Lesson 25
Alma 17–22

Though this lesson contains sermons by prophets, they aren’t its focus. Instead, it is primarily an account of part of the mission of the sons of Mosiah, particularly the missions of Ammon and, to a lesser degree, Aaron. This account makes a good story, with its tale of Ammon’s service to Lamoni and his battle with those who wanted to steal Lamoni’s herd. We often use that story as an illustration of things such as faithful service or doing missionary work by service. Are those the reasons that the story of Ammon and Lamoni is included in the Book of Mormon? How does this story as a whole and that of Aaron and the other sons of Mosiah fit in the context of the Book of Mormon, and what are that book’s purposes for the story? How do the missionary approaches of Ammon and Aaron compare and contrast?

Alma 17

Verse 3: What does this verse suggest about what it means to preach “with power and authority of God”?

Verse 11: As I understand it, here the Lord tells us that to be an instrument in God’s hand is (1) to establish his word and (2) to suffer patiently, and it says that to suffer patiently is to be a good example “in Christ.” What does it mean to establish the word of God? Why establish rather than teach?
Why does being an instrument require patient suffering? What does “patient suffering in Christ” or “good example in Christ” mean? How would that differ from mere patient suffering or good example?

**Verse 18:** This verse suggests that administering to someone and imparting the word of God to them mean the same thing. Why do you think the verse uses the verb *administer* rather than *minister*? Webster’s 1828 dictionary gives this definition of *administer:* “to contribute; to bring aid or supplies; to add something.” Its definition of *minister* is “to attend and serve; to perform service in any office, sacred or secular.” Does either of those definitions help us understand this verse better?

**Verse 25ff.:** Ammon becomes a servant of the king. Is Christ the type that Ammon’s work shows here? Does this suggest something about what it means to be a Christian?

**Alma 18**

**Verses 1–4:** What does Lamoni understand God to be?

Why are the people who are reporting Ammon’s deeds to the king less sure that he is the Great Spirit than Lamoni is?

**Verses 10–11:** For Lamoni, what is the most important proof that Ammon is the Great Spirit?

**Verses 17, 21:** Ammon says, “I will do whatever you ask, if it is right.” Lamoni responds, “I will give you anything you desire.” What is happening?

**Verse 20:** Why does Lamoni refer to those who’ve been stealing his flocks as “my brethren”?

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Verse 22: What is the thing that Ammon desires of Lamoni and that Lamoni is bound to give Ammon, given what Lamoni said in verse 21?

Verses 36–39: In verses 23–35, Ammon establishes that Lamoni believes in an all-knowing God, and Ammon testifies that he has been sent by that God to teach the people. Then, beginning with Adam, he lays before Lamoni “the records and the holy scriptures” and the history of the descendants of Lehi. Finally, Ammon teaches the plan of salvation. The outline of his method looks like this:

1. Establish that there is an all-knowing God.
2. Remind Lamoni of the sacred history of his people.
3. Teach the plan of salvation.

Why is the first step necessary? How would we do that today? Why is a review of sacred history the second step of Ammon’s preaching? What would be comparable for us today? Are the first two steps necessary to the third? Why?

How is Ammon’s sermon to Lamoni related to King Benjamin’s sermon in Mosiah 4?

Alma 19

Verses 1–7: Ammon knows what has happened to Lamoni. Why does he wait so long to act?

Verses 12–13: Why do you think King Lamoni was given the privilege of seeing the Redeemer in vision?
Verses 29–30: Of what significance is it that this miracle is done by a servant woman, Abish, rather than by Ammon?

Verse 33: What does it mean to have one’s heart changed and to have no more desire to do evil? (Compare Mosiah 5:2.) Is this an experience that people have today? If so, when? If not, why not?

Alma 20

Verses 10, 13: What explains the animosity of the Lamanites toward the Nephites? Is their accusation based in fact? Why would conversion to the gospel be the only possible remedy for the accusation?

Alma 21

Verses 1–12: What argument do the Amalekites make against Aaron? Can you state that argument in contemporary terms? How does Aaron respond? Can you state his response in contemporary terms?

Verses 19–23: What reforms did Lamoni make on his return home? Why those reforms in particular?

Alma 22

Verse 3: What is troubling Lamoni’s father? Why would that trouble him? What does that suggest about our own social and legal obligations?

Verses 7–14: How does Aaron’s sermon to Lamoni’s father differ from Ammon’s sermon to Lamoni (Alma 18:23–39)? Can you explain the difference?
Verse 14: What does it mean to say that no human being can merit anything of himself?

Verse 15: How does Lamoni’s father understand what it means to be born again? Can you explain what this means in practical, concrete terms?

Verse 18: What does “I will give away all my sins” mean? Why use give away rather than forsake, for example?