

## "Surely these Things will be made known unto you"

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Mike Baird

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## "the Lord maketh no such thing known unto us"

- Background – Allegory of the Olive tree (1 Nephi 10:7-14)
- 1 Nephi 15:7-9

7 And they (*Laman & Lemuel*) said: Behold, we cannot understand the words which our father hath spoken concerning the natural branches of the olive-tree, and also concerning the Gentiles.

8 And I said unto them: Have ye inquired of the Lord?

9 And they said unto me: We have not; *for the Lord maketh no such thing known unto us.*
- Too often we feel that way "Lord maketh no such thing known unto us", Only to the Stake President or the Bishop
- This is not true, all of us can know of things through the Spirit

## "surely these things shall be made known unto you"

1 Nephi 15:10-11

10 Behold, I said unto them: How is it that ye do not keep the commandments of the Lord? How is it that ye will perish, because of the hardness of your hearts?

11 Do ye not remember the things which the Lord hath said?—If ye will (1) not harden your hearts, and (2) ask me in faith, (3) believing that ye shall receive, (4) with diligence in keeping my commandments, *surely these things shall be made known unto you.*

- Nephi gave us an outline of 4 things to do to prepare to understand spiritual things
- If we do these things – surely "these things shall be made known unto you"
- Doesn't say "only if you're the bishop" does it – saying this to Laman and Lemuel!

## God's ways are not our ways

- Isaiah 55:8-11

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

- Our perspective on things is limited where God's is not
  - Riddle of two athletes
- How then can we know the things of God?

## Paul – must be "by His Spirit"

- 1 Cor 2:9-11, 14

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have

entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

- Paul is saying to the Saints in Corinth that there are blessings and understandings for those of us who love God that we can't imagine
- How are they are revealed unto us – "by his Spirit"

11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

- We understand human things because we are human

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

- Through the understanding of man things of God may appear as foolish
- Things of God are understood through the Spirit

### **"ask in faith" "believing that ye shall receive"**

- How does this relate to what we learned last fireside?
- James 1:5-6

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

But *let him ask in faith, nothing wavering*. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

### **"with diligence in keeping my commandments"**

- Why do we need to keep the commandments to "have these things made known unto us"?
- What does it mean "with diligence"?

## "not harden your hearts"

### *What does mean to have a hard heart?*

- PLAY-DOH

### *How do you get a hard heart?*

- Think of Laman & Lemuel
  - Murmured
  - Focused on things of the world
  - Jealous of Nephi
  - Did not pray
- Sin
- Pride
- Unbelief

- Mosiah 26:3

Now it came to pass that there were many of the rising generation that could not understand the words of king Benjamin, being little children at the time he spake unto his people; and they did not believe the tradition of their fathers.

They did not believe what had been said concerning the resurrection of the dead, neither did they believe concerning the coming of Christ. And now *because of their unbelief they could not understand the word of God; and their hearts were hardened.*

- strife & contention

- Helaman 16:22

and they were much disturbed, for Satan did stir them up to do iniquity continually; yea, he did go about spreading rumors and contentions upon all the face of the land, that he *might harden the hearts of the people* against that which was good and against that which should come.

- 3 Nephi 1:22

And it came to pass that from this time forth there began to be *lyings sent forth among the people, by Satan, to harden their hearts*, to the intent that they might not believe in those signs and wonders which they had seen;

## ***What happens when you have a hard heart?***

- React to the Spirit or to truth by becoming even harder (or softer)
- Cast away that which is good
  - 2 Nephi 33:2  
there are many that harden their hearts against the Holy Spirit, that it hath no place in them; wherefore, they cast many things away which are written and esteem them as things of naught
  -
- God gives you less
  - Alma 12:10-11  
And therefore, *he that will harden his heart, the same receiveth the lesser portion of the word*; and he that will not harden his heart, to him is given the greater portion of the word, until it is given unto him to know the mysteries of God until he know them in full.  
And they that will harden their hearts, to them is given the lesser portion of the word until they know nothing concerning his mysteries; and then they are taken captive by the devil, and led by his will down to destruction. Now this is what is meant by the chains of hell
- Causes you to sin and do wickedness
  - Alma 21:3  
Now the Lamanites of themselves were sufficiently hardened, but the Amalekites and the Amulonites were still harder; therefore they did cause the Lamanites that they should harden their hearts, that they should wax strong in wickedness and their abominations.

## ***How do you get a soft heart?***

- How did Nephi get a soft heart?
  - 1 Nephi 2:16  
And it came to pass that I, Nephi, being exceedingly young, nevertheless being large in stature, and also having great desires to know of the mysteries of God, *wherefore, I did cry unto the Lord; and behold he did visit me, and did soften my heart* that I did believe all the words which had been spoken by my father; wherefore, I did not rebel against him like unto my brothers.
- Humility – humble
  - God often does for us if we don't
  - Alma 32:13-16
- Repent
- Listen to the Spirit – and let it work with you.
  - Alma 24:9 (Anti-Lehi\_Nephi)  
And behold, I thank my great God that he has given us a portion of his Spirit to soften our hearts
  - D&C 29:7  
And ye are called to bring to pass the gathering of mine elect; for mine elect hear my voice and harden not their hearts;

### ***What can the Lord do with a soft heart?***

- He will gather you to be his and protect you
  - D&C 10:65  
For, behold, I will gather them as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, if they will not harden their hearts;
- Give you knowledge and understanding
  - D&C 121:45  
Let thy bowels also be full of charity towards all men, and to the household of faith, and let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly; then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God; and the doctrine of the priesthood shall distil upon thy soul as the dews from heaven.
- Potter's Clay
  - Jeremiah 18:1-6  
The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,  
Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words.  
Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels.  
And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.  
Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,  
O house of Israel, *cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel.*

### **Closing**

- God loves you
- He wants to bless you
- He will soften our hearts if we approach him
- Surely these things will be made known unto you