

MULBERRY RELIEF SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2023

MONTHLY THEME:

"DRIVE AWAY DISCOURAGEMENT"

MONTHLY SCRIPTURE: JOSHUA 1:9

BE STRONG AND OF A GOOD COURAGE; BE NOT
AFRAID, NEITHER BE THOU DISMAYED: FOR THE LORD
THY GOD IS WITH THEE WHITHERSOEVER THOU GOEST.



BIRTHDAYS:

OCTOBER 3 - GABBI YOUNG

OCTOBER 26 - JENNIFER HARE

OCTOBER 6 - ASHLEY BURTON

OCTOBER 26 - SHAELEE SHEFFIELD

OCTOBER 6 - KK WHITE

OCTOBER 30 - CARRIANN JONES

OCTOBER 7 - AMY SANDERS

OCTOBER 31 - AMBER WALLIS

OCTOBER 20 - AMY WILDEN

OCTOBER 21 - KIMBERLY LEWIS

LESSON SCHEDULE:

- OCTOBER 8 - "KEEP GOING -
WITH FAITH" ELDER CARL B. COOK
- OCTOBER 22 - "THE IMPERFECT HARVEST"
ELDER VERN P. STANFILL

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- OCTOBER 19 - STAKE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE 6 PM
- OCTOBER 20 - WARD HALLOWEEN PARTY CHILI
COOK-OFF 6 PM

When Thou Art Converted Strengthen Thy Brethren

PRESIDENCY MESSAGE:

I HEARD THIS SHORT STORY ONCE AND IT HAS ALWAYS STUCK WITH ME:

IT WAS ONCE ANNOUNCED THAT THE DEVIL WAS GOING OUT OF BUSINESS AND WOULD OFFER HIS TOOLS FOR SALE TO WHOEVER WOULD PAY HIS PRICE. ON THE NIGHT OF THE SALE THEY WERE ALL ATTRACTIVELY DISPLAYED, AND A BAD LOOKING LOT THEY WERE. MALICE, ENVY, HATRED, JEALOUSY, SENSUALITY, DECEIT, AND ALL THE OTHER IMPLEMENTS OF EVIL WERE SPREAD OUT, EACH MARKED WITH ITS PRICE. APART FROM ALL THE REST LAY A HARMLESS LOOKING, WEDGE-SHAPED TOOL, MUCH WORN AND PRICED HIGHER THAN ANY OF THE OTHERS. SOMEONE ASKED THE DEVIL WHAT IT WAS. "THAT'S DISCOURAGEMENT," WAS THE REPLY. "WELL, WHY DO YOU HAVE IT PRICED SO HIGH?" "BECAUSE," REPLIED THE DEVIL, "IT IS MORE USEFUL TO ME THAN ANY OF THE OTHERS. I CAN PRY OPEN AND GET INSIDE A MAN'S CONSCIOUSNESS WITH THAT WHEN I COULDN'T GET NEAR HIM WITH ANY OF THE OTHERS, AND WHEN ONCE INSIDE I CAN USE IT WITH NEARLY EVERYBODY, AS VERY FEW PEOPLE YET KNOW THAT IT BELONGS TO ME!" "YOU SAY YOU USE THIS WEDGE OF DISCOURAGEMENT WITH NEARLY EVERYBODY – WITH WHOM CAN'T YOU USE IT?" THE DEVIL HESITATED FOR A LONG TIME AND FINALLY SAID IN A LOW VOICE, "I CAN'T USE IT IN GETTING INTO THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF A GRATEFUL MAN." IT HARDLY NEEDS TO BE ADDED THAT THE DEVIL'S PRICE FOR DISCOURAGEMENT WAS SO HIGH THAT IT WAS NEVER SOLD. HE STILL OWNS IT AND HE IS STILL USING IT.

I LOVE THAT THE KEY TO OVERCOMING DISCOURAGEMENT IN THIS STORY WAS A GRATEFUL HEART.

DISCOURAGEMENT KEEPS US FROM BECOMING WHO THE LORD INTENDS US TO BE. IT KEEPS US FROM RECEIVING THE VAST BLESSINGS HE HAS IN STORE FOR US. DOCTRINE & COVENANTS 78:17-19 STATES:

VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, YE ARE LITTLE CHILDREN, AND YE HAVE NOT AS YET UNDERSTOOD HOW GREAT BLESSINGS THE FATHER HATH IN HIS OWN HANDS AND PREPARED FOR YOU; AND YE CANNOT BEAR ALL THINGS NOW; NEVERTHELESS, BE OF GOOD CHEER, FOR I WILL LEAD YOU ALONG. THE KINGDOM IS YOURS AND THE BLESSINGS THEREOF ARE YOURS, AND THE RICHES OF ETERNITY ARE YOURS. AND HE WHO RECEIVETH ALL THINGS WITH THANKFULNESS SHALL BE MADE GLORIOUS; AND THE THINGS OF THIS EARTH SHALL BE ADDED UNTO HIM, EVEN AN HUNDRED FOLD, YEA, MORE.

WHAT A VAST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT SATAN WANTS FOR US AND WHAT OUR HEAVENLY FATHER WANTS FOR US! IT IS OURS FOR THE TAKING! ANY DISTANCE BETWEEN US AND OUR HEAVENLY FATHER AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST, IS BECAUSE WE PULL AWAY. MAY WE STAY CLOSE TO HIM AND LET GRATITUDE KEEP US FROM TRIPPING IN THE NET OF DISCOURAGEMENT.

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MINISTERING MOMENT:

JESUS "WENT ABOUT DOING GOOD." HE WALKED AMONG THE POOR, THE OUTCAST, THE SICK, AND THE ASHAMED. HE MINISTERED TO THE POWERLESS, THE WEAK, AND THE FRIENDLESS. HE SPENT TIME WITH THEM; HE SPOKE WITH THEM. "AND HE HEALED THEM ALL."

EVERYWHERE HE WENT, THE SAVIOR TAUGHT THE "GOOD NEWS" OF THE GOSPEL. HE SHARED ETERNAL TRUTHS THAT SET PEOPLE FREE SPIRITUALLY AS WELL AS TEMPORALLY.

THOSE WHO DEDICATE THEMSELVES TO CHRIST'S CAUSE DISCOVER THE TRUTH OF THE SAVIOR'S PROMISE: "WHOSOEVER WILL LOSE HIS LIFE FOR MY SAKE SHALL FIND IT."

MINISTERING CHALLENGE:

SPEND TIME DOING GOOD FOR ONE OR MORE SISTERS THIS MONTH. LET THE SPIRIT GUIDE YOU IN THE SERVICE YOU CHOOSE. WRITE DOWN YOUR EXPERIENCE.

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