

## EPISODE 27

Dr. Bradley R. Wilcox



*D&C 71-75*

*“No Weapon That is Formed Against You Shall Prosper”*

### Show Notes

#### Podcast General Description:

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

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

#### Podcast Episode 27 Description:

##### Part 1:

What is grace, and what role does it play in our lives? This week's guest, Dr. Brad Wilcox, answers these and other questions as he likens grace to a scholarship--it is a gift that keeps on giving if we use and accept it. Hank, John, and Brad discuss how to address the Ezra Booths of our day, making it 'us against the adversary,' rather than 'us against them.' Finally, they touch on how both Edward Partridge and Newel K. Whitney felt less than qualified for their callings as bishops. What can we do as members to help lighten the bishop's load?

##### Part 2:

Some people feel like if they didn't, or couldn't, serve as a young missionary they are less, and that they lost their opportunity to serve. In this episode, Dr. Wilcox returns and expounds on missionary work. He points out that the Lord has been modifying mission calls for a long time, and we don't need to stigmatize those who come home early. Youth missions aren't the only way to serve the Lord. He teaches us to not lose hope for those who have wandered away from the church and to never give up on them. He emphasizes Doctrine and Covenants 75:24: "...it is the duty of the church to assist in supporting the families of those...who are called and must needs be sent unto the world to proclaim the gospel unto the world." Everyone has something they can offer to the work of the Lord.

## **Timecode:**

### **Part 1**

00:00 Welcome to followHIM  
01:13 Introduction of Dr. Brad Wilcox  
04:56 Working together on the Lord's team (still intro)  
12:18 Introduction to D&C 71-75  
13:49 Story of Ezra Booth joining and leaving the church  
18:02 Missionary work comes in many shapes and sizes  
20:50 Discussion on grace--comparing it to a scholarship  
23:06 Applying grace to the parable of the talents  
27:44 "No weapon formed against you shall prosper"-- anti-church material can convert people to the church  
32:17 Don't target individual enemies of the church; it is everyone against the adversary  
34:12 John shares his insight on the word "receive" from D&C 71:6  
35:29 Best way to teach the gospel is to live it, not target individual "enemies" of the church  
40:07 Introduction to Section 72; Newel K. Whitney is called as bishop  
44:02 Discussion on the bishop's responsibility and involvement with youth  
52:40 We need a culture shift away from bishops as counselors  
55:20 Ward members' talents are included in the Lord's storehouse  
59:12 Bishop's role is to manage the storehouse; he should use the youth as his tools in doing the work of salvation  
1:02:25 Newel K. Whitney is 'the man' :)

### **Part 2**

00:00 Part II begins  
01:12 Transition between mission life and regular life, changing your perception of God's work  
03:39 The Lord teaches us to do what is "practical"  
06:38 Background of Section 74, love those that are inactive  
09:10 Children are sanctified by the Lord  
12:30 Have clean hands and a pure heart--don't only clean the leaves, but strengthen the tree  
15:44 Parents will have the chance to raise their children who have died  
16:49 The importance of the revelation about children being sanctified to Joseph Smith  
18:33 Introduction to Section 75  
20:09 John's modified mission experience  
21:22 Discussion on modified missions  
25:00 Story of Alma going back to Ammonihah  
27:22 The Lord changes our missions throughout our lives  
31:31 People might struggle after missions, but they're still better off for it  
33:28 Story about Luke Johnson as a humorous missionary

35:00 Examples of early saints who had their own struggles with the church  
38:38 Orson's Pratt's experience  
39:59 Don't give up on those who are off the path  
42:32 Hank's insight on the raising of Lazarus from the dead  
43:29 Christ is a successful and loving parent, trust him to help those who are wandering  
46:06 Brad's experiences in his calling as mission president  
50:45 Brad's story about a pilot bringing supplies for the mission  
52:21 Examples of those who support the missionaries  
55:38 Brad's testimony

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**Biographical Information:**



Bradley R. (Brad) Wilcox received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Brigham Young University (BYU) and his doctorate from the University of Wyoming. He is currently a professor in BYU's Department of Ancient Scripture. He is the author of the book *Atonement* and the BYU devotional address "His Grace Is Sufficient."

Dr. Wilcox has served in several Church callings, including full-time missionary in the Chile Vina del Mar Mission, bishop in the Chile Santiago East Mission, counselor in a YSA stake presidency, and member of the Sunday School general board. Most recently, he served as stake counselor and stake Young Men president.

Dr. Wilcox was sustained as the second counselor in the Young Men general presidency on April 4, 2020.

Dr. Wilcox was born in Provo, Utah, on December 25, 1959. He and his wife, Deborah Gunnell, have four children and eight grandchildren.

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## EPISODE 27 • PART I

Dr. Bradley R. Wilcox



*D&C 71-75*

Hank Smith:	<u>00:00:01</u>	Welcome to followHIM, a weekly podcast dedicated to helping individuals and families with their Come Follow Me study. I'm Hank Smith.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:00:09</u>	And I'm John Bytheway.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:00:10</u>	We love to learn.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:00:11</u>	We love to laugh.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:00:13</u>	We want to learn and laugh with you.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:00:15</u>	As together, we follow him.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:00:18</u>	Friends, welcome to another episode of Follow Him. My name is Hank Smith. I am here with my timeless co-host, John Bytheway. Welcome, John.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:00:31</u>	You looked at my face and you just thought, "Man, he's been around a long time. This guy is timeless."
Hank Smith:	<u>00:00:35</u>	No, John, you are timeless. You really are. Your generations have listened to you.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:00:45</u>	Now, we just want to remind everybody that we have some social media platforms. You can find us on Instagram and Facebook. We have a website, <a href="http://follomhim.co">follomhim.co</a> , <a href="http://followhim.com">followhim.com</a> , where you can find sources, the transcripts of our interviews. And we'd love for you to rate and review our podcast, if you wouldn't take just 30 seconds to do that, really helps us out.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:01:12</u>	Now, John, I know I'm excited for today, but I know you were even more excited for today because this was a discussion we've had for quite a while, a couple of months you've wanted this one to happen. So why don't I let you take it from here? Tell us who we have with us.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:01:29</u>	Oh, we're so excited to have Dr. Brad Wilcox. And I've known him as Brad for years. I got home from my mission in the '80s and started EFY and watched this speaker get up and we were laughing, we were learning, we were touched. I had never seen

anything like it. I thought, "This guy is awesome." And let me just read his bio and then we'll add our own adjectives, right?

- John Bytheway: 00:02:00 Brad Wilcox is an associate professor in the Department of Ancient Scripture at BYU. He received his bachelor's degree in elementary education from BYU and taught sixth grade in the Provo School District before returning to BYU for a master's degree in teaching and learning. Then he took off and he went to Wyoming, got a PhD in curriculum and instruction with a focus in literacy from... At the football games, they'd go W-Y-O, from the University of Wyoming in Laramie. He joined the faculty at BYU and spent many tears... Many years and many tears in the teacher education department. He could tell us if that's true or not. He moved to ancient scripture in 2016.
- John Bytheway: 00:02:41 He's the author of the book The Continuous Atonement, and what a blessing that's been to so many; and the BYU devotional on speeches.byu.edu called His Grace is Sufficient. Brad grew up in Provo, Utah, except for childhood years spent in Ethiopia. He served a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Chile, and then later returned to preside over the Chile Santiago East Mission from 2003 to 2006. And I think he used to get visited by someone known as Elder Jeffrey R. Holland when he was down there. He and his family have also lived for a time in New Zealand and Spain. If I'm timeless, Brad's international, Brad's global where.
- Hank Smith: 00:03:25 Yeah he's universal.
- John Bytheway: 00:03:26 He's universal. He directed study abroad programs for BYU. Brad's served as a member of the Sunday School General Board. And he's currently in the General Young Men's Presidency. His research interests include all aspects of literacy, as well as gospel topics and onomastics. Did I say that right, Brad?
- Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:03:45 Yeah.
- John Bytheway: 00:03:46 Onomastics, which is the study of names. And he and his wonderful wife, Debbie have four children and six grandchildren. Is that still accurate?
- Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:03:55 We've got number nine coming this summer.
- John Bytheway: 00:03:58 I have learned so much from Brad. Brad has more energy. If you put jumper cables on Brad's ears, you could power the entire tri-state area. I have, Hank, one of the only known photographs of Brad sleeping during the daytime. We had just finished a

Youth Conference and we got on a plane, and after writing about 300 thank you notes and cards and stuff, he fell asleep and I snapped a photo.

- John Bytheway: 00:04:27 Anyway, so energetic and almost every book I've written, which number in the twos. No, I've written a bunch. But Brad has so kindly, as busy as he is, reviewed manuscripts and helped make every one of them better. He's kind, but he'll tell me, "Hey, you ought to do this. You ought to do this." And I feel he's a lifelong friend and I'm so grateful to have him here today. Thanks, Brad, and welcome.
- Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:04:54 Thank you. What a beautiful introduction. Just being with the two of you is not uncomfortable at all, because we have spent many, many years together. The three of us have taught together. We've traveled together. They always say that the way to get to know somebody really well is to travel together and we've done it. We know each other inside and out. And I have loved being your mission companion for years and years this week go to Youth Conferences, as we work with young single adults, it's just been a joy to be able to have the two of you in my circle of, as John says, lifelong friends.
- John Bytheway: 00:05:39 We've spent tears and years, right?
- Hank Smith: 00:05:44 Brad and I, people will ask me sometimes, they'll say, "What's it like working with John or Brad? Are they the same as they are?" I said, "They're better." You don't have this onstage presence and then this grouchy old man presence. It's, "They're even kinder in person." And then someone will say, "Oh, I listened to a Brad Wilcox talk, or I listened to John Bytheway talk. Sorry." And I'm, "No, no, don't say sorry, because I personally could never have done what I have done without Brad making the road and John paving the road." I cannot express my just admiration, awe, thanks enough. And everyone listening should know, Brad Wilcox is a hugger.
- Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:06:48 Yeah, COVID's about killed me. Not because of the virus, but because of the six foot distance stuff.
- Hank Smith: 00:06:55 Yeah, he is a hugger. And getting a hug from Brad Wilcox it's like getting a hug from the Holy Ghost. It is-
- John Bytheway: 00:07:02 Yeah, bus drivers, Walmart clerks, anyone around Brad...
- Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:07:07 My sister-in-law gave me a t-shirt that said, "If it moves, hug it." So I guess that's my motto.

Dr. Bradley R. ...:	<u>00:07:16</u>	But it is funny how people think that we compete with each other because the students at BYU think that there's some sort of sick competition going on between John Bytheway and Hank Smith and Brad Wilcox. And I think, "No, they don't realize that we're dear friends." And when some kid comes up to me and says, "Gosh, you're not as good as Hank Smith." I say, "You're right." And when somebody comes up and says, "Your book changed my life." And I say, "Oh, thank you." "Will you sign it?" "Oh, yes." And then they give me one of John's books.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:07:59</u>	I've signed Hank Smith CDs before.
Dr. Bradley R. ...:	<u>00:08:01</u>	I just sign it. I used to explain that that's John's book, but now I just sign it.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:08:07</u>	"Yeah, whatever."
John Bytheway:	<u>00:08:09</u>	My kids listen to Hank's CDs in the Sequoia. And I think, boy, in this day and age, what we've been talking about, to have so many voices, I am so grateful for anybody who wants to bear testimony to my kids and who can make them laugh and who can make them feel some joy. So thanks for being on the same team, guys.
Dr. Bradley R. ...:	<u>00:08:30</u>	Yeah, and that's the point. I always tell the students at BYU, "When you're trying to build your own kingdom, then people can get competitive. But if you're trying to build the Lord's kingdom, then we're all on the same team." Hank's success is my success. John's success is my success. And because we're such dear friends, then instead of feeling competitive, instead of feeling belittled by somebody else's success, we can feel grateful because having you two on my team, it's like having two Michael Jordans on my team. I'm going to get the ball to you as often as I can, because if you get the basket, then we all succeed. Because we're trying to help people come to Christ. And when that's our motive, and I sincerely testify that that is Hank's motive and John's motive and my motive, and if that's our motive, then we're all trying to do the same thing. And the more we can do it together, the more fun it is.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:09:39</u>	Yeah, that's why today I'm really excited. John, I'm sure you thought of this verse, knowing you so well, I'm sure you were like, I think Alma said something like that in Alma 29. "I do not joy in my own success alone, but my joy is more full because of the success of my brethren."

John Bytheway:	<u>00:09:57</u>	And they get so joyous in The Book of Mormon, they just tip over and are unconscious for three days. I mean, we are legit friends. We love to watch each other teach and testify to our own kids. I mean, Hank teaches my own kids and I'm so glad he's there. And Brad teaches my children and I'm so glad he's there. And Brad's helped write letters of recommendation for my kids in school. And Hank's daughter and my son went to prom. We are friends. So you got to know this.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:10:30</u>	Oh, and John, Brad would never say this, but you mentioned that talk at BYU. I was there.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:10:37</u>	His Grace is Sufficient.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:10:38</u>	I was there for that talk. It was a summer devotional, which they have in a smaller venue there.
Dr. Bradley R. ...:	<u>00:10:45</u>	Yeah. That was in the De Jung Concert Hall, and there were only a few hundred people there. So yeah, you were one of the few.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:10:51</u>	Yeah. I sat there and listened.
Dr. Bradley R. ...:	<u>00:10:53</u>	That's called true devotion, you came to that.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:10:57</u>	Devotional.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:10:59</u>	And that talk, and Brad did not mean for this to happen, this was not on his mind, in fact, he was going to give a talk on humor, decided at the last minute to switch it up and do a talk on grace. Became the most downloaded talk in BYU devotional history. And it's not a thing he talks about. I've never, ever seen Brad say, "Guess who has the most downloaded talk?" He's never said that. He would never even think it. But it has changed more lives. Students have told me about it. Church members have told me about it. They've said, "Oh, it just spoke to my heart." So we'll encourage anyone, what website did you say, John?
John Bytheway:	<u>00:11:45</u>	Speeches.byu.edu. I mean, what a treasure that whole website is. But yeah, they used to have a download of things and I always used to see when I went there to find something, "Oh, look, there's there's Brad." And when I teach 2 Nephi 25, "What does that phrase mean, 'After all we can do.'?" Well, wow, watch Brad take it apart. And watch the hope and the grace of Christ come to the forefront as we talk about that.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:12:12</u>	It's called His Grace...

John Bytheway:	<u>00:12:14</u>	Is sufficient.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:12:15</u>	Is sufficient.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:12:17</u>	Okay. Well, at some point we need to start the Come Follow Me lesson, Brad. We are excited to study Come Follow Me with you this week. We're studying Sections 71 through 75. These are a series of shorter sections, and the issues that are being dealt with all seem to be all over the place. So why don't we just take them one at a time or however you want to do it, give us some context, give us some history our listeners need to know, and jump into these verses and tell us what you see.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:12:50</u>	I think listeners are going to be surprised as they realize that these short little sections actually have a great deal to say to us today, and a great deal of hope for us today. And we sometimes will read these sections and think, "Oh, that doesn't have much to do with me." But I think you'll be surprised, it really does.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:13:13</u>	Let's take a look at Section 71. Now Sidney and Joseph are translating the Bible. You've talked before in your other episodes about the Joseph Smith Translation, which isn't really a translation, it's an inspired commentary. And he's going through this to be able to learn the gospel as much as teach the gospel. And so they're busy in this work and God wants them in this work. But then along comes a situation that arises with Ezra Booth. Now, Ezra Booth was a Methodist minister and he read a copy of The Book of Mormon with John Johnson. And then he saw Elsa Johnson healed.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:14:06</u>	Have you shared that story before in your episodes?
Hank Smith:	<u>00:14:09</u>	A little bit. We would love to hear it.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:14:12</u>	You can refresh our memory, yeah.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:14:13</u>	John, why don't you go ahead and share that, John?
John Bytheway:	<u>00:14:16</u>	Well, they were in Kirtland. They were at that little... Didn't they call it a hotel? It's kind of kiddie corner to the Newel K. Whitney store. And Elsa is sitting there and her arm has been, just say withered, not able to function very well for years.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:14:32</u>	And she couldn't. And John, with your back problems that you're struggling with, you know what that means to not be able to move like you'd like. She couldn't even lift her arm above her head.

Hank Smith:	<u>00:14:44</u>	Yeah. She said it was the hanging the laundry out to dry, she couldn't do it. She had to do it with just her left arm, right?
John Bytheway:	<u>00:14:53</u>	Yeah. And Joseph Smith, what were the words he used? He said, "Do you have the faith to be healed?" Or did he say something like that? Or did he just walk over and have her reach out her arm and healed her arm. And then just walked out, if I remember, right.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:15:11</u>	Right. It wasn't a big to do. He kind of walked over to her in the corner. He didn't have everybody gathered around.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:15:18</u>	No.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:15:19</u>	But Ezra Booth caught sight of it.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:15:20</u>	Ezra Booth was there. And it, I guess, opened his heart a little bit. And at that point, he being a friend of John and Elsa Johnson, joined the church.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:15:35</u>	Yeah. He was called on a mission and he found that the mission was difficult and he was living without purse or scrip. Now he'd been used to being a paid minister. So it was a difficult transition for him to go from, "Hey, I am receiving a nice income for this, and now I'm doing it for nothing. And there are days that I'm not even eating." And so it became very hard for him and he ended up leaving the church and publishing nine letters in an Ohio newspaper. And he wrote about what he called the Mormon delusion.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:16:22</u>	Now Joseph Smith called them, his letters, a monument to the weakness and wickedness of Ezra Booth. Whoa, that's some pretty powerful language coming from Joseph Smith. I think he was especially disappointed in Ezra Booth because he had seen a miracle. He had seen a miracle and he had come into the church. And yet when things got hard, he turned bitter against the church. And I think knowing the amazing experience that he had, it especially saddened Joseph Smith. And so he caused enough problems. These letters were causing enough problems that then that brought this section forth. And it says in verse one, "The time has verily come that it is necessary and expedient in me that you should open your mouth in proclaiming my gospel."
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:17:35</u>	Now, why was it expedient? Well, because there were enough members that were getting disillusioned by these letters. There were enough people in the community that were turning their

hearts against the Latter-day Saints because of this, that the Lord said, "It's time for you, Joseph, it's time for you, Sidney, to go." And look in verse two, it says, "The regions round about." And in the church, isn't it interesting that missionaries always think that they need to have a mission call that takes them clear across the world? And they even get disappointed if they get called to a nearby state or a nearby country, because they think, "Oh, I've got to go clear across the world to preach the gospel." But the prophet himself was called on a mission to the regions round about, and in the church.

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| Dr. Bradley R. ...: | <u>00:18:31</u> | Missionary work isn't all done with those who are not members of the church. Missionary work can be done as we help everyone live the gospel, as we help everyone care about those in need, as we help others share the gospel, and as we help unite families for eternity. All of those are aspects of missionary work and he is being called to the church.  |
| Hank Smith:         | <u>00:18:59</u> | Brad, I'm going to ask you a question here, because I think this is crucial because I think when I served a mission, reactivating a member didn't feel like a baptism, right? And so it was kind of like, "Oh..." And yet, now that I'm looking back, I'm going, "This is part of missionary work, is going out there." Missionaries today are reactivating some members who were baptized a couple of years ago. That is very much missionary work, right?  |
| Dr. Bradley R. ...: | <u>00:19:36</u> | I was blessed to serve in Chile. You mentioned this earlier. I was blessed to serve in Chile at the same time that Elder Holland was directing the work down there. And it was so remarkable to watch him see and help us see missionary work as something much more than just teaching non-members and baptizing them into the church. He helped people see that we needed to continue to minister to them so that they could stay strong in the church. And he helped the missionaries devote a big solid chunk of their time to reactivation. That was the same time that Preach My Gospel was coming out, and he was so instrumental in helping the missionaries make that shift, to the shift that Preach My Gospel talks about, that says, "When we're doing anything we can to help build the kingdom, that's all part of missionary work." |
| Dr. Bradley R. ...: | <u>00:20:36</u> | So we see that here in Section 71, and look at verse six, it says, "For unto him that receiveth it shall be given more abundantly, even power." Now, Hank and John, you both were kind enough to mention the talk I gave on grace, but I have often used this very verse as I talk about grace, because many people in the Christian world know that grace is a gift, but they think of grace as a one-time gift. You get it once and for all. And in reality, this  |



verse describes a little better how we receive grace. "For unto him that receiveth it shall be given more abundantly, even power." Grace is defined as enabling power. And so those who receive it receive more.

- Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:21:38 If we think of grace as a scholarship, then a scholarship is a free gift, it's not a student loan, it's a gift. And those who receive it, if they use it and they keep their grades up, then they receive more. And they receive more. But those who don't use it, then it is taken away. I know because a lot of my students who are freshmen come to BYU with a scholarship that they've worked so hard for, and they'll lose it in the first semester. Why? Because they didn't take advantage of the opportunity. A scholarship doesn't guarantee learning and a scholarship doesn't guarantee graduation. It facilitates it. And grace facilitates this transformation in our lives. Those who receive grace, then they receive more grace. But those who don't take advantage of the grace they're given, those who reject it, then it's not that God doesn't want to give them more. It's that he can't.
- Hank Smith: 00:22:54 They're not even on campus anymore, right?
- Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:22:57 Right.
- Hank Smith: 00:22:58 They're not using the scholarship. They're not applying. They're not... Yeah.
- Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:23:01 And so he would love to give them more, but he can't. Think of The Parable of the Talents. One time I was reading that in Matthew 25, and then my daughter said, "Dad, I think that's talking about grace." I said, "No. No, honey. I know these things. I teach at BYU. And it's talking about money." And she said, "No, Dad, I think it's talking about grace." And I said, "I don't think so." She said, "Dad. Read it again." And so I did. And with the lens that my daughter had given me, I did see it in a different light. Because we traditionally, okay he gave to one five talents, one two, and one one.
- Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:23:52 But think of talents, not as an amount of money per se, but think of them as books. He gave five books to one servant, two to another, and one to another. Well, when he came back, the one who received two and the one who received five, they had read their books. And so he said, "Welcome into my library." And he was able to give them more. The one who received one book, had the book taken away. Why? Because God was being mad, God was mean, God was punishing him? No. It's because he hadn't read it. And what good is a book to somebody who

doesn't read it? Even if God said, "Well, I love that person so much. Enter into my library anyway." If that servant can't handle one book, what's he going to do with a library? He may not even want to go into the library until he's better prepared. So this verse always makes me think of grace.

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| Hank Smith:         | <u>00:25:03</u> | What's interesting is that the servant with the one book, he blames the Lord, right? "I knew you were hard. I knew you would judge me harshly." And the Lord returns it to, "You. This was you. Your decision." What does he say? "You are a slothful servant."   |
| Dr. Bradley R. .... | <u>00:25:23</u> | Yeah, "You didn't read the book."   |
| Hank Smith:         | <u>00:25:24</u> | Yeah. So as much as we want to put the blame on God, "You don't love me. You don't care. You are judgmental." God's saying, "This was your choice. You did this."   |
| Dr. Bradley R. .... | <u>00:25:39</u> | And, "For unto him that receiveth it shall be given more abundantly, even power." And those who don't receive, it's taken away. Well, how do I receive grace? Some Christians say Latter-day Saints don't believe in grace because we believe in ordinances and we believe in commandments. We have more faith in that than we do in grace. What they don't understand is that for us ordinances and covenants are not what we do instead of grace. It's what we do to use grace, to receive grace, to acknowledge it, to appreciate it, and to welcome more and more grace into our lives. And as we welcome more then God is able to give more. So if we think of grace not as a one-time gift that he gives to all of his children, but rather as a library of books and he is giving us one book after another. |
| Dr. Bradley R. .... | <u>00:26:55</u> | My little grandkids, some of them are getting old enough now that I used to read books to them. Now they can read little books to me. What do I do when they finish a book?   |
| Hank Smith:         | <u>00:27:05</u> | Give them another.  |
| Dr. Bradley R. .... | <u>00:27:06</u> | I give them another. The minute they finish one, I give them another. And then I give them another after that. Because I know then they're in this path of learning that is part of the transformation that God and Jesus are trying to have happen in our lives. We read about that a little later in these same sections when we read about sanctification.   |
| Dr. Bradley R. .... | <u>00:27:38</u> | But let's go to the end of Section 71, verses nine and 10. At the bottom it says, "No weapon that is formed against you shall   |

prosper. And if any man lift his voice against you, he shall be confounded in mine own due time." And I think that's a beautiful promise. Sometimes we get discouraged because there's so much stuff on the internet bombarding us. And so many voices saying, "You're wrong and I've got all this evidence that proves the church isn't true." And there's just so many voices coming at us. We have to remember what the Lord told Joseph Smith, no weapon that is formed against you shall prosper. And we have to keep that same perspective. Nothing they say, nothing they can do is going to stop the progression of the church, the forward movement of the church.

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| Dr. Bradley R. ...: | <u>00:28:34</u> | And he says, "If any man lift his voice against you, he shall be confounded." Joseph wasn't the one who was confused. It was Ezra Booth who was confused. And in the end, because Ezra Booth's choices took him away from Joseph and away from the church, it was Ezra Booth who was confounded. It was Ezra who ended up confused. Joseph and those who stayed true to him were always moving in the forward direction.   |
| Dr. Bradley R. ...: | <u>00:29:12</u> | So I told you, section 71 has a lot to do with our day, doesn't it?  |
| Hank Smith:         | <u>00:29:17</u> | I've had students before say, "Aren't you worried about this written on the internet, this big thing?" And I always tell them this story. There was a man in Germany who ran into some very, very anti material. And he became interested because of it, looked into the church, ended up joining the church, moving to Utah, starting a little school in Provo. His name's Karl G. Maeser. He started a little school in Provo that became Brigham Young Academy, that became Brigham Young University. So I'm really grateful for that little anti-Mormon book that he ran into because it introduced him to the church. So I think that's one of the ways the Lord is saying, "It will be confounded in mine own due time."                               |
| Dr. Bradley R. ...: | <u>00:30:03</u> | Yeah. Elder LeGrand Curtis Jr, who is the church historian right now, he says, "I don't worry that people are going to find something out about church history." He says, "I worry that they're not going to find out enough about church history." And the same story you shared about, about Karl G. Maeser, Hank, it happened in this situation as well. There was a man named Ira V. Ames, A-M-E-S. And he was actually attracted to the church by letters that were written by Ezra Booth and published in the newspaper. It was those letters that led him to joining the church. And this man stayed strong his whole life. He participated in Zion's Camp and he was a faithful disciple throughout his entire life. So there we see evidence of the |

words that the Lord said to Joseph Smith, "No weapon that is formed against you shall prosper."

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| Dr. Bradley R. ....: | <u>00:31:12</u> | I can't tell you how many people I've met personally, not just people I've heard about, but people I've met personally, who ended up joining the church because their interest was first piqued by The Book of Mormon musical. Now I've never seen it. I've never listened to the music because I don't want to hear all the swear words. I do know what it's about because people have told me. But I just think that's a great example of what we're talking about. This weapon may have been formed against the church, and yet God can use it to pique people's interest and they come into the church. And I've actually met men and women who have come into the church because of their first exposure to The Book of Mormon through that musical.  |
| Hank Smith:          | <u>00:32:12</u> | Yeah, so have I.   |
| Dr. Bradley R. ....: | <u>00:32:13</u> | So there's some beautiful evidence.  |
| John Bytheway:       | <u>00:32:15</u> | Yeah, Ezra Booth and the people who did the musical and things like that, not our enemy when things like this end up happening. If somebody has an open heart and is willing to say, "I'd like to see the other side of this. I think I'll read those Ezra Booth letters. I'll go read some other ones, too." Some good things can happen from there. And if you remember in The Book of Mormon, when Alma and Amulek are questioned by Zeezrom, I think that's how you say it, and at first, Zeezrom's questions are gotcha questions. He is not about learning truth. He's a lawyer and he's trying to confound them. A gotcha question is, "I'm going to trap you." It's what reporters do and things like that. And when Alma and Amulek started to preach, he heard something that touched his heart and all of a sudden... |
| John Bytheway:       | <u>00:33:15</u> | I call these gotcha questions and then they go to Google questions, which are just information, and then there's golden questions. "Where did I come from? Why am I here? What's going on?" And Zeezrom suddenly goes to golden questions. And Alma tells him this was the plan of thine adversary. And I've always just loved that one word. He didn't say the adversary. He's your enemy too. And I share this with my kids when we have a family fight or a struggle or something, to say, "This is not about you versus me. This is all of us versus the adversary. Our adversary. And let's see ourselves together as a team." And so the Lord can do things in such interesting ways to bring his purposes about.  |

John Bytheway:	<u>00:34:09</u>	And if you don't mind, I want it to talk about that word receive in verse six, "Unto him that receiveth." I've always thought that in a more modern way, we look at it as a, "Did you get the letter?" But receiving implies, "I'm letting it in. I'm allowing it to come in." We have a wedding reception, we receive guests. And the funny thing to me is when I was thinking about this, I started thinking about The Parable of the Sower, where they received seed. And then I looked at the footnote on the word receive, footnote 6A, Matthew 13:12, right after The Parable of the Sower, Jesus talks about, "He that receives will receive more." Just as Brad has spoken. And about how we confer the Holy Ghost. What are the words that are used by the priesthood holder?
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:34:59</u>	Receive.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:35:00</u>	Yeah. It's noy you've got the Holy Ghost. No, it's a command that you receive, let it in, allow it in. You open yourself to let it in.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:35:12</u>	Think about a receiver on a football field.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:35:15</u>	Yeah.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:35:15</u>	He has to do something to receive.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:35:19</u>	Oh, I like that.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:35:19</u>	It doesn't just happen. He's running, man, he's putting himself in a position so that he can receive the gift. Beautiful insight, John.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:35:29</u>	I just want to make this very clear. The Ezra Booths of 2021, the Zeezroms of 2021, these are not our enemy. And too often, we think we're somehow defending the cause by going after these individuals, by threatening them. There's Latter-day Saints who feel like, "If I can go and threaten these enemies of the church, I'm helping the Lord." And I think the Lord is saying here, "No, no, no. You keep my commandments. They are true and faithful." So I don't know. You can tell, I feel pretty strongly about this, but these people on online who are all over saying the church is terrible, they are not our enemy. As John said, we could say to them, if they hear us, "Your enemy too is behind all of this." Right? "Our enemy is the adversary and your enemy is the adversary. And that's who's behind all this."
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:36:33</u>	You know, one of the most quoted scriptures in General Conference by prophets, seers and revelators over the last 50 years, and you might say, "Brad, how do you know it's one of the

most quoted?" Because I counted them. I counted them. I actually did an article on that to find out what were the most quoted scriptures from The Book of Mormon. But one of the top ones is Mosiah 3:19, "For the natural man is an enemy to God." But I always have to remember that God is not his enemy. God is not the enemy of the natural man. God is his best friend because it's through God that that natural man, that prideful and unrepentant man can be changed through the atonement of Christ the Lord, and become a saint, childlike, submissive, loving. That change is possible. And so you're right. Hank. We have to remember who the real enemy is and that God is not the enemy.

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| Hank Smith:          | <u>00:37:53</u> | Yeah, he doesn't say to Joseph and Sidney, "You go get Ezra." Right?   |
| John Bytheway:       | <u>00:37:57</u> | In fact, I was just thinking, look at what he does say in verse one, "It's expedient to me that you should open your mouths in proclaiming my gospel." Gospel is good news. This is the glad tidings of great joy. That's what the gospel is. And then look again at the end, as Brad said, "Don't worry, no weapon that is formed against you shall prosper." And in the Come Follow Me manual it references Elder Robert D. Hale's talk on Christian courage. And I think the way that we respond to that is going to, hopefully, if we respond with Christian courage, make it easier for those two to come back. You've heard the idea that we don't want to burn bridges, we want to make it, "You were so kind to me during that time when I was struggling." "Yeah, come on back." Joseph does that to W. W. Phelps, those stories are coming up, but just... |
| Dr. Bradley R. ....: | <u>00:38:57</u> | Yeah.  |
| Hank Smith:          | <u>00:38:58</u> | John, so what I hear you saying, and Brad, what I hear you saying, is the best way to overcome the weapons that are formed against us is teaching the gospel, sharing the gospel. Maybe not responding, not with hatred, not threatening, but show the good news, show it.   |
| Dr. Bradley R. ....: | <u>00:39:19</u> | And live it. Look at verse 11, "Wherefore, keep my commandments. They are true and faithful." So he's saying, "You don't have to go fight anybody. You don't have to ridicule anybody. You don't have to go tear anybody else down. Just live the gospel, keep my commandments, share the gospel." And instead of saying, "Oh, these other groups are... Let's start talking about what's bad about everybody else." Instead, we just say, "No, we're just going to share what's good about what we have in the restored gospel we have."  |

John Bytheway:	<u>00:39:57</u>	My mission president used to tell us, "Always better to light a candle than to curse the darkness." And I always liked that idea.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:40:05</u>	Beautiful.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:40:06</u>	Thanks, John.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:40:07</u>	Well, let's go ahead to Section 72. And in this section we see the calling of Newel K. Whitney as a bishop. Now he wasn't the very first bishop. The first bishop was Edward Partridge. But interesting things that we read as we go through this. First of all, Edward Partridge wrote a letter to Lydia Partridge. And in this letter he said, "I fear my station is above what I can perform to the acceptance of my Heavenly Father." Anybody who's ever been called as a bishop can relate to those words. "I fear my station, my calling, is above what I can perform to the acceptance of my Heavenly Father." Newel K. Whitney had a similar response.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:41:02</u>	In fact, would this be a good time? Can I read something that Newel K. Whitney's grandson, Orson F. Whitney, said in General Conference?
Hank Smith:	<u>00:41:11</u>	Awesome.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:41:12</u>	And Hank, I'm timeless. I was there. This was in 1919. And I remember where I was sitting.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:41:19</u>	You remember it. You remember the meeting.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:41:21</u>	We parked our wagon outside and mom said, "Now you're going to have to take the handcart home with your sister." But so Orson F. Whitney said, "Newel K. Whitney, staggering under the weight of the responsibility that was about to be placed upon him, said to the prophet, 'Brother Joseph, I can't see a bishop in myself.' No, but God could see it in him. He was a natural bishop, a first-class man of affairs. Probably no other incumbent of that important office, the presiding bishopric to which he eventually attained, has been better qualified for it than Newel K. Whitney. But he could not see it, and he shrank from the responsibility. The prophet answered, 'Go and ask the Lord about it.' And Newel did ask the Lord and he heard a voice from heaven say, 'Thy strength is in me.' That was enough. He accepted the office and served in it faithfully to the end of his days, a period of 18 years."

Dr. Bradley R. ...:	<u>00:42:19</u>	Now, do you see how that ties back to what we were talking about grace? If grace is power, if it is divine strength, as he turns to the Lord, then the Lord tells him, "Thy strength is in me and you can do this. You can make it through." Now, he's given stewardship at the hand of every steward, he is to render an account of his stewardship. So he is to receive what's in the storehouse. And that means that people's time and talents and means are being turned over to the bishop in Zion and he is making sure that people are giving an account of that stewardship.
Dr. Bradley R. ...:	<u>00:43:08</u>	Now, today, we often read this and we think about what was happening financially, that they were giving of their land or giving of their homes or giving of their finances. But we have to remember that the law of consecration is giving our time, our talents and our means. And even today, we give our time, we give our talents and we give our means and all of that. Some people say, "Brother Wilcox, will we one day live the law of consecration?" And I say, "It's up to you. You can live it right now." We're not promising to live a law someday down the road. We're promising to live a law right now that says we will give our time, our talents and our means to the church. And we do that.
Dr. Bradley R. ...:	<u>00:44:01</u>	Now here's the interesting thing. We are living in a time where there has been an inspired change to the role of a bishop. In 2019, we heard an inspired announcement that said that there were not going to be any more Young Men presidencies at the ward level. And that the bishoprics, as they're told in scripture in Section 107, the bishoprics are going to be the leaders of the youth. Well, we've now been living with that announcement for over a year. And bishops are staggering a little bit. They're saying, "How on earth do I take the youth on on top of everything else that I'm responsible for?" And they need to remember that this is not an issue of we're doing something new. This is an issue of getting back to where the scriptures talk to us in the first place.
Dr. Bradley R. ...:	<u>00:45:07</u>	The Young Men, presidency was something that happened in response to Scouting. Because Scouting is a national organization and it exists and has a national organization. Well, as the church used Scouting as the activity arm of the Aaronic Priesthood, then they needed some men who could run the Scouting program. And that's where Young Men presidencies come from. But the keys of the Aaronic Priesthood have never been held by the Young Men presidency. The keys are held by the bishop. They're held by the teacher's quorum president. They're held by the deacons quorum president. And now this



alignment now that we've separated ourselves from Scouting, then the responsibility for the youth can be back where it needed to be all along. And that is the bishopric.

Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:46:10

Now I was serving as a member of the high council when the announcement was made. And they said that the stake Young Men president would now be a member of the high council. Well, shortly after that announcement, I was called to be the stake Young Men president. And my first response, I have to be honest with you, was, "Oh, seriously? Like I don't have enough on my plate? This calling isn't enough, now I have to be the Young Men president too?" And I know a lot of bishops are feeling that same way. "Seriously? Like I don't have enough on my plate?" And we have to remember, as I prayed about that, I was able to realize that this was a very inspired change that needed to happen. And one thing that helped me realize that was to find out that the Young Men president was holding his calling, throughout the entire church, the average time that a Young Man president was in was about nine months. That's not enough time to build the relationships that we need.

Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:47:16

High council members, bishopric members, they usually serve for longer than nine months. And that was the average, which means that some of those men were in even shorter times. So if we need to build the relationships that will keep youth strong, those relationships come as we have time with the youth. So I think that part of the reason that the bishops are being called into that call to action, that high council members are being called to action is because they have time to build those relationships. And we have to have a cultural shift in our minds. See what is being described here with Newel K. Whitney is the work of the presiding bishop who takes care of the temporal affairs of the church and the responsibilities of ward bishops to take care of temporal needs within their wards.

Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:48:19

But now we've got to let a cultural shift happen and understand that later in Section 107, then we start understanding that the Aaronic priesthood, the leader of the Aaronic Priesthood also was the bishop, so that he could build those relationships. And we've got to have a cultural shift. You guys aren't old enough to remember this, but I remember when I was growing up, culturally we looked at the bishop as a fundraiser. He was always asking for money for the temple fund, money for the building fund, money for the welfare, money for the budget. And so I have a memory of a bishop being culturally looked at as a fundraiser.

Dr. Bradley R. ...:	<u>00:49:09</u>	Then when the church changed that, then we started looking at the bishop the way that many people do now, and that is as a free counselor. We go to the bishop, he's going to counsel us in our marriage. He's going to counsel us through our problems. He's going to counsel us and help us with everything that's going on in our lives. And now our church leaders, as they emphasize the need for the bishop to work with the youth, they are telling the members it's time for the bishop to delegate those responsibilities of counseling to Relief Society presidents, to elders quorum presidents, to presidencies of the elders quorum and Relief Society. And even to other members of the ward. Every ward has a former bishop in it.
Dr. Bradley R. ...:	<u>00:50:01</u>	Well, if that former Bishop is consecrated, if he has given his time, his talents and means to the church, then they are part of the bishop's storehouse or what this section calls the Lord's storehouse. And so the bishop can call on those things and the bishop can delegate. Not confessions for sins, that requires a common judge in Israel, which is a bishop's role, but the ongoing counseling can be delegated to someone else, even a professional counselor. It can be delegated to that man or that woman. And we can use what's in the storehouse to be able to meet the needs, so the Bishop has time for his family and time for the youth. The rising generation.
Dr. Bradley R. ...:	<u>00:50:59</u>	In our day, President Nelson has clearly said that the bishopric is responsible for the youth, not just the Aaronic Priesthood, but the Young Women as well. Now he doesn't do this all alone. There are advisors who are called. There are specialists who are called. There is a Young Women's presidency called in the ward. And that can all be part of this storehouse that he has, and he can delegate to them. But part of the problem is that members of the church aren't letting the bishop escape this counseling role. So many bishops are not just counseling the people who were being counseled by the former bishop, but they are counseling the people who were counseled by the bishop before him. I mean, we're talking two, three bishops ago and they're still being counseled. That's the counseling that can be shifted. The counseling of adults can be shifted and delegated to others who are part of the storehouse so that the bishop can turn his attention to the rising generation and strengthen that rising generation.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:52:15</u>	Brad, I love what you're saying here. Do you feel like the Lord is saying to the church today, President Nelson and the direction we've been given, the role of a bishop is not a counselor. Maybe it's worked for us in the past and hey, this is good. But there's some divine alignment happening here. Do you feel like...

Dr. Bradley R. ...:	<u>00:52:39</u>	Yeah, I think we need to have a cultural shift. Just as we were able to shift and say the bishop doesn't need to be a fundraiser anymore. We need now to shift and say the bishop doesn't need to be an adult counselor. He still needs to be the judge in Israel. He still needs to receive confessions. But he doesn't need to be a prolonged adult counselor. He needs to be able to work with the youth, council with the youth, build a relationship with the youth.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:53:10</u>	John, how much time would that have saved, that cultural shift, for you personally when you were bishop?
John Bytheway:	<u>00:53:17</u>	Yeah, it's a really good question because I think the hard part, the cultural shift, yeah would have saved me a lot of time. The idea of, "Don't pass me off to anybody else, I want to see the bishop." See that sort of a thing where there were so many capable men and women, brothers and sisters in the Lord's storehouse who could help with so many things. And the cultural shift has to say, "The bishop isn't the only one who can do this." And a lot of times you felt inadequate to do everything you're asked, as we've talked about.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:53:53</u>	And so when I was a bishop, I felt the cultural shift, the messages already coming. We need to push more of the work of salvation to the ward council. That was already happening before Scouts was discontinued and so forth. And I used to see sometimes that everybody was bringing their problems to ward council, which was great, but I tried to say, "Come with your recommendations." And my mission president was so... I did this to him once. I came to him with a problem. And he said, "Elder Bytheway, never come to your boss with a problem. Always come with a recommendation." He said, "A good leader trains leaders as he leads." And what is so exciting about this is, Brad, who's going to be included now in ward council?
Dr. Bradley R. ...:	<u>00:54:48</u>	Well, we know that the ward youth council will have all the youth presidents and the Young Women president there. And that's going to be a remarkable thing.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:55:04</u>	And the youth are going to be asked to do more. And so I love this idea of come with the recommendation and then people could study things out in their own minds and come, and we would, of course, still council together. But I love what Brad's talking about of the cultural shift to say that all of us as members can try to say, "How can I be part of the Lord's storehouse, help my brothers and sisters in the ward?" And maybe not always think of, "I got to call the bishop about this or that."

John Bytheway:	<u>00:55:37</u>	<p>Brad, I love that the church has kind of combined elders quorum with the high priests. I think there's power in that. And one of the things that I actually did, as you're talking about, is one of the things that kind of weighed on me a lot, and every bishop's area is different, every bishop's congregation is different, but I had some significant welfare problems that weighed on me a lot. And I called a former bishop and his wife and they were my welfare counselors. And that was one of the best things I ever did because they had experience, that that could be their thing, and then they could come and we could counsel and they could make recommendations. And it was great. And when I saw them as part of the Lord's storehouse, it gave me more emotional energy for other things. So I just feel deeply for every bishop out there. I hope this is encouraging for them and is helping them today. Because I remember just thinking, "I can't do this all. I can't see a bishop in me."</p>
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:56:45</u>	<p>If you think about it, we've made that cultural shift before. We've made it with General Authorities. I mean, they had to come out and say, "Please don't request that a General Authority perform the sealing for your child." If they get letters with people's questions, they will typically say, "Take this question to your stake president." If they get asked to give a blessing, they will typically say, "Ask your local leaders for that blessing." So as a church, most of us don't typically think, "Oh, I've got a problem. I better write to Elder Christofferson." "My daughter's getting married. I better call Elder Holland." We've made a cultural shift that says that's simply too much for those brethren to bear. And we need now to make the same cultural shift with our bishops and realize that they have a family to raise and they have a generation to raise. They have to take care of the rising generation and we've got to be able to back away and let them do what they're being asked to do by our prophet leaders.</p>
Hank Smith:	<u>00:58:05</u>	<p>And not be hurt. I know people are like, "Oh, but the bishop's not for me?" It can hurt the heart a little bit to make a cultural shift.</p>
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:58:16</u>	<p>Yeah. "You mean Elder Holland won't marry my child, won't seal my child?" We have to be able to say, this is all part of the storehouse. This section, I've heard Ahmad Corbitt, who's the counselor who serves with me with President Lund in the Young Men General Presidency, he speaks about this often. Because as a stake president in New Jersey, he taught his bishops from this very section. He taught them look at verse 10, "You are to keep the Lord's storehouse to receive the offerings." Look at verse 15,</p>

"Zion must lay all things before the bishop." And then in verse 19, "They should give an accounting to the bishop."

Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:59:05 So the bishop's role is to manage this storehouse. And in the storehouse, we have people who can do counseling. And we're not saying that people don't need the counseling. We're just saying that it can be provided by other people who are part of this team, part of this storehouse. And that it doesn't always have to be the bishop. I often encourage bishops to start thinking of themselves more as a mission president. A mission president, doesn't say, "Oh, I could do the work of salvation so effectively if I didn't have these missionaries."

Hank Smith: 00:59:47 Right, "I'll go teach everyone in this area."

Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:59:49 Yeah. "If I didn't have these missionaries, if I didn't have to plan parties for the missionaries, I could really get something done." No, he realizes that training those missionaries, preparing them as leaders, helping them do the work is more important than doing the work himself. And so if bishops could see themselves as a mission president and not see the youth as a burden, but see the youth as his arms, they are his missionaries. A mission president has assistants. So does a bishop. A mission president has zone leaders and district leaders. Well, the bishop has class and quorum presidencies. And if he will use these youth to do the work of salvation, he's going to find that the youth aren't one more thing on his plate, the youth can help him with everything else on his plate. And then we're going to really start seeing some progress be made.

Hank Smith: 01:00:50 I've never thought about people's talents being in the storehouse, but they are. A part of the storehouse is, "Hey, I've got this person in my ward who understands this issue. Maybe they're even a marriage counselor." They're part of our storehouse. Right? I love that. And the bishop can manage it. The bishop can manage the storehouse.

Dr. Bradley R. ....: 01:01:14 Yes. And that's what Brother Ahmad Corbitt did when he was a stake president. He taught his bishops to work that way in his stake in New Jersey. And they had some phenomenal results when they started thinking of the storehouse not just as a bunch of cans of food on a shelf, the bishop's storehouse. As we read this calling of Newel K. Whitney, we can realize that the storehouse includes the time. And the bishop is not out of place to ask other members for their time, for their talents and for their means to help him as he takes care of the other responsibilities that only he can do. The important thing here though is not just what the Whitneys gave, but that he was

called to manage the storehouse. And he was so effective in drawing on the talents of others. He didn't try to do it all himself. He called on others and helped others develop as leaders as they donated to the storehouse.

- John Bytheway: 01:02:24 Oh. And if I could add something else, if you're using paper scriptures, which is what I use, you know, timeless, then you can't do this as easily. If you're scrolling, it's so cool, because in verse eight, "Now verily I say unto you, my servant Newel K. Whitney." Notice the words, Newel K. Whitney is the man. You can just underline that part.
- Dr. Bradley R. ...: 01:02:46 Well remember, Newel K. Whitney, that's what Joseph Smith said.
- John Bytheway: 01:02:52 Tell how Joseph Smith met him the first time. Tell it, Brad.
- Dr. Bradley R. ...: 01:02:55 When Joseph Smith came to Kirtland, the first thing he did was go into Newel K. Whitney's store. And he said, "Thou art the man." And it was Newel and his wife, Elizabeth, who were very religious. And they had been praying for the Holy Ghost's guidance, and they felt the inspiration that they needed to prepare themselves to receive the word of the Lord. And so when Joseph Smith showed up, first the missionaries who taught Newel K Whitney and his wife, Elizabeth, and then Joseph Smith shows up and he says, "Thou art the man." He says, "You prayed me here. So what is it now that you would want me to do?" And he ended up living in Newel K. Whitney's home, along with many others that Newel K. Whitney cared for.
- Hank Smith: 01:03:53 And his wife, Elizabeth Ann Whitney, becomes one of the closest friends of Emma Smith. They're very close friends. I think she's a counselor in the first Relief Society presidency.
- John Bytheway: 01:04:06 Please join us for part two of this podcast.

## EPISODE 27 • PART II

Dr. Bradley R. Wilcox



*D&C 71-75*

John Bytheway:	<u>00:00:02</u>	Welcome to part two of this week's podcast.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:00:07</u>	Well, let's go to Section 73. And here we see something that again, speaks to our day. Look at verse three, I send to you my servants, Joseph Smith Jr, and Sidney Rigdon saith the Lord, it is expedient to translate again. So he had called them on this little mission to try to calm the storm that had arisen because of these letters, written by Ezra Booth. And now he's saying, others can do that. There are others who can do that, and let's get you back to doing what you alone can do.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:00:46</u>	And he said, "You need to translate again, these are the words I love." Verse four, it is expedient to continue the work of translation until it be finished. Five, and let this be a pattern unto the elders until further knowledge, even as it is written. So he's saying, this is a pattern and I think it's a pattern for all return missionaries, we have so many young men and women who come back from their missions. And then they go through this big transition home, and I remember that, I remember coming home after serving as a mission president, and waking up every day and thinking, nothing I am doing means anything.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:01:37</u>	I can't tell you how many returning missionaries have been in my class and said, "I feel like I have no purpose. Now that-"
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:01:43</u>	Yeah because suddenly they're saying, "I was doing something important and now, what am I doing, I'm just going to school, I just have a job, I'm dating, it just doesn't seem that important." And whenever I hear that from a missionary, I always turn to this first, and let this be the pattern. It is expedient to continue the work. So your mission doesn't mean you're not involved with the work anymore. It just means the work takes a different shape. It takes a different form.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:02:15</u>	Going to school is part of the work, working and earning money to pay the bills is part of the work. Serving in your calling, in your ward is part of the work, dating, nurturing your marriage. That's part of the work. And if we see the work as more than just the limited work that we were privileged to do as a missionary, if we see the work in a bigger picture, then we don't face this transition that says, "Oh, I was a missionary and people

needed me." Well, guess what? There's people who need you right now. It just might be your mom, it might be your wife, and she doesn't need you to come and give her a blessing or say a prayer or give a talk in church, she needs you to go out there and mow the lawn.

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|----------------------|-----------------|--|
| Hank Smith:          | <u>00:03:06</u> | Do the dishes.   |
| Dr. Bradley R. ....: | <u>00:03:06</u> | She needs you to go out... That's what I was doing this morning. She needs you to go help get those trees trimmed and those plants planted. That's part of the work. If we expand our vision of the work, then we realize that just as Joseph was told, it's time for you to go back to a different part of the work. I called you on a mission. You did it and now it's time for you to go back and do what you were doing before.  |
| Hank Smith:          | <u>00:03:39</u> | The Lord uses a great word in verse four, as it is practicable to preach in the regions around about. I really liked that word, Joseph and Sydney were up teaching. He says, "Okay, now we're done teaching. We're going to translate again, if you want to keep teaching, great, do what's practicable, right?" How would you describe what the Lord is saying there? Do what fits, do what works.  |
| Dr. Bradley R. ....: | <u>00:04:08</u> | Do what you can, but just realize that as a missionary, you're juggling one ball. And you're juggling it all day long and now it's time for you to juggle lots of balls and keep a lot of balls in the air and that's all part of the work.  |
| Hank Smith:          | <u>00:04:24</u> | I like that. I like the Lord saying, "Yeah, I know you like teaching. That's good. But we've got other things we have to do as well." Practicable, I'm going to have to look up the definition of that you guys.   |
| John Bytheway:       | <u>00:04:36</u> | I had not noticed that word. There's a hyphen there. So I hadn't noticed it but practicable, that's great. And I want to add, same thing Hank, I've got students, I feel so selfish. All I'm doing is working on myself, on my studies. And when I was on a mission, it was all about others and I'm like, "Hey, this is your time to prepare for greater things, but I love what you've said, Brad. This is a pattern, you're not done. The mission goes on. And the pattern that you set there just keeps going. |
| Dr. Bradley R. ....: | <u>00:05:10</u> | Yeah, think about study. On a mission, missionaries can have hours of study time. And then they come home and that time is eaten up by other things. And they say, "Oh, I missed that. I wish  |



		I could have it." And you can almost imagine the Lord saying to them, "Well do as much study as you can."
John Bytheway:	<u>00:05:29</u>	Yeah, what's practicable.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:05:32</u>	But you've also got to have a job and you've also got to have a social life. And these are all so important things.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:05:41</u>	I admire these early saints so much because they were juggling. I know Newel K. Whitney, you are running a store. But now I want you to do this too. And it's going to become like the Lord store, and leave your family and go on a mission for five years and the things that I just marvel at them and the things these early saints were able to do make me think I complain too much.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:06:07</u>	Looking up this word practicable. I think more likely today, we're going to use the term possible or feasible. I love that the Lord is saying that. In as much as it is feasible to preach in the regions roundabout. Great, that's good.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:06:22</u>	In as much as it is feasible to continue your gospel study, great. But if you can't devote two hours a day to it anymore, that's how right because there's other things that are also important.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:06:35</u>	No, I love that Brad. I love it.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:06:38</u>	Yeah. Well, let's take a look at section 74. And here we see some of the fruits of the Joseph Smith translation. Because he's translating, and he's saying, "Gosh, if I look at 1 Corinthians 7:14, as I look at that verse, I am able to be inspired to know what that's talking about. He is specifically speaking of verse 14 in 1 Corinthians 7 it says, For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband, elsewhere, your children unclean but now are they holy. Now, if you look in 1 Corinthians, verse 13, Paul is teaching, and the woman which hath a husband that believeth not and he is pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:07:37</u>	Now, remember I told you that these sections have a lot to do with today? How many women out there are suddenly dealing with the fact that their husband has gone inactive? How many men out there are suddenly dealing with the fact that their wife has decided to leave the church? And Paul is saying, "That's not necessarily a reason for divorce. Because if you will stay with that unbelieving spouse who's struggling right now, you might be part of the sanctification process, as that spouse learns, and grows and progresses."

Dr. Bradley R. ...:	<u>00:08:15</u>	So just because somebody in the family has left the church, we don't say, "Okay, we're done with that person." Instead, we continue in love. And we continue to try to be part of the sanctification process. Look here where it says your children unclean. Now Joseph finds out in this section that, that's talking about circumcision. And people are thinking, "Well, if I've obeyed the law of Moses, and if I'm circumcised, then everything's good." And he's saying no, it's more than just the performance of the outward law. It's what's inside as well. And that sanctification is not just about becoming clean, but it's also about becoming holy.
Dr. Bradley R. ...:	<u>00:09:09</u>	Now, we know that he goes on in this section to say that children are sanctified by the Lord. And I love that because in reality, if we stop and think about it, we know that little children don't sin. We know little children are going straight to the celestial kingdom. So then one of my students comes to me and says, So wouldn't it be better if I just died before I was eight? I mean, if God really loved me, why didn't he just take me before I was eight years old?
Dr. Bradley R. ...:	<u>00:09:45</u>	And that could seem like a legitimate question, until you understand sanctification. We have to be more than justified. To become like God and our Heavenly Mother we need to be more than clean, we need to be holy. The Book of Mormon teaches about how little children who die before the age of accountability are saved through the grace of Christ. They need no test in this life, and they need no test in the life hereafter.
Dr. Bradley R. ...:	<u>00:10:20</u>	The grace of Christ is not just seen in his ability to save these little children. But it's also seen in another teaching of Joseph Smith. And that teaching was that little children would be resurrected as little children, and that they would have the chance to be raised by their parents who lost them. So this student's question, "Gosh, wouldn't it be better if we all died before we turned eight?" No, because although we would be clean, we would not be ready to become like God, we still need sanctification.
Dr. Bradley R. ...:	<u>00:11:05</u>	And the grace of Jesus Christ also provides for that, maybe these little children who will be resurrected as children during the Millennium and raised by their parents, what an amazing teaching, these little children maybe they didn't need the tests of life, maybe they didn't need repentance. But they needed love, they needed nurturing, they needed experience. And all of those things they will also be able to get because of the grace of Jesus Christ, that's seen not just in their justification, but in their sanctification.

Hank Smith:	<u>00:11:49</u>	Yeah, what I hear from your student is I don't think God is just, I don't think he loves me as much as he loves others. And we know both of those things aren't true, God is just and he loves all of his children and so we don't need to worry.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:12:03</u>	And see, it's not a competition. It's an individualized plan of salvation and some of us will have the chance to be sanctified in this life, some of us will continue that process in the next life. And these little children will also be able to continue their learning and sanctifying process. That is a blessing of the grace of Christ and that's what this section is talking about.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:12:30</u>	If I could add something, I love the scriptural phrase. Originally, I mean, first time I'm aware of it, Psalms 24, three and four, who shall ascend it to the hill of the Lord, who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, justified and a pure heart. And through the grace of Christ, we go through this purifying process of sanctification. And I think that President Dallin H. Oaks, this is my favorite example, that I just thought, that's so visual, that's so easy to understand. He said, "Imagine a tree that bends deeply in the time of a storm, and it soils the leaves," he said, "If all we do is focus on cleaning the leaves, clean hands, then the weakness in the tree that allowed it to bend may remain."
John Bytheway:	<u>00:13:28</u>	So what happens when another storm comes, the same thing the tree must be strengthened. And I've always loved that idea of cleansing, clean hands, pure heart of changing. I love what Brad has taught. Tell him Brad, people say are you saved by grace? And you say?
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:13:49</u>	"Have you been changed by grace?" Because salvation isn't complete until it includes transformation. One of my students wrote me an email and said, "Why not have sex with my boyfriend? Why not? We can always repent later." And I wrote her back and I said, "I'm so glad you know you can repent. I'm so glad you know you can be cleansed." See those leaves John, that have bent and gotten dirty, I'm so glad you realize that you can be clean. But becoming like God is more than cleanliness. Cleanliness is only one of God's many attributes. So yes, can we repent? Can we repent as many times as we need to? Yes, yes, yes.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:14:37</u>	But as we look at the true goal of not just being clean, but becoming like our Heavenly Father, becoming more like the Savior. As we look at that true goal, then we understand that we need more than cleanliness, we need to grow, like that tree we need to grow and be strengthened. We need to be transformed and that's also a promise that's offered to us from the Lord.

Hank Smith:	<u>00:15:06</u>	There's a part in verse seven, it says the little children are holy being sanctified through the Atonement of Jesus Christ, that is available to everyone being sanctified through the Atonement of Jesus Christ. I can't tell you how many times in the scriptures we've seen, wash your garments in the blood of the Lamb. You can be clean as a little child, they're not. Sometimes I've heard that same thing, Brad, like, Oh, I wish I just would have died before I was eight. You can have the exact same blessing of being sanctified through the atonement, it's readily available to you right in front of you, right now.
Dr. Bradley R. ...:	<u>00:15:44</u>	When we speak about little children dying before eight, we realize what a trial that is for parents, we realize the heartbreak that comes with that for parents. And that's why I love to testify of Joseph Smith additional teaching, that they will have the chance to raise that child, that child is going to be able to go through all the experiences and have all the love, and all the teaching that parents can give.
Dr. Bradley R. ...:	<u>00:16:16</u>	Parents will be able to read stories with those kids and kneel in prayer with those kids and help those kids learn how to tie their shoes and help those kids learn how to ride a bike. All those things they think they missed are part of the blessing that is talked about here. As he says those little children will be sanctified and parents will be part of that sanctification process.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:16:48</u>	That is beautiful.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:16:49</u>	I don't know if you guys have seen and I hope I get this story right. But the church movie where Joseph Smith is in translating the Book of Mormon, and as you know, he and Emma lost was it five children-
Dr. Bradley R. ...:	<u>00:17:07</u>	Yeah. So many of their children.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:17:07</u>	... that they buried.
Dr. Bradley R. ...:	<u>00:17:09</u>	So many of their children.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:17:09</u>	And that he comes... Is he doing Moroni chapter eight, I can't remember. But he stops and if I'm remembering the movie right, Oliver Cowdery is like, "Where are you going?" because he reads these verses. And he runs out to Emma to tells her, oh man, do you remember the movie I'm talking... It's so good.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:17:28</u>	It's part of the Harmony site.

John Bytheway:	<u>00:17:31</u>	It's at Harmony. That's where it is. He runs out to tell Emma what he just learned from the scriptures. And if you'll notice the footnote right there, footnote seven B on section 74. It says Moroni 8:8. So we're just learning about some of the same things about children are sanctified through the atonement. I circled verse seven, and just but the point, here's the point of this whole section, the seventh verse.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:18:04</u>	Yeah. And that's the point that Joseph brings us to in seven, this is what the Lord is teaching him. Look at verse seven, but little children are holy being sanctified through the atonement of Jesus Christ and this is what the Scriptures mean. That's why he had to do that Joseph Smith translation, he had to learn through the Spirit, what those scriptures meant. And he's sharing that with us here.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:18:34</u>	Well, let's take a look at section 75. And a lot of people say, "Oh, this is the section that talks about calling 50 billion people on a mission." And he just calls all these people on a mission. And, yeah we could summarize it that way but there's so much more to it. And especially remember I said, these sections have a lot to do with today. You're going to be amazed at how this relates. Look at verse two, go forth to proclaim my gospel. Look at verse five, if ye are faithful, ye shall be laden with many sheaves and crowned with honor and glory and immortality and eternal life.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:19:21</u>	Beautiful, long term, eternal perspective, saying that what you're doing matters. Don't get discouraged. You may not see all those things now, you may not see tons of converts, and you may not see tons of honor and glory. But as you keep an eternal perspective, you'll see these things. And then he calls, he says, "I call my servant, William E. McClellan and I revoke the commission, which I gave unto him to go to the eastern countries, and I give unto him a new commission." Boy, I'm not sure if I say this is the first modified mission, but this is certainly one of the first modified missions. John, tell us a little bit about your modified mission.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:20:09</u>	Well, it was very interesting because I received my mission call being timeless from President...
Hank Smith:	<u>00:20:19</u>	Wilford Woodruff
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:20:19</u>	It was Heber J. Grant who called.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:20:21</u>	No he was just across the desk from me. And no it was over the signature of Spencer W. Kimball for a period of 24 months. And

there was a very short period of time in the early 80s, where they changed Elders mission calls from 24 months to 18 months. Now, my call said 24 but they made this change. And they left it up to missionaries who were out longer than 18 months if they wanted to return home, or finish and go a full 24.

- John Bytheway: 00:20:55 Some stayed, some didn't. I'm grateful to one who stayed, became my new companion in the Philippines and then as the mission progressed, they changed that rule back later on but not during my mission, my mission president said, "Could I please just stay for one more," so I did. So my call said 24 but then they changed it to 18 and then ended up serving for 19. So I love the talk that Elder Bednar gave about notice the wording of the mission call. It's "You are called to serve", that's its own phrase and "you are assigned to labor" here, right?
- John Bytheway: 00:21:37 And here William is given an assignment to labor in a different place, I'm glad you brought that up, Brad, because there's a lot to wonder, well how come I got my call said this. And then I went here and how come. And you're still called to serve, and even service missions, you're called to serve. And the fact that you wanted to and that your heart wants to serve is the most wonderful part of the whole thing.
- Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:22:01 And look how many missionaries at the beginning of 2020. They all came back to the United States. And then some of them were reassigned, some of them were told no, you're done. You're done. Your mission is modified. And some people go out on a mission, and they're called to serve. And then they have health problems, mental health problems, physical health problems. And they are told, "Okay your missions over now."
- Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:22:31 And they feel like "Oh no, now I'm an early return missionary and that's a scarlet letter that I wear." No, you're a missionary who returned earlier than you planned. Your mission was modified. And we see an example right here in the scriptures, that, that's not something we have to be sad about. That's not something we have to be embarrassed about. John doesn't have to hang his head and say I never served a 24-month mission, we just have to be grateful that he served, grateful for the good that did and grateful for the repercussions of that, in John's life through out his entire life.
- Hank Smith: 00:23:15 And Brad, we could do this better as a culture of saying you're as much as a returned missionary as any other return missionary.
- Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:23:26 Good for you for going, good for you for choosing to serve. And if your mission was modified, because of things that were out of

your hands, then so was William McClellan's mission, his mission was modified too.

- Hank Smith: 00:23:41 I can't tell you how it breaks my heart that someone who feels very at home in the church for 18 or 19 or 20 years, all of a sudden feels like an outsider, because something happened and even if they have to come home off their mission, because they made some serious errors. All of a sudden, now this person feels like they don't belong, that somehow they're a second class citizen in the home, the church they were raised in, this is your home, this is your church. This is... You belong with us. There's no scarlet letters in this church.
- Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:24:19 And instead of going up to a young man or a young woman who comes home earlier than planned and saying, "What happened? Why did you come home? Are you going back out?" Those shouldn't be our first responses. Our first response should be, "It is so good to see you again. And we are so grateful for your service. Thank you."
- John Bytheway: 00:24:40 Welcome home.
- Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:24:40 Welcome home. Tell us about some of the things you've learned on your mission. That needs to be our knee-jerk response. And you're right Hank, as a culture, we can learn to do that better because the Lord has been modifying missions for a long time.
- John Bytheway: 00:24:59 And I love to use the Book of Mormon in this case and Alma chapter 8 where Alma goes to Ammonihah and when I teach it I always add wi, wi, wi because it's such a scary place. Ammonihah is the Nehors, and it's a scary place and Alma goes there and when he's leaving Alma 8:14, "while he was journeying thither, being weighed down with sorrow, waiting through much tribulation and anguish of soul, because of the wickedness of the people who are in the city of Ammonihah it came to pass, while Alma was thus weighed down with sorrow, an angel of the Lord appeared unto him saying..."
- John Bytheway: 00:25:37 Now notice, he got spit on, he got kicked out. He didn't feel like a successful missionary, verse 15, "Blessed art thou Alma therefore, lift up thy head and rejoice for thou has great cause to rejoice;" now he could have stopped there and he could have said, "Why? They hated me. I've had zero baptisms in Ammonihah. And the angel goes on and says, "Thou has been faithful in keeping the commandments of God, from the time which thou receivest thy first message from him."

John Bytheway:	<u>00:26:08</u>	And that's what you modified missionaries did, you were willing to serve, and you went, and if something got modified, and you came home differently, or earlier, or whatever, but you did what you were asked to do. And then my very favorite part of this, my very favorite part of this, this is Alma, the younger who was knocked flat by an angel in Mosiah 27, right? And the four sons of Mosiah were there but Alma was the only one that was unconscious, and they had to carry him back to mom and dad.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:26:36</u>	And the angels, I just love that when Mormon edited this, he left this in here, this last line, he said, "You've been faithful in keeping the commandments of God from the time that receivest thy first message from him and then behold, I am He that delivered it unto you." That was me. Do you remember me? I scared you so bad, I scared you. You are shaking but you've done so well.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:27:00</u>	Now go back in, you're going to meet your new companion, I got a surprise arranged for you, go back into town. I mean, it's such an awesome story but I love to emphasize that part. It wasn't what you think it was, you have great cause to rejoice because you did what you were asked to do and I want every modified missionary to hear that.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:27:22</u>	Well, and listen to what it says right here on the Doctrine of Covenants, verse seven of 75. "And I give unto him a new commission, Go ye" at the bottom of the verse "to the south countries." So he's saying, I'm giving you a new mission, isn't that what happens to us throughout our whole lives, I was serving as a Webelos leader. And then I got called as a mission president, my next calling was to serve as an advisor in the priests quorum, then I served as... I mean, we'd go from calling to calling to calling throughout our entire lives.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:27:57</u>	And so he says, "I give unto him a new commission." And the Lord is continually giving us new commissions, new places to serve. That's the very verse I read to a young man in my ward, when he was called to South Africa, right in the middle of COVID, and then reassigned, as you said John, reassigned to serve in North Dakota.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:28:24</u>	And he was like, "What's with that?" And I said, "Listen to what it says in verse seven, I give unto him a new commission." I said, "You've just been given another assignment. And if things open up, and you have a chance to serve in South Africa, great. And if you don't, great because you're doing what you've been asked to do. And where you serve is not nearly as important as how you serve. And you think this is your only mission, you don't



think you can get back to South Africa on another mission down the road?"

John Bytheway: 00:28:58

Yeah.

Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:28:59

I think we'd have to keep that eternal perspective. That's what he's teaching us in verse five. Keep that eternal perspective. Well, then we see other mission calls come. So this is the verse I read to that young man, I give unto him a new commission. And that new commission can take many different forms. If there's a young man who doesn't choose to serve a mission, does that mean that he can't be used by God the rest of his life? If there's a young woman who doesn't choose to serve a mission, does that mean that she can't serve other missions.

Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:29:33

Sometimes we limit a mission to just the time we spend with a name tag on our chest and we've got to realize that there are lots of commissions that we are given and our prophet right now is a wonderful example of that. President Nelson didn't have the chance to serve as a young man, a full-time mission. But think of all of the missions he has served throughout his life. Can you imagine God saying to him, I give unto you a new commission, I'm going to give you a different commission.

Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:30:12

And after that, I'll give you a different commission and I love it in the book glimpses that Sherri Dew wrote, where she talks about how he was assigned to go back and talk to the leaders of government, when they were saying that they weren't going to give tax credit to the Latter-day Saints for mission donations. Because they said, it's a required part of their culture. So it's not a donation. It's not a voluntary donation.

Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:30:41

And it was President Nelson that went back and said, "I'm an apostle, and I didn't serve a full time mission." And they said, "Well, that shows you right there that it is a voluntary donation, and that it's not part of a requirement of their culture." And so the very fact that he didn't serve ended up being a blessing. We have to remember that missions are important and God wants us to serve missions. But those missions can also take many forms. And those missions can continue throughout our lives and we see that right here in verse seven, I give unto him a new commission.

Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:31:31

Well, then we go on, and we see him calling others, Luke Johnson, Orson Hyde, Samuel H. Smith, Lyman Johnson, Orson Pratt, and then we read many, many more names. But I thought it'd be interesting to learn a little bit about some of these men who served as apostles later in their lives because this can give

us a great deal of hope. And for every parent out there, who says, "Well, my kid served a mission, but now he's struggling in the church. My daughter served a mission and now she's saying she wants to leave the church." We see here, some others who served missions, who struggled, but we also see hope, because so many of them came back.

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| Dr. Bradley R. ....: | <u>00:32:26</u> | Now, William McClellan was in the quorum of the twelve but he didn't come back but listen to this. This was in an article I read by Larry Porter, who wrote an article in the BYU Studies Journal in 1970 and he said that even though William McClelland never came back to the church, he muddled around in several splinter groups for many years. But he never did return to full activity in the church. But when asked about the Book of Mormon, he said, "You might just as well fight against the Rocky Mountains as the Book of Mormon."  |
| Dr. Bradley R. ....: | <u>00:33:07</u> | He was better off for having gone. Even though later he left, he was better off for having gone in the first place. And that testimony, there was a core of his testimony that he simply could not deny because of these early experiences that he had. Let's take a look at Luke Johnson. This is the son of Elsa Johnson and John Johnson, who we talked about earlier.  |
| Dr. Bradley R. ....: | <u>00:33:36</u> | Well, I love Luke Johnson because not only was he a zealous and passionate missionary, but he was humorous. He used humor. Some missionaries go on their mission and they think, "Oh, now I have to be stoic and I have to be sober and serious all the time." And we forget that we can use humor. Listen to this. This comes from an article by Darrell Loosely called Luke S. and Lyman E. Johnson Apostles.  |
| Dr. Bradley R. ....: | <u>00:34:07</u> | Passing by the home of Ezekiel on his way home from a council meeting late at night, he cited a ladder leaning against the side of Ezekiel's house, it happened to be close to the window of Ezekiel's upstairs bedroom, Luke immediately seized upon the thought that this would be an opportune time to have Ezekiel's wish for a voice, a voice from the unknown fulfilled. Climbing up the ladder he proceeded with a low pitched voice, "Ezekiel, Ezekiel? Repent, repent, repent." It is said that he felt it best to do as the voice had commanded. So was never informed of the true source. |
| Hank Smith:          | <u>00:34:52</u> | That's great.  |
| Dr. Bradley R. ....: | <u>00:34:53</u> | I just love this guy. Now he went on to become an apostle and then he got caught up in the financial speculation of the Kirtland Era, and he fought against the prophet. But later, in 1846, he  |

returned, he said, "I have stopped by the wayside, and stood aloof from the work of the Lord but my heart is with his people. I want to be associated with the saints." And he was rebaptised in 1846 by Orson Hyde and he was with the first group of pioneers who went into the Salt Lake Valley.

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| Dr. Bradley R. ....: | <u>00:35:40</u> | Now, that was a quote that I got from the Church News in November 19th, 1960. So that's where his words came from. But I just love that. I have stopped by the wayside and stood aloof from the work of the Lord. We've got a lot of people in the church today who are doing that. And people get nervous and say, "Oh, this is the first time we've had so many people leave the church." No, these were apostles who were leaving the church but we don't give up hope because William McClelland kept his testimony, Luke Johnson came back into the church, and he was able to preside as a bishop in Utah when he was here. |
| Dr. Bradley R. ....: | <u>00:36:28</u> | Now in the quorum of the twelve in this section, we read about Orson Hyde, we read about Samuel Smith, we read about Lyman Johnson, and Orson Pratt. Now, Samuel Smith was never called to the apostleship, but he was faithful throughout his whole life. Well, yay for those young people who can stay faithful their whole lives but don't give up on the ones who are struggling, because Orson Hyde struggled, he had signed an affidavit in 1838 vilifying the Prophet, but he came back and was actually able to be an apostle still.  |
| Dr. Bradley R. ....: | <u>00:37:10</u> | And he went on to dedicate Jerusalem, Lyman Johnson call to the quorum of the twelve, he lost money in a financial venture and in the Journal of discourses 19, page 42. It says I was full of joy and gladness, he's talking about when he was a member of the church. And he says, "I was full of joy and gladness, my dreams were pleasant. I was happy by day and by night, full of peace, joy and thanksgiving, but now it is darkness. I have never since seen a happy moment."   |
| Dr. Bradley R. ....: | <u>00:37:57</u> | Ralph Waldo Emerson said "Experience is the school of fools but some will learn in no other." And if you're a parent who's struggling because you've seen your children make choices that have broken your heart, and you can see them living out exactly what Lyman Johnson learned. I was happy in the church, and now I'm in darkness and you can see it. Well, one day, maybe they will see it too, just like Lyman Johnson did and just as he was able to recognize it.  |
| Dr. Bradley R. ....: | <u>00:38:37</u> | Now, Orson Pratt is another one who's mentioned here. He was an apostle. He denounced plural marriage. He spoke out against plural marriage. See, we have a lot of people uptight today and   |

struggling with their testimonies because of gay marriage. And they think they're the first people who have wrestled with an issue. They think they're the first people who have felt frustrated about something. No, Orson Pratt felt frustrated, and yet Brigham Young stood by him. Brigham Young believed in him. Brigham Young didn't give up on him.

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| Dr. Bradley R. ....: | <u>00:39:19</u> | In fact, listen to what he said this was in Brigham Young's office journal. And it was written on October 1st, 1860. "If brother Orson were chopped up into inch pieces, each inch would cry out the church is true." So he's recognizing that Orson was struggling with an issue that he didn't fully understand. But Brigham Young believed in him and eventually, that support helped Orson find his way back into the church and back into the apostleship. So when you read this section 75 don't get lost in the list of names, don't get lost in the list of names and the mission calls that are being given out. |
| Dr. Bradley R. ....: | <u>00:40:10</u> | Instead, focus on the hope that's here because some of these men did serve missions, some of them struggled after their missions. And some of them came back and if you are hurting right now, I think of some of my own return missionaries, who have wandered away from the church. I find great peace in knowing these stories of Orson Hyde of Orson Pratt, of Luke and Lyman Johnson, I find great hope in these stories, because I knew those missionaries, when every inch of their body would cry out, this church is true.   |
| Dr. Bradley R. ....: | <u>00:41:01</u> | And now they're struggling a little bit, there are a few of them that are off the path. But I don't give up on them. I believe in them because I know that ultimately in this life or the next, the love of family, and the grace of Jesus Christ will reach into their hearts and they will find it very difficult to turn their backs on the possibility of living eternally with family, and the reality of Christ's atonement, and the transformation that can mean for them.   |
| Dr. Bradley R. ....: | <u>00:41:52</u> | Some parents say, "Well, if I live my covenants, then I have the promise that he'll be saved." I think sometimes we push that a little too far. If we live our covenants, it doesn't take away someone else's free agency. But if we live our covenants, then we are giving that child who has wandered every motivation he could possibly need to one day turn, just as some of these apostles, and to come back into the fold, and back into the light of the grace of Christ again.  |
| Hank Smith:          | <u>00:42:32</u> | Brad, there's a great moment in John chapter 11, where everybody thinks Lazarus has been gone too long. It's been four  |

days, right? If it had been one day maybe, if it had been two days it could be possible. Three days even it could be but four days it's been too long, he's too far gone. And the Lord says, "Roll away the stone." No, don't do it. Don't do it. You don't want to see this. You don't want to smell this.

Hank Smith: 00:43:01 I've always taken just absolute, I don't know hope as you called it, in the fact that the Lord just calls out his name, Lazarus and he that was dead came forth. And I know the same thing can happen, I've seen the same thing happen in the lives of those I love where you think, "No way, it's never going to happen. They're never coming back to the Lord." And then he calls their name, and they come back.

Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:43:30 Our Heavenly Father is a successful parent. Christ is a successful Savior. We have to trust that they will ultimately be successful in giving everyone every possible opportunity to make the right choice. There will be some who turn their backs and rebel but everyone will be given that opportunity of hearing the Lord call his or her name.

John Bytheway: 00:44:06 I'm reminded of one of my favorite verses that we covered a few podcasts ago, in Section 46, verse 15, where it says it's the section about spiritual gifts, but it has this little phrase in there that the Lord will be suiting His mercies according to the conditions of the children of men. And the Lord knows exactly the kind of the world he sent us to and I've been sent to a different world, my kids have been sent to a different world. And our Lord who is perfectly just and merciful knows that and it gives me such hope suiting His mercies according to our conditions.

Hank Smith: 00:44:46 Can I read a quote from Elder M. Russell Ballard. This is from the 1987 October Ensign. He says, "I feel that judgment for sin is not always as cut and dried as some of us seem to think. I feel but the Lord also recognizes differences in intent and circumstances when he does judge us." I feel he will take all things into consideration, our genetic and chemical makeup, our mental state, our intellectual capacity, the teachings we have received, the traditions of our fathers, our health, and so forth.

Hank Smith: 00:45:23 I'm going to share one more J. Reuben Clark 1955, "I feel that the Savior will give that punishment, which is the very least that our transgressions will justify, I believe he will bring into his justice, all of the infinite love, blessing, mercy, kindness and understanding that he has. On the other hand, he will give us the maximum that is possible to give as far as rewards for our good conduct, having in mind our offense."

Hank Smith:	<u>00:45:50</u>	Just the mercy of the Lord, we can have confidence that he is mighty to save, he is not puny to save.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:45:57</u>	That's what he does, he's the Savior.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:46:00</u>	And what's our part in all of this, look at verse 24, the duty of the church to assist and support the families of those and also to support the families of those who are called, I look at and I think of the support that we need to be able to give each other. And we talked about not giving up on those who are struggling, but we also need to support those who are in the middle of the work. And when Elder Eyring did the preliminary interview with my wife and me, as I was being considered to be called as a mission president.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:46:46</u>	He said, "Do you have any debt?" Now in my mind, I kind of always thought that mission presidents had to be self-sustaining. They had to be wealthy, they had to... I always kind of thought that maybe I would never be called because I'm a teacher, I have a teacher salary and instead he didn't ask me how much I earned, he didn't ask me how much money I had. He just said, "Do you have any debt?" And I said, "Well, we have the house and we have one car that's not paid for." And he said, "Can you rent the house and cover the mortgage?" And I said we can. And he said, "Can you sell the car?" And I said, "Yes." And my wife said "nooo".
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:47:39</u>	She said, "All we've ever had are used cars and they always break down and this is finally a dependable car." She says, "I don't want to sell it." And now I'm looking at my wife going, "An apostle just asked me to sell the car. We're selling the car." But it's an interesting story because we put the car up for sale. And a man in our ward came over and said, "I'd like to buy the car." But he says, "I'll just take over the payments for the car while you're gone."
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:48:16</u>	And he says instead of transferring the car into my name, he says you just keep it in your name. And then I will just cover the payments on the car. And once the cars paid off, then when you get home, then you'll have a car. That was a man in my ward. There was another lady in my ward who would send candy all the way to Chile. I was just thinking, "Good grief." The postage alone could have paid for 19 missionaries.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:48:47</u>	She'd send candy to me because she said, "I think every mission president should have a candy dish. And I want you to put candy in the candy dish so that when the missionaries are discouraged, they can get a little piece of candy out of the candy dish." And

she kept my little candy dish full for my entire three-year mission. I felt so much support from friends who gave me money.

- Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:49:19 Once you're on your mission as a mission president, you don't need a ton of money because you're living in a church-owned home, you're driving to church-owned car, you have a church credit card to put gas in the church-owned car. I mean, you don't need a lot of money. But we needed money to get out on our mission. I had to buy clothes for all my family because we were all going on missions.
- Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:49:45 But I had a dear friend who came over and gave me a check for \$500 and this little grandma said to me, "I was praying this morning and Heavenly Father said 'Go give Brad some money.'" My call had not even been announced. My call had not even been announced, she wasn't giving me money because she heard I'd been called as a mission president. She was giving me money because Heavenly Father said, "Go give Brad some money." And she didn't realize that she was fulfilling this very scripture, where we're commanded to support the missionaries,
- Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:50:31 and we're commanded it is the duty of the church to support missionaries and their families and I have seen that in very real ways. And I've seen it in the lives of my missionaries. I got a call from a man who said, "What do your missionaries need?" And I said, "Well, I have some missionaries who have a lot of needs, they need shirts, they need clothes. Some of them have gained weight, some of them have lost weight. I have a missionary who needs size 15 shoes and you can't buy those in Chile.
- Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:51:09 But honestly, you can't send them to us, because it has such a hard time getting through customs. It's just not worth it. So you have a great heart, and I appreciate you" He says, "No, you don't understand. I'm coming to Chile, I fly a plane, I'm a pilot, and I'm going to be flying into Chile." He says, "And I just do this with my high priests." He says, "I just tell him, I'm going to such and such a place." And then we call the Mission President and say what do you need, and all the high priests just pitch in money, and we go out and buy whatever's needed."
- Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:51:48 And they got the shoes, and they got the shirts, and they got the ties and the pants and the belts and the blouses and the skirts and... And this pilot shows up at the mission office with boxes of stuff. And he didn't just do that for me, he and his high priest friends did that everywhere he flew. These are the kind of people that filled this church, these are the kinds of people who take that verse very seriously.

Dr. Bradley R. ...:	<u>00:52:21</u>	It is the duty of the church to assist in supporting the missionaries and their families, how many restaurant owners give free food to the missionaries over and over and over? Even restaurant owners who aren't members of the church would feed the missionaries. We just see example after example after example.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:52:43</u>	Whether it's a candy dish, or you're bringing supplies on a plane, right? You don't have to be Mr. Millionaire to support. You can send the candy in the candy dish. I love that.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:52:58</u>	I don't know. Let me say this and then you guys decide if it adds to the discussion or not. My mission President was a very wealthy man. And nobody knew this was happening, I wasn't supposed to know but a companion told me that my mission president from the missionaries coming to the Philippines and being assigned from our missionary and going to other places in the Philippines. He would send them to dentists, to orthodontists, to plastic surgeons if they had things that needed to be done. He would make sure they were outfitted with everything, nobody knew.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:53:36</u>	And one day my companion told me what he was spending every month to do that and I thought that was the coolest thing because he would tell anybody. And I want to make that clear in case some of you know who he is. But he was... I saw somebody who was fully consecrated that way, and was so thrilled to support those missionaries and their families in that way and then they would come home.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:54:05</u>	And my mission president started a perpetual education fund before the church did. In fact, I know he had conversations with President Hinckley about it. And it was such a wonderful example to see him doing that so quietly, and having that same Zion spirit that we have just been talking about.
Dr. Bradley R. ...:	<u>00:54:28</u>	As much as we admire men like your mission president who are wealthy and using their wealth to do so much good. We have to remember that all of us can do something. John, I remember you sending me a check when I got my mission call to go to Chile and you are not wealthy like your mission president but I remember you sending me a check and Hank, I remember you sending me some notes from a group of youth that you were speaking to. And you said, "Brother Wilcox just got called as a mission president."
Dr. Bradley R. ...:	<u>00:55:19</u>	And you have those youth write notes to me, and you sent them to me from the teenagers. I mean, we're not just talking about



what others do because I have seen both of you do this in my life.

- Hank Smith: 00:55:38 John and I love to ask our guests a question. What's the restoration? What's Joseph Smith? What does all this mean to you personally?
- Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:55:50 I want to share a quote that I keep in the back of my calendar. I have a little list. I have a little pile of quotes and papers here that I use. And I often will look at them during the sacrament. And this is one from Elder Christofferson he said, "The Savior has not had among mortals a more faithful witness, a more obedient disciple, a more loyal advocate than Joseph Smith." He said, "I close with his great witness of the Savior making it my own, joining it with yours. This is the testimony last of all, which we give of him that he lives for we saw him."
- Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:56:45 Now that's from Doctrine of Covenants section 76. But now, listen to Elder Christofferson words, "This is the most significant aspect of our entire existence. It is real, he is real." As I look around myself in this world of today, I see so many people who are caught up in the thick of thin things. Things that simply don't matter. Things that won't last even good causes that simply will not last, because they're not eternal. And that's why I love Joseph Smith because everything I have come to know and treasure about my Savior is because of Joseph Smith.
- Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:57:56 It's not in spite of him. It's because of him. My son served a mission in Japan after having lived in Chile, after learning Spanish, he gets called to Japan. And he said dad, "We teach people who have no Christian background." They don't believe in Christmas. They don't believe in Easter. They don't celebrate those holidays. They don't know the Bible. I said, "How do you ever get them to join the church?" And he said, "Because they gain a testimony of Joseph Smith." And once they know he's a prophet, then they believe whatever being it was, who happened to come and talk to Joseph Smith.
- Dr. Bradley R. ....: 00:58:46 There are people on this earth who believe in Christ because of Joseph Smith, and yet we hear so many in the church say, "Well, I believe in Jesus, but I don't believe in Joseph Smith. I don't believe in Joseph Smith." No, I'm like those Japanese members that my son taught if it weren't for Joseph Smith, I don't know how I could cut through the confusion of what is today's Christianity with over 33,000 different denominations, all teaching completely different things about the Savior. I don't know how I could ever cut through all that

Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>00:59:39</u>	and reach Christ, but because of Joseph Smith, I can. Because of Joseph Smith I not only know there is a God, I know God. I not only know there is a Christ. I know Christ. And that's because of the truth this prophet restored. Because of the picture and window he gave us. So many Christians are looking through a little window framed by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, here's the little window and they try so desperately to see Christ and to follow him.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>01:00:35</u>	Well, I have realized that it is one thing to follow him and it is another thing to be led by him. Because of the bigger window that Joseph Smith gave us, the scriptures of the restoration, the temple because of this larger window, I can see Christ clearly and I can be led by him as I stay close to his living prophets. I stand with Elder Christofferson, and I say, the Savior has not had among mortals a more faithful witness, a more obedient disciple, a more loyal advocate than Joseph Smith.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>01:01:35</u>	And because I know that then I hope one day the Savior will say, "Brad, you've been a faithful witness. You've been an obedient disciple. You've been a loyal advocate, let me introduce you to Joseph." And I can't wait to meet the man who said, "I am a lover of the cause of Christ because I too am a lover of the cause of Christ" and I say that in his name, amen.
Hank Smith:	<u>01:02:39</u>	Dr. Brad Wilcox our incredible man and also just an incredible friend. Thank you. Thank you for being with us. We love you.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>01:02:51</u>	Love you, too. You keep up the great work. You guys are doing an awesome job. So proud of you.
Hank Smith:	<u>01:02:58</u>	We have a lot of people besides Dr. Wilcox to thank. We have our listeners to thank, thank you so much for spending your time with us. Thank you for your support. We want to thank our executive producers, some incredibly generous and supportive people. Steve and Shannon Sorensen. Just like the type we talked about today.
Dr. Bradley R. ....:	<u>01:03:17</u>	Hank let me just say I knew Steve before his passing, I know Shannon, I know their family. I love them so much and I am not surprised at all that they are making this podcast possible. I love them. I love their family.
Hank Smith:	<u>01:03:41</u>	As do we, as do we. To all the Sorensen children and grandchildren we of course extend our love to you. We want to also thank our production crew, we have a crew that's growing.

David Perry, Lisa spice, Jamie Nielson, Kyle Nelson, Will Stoughton and Maria Hilton. Thank you, everyone.

Dr. Bradley R. ...:

01:04:02

Hank, I have to interrupt you one more time. Jamie Nielson, I taught her in sixth grade. I was her sixth grade teacher.

Hank Smith:

01:04:14

Jamie runs all of our social media. So Jamie, I hope you better be able to do some sixth grade math and English because there's going to be a test. Thank you so much to all of you. We hope you will join us on our next episode of followHIM.

**followHIM Favorites**  
**D&C 71-75**  
**Episode 27**

Hank Smith:	00:00	Hi there, my friends. My name is Hank Smith. I'm the host of a podcast called followHIM. I'm here with my co-host. Each week we do a little clip called followHIM Favorites, where we just pick one piece of the lesson to talk about. And the lesson this week is on section 71 through 75. Little sections, but a lot to choose from. So, John, what is your followHIM favorite this week?
John Bytheway:	00:22	Oh, this is hard to choose. We talked about so many wonderful things today, but I'm just gonna start with section 71 and in the little italicized part before the synopsis, it says, the brethren were to go forth to preach in order to allay the unfriendly feelings that had developed against the Church as a result of the publication of letters written by Ezra Booth, who had apostatized. And I love what the Lord tells him to do in verse one Is expedient in me that you should open your mouths in proclaiming what? You're wrong? I'm gonna argue with you. Here's the bullet points of why you're wrong. No, just teach the gospel. Proclaiming my gospel. What does gospel mean? It's the good news. It's the glad tidings. Just open your mouth and tell him the good news. And then I love what it says at the end in verse nine. "...there's no weapon that is formed against you shall prosper;...if any man lift his voice against you he shall be confounded in mine own due time." So you just preach the good news. You tell people why you're so happy and how it works for you, and be at peace with the rest. And don't worry.
Hank Smith:	01:27	John, I love that. I know I can--you know that I'm a pretty passionate guy sometimes, and I can find myself--well, I'm gonna go point by point on why you're wrong and right? And I can tell you when those things have happened, I've never felt good afterwards. I've never said, oh, that was a good thing to do. Right? I can feel the Lord going, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa. No, I want you to just teach the gospel. Just proclaim the gospel that's...
John Bytheway:	01:51	Focus on Christ and the good news.
Hank Smith:	01:53	Faith, repentance, baptism, and the Holy Ghost.
John Bytheway:	01:56	Yeah.

Hank Smith:	01:56	Mine actually comes from section 71 as well. So if you wanna, you're gonna have to come to the podcast if you want to come to these other sections.
John Bytheway:	02:04	Hear the rest. Yeah.
Hank Smith:	02:04	Because mine--I like verse two, he tells Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon, he wants them to go preach the gospel, proclaim it, he says, in the regions roundabout and in the church also.
John Bytheway:	02:19	Hmm.
Hank Smith:	02:19	And sometimes we get the idea that missionary work is only dealing with people who aren't members of the church. When missionary work, if you're dealing with--we're gonna go find some people who haven't come to church in a long time, we're gonna go find them and try to reactivate them, right? Into the church. That is missionary work. That is missionary work. If you're gonna just help your family learn the gospel, that is missionary work. So you can do missionary work in the church. You should never feel bad if you're serving a mission or go on a mission. You're like, well, all I'm doing is working with members of the church. Well, that's verse two. You can proclaim the gospel in the church.
John Bytheway:	03:00	Awesome.
Hank Smith:	03:00	Yeah. I just think we need to--just because it's not a baptism or a number, that has nothing to do with how successful you are as a missionary.
John Bytheway:	03:11	Oh, Hank reminds me of President Nelson. Anytime you do anything that helps anyone on either side of the veil even, just come closer to taking those other steps, you're helping to gather Israel.
Hank Smith:	03:22	Come to Christ.
John Bytheway:	03:22	So in the church, in the regions roundabout, or across the world.
Hank Smith:	03:26	Beautiful. Well, we hope you join us on our podcast. It's called followHIM. You can find it wherever you get your podcasts.