 35, Andy, is release thyself from fear.

John Bytheway: 00:51:21

Hmm. So how did this start? Here's Martin saying to Joseph, I need a commandment. I need a commandment, I need a commandment. So I've been marking the commandments, right? Verse 13, wherefore I command you to repent. 15, therefore I command you to repent. 20. Wherefore I command you again to repent. 21, I command you to preach not but repentance. 25, again, I command thee thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife nor seek thy neighbor's life. 26, again, I command thee thou shalt not covet thine own property. Verse 28, again, I command the thou shalt pray vocally as well as in thy heart. Verse 32, behold, this is a great and last commandment, which I've given to you concerning this matter. For this shall suffice thy daily walk even until the end of thy life. I love how generous the Lord is. All Joseph Smith wanted to know is what church to join.

00:52:19 We're all sitting here now. All Martin wanted was a commandment and he got eight. And then if you go past that, some that don't have, uh, the word commandment, but look at these verbs, Hank and Andy. Verse 34 in part verse 35, pay

verse 36, leave verse 37, speak freely. And verse 38, pray always, which is the same thing the Lord had just said in verse 28. I will pour out my spirit upon you and great shall be your blessing. I love this. Here's Martin, who we're safe to say was concerned about his money, his farm, his property. So pray always and great shall be your blessing. Even more than if you should obtain treasures of earth and corruptibleness to the extent thereof. And then Hank, you read verse 39. Can you even read this without rejoicing? Isn't that a great verse? Did I just give you the formula for something better than all the wealth you can imagine? If you will just pray always. Can you even read this without rejoicing, lifting up your heart for gladness? That's such a great way to end. I'm thinking of Elder Holland having the recent experiences that he's had and coming back and saying, we need to pray more fervently. And that'll bless you more than all the treasures of Earth, right? Anyway, what a great section. You want a commandment? Okay, here's a commandment. I'll give you a bunch.

Andy Horton: 00:53:41

I've, it's been obvious too that Elder Holland, you've seen a recommitment from him. Even though he's dealing with his wife's death, his health problems, he is recommitted with vigor, with power. It's quite amazing.

Hank Smith: 00:53:54

Yeah. Section 19. I know this happened four years ago, John, when we studied it, and it's happened again for me today. This is the pen of heaven. This is beautiful and so well written. And the argument just flows really well from, let's take you from here to here, where you wanted to be. I noticed section 19 is revelation given through Joseph Smith. Yet Joseph almost is not there. He's not in this section as we all studied it today. I didn't even think of Joseph. I just thought of the Lord talking to Martin. And yet all of this is coming through Joseph Smith. It's almost as if Joseph fades into the background delivering this message.

Andy Horton: 00:54:39

I almost wonder, 'cause he did receive it. And I wonder if he, as he read it or heard it, if he kind of like backed off and said, okay, this one's clearly for you. Because it's a call to repentance. And I think Joseph probably had warned, Martin, you already have made a covenant what you need to do. You sure you, and then he received this. And I can just see Joseph going, all right, you asked for it. Here you go.

John Bytheway: 00:55:08 Here it comes.

Andy Horton: 00:55:09 You know? And there's some tough, he calls Martin to

repentance like, like nothing else. But there's also a message of

love that you can see in a golden thread that runs through this entire section. There is a message of love, He says, Martin, I love you. Please stop suffering. Just repent and let's get this ball rolling. Go and, and pay the debt and release thyself from bondage. So maybe there's a reason Joseph is not in it that much, but I don't know. What do you think

John Bytheway: 00:55:38

You notice at the very beginning? I am Alpha and Omega. Christ the Lord. If it's like who's talking here? Wow. From beginning to end, as you pointed out, Andy, the only time we have the first person account of bleeding at every pore is in this section. Wow. So yeah, the pen of heaven. Thanks for saying that, Hank, that this is a powerful stuff.

Hank Smith: 00:56:06

If there's anybody listening who is thinking, I just don't know if Joseph Smith is a prophet, I don't know. Section 19 could be a good place to go in. Read it closely, carefully in this section. He's a child. I know for 24 year olds, 24 is pretty old. But he's 24 years old and this, this comes out of a 24-year-old? And there's wisdom. Not that a 24-year-old isn't smart, but there's just wisdom from living a long time. There's just wisdom from being a grandpa or a grandma that you just don't get. Not because you're not smart, but just you haven't lived long enough. And Section 19 is not the experience of someone who's been around the sun, you know, 25 times. There's deep wisdom here.

John Bytheway: 00:56:57

I wonder why it was in this section that the Savior chose to share such intimate personal thoughts. It's one of three places, talks about bleeding from every poor. It's the only place he talks first person about what he went through. Why? Why in this section maybe it just teaches about his love for the individual that's struggling. That's a section that was given a revelation given to all of us. Because you can't be in mortality and not experience suffering.

00:57:29

It's kind of like, Martin, you're worried about this potential sacrifice. I understand sacrifice. Let me explain sacrifice. You know?

Hank Smith: 00:57:38

And to anyone who's facing a deep sacrifice, section 19 can speak to you. Isn't it amazing that these sections speak to Martin Harris, but also to a Latter-day Saint in 2025, who's thinking about, you know, going on a mission? Andy, let me ask you something. You have been a full-time educator for the church for 30 plus years. You don't look it, but, but that is a fact. Stake president for nine years now serving in a mission presidency, right?

Andy Horton: 00:58:11 Utah Orem Mission

Hank Smith: 00:58:14 You've had some time to study Joseph Smith. There are many

out there who will say Joseph Smith is a, is an obvious con that Latter-day Saints just can't see it for some crazy reason. So for somebody who's listening, who hears those messages, maybe even for family, maybe someone listening has just joined the church. Maybe it's like, Martin, you are being taken. Don't do this. So Andy, what would you say to someone in, in that situation you've had a good chance to, to study? What have you

found about Joseph Smith? Is he really what we claim he is?

Andy Horton: 00:58:54 It's a great question, and I have had people say that to me that

you're being taken. When I left on my mission in 1989, I had never read the full Book of Mormon. I had read Joseph Smith's history, but I'd never read the book he translated. I knew that in his history it says that he was destined to become a disturber and an annoyer of Satan's kingdom. I have seen how the truths that he has introduced into the world as a living prophet and as a past prophet, how it's changed lives. The first door that my companion knocked on my mission, my trainer, he described to that woman that the Book of Mormon was a record of the people that lived on the American continent and that it was recorded by prophets and that the Bible was a record of the

people on the old continent.

01:00:02 Then she ended up giving him a book, and this was all in

Spanish, not the same Spanish I was taught in the MTC. I'll have, you know, but it was Spanish. And as we walked away, I remember asking him, will you explain that to me again? What you just said to her? And I realized we went home for lunch, that I was in a real pickle because I didn't know that the Book of Mormon was true. And I did not know that Joseph was a prophet, but I was supposed to testify of both of those things

for two years. Two years in Spanish.

Hank Smith: 01:00:34 It's like selling the farm.

Andy Horton: 01:00:36 Yeah. If I don't find out for myself that this is true, then this is a

waste of my parents' money, any money I may have contributed, and it's a waste of time. So I made a commitment. That commitment, it changed the path of my life more than any other decision I've made. More than any other. First, only to who I married, to be honest. So the decision was you need to go home and read the entire standard works, all of the scriptures, because if you don't know what is contained in them, how are you going to testify? Now, so I did that. I went home. It took six months. Didn't leave the apartment for six months. No, that's

not true. So I went home and I studied every morning for an hour personal study, and I read. And interestingly, I started in the Old Testament.

01:01:29

I started right here in Genesis and went that way and ended up at the end of the Pearl of Great Price. I made it into the Old Testament. I was in the book of Judges when I started to feel things. And by the time I got into the Book of Mormon, I had found and felt that the book was true. Well, it can only be true if Joseph Smith is a prophet, because Joseph Smith brought forth the book by the gift and power of God. So I would have to say, if you don't know if the church is true, if Joseph was a prophet, if the church of Jesus Christ has been restored to the earth, if you don't know those things for sure, you really have to do what Joseph did. You have to do what's in verse 23. Listen to my words, learn of me. And then you have to take those what you learn and feel into the woods and you've gotta find out for yourself.

01:02:31

Those feelings I felt, in the Book Mormon, as I read it, and in the other scriptures, I can still feel those thoughts and those feelings. They're very fresh. I came to know for myself that the church was true, that Joseph was a prophet. And the words that that he translated were true. He was just a farm boy. He was just a kid. And I love that God worked through a kid and he was at that time working through me. I was just a kid. And I came to know it was true and that Joseph was a prophet. He gave his life for the work. Henry David Thoreau in a book called Walden. He said, the cost of a thing is the amount of life which is required to be exchanged for it immediately or in the long run. The cost of a thing. What I'm thinking of right now is the cost of the Book of Mormon is the amount of life which is required to be exchanged for.

01:03:26

Martin Harris gave a very large chunk of his life so we could have the Book of Mormon that was translated by Joseph Smith. The best. I know how, I testify that Joseph was a prophet and he brought forth this great work. I don't know what I would do without this book. I feel like there's a gap in my life if I don't read it or listen to it on a daily basis, little bit or a lot. It's gotta be in my life. It is the rod. It's the only way to the tree. There is no other way to the tree. I testify of Joseph Smith's prophecy that he was a prophet and that the book he translated was true. And that these revelations, the one that we studied today, is true. Power in it. When I have come to learn of him and listen to the Savior's words and try and walk like he did, it has brought me great peace. So Joseph Smith, put it short. Joseph Smith for

me equals Jesus Christ and peace. It's because of him that I can learn more about my savior and have peace in my life.

Hank Smith: 01:04:28

Yeah. To anyone listening out there who thinks, what about what so and so said online? What about this person? What did the, what did they say on Instagram or on TikTok? And I think the Lord would say, learn of me. Listen to my words. Don't listen to them. Listen to me.

Andy Horton:

01:04:45

It says nothing about TikTok in verse 23 that I can see there,

anyway.

Hank Smith: 01:04:50

Learn of me. Listen to my words. Follow me on TikTok. Walk in

the meekness of my spirit.

John Bytheway: 01:04:57

Yeah. That verse 23 is so relevant right now for us today for Martin Harris back then and right now, for us today. What are you looking at? What are you listening to? How are you trying to walk or try to find peace in all the wrong places? 'cause

you're only gonna find it here.

Hank Smith: 01:05:13

Yeah. It's so fun, John, to have a teacher walk you through a section. Such an experienced teacher, not an old one, but an

experienced.

Andy Horton:

01:05:23

Experienced teacher. Thanks for the opportunity. It's been a lot

of fun. Felt some great things today.

Hank Smith:

01:05:27

We loved having you here, Andy. Hey, those of you who want to come on to YouTube and leave us a comment, we will give that to Andy. Let us know what you learned from him. Also, if you saw something in this section that you want to add, please, we want to hear that. If you don't want to go on to YouTube, you can go to our website, follow him.co. There's a place to send us a message. We would love to hear from you. We love learning together. With that, we want to thank Andy Horton for being with us today. We wanna thank our executive producer Shannon Sorenson, our sponsors David and Verla Sorenson, and every week, every week we remember our founder, Steve Sorenson. We hope you'll join us next week. We're going to talk the organization of the church on Follow Him. Today's show notes and transcript are on our website. Follow him.co. That's Follow him.co. Of course, none of this could happen without our production team, David Perry, Lisa Spice, Jamie Nielsen, Will Stoughton, Krystal Roberts, Ariel Cuadra, Amelia Kawbika, and Annabelle Sorenson.

President Nelso...: 01:06:39 Whatever questions or problems you have, the answer is always

found in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Turn to Him.

Follow Him.

followHIM Favorites



Hank Smith: 00:03

Hello everyone. Welcome to followHIM Favorites. This is where John and I share a single story to go with each week's lesson. John, we are in Doctrine and Covenants 19 this week. I thought of a story as I was reading where the Lord says, please repent, please repent. Over and over. In fact, he doesn't even say, please, He says, I command you to repent. I command you to repent, because I don't want you to suffer. You don't, remember, he says, how sore you know not. I don't want you to suffer, so please repent. I think he says command/repent, honestly, throughout the entire section. It made me think of this story. C.S. Lewis wrote a book called The Great Divorce. It's not as famous as his other ones, right? Chronicles of Narnia and Mere Christianity. But I really like this one. There's a lot of different stories in it . A lot more detail, but I like this single part of it. I think it's really towards the end of the book where there's a man who doesn't live a good life and he ends up going to hell. So C.S. Lewis Christian believes heaven and hell. So the man ends up going to hell and he doesn't like it there.

John Bytheway: 01:14

It's not a nice place to visit, and I wouldn't want to live there.

Hank Smith: 01:19

I don't want to live there. He says it's black and white, not a lot of color. Everybody's pretty ornery, and there's lots of long lines. Wouldn't that make you think, I want to repent? I can handle burning and fire. But yeah, long lines, and ornery people and no color. Yeah. So as he's there, he hates it there. He sees that you can take a tour of heaven. There's like a bus that goes to heaven. Sure, go take a tour of heaven. So he gets on the bus and wants to see it. Well, he gets to heaven and he loves it there. He's on the tour and there's no long lines. Everybody's pretty happy, and everything's in color. There's lots of color. And he just thinks, oh, I wish I would've lived a better life. I could stay in heaven. This is where I want to be.

02:06 The bus driver, he says: Hey, get back on the bus, right? I don't

know if he's from...

John Bytheway: 02:10 He's from Brooklyn, clearly. Back on the bus.

Hank Smith: 02:14 Get back on the bus, fella. So he doesn't want to go. And he

starts walking over to the bus when an angel stops him and says, you don't have to get back on the bus. And the man says, oh, I do. I was just visiting today. And he said, no, no, no. Do you like it here? And the man says, of course I like it here. I love it here. And the angel says, you can stay. Really? Really? I can stay. You can stay if you want to. He says, I want to. And the angel says, oh, good. I'm so glad you want to stay. You can be here. But that, and he points at his shoulder, and it's this big red ugly lizard, which is, I can see why the book wasn't super popular.

02:59 And it's sitting on his shoulder and the angel says, you can stay,

but that cannot. You find out later that this represents this man's sins. He can go to heaven, but his sins can't go with him. So he's got to decide between his sins and heaven. That's why it's called The Great Divorce, right? I'm going to divorce myself from my sins. Well, this red lizard does not want to let go. He says to the lizard, it can talk. He says to the lizard, I need you to leave me because I want to stay here in heaven. And the lizard says something like, I'm not leaving you. Do you know how long I've been with you? Do you know how much good times we've had together? Right? I am not leaving you. And it starts to grip

him with some claws. And he says, ow, ow.

close to me, this really hurts.

O3:51 And the angel said, can I help you? And he's like, well, I don't want you to kill it. Let me figure it out on my own. Can you see this, John? I don't necessarily want it to go away. Not yet, anyway. So he says to the lizard, listen, I really need you to go. And the lizard says, Nope, I'm not going anywhere. And the angels takes a step forward. I can help you. And when the angel takes a step forward, that lizard digs in and he says, don't let him touch me. He can kill me. Don't let him touch me. Listen to this, John. See if you can catch your spiritual ears here. The man says to the angel, don't come near me. This hurts. His sins hurts when you are close to me. Isn't that interesting? When you get

O4:40 And you can talk about, oh, when I go to church, when I go to the temple, I feel my sins are weighing on me. Pretty soon the bus driver starts saying, Hey, pal you got to get on the bus. And he said, hold on a minute. And the angel's there going, I can help you. And he says, hold on. And the lizard's talking to him. Don't let him touch me. Hey pal, get on the bus. I can help you. Let me help you. Don't you want to stay? I want to stay, but don't get close. Hey, buddy, you're getting on the bus and he's

got to make a decision, John, what's he going to do? And he finally looks at the angel and he says, can you do it? Can you really kill it? And he says, yes, it will hurt more than anything you've ever felt in your entire life.

05:26

And the man says, oh, right. Like, oh, no, but he doesn't want to go back to hell, John. He wants to stay in heaven, and the desire to stay in heaven is now worth the pain. So he drops to his knees and he said, do it, kill it. And the angel comes over and the lizard freaks out, and it's just shredding the man's shoulder. And he's screaming in pain. And the angel gets to it and grabs it and it dies, and he throws it and it's far away. And the man looks over and his shoulder is fine. His shoulder is healed. He's trying to grasp what happened. And he looks up and the angel is the Lord. It's the Savior. And he said, now you can stay. And they embrace and it's this great story. And then his sins turn into a stallion and come back and he rides it into heaven. I don't quite understand that part, but I love the story of, it's worth it. It's worth the pain of repentance. Whatever that involves.

John Bytheway: 06:30

Reminds me of King Lamoni's Father. I will give away all my sins to know thee. That was his great divorce. And Section 19 is: I've suffered these things for all that they might not suffer if they would repent.

Hank Smith: 06:44

So maybe you have to go see the bishop. Maybe you need to go talk to the bishop. It's worth the pain. It's worth the embarrassment. And I promise you, your bishop is not going to be shocked. He's not going to cover his mouth and go.. He's going to be there for you. Maybe you got to go talk to your parents. Maybe there's some things you got to change. Maybe you got to change your friends. Maybe you have to change some music. Whatever it is, it's worth the pain.

John Bytheway: 07:09 Some of those painful things.

Hank Smith: 07:10

Yeah. Well, we hope you'll join us on our full podcast. It's called FollowHIM. You can get it wherever you get your podcast. We're with Andy Horton this week. He's been a teacher in the church for 30 years, and he really shows us some things in this section we've never seen before. Then come back next week and we'll do another followHIM Favorite.