

D&C Lesson # 38
In Mine Own Way
(D&C 38:30; 42:30-31; 58:26-28; 104:13-18)
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(Here is inspirational background and evidences supporting the Restoration)

I. How best to serve the poor is an engaging topic due to the challenge of so many “homeless” found in many communities today.

II. The Church is wise in first teaching Self-Reliance.

A. Self-reliance principles have blessed many people to be prepared against troubles and disaster

B. I cherish the example of a brother and his wife, who had done this. When the time came that he found himself unemployed due to the bankruptcy of his company, and though undergoing a recent surgery and a having a son soon going on a mission, they were still able to handle all these “emergencies,” which would have sunk most families.

This is because they had food storage and savings and their son had built up his own missionary fund as they had been counseled.

Interestingly, just as these resources were about to be used up, my brother was able to find new employment. Surely the Lord had tested them, then blessed them due to their obedience and preparations.

III. The Church is also wise in emphasizing our responsibility to others. In addition to all the scriptures in the Bible and Book of Mormon which speak of this responsibility, the Doctrine and Covenants adds the following clarifications.

A. D&C 42:30–31. (When we give our substance to the poor, we are doing it unto the Lord.) This teaching coincides with the Savior’s Parable of the Sheep and the Goats in Matthew 24.

1. The Savior makes very clear in that scripture that we will be judged according to our response to those in need.

B. D&C 44:6. (We “must visit the poor and needy and administer to their relief.”)

C. D&C 52:40. (If we do not remember the poor, the needy, the sick, and the afflicted, we are not the Savior’s disciples.)

D. D&C 56:16. (If we are rich and do not share with the poor, our riches will canker our souls.)

E. D&C 88:123. (We should love one another and give to each other as the gospel requires.)

F. D&C 104:18. (If we do not impart of our abundance to the poor, we will dwell among the wicked in torment.)

IV. However, we should give our offerings “in the Lord’s Way.”

A. In D&C 104:13–18, the Lord explains His way of providing for the temporal needs of His children.

B. The scripture defines this as “That the poor shall be exalted, in that the rich are made low.”

C. One of the important blessings of this teaching (and as explained in previous verses), is that we give with the understanding that all we have received came from the Lord. We are just giving to others some of what He has given to us.

D. So this means giving freely and lovingly, recognizing **that Heavenly Father is the source of all blessings and that we have a stewardship to use them in the service of others.**

V. Not only do the brethren teach us to “give,” they provide many excellent avenues to help us give “in the Lord’s Way.”

A. The Church’s Fast Offering program allows us to assist those in our own neighborhoods, **so we can be bound together in love.** It was the specific way the Lord spoke of as **His Way:** because **those with means were humbled through their fasting, so those poorer could be lifted up.**

B. The Humanitarian Program helps people in undeveloped lands through such services as neonatal and vision care, vaccination and clean water initiatives and gifts of wheel chairs which allow recipients to advance themselves through education and job skills in spite of handicaps.

C. Missionary donations gives support to those whose missionary service would not otherwise be possible, or may be a great hardship to their families.

D. The Perpetual Education Fund helps many gain an education throughout the world, where they might not otherwise be able to obtain it. This allows them to obtain better employment.

E. We may also contribute to the Temple Patron Assistance Fund, to help those saints living in lands where access to the temple is still a great hardship to be sealed to their families.

F. The Prophets counsel us to “just serve” members and non-members on a regular basis in our community, through personal service. Then we can actually see the fruits of our service.

G. Furthermore, it is marvelous that the Church itself is always wise enough to be **prepared to help ahead of time.** We see such preparation today which allows us to quickly contribute to help victims of disasters in the world.

For example, after hurricane Harvey, the church immediately sent supplies. As of Sept 13, they had sent 28 truckloads there. And they mobilized volunteers from 53 surrounding stakes. They have also sent grief counselors. The church’s response is “more than trucks and supplies and **will last for years to come,**” said church spokesmen.

VI. One project, The Benson Institute, incorporates principles of self-reliance *and* giving.

A. Begun at BYU, it has since been incorporated into LDS Charities. It goes beyond giving, helping others become self-reliant, thus allowing them to have dignity and personal growth.

1. The Benson Institute teaches people in undeveloped countries how to grow crops and animals, (even in urban areas), so that they can provide themselves with the nutritional needs for their family.

It has brought knowledge and experience to thousands of families and individuals throughout the world. Since 2008, there have been more than 160 projects in 36 countries that have empowered more than 130,000 people.

VII. **Truly the Church has been a leader in teaching its people not only to provide for themselves, but to help others with love and with generosity.**

Both concepts are important to the Lord.

We should indeed seek to be self-reliant, and **He will bless us for all our efforts to bless others. As we can see, there are many, many avenues for doing so.**