

3 Nephi 23-26

I. It's the Little things that make the biggest differences!

II. 3 Nephi 23:

1-3 *Great are the words of Isaiah*

“If our eternal salvation depends upon our ability to understand the writings of Isaiah as fully and truly as Nephi understood them - and who shall say that such is not the case! - how shall we fare in that great day when with Nephi we shall stand before the pleasing bar of Him who said: ‘Great are the words of Isaiah’?...It just may be that my salvation (and yours also!) does in fact depend upon our ability to understand the writings of Isaiah as fully and truly as Nephi understood them” (Bruce R. McConkie, *Ensign*, October 1973, p 78).

4-13 *Jesus commands the Nephites to add missing parts to their scriptural records*

4 Write what I have told you

5 Live what I tell you

6-9 Record keeping

14 *Jesus expounds all scriptures in one*

“In one sense, to say that Jesus ‘expounded all scriptures in one’ may mean that our Lord taught the people the entire plan of salvation out of the scriptures, perhaps even opening the heavens and providing the visions necessary to understand what had been, what was, and what was to come. Such a panoramic vision might not be unlike what was vouchsafed to Enoch (Moses 7), Moses (Moses 1), Nephi (1 Nephi 13-14), the brother of Jared (Ether 3), or Joseph Smith (D&C 76...Expounding all the scriptures in one, which truly only the Master, the author of scripture could do, would also demonstrate clearly and unquestionably that all things bear witness of Christ” (Millet & McConkie, *Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon*, p. 160).

3 Nephi 24:

1-18 *Jesus Quotes the Father's words to Malachi*

1-12 Tithing

7 Who honors God, God honors

“If you don't pay tithing, you are stealing from the Lord (Malachi 3:8), and that's contrary to the eighth commandment, and no one has ever prospered doing that” (Hartman Rector, *Ensign*, November 1990, p. 77).

“The Lord will open the windows of heaven according to our need, and not according to

our greed” (Gordon B. Hinckley, *Ensign*, May 1982, p. 40).

“We *can* pay our tithing. This is not so much a matter of money as it is a matter of faith. I have yet to find a faithful tithe payer who cannot testify that in a very literal and wonderful way the windows of heaven have been opened and blessings have been poured out upon him or her” (Gordon B. Hinckley, *Ensign*, November 1985, p. 85).

“If ...we are spiritually ready for the law of consecration, there would be no poor among us. (D&C 49:20.) No wonder the Church stresses the law of tithing, a law to prepare us for something higher. The world looks upon the principle of tithing and sees a system of revenue; we look at it and see also a system of salvation, an anticipation of consecration” (Neal A. Maxwell, *Deposition of a Disciple*, p 87).

“In the fervent heat of the Second Coming (see D&C 101:25) the counterfeit jewels of the wicked will be melted away as so much dross, and the genuine jewels, who are the righteous, will shine forth with great glory for all the world to see” (Millett & McConkie, p. 164).

What are some of the not-so-obvious benefits of tithing? (Commitment, dedication)

3 Nephi 25:

1-6 *The Coming of Elijah the Prophet*

“Elijah brought back the sealing power so that marriages and other ordinances that are bound on earth shall be eternally sealed in the heavens. Those married by this authority are husband and wife in this life, and they so remain in the life to come, if they are true and faithful in all things” (Bruce R. McConkie, *New Witness*, p. 508).

D&C 2: Most repeated message in the scriptures. It appears in all 4 standard works. Malachi 4:5-6, 3 Nephi 25:5-6, D&C 2, 27:9, 128:17, and JSH 37-39.

1 *Great and Dreadful day of the Lord*

“His coming will be both glorious and terrible, depending on the spiritual condition of those who remain” (Ezra Taft Benson, *New Era*, May 1982, p. 49).

2 *Hearts of the children turned to their fathers*

“What was the promise made to the fathers that was to be fulfilled in the latter-days by turning of the hearts of the children to their fathers? It was the promise of the Lord made through Enoch, Isaiah, and the prophets, to the nations of the earth, that *the time should come when the dead should be redeemed*. And the turning of the hearts of the children is

fulfilled in the performing of the vicarious temple work and in the preparation of their genealogies” (*Doctrines of Salvation*, 2:154).

What are the “promises made to the fathers?”

“This expression has reference to certain promises made to those who died without a knowledge of the Gospel, and without the opportunity of receiving the sealing ordinances of the Priesthood in matters pertaining to their exaltation. According to these promises, the children in the latter-days are to perform all such ordinances in behalf of the dead” (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Improvement Era*, Vol. 25, p. 829, July 1922).

“Those Saints who neglect it [Genealogy] in behalf of their deceased, do it at the peril of their own salvation” (Joseph Smith, *TPJS*, p. 193).

3 *The whole earth would be utterly wasted*

“If Elijah had not come, we are led to believe that all the work of past ages would have been of little avail, for the Lord said the whole earth, under such conditions, would be *utterly wasted* at his coming...

If this sealing power were not on the earth, then confusion would reign and disorder would take place of order in that day when the Lord shall come, and, of course, this could not be, for all things are governed and controlled by perfect law in the Kingdom of God.

Why would the earth be wasted? Simply because if there is not a welding link between the fathers and the children - which is the work for the dead - then we will all stand rejected; the whole work of God will fail and be utterly wasted. Such a condition, of course, shall not be” (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, 2: 121-122).

“If it were not so [if Elijah had not come], the whole earth would be utterly wasted at [Christ’s] coming” Why would this be the case? “Because the earth would not have accomplished its foreordained purposes, to establish on its face a family system patterned after the order of heaven. If there were no binding and sealing powers whereby families could be cemented forever, then the earth would never ‘answer the end of its creation’ (D&C 49:16). It would be wasted and cursed, for all men would be forever without root or branch” (Millett & McConkie, *The Life Beyond*, pp. 97-98).

Turning the Hearts of the Children to the Fathers, and Fathers to children, here, now!

“Now keep in mind this: that when the full measure of Elijah’s mission is understood, that the hearts of the children will be turned to the fathers, and the fathers to the children. It applies just as much on this side of the veil as it does on the other side of the veil. If we neglect our families here in having family home night and we fail in our responsibilities

here, how could we feel that we are doing our full duty in turning the hearts of our children to their fathers” (President Harold B. Lee, *Priesthood Genealogy Seminar*, 1973).

Video Clip: Together Forever: Father Neglecting His Family

What is Satan’s great curse?

“Throughout the ages, evil forces have attacked the family. Why do you suppose that Satan is so obsessed with its dissolution? Because it stands for everything he wants and cannot have. He cannot be a husband, a father, or a grandfather. He cannot have posterity now or ever. Satan cannot even keep those he has led away from God” (J. Richard Clark, *Ensign*, May 1989, p. 60).

This is Satan’s great Curse!

“We come to this earth charged with a mission: to learn to love and serve one another. To best help us accomplish this, God has placed us in families, for he knows that his where we can learn to overcome selfishness and pride and to sacrifice for others and to make happiness and helpfulness and humility and love the very essence of our character” (John H. Groberg, *Ensign*, May 1982, p. 50).

Read excerpt from my article, “Husbands, Love Your Wives”

Often times we end up practicing the traits of charity, love, and kindness on everyone else except the people they were originally intended for: our family. The very love and respect we should be expending towards our spouses and children is spent on others that probably don’t matter that much. Satan must get a kick out of this exchange.

I close with three thoughts. First, Michael Maclean’s words from the video you just saw:

Are you giving the least to those who matter most?
Are you sharing your best with those who really aren’t that close?
Well its time to turn around,
And find out where your greatest joys are found.

Secondly, our prophets have suggested the following:

1. The family is the most important organization in time and eternity.
2. No nation ever rises above its homes (Benson)
3. Bring up your children in light and truth (Joseph Smith) D&C 93:40/68:25
4. “We must not forget this home evening every Monday night. I say *every* Monday evening...That is where we are going to save our nations” (Kimball)

5. "Praise your children more than you correct them. Praise them for even their smallest achievement" (Benson)
6. Daily Family Scripture Study (Kimball)
Story by Kem Cazier

Finally, and fittingly, we learn from Joseph Smith (From his journal):

"Remained at home and had great joy with my family" 27 March 1834

"Spent the evening around my fireside, teaching my family grammar" 10 Nov. 1835

"At four in the afternoon, I went out with my little Frederick, to exercise myself by sliding on the ice."

"In the morning I took my children [on] a pleasure ride in the carriage."

"At home at nine o'clock, a.m., reading a magazine to my children."

3 Nephi 26:

1-13 *Christ continues to teach and minister to the multitude*

1-3 Jesus expounds in the scriptures

4-5 All resurrected

6-8 Cannot write a 100th part

9-11 Believe small - greater reward

12-13 Mormon interjects - Teach 3 days - minister often

14-16 *Out of the mouth of babes*

"The most precious gift a man and woman can receive is a child of God, and that the raising of a child is basically, fundamentally, and most exclusively a *spiritual* process...The first and most important inner quality you can instill in a child is *faith in God*. The first and most important action a child can learn is *obedience*. And the most powerful tool you have with which to teach a child is *love*" (L. Tom Perry, *Ensign*, May 1983, p 78).

17-21 *The 12 Nephite Apostles Minister to the Church/Building Zion*

"If our possessions are greater than those of our neighbors, we think that we ourselves are greater than our neighbors. Moreover, those who have little are often inclined to canker their souls with greed and envy. Thus, our hearts are either where our treasure is, or worse, where someone else's treasure is" (Neal A. Maxwell, *Of One Heart*, p. 38).

"The redemption of Zion is more than the purchase or recovery of lands, the building of cities, or even the founding of nations. It is the conquest of the heart, the subjugation of the soul, the sanctifying of the flesh, the purifying and ennobling of the passions" (Orson F. Whitney, *The Life of Heber C. Kimball*, 1945, p. 65).

“We ought to have the building up of Zion as our greatest object” (Joseph Smith, *History of the Church*, 3:390).

III. Spirituality: The Christensen's - Bernell & Joe - Good Stuff