

# "HEAR YE HIM"

## A Devotional Series For Radio

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Evan A. Fry, Radio Minister  
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The Sermon: TEACH THE DOCTRINE OF THE KINGDOM

Scripture: Doctrine and Covenants, Section 85, Paragraph 21.

Teach one another the doctrine of the kingdom; teach ye diligently and my grace shall attend you, that you may be instructed more perfectly in theory, in principle, in doctrine, in the law of the gospel, in all things that pertain unto the kingdom of God, that is expedient for you to understand; of things both in heaven, and in earth, and under the earth; things which have been; things which are; things which must shortly come to pass; things which are at home; things which are abroad; the wars and the perplexities of the nations; and the judgments which are on the land; and a knowledge also of countries, and of kingdoms, that ye may be prepared in all things which I shall send you again, to magnify the calling whereunto I have called you, and the mission with which I have commissioned you.

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Seek ye diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek out of the best books words of wisdom; seek learning by study, and also by faith.

Will Rogers once said that we are all ignorant, only on different subjects. No matter how intelligent, how well read, how well educated any of us may be, there are always innumerable areas in which we are densely, grossly, and by some standards even stupidly ignorant. Part of the process of education is opening the mind of the student to the vastness and the multiplicity of the areas in which he is still ignorant.

All of us can learn from each other. There is no man so humble, so ignorant, so uncouth, so uncivilized, that you and I could not learn something from him. A savage from the jungles might appear to be very stupid and ignorant in the midst of one of our big cities; but put a modern city dweller into the savage's jungle, and he would be equally stupid and ignorant and out of place. Perhaps, then, we could learn as much from the savage as we think he could learn from us --if we were wise and humble enough to admit our ignorance.

We live in a day of specialization. The store of human knowledge has become so vast and intricate that no one man can completely master even one field of knowledge in one lifetime -- and so we specialize. As never before in history, we need each other; we depend on each other; we need to learn from each other; we need to serve each other, to teach each other,

each one according to his own special talent, ability, aptitude, and training.

Learning is a cooperative process. In any good school or great university, the student avails himself of the services of many specialists and experts, each of them has become familiar with one specialized field of knowledge. Even the expert, however, cannot afford to stand still. If he is to maintain his place he must be constantly seeking, experimenting, studying, thinking, solving unanswered questions and problems.

Our theme text counsels us to "seek learning by study, and also by faith." It is easy to see the need for study if we would learn but oftentimes we are inclined to forget or ignore the second half of this equation. We think of science as being cold, factual, tangible, with no relationship to such things as faith, intuition, imagination, or spiritual perception; but that is not so. Even the cold, practical scientist seeking new truth in his laboratory must first have faith that there is more truth to be discovered. More often than we realize, he begins with a hunch, an intuition that suggests his method of approach and the thing for which he is seeking, which leads him -- perhaps after years of painstaking work and research -- to the proof of the truth he intuitively recognized long before.

Faith, then, is an essential part of the learning process. Some men have more faith, more intuition, more spiritual perception than others. Some are experts in this field, as others are experts in the field of medicine, or literature, or science. In the learning process, it is well to enlist the services of specialists in the field of faith, as well as specialists in other fields, when we seek learning as groups or organizations. The prophet, as well as the scientists, has his rightful place in helping to plot the course of human progress. And in individual learning there is certainly a place for hard work, for study, for research, for seeking and delving and thinking; but there is also an important place for faith, for prayer, for insight, for spiritual insight and guidance by that Spirit whose function is to guide us into all truth and teach us all things.

In the learning process, we need each other. Therefore we are counselled in our scripture lesson to "teach one another words of wisdom." There can be no teaching unless someone learns; therefore this command also implies that we should learn from each other. We need to seek truth together. We need to learn so that we may teach; we need to teach in order that in the interplay of other minds we may learn things which in our limited experience we failed to apprehend, even in the field where we thought we were experts. It is always helpful and profitable to discuss problems in a group where men of differing background, experience, temperament, and training can all contribute their thinking in an attempt to arrive at a full understanding of the truth.

We are also commanded in this paragraph of scripture to seek out of the best books words of wisdom. Books contain the treasures of thought of all ages. Then enable us to learn from the best thinkers of both past and present. We can read their thoughts and their teachings, even though we cannot see or hear them personally. But not all books are good; therefore the command is to seek out the best books words of wisdom. Very few of us read enough good books. We read for pleasure, for amusement, to learn how to get rich or how to persuade people to let us have our own way, but not enough of the good books which teach us the true wisdom that cometh from above and brings us eternal life.

We are commanded in this scripture to teach one another the doctrine of the kingdom. Most of us are content with a mere smattering of knowledge and wisdom. We often lack capacity to learn more because we have not yet learned the fundamentals of the doctrine of the kingdom. We have had a narrow concept of what the doctrine of the kingdom consists of. What is the doctrine of the kingdom? We begin the answer of that question by asking another: "Where is God's kingdom?" His kingdom and his law are everywhere. There is no space where there is no law -- God's law. There is no principle, no law, no doctrine anywhere, any time, which is not a part of the doctrine of God's kingdom.

The language of our scripture makes the "doctrine of the kingdom" almost all-inclusive. It includes things in heaven (astronomy) and things in earth (geography) and under the earth (geology). It includes things which have been (history) things which are (current events), things which must shortly come to pass (prophecy and a study of trends). It includes things which are at home (domestic affairs) and things which are abroad (foreign affairs). It includes the wars and perplexities of nations, so that we shall know how to avoid those wars and perplexities in the future. It includes "the judgments which are on the land," so that we may have better sense than to repeat a course of action which has brought other nations and other civilizations to the brink of ruin. It includes a knowledge of countries (including their languages, customs, religious, and political systems) and of kingdoms, so that we may be prepared to take the gospel to people that still dwell in darkness. It includes, theory, principle, doctrine, and law.

"Seek learning by study, and also by faith." He who would understand the law, must first understand the Lawgiver. He who would live in God's kingdom must know something of the "doctrine of the kingdom," in the all-inclusive sense in which we have described it. And he who would know the doctrine of the kingdom must be continually engaged in both teaching it and learning it, sharing his specialized knowledge with others and in turn learning from them, that all may come to a more perfect understanding of the laws of God and of his kingdom.