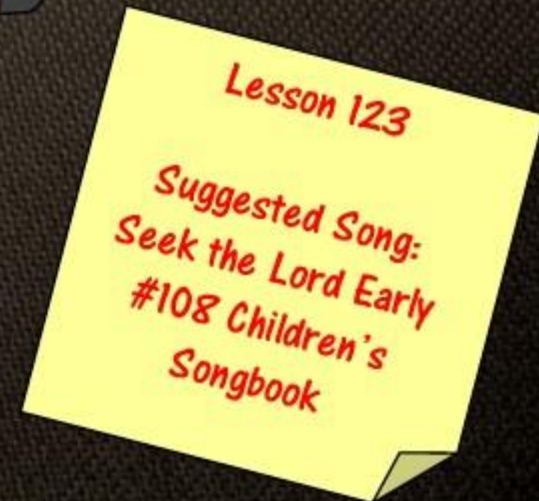
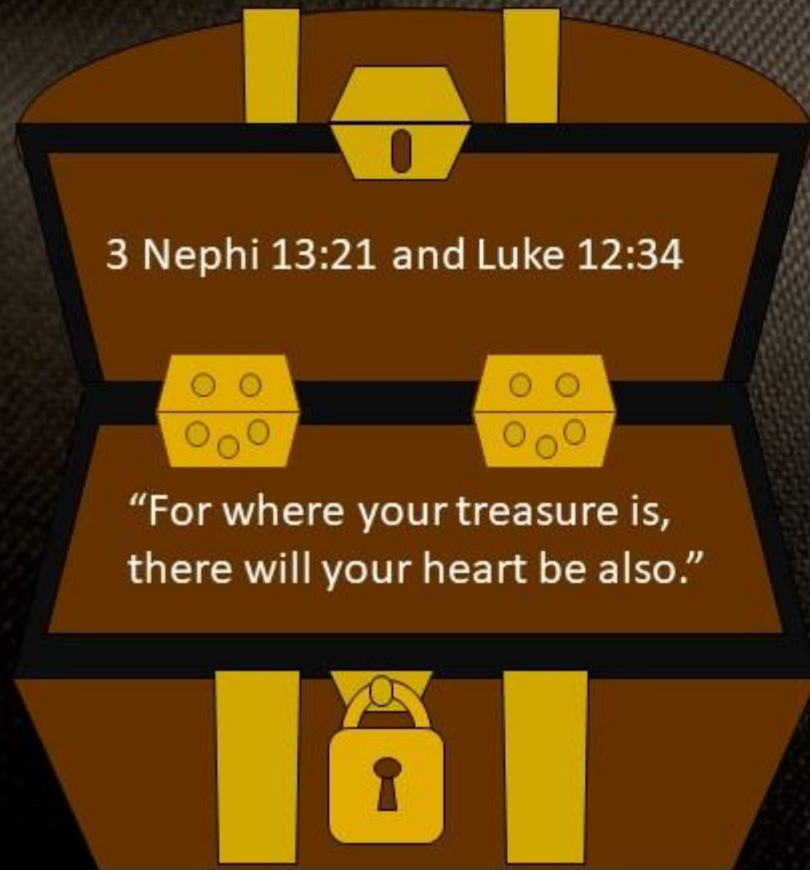


Seeking the Kingdom of God

3 Nephi 13

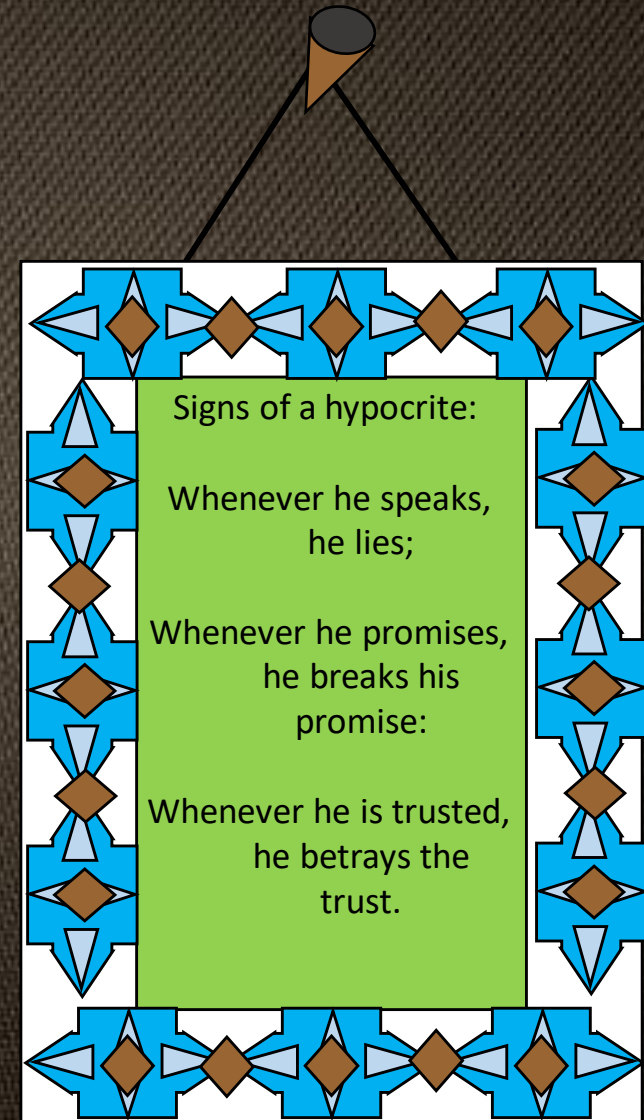


Hypocrite

A person who puts on a false appearance of virtue or religion



“But when thou doest alms let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth;”



Avoid ulterior motives...
giving to someone to impress others

1. I do alms (acts of religious devotion or service for others) because:

a. I am supposed to.

b. I love the Lord and enjoy helping other people.



c. I want others to think well of me.

2. I pray because:

a. I want to be able to tell my parents or my bishop "yes" when they ask me if I pray.

b. It is just part of my daily routine.

c. I want to communicate with my Heavenly Father.



3. I fast because:



a. Fasting helps me draw closer to the Lord.

b. Other people will think I'm weak if I don't.

c. My parents tell me I should.

Alms

Alms or almsgiving:
involves giving to others
as an act of virtue, either
materially or in the sense
of providing capabilities
for free.



Donations for the poor, mentioned frequently in the New Testament. This was an organized and united welfare program of the Church. Although not mentioned in the Old Testament as *alms*, the principle is given in many instances
—Bible Dictionary

“Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.”
Matthew 6:1



“...do not sound a trumpet before you...”

Anonymously--
a gift from an unknown source
Given in secret

"Self-Serving Purposes"

"Service that is self-serving is something less than service. Though we may not be evil individuals, yet to do good acts in order to be seen or noticed or heard is certainly less than noble and may be symptomatic of inner evil."

JFM and RLM



"For behold, God hath said a man being evil cannot do that which is good; for if he offereth a gift, or prayeth unto God, except he shall do it with real intent it profiteth him nothing.

For behold, it is not counted unto him for righteousness."

Moroni 7:6-7

Prayer

Vain Repetitions

“The problem is in the vainness, not in repetition.

In how many different ways can we bless our food?

How many original prayers—original in the sense of novel or unusual language—can we offer?

God is not offended by repetition, so long as the words are spoken from the heart and are sincere.

The heavens withdraw themselves, however, in the face of vanity. Something is vain when it is empty, meaningless, or hollow.



Whenever our prayers are meaningless and thus become trite or ritualistic religious jargon, having no feeling or emanating from a duplicitous heart, they accomplish little.”

JFM and RLM



“How often do we hear people who wax eloquent in their prayers to the extent of preaching a complete sermon? The hearers tire and the effect is lost, and I sometimes wonder if perhaps the dial of the heavenly radio is not turned off when long and wordy prayers are sent heavenward.”

Spencer W. Kimball

What We Need

“The Lord will bless us in terms of our needs, not just our wants.

When we are inspired by the Holy Ghost our prayers become instructive; we learn something from them, generally about ourselves.”



“For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.”

1 Corinthians 2:16



Paul said,

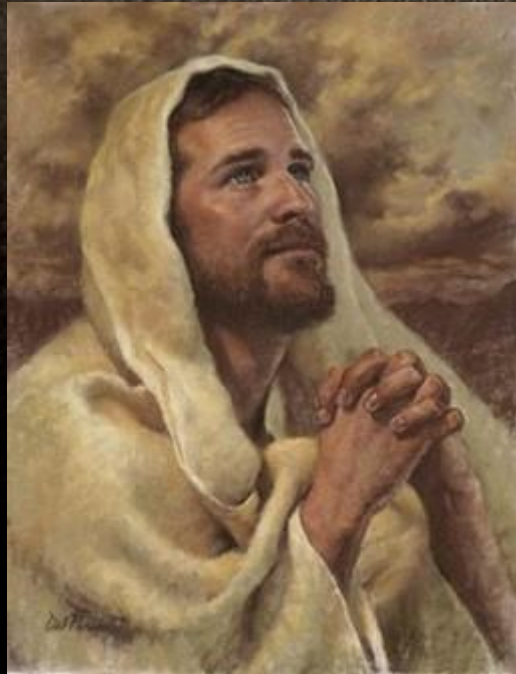
“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God.*”

Roman 8:26-27

The Lord's Prayer

The Savior gave these words of prayer to the Nephites, not that they should memorize and use it in repetition, but rather that they might be guided by the words to use the Spirit of the Holy Ghost in praying for what they need, also in thanking Him for what they have received.



The Lord's Prayer consists of 6 parts:

3 thy-petitions directed toward God

3 we-petitions focusing on the needs of men

3 Nephi 13:9-15

Our Father who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name

(Thy kingdom come is not mentioned
–perhaps because the of God is
about to be established among the
Nephites in its eternal fulness)

Thy will be done on earth as it is in
heaven

And forgive us our debts, as we
forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Matthew 6:9-13

Our Father which art in heaven

Hallowed be thy name

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done in earth, as it is
in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we
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Luke 11:2-4

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Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done, as in heaven, so
in earth.

Give us day by day our daily
bread.

And forgive us our sins; for we
also forgive every one that is
indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.

Fasting—For the Right Reason

“...not as hypocrites”

“Anoint thy head, and wash thy face”

When is it appropriate to fast?

At a time of tragedy or sorrow

When we need spiritual guidance or direction

When we seek for a remission of sins

When we are struggling with a particularly difficult problem or challenge in life

When we feel the need to draw near to God

When other's are struggling because of tragedy or sorrow...we may fast for them

How often should one fast?

There is a regular fasting day, for Latter-day Saints, set aside for fasting. It is generally the first Sunday of the month.

This is a time to participate in, not to be observed in by others.

Fasting is a private time between the individual and the Lord



If we do
righteous
works to
please
Heavenly
Father, He will
reward us
openly



Treasures on Earth or in Heaven?

We can not take temporal things with us into the eternal world



Everlasting worth:

Nobility of character

Charitable actions

Meaningful and cherished relationships

These are the treasures worth seeking



God or Worldliness?

1. A young man declines a job that would require him to miss his Sunday meetings and instead chooses a lower-paying job that does not require him to miss his meetings.



2. A young woman frequently complains to her parents about her need for new clothes. The clothes she desires to purchase cost more than her family can afford.



3. A young man pays his tithing regularly with the money he receives from his job. However, he uses all of his remaining income to purchase entertainment items, including some inappropriate movies and songs, and has saved no money to pay for a mission or education.



4. A young woman frequently uses some of her income to purchase small gifts to show love for others.



Searching For Mammon

An Aramaic word meaning “riches,”

“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

Matthew 6:24



“And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.”

Luke 16:9



What Might You Leave Behind?



While searching for Mammon?

Family

Spouse and children

Friends

Gospel Principles

Membership in the Church

The Loss of the Holy Ghost

The Companionship of the Savior

“Consider the Lilies of the Field”

“For behold, ye are they whom I have chosen to minister unto this people. Therefore I say unto you, take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?”



Turning from the
world and
placing total
faith in him.

The Lord’s directive is to the Twelve, who had been chosen, was to avoid being worried about the necessities of life.

“If the God of heaven chooses to feed the fowls of the air, if he provides means for the growth and beautification of grass and flowers on earth, then will he not help us provide for the crowning creatures of his creative enterprise—man?”

JFM and RLM

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God,
and his righteousness; and all
these things shall be added unto you.”
Matthew 6:33



“There’s enough to worry about today without
making ourselves sick over tomorrow. For
example: there’s enough evil and temptation in
today’s world without fretting over what we
will face in a future day.”

JFM and RLM



“...Sufficient is the day unto the evil thereof.”



“The men and women who desire to obtain seats in the Celestial Kingdom will find that they must battle with the enemy of all righteousness every day.”
--Brigham Young

Sources:

Video:

God Forgive Us as We Forgive Others (1:48)

A Work in Progress (7:30)

No Regrets (5:38)



Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet *Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon*
Vol. 4 pgs. 81,88-89

Spencer W. Kimball *Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball* pg. 119-120

Signs of Hypocrite [Sahih Bukhari, Volume 1, Book 2, Number 33]

Further Reading: Jesus' Sermon to the Nephites by Arthur R. Bassett Feb. 1978 Ensign

Brigham Young *Journal of Discourses* 11:14



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Profile of a Christlike Character

1. One who seeks to understand others—does not have the spirit of contention (3 Nephi 11:28-30)
2. One who believes in Christ (3 Nephi 11:33)
3. One who is striving to repent (3 Nephi 11:38)
4. One who has been baptized (3 Nephi 11:38)
5. One who has received the gift of the Holy Ghost (3 Nephi 11:35)
6. One who gives heed to words of God's chosen leaders (3 Nephi 12:1)
7. One who mourns for personal sins (3 Nephi 12:4)
8. One who hungers and thirsts after righteousness (3 Nephi 12:6)
9. One who is merciful to others (3 Nephi 12:7)
10. One who is pure in heart (3 Nephi 12:8)
11. One who is a peacemaker (3 Nephi 12:9)
12. One who endures persecution patiently (3 Nephi 12:10-12)
13. One who controls his/her temper (3 Nephi 12:21-22)
14. One who keeps their thoughts pure—does not lust (3 Nephi 12:27-29)
15. One who is honest—has absolute integrity (3 Nephi 12: 33-37)
16. One who seeks to bless and love their enemies (3 Nephi 12:39-45)
17. One who gives financial contributions without desiring praise of man (3 Nephi 13:1-4)
18. One who prays and fasts in secret (3 Nephi 13:5-18)
19. One who does not judge his fellowman harshly (3 Nephi 14:1-5)

The Lord's Prayer

3 Nephi 13:9-15

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