

"Tradition of their fathers"

- 1 False traditions are the currency of devils and fill the treasure houses of hell. With them the prince of darkness has purchased his own prophets, priests, and kings. With them he has possessed nations and generations of people. Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet, *Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon*, 4 vols. [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1987-1992], 2: 198

Mosiah 10:122 *False traditions of the Lamanites*

False traditions had been handed down by the Lamanites from generation to generation, and, with the passage of time, some of these false teachings were apparently accepted by many of the Lamanites as being true. Some of these false teachings were:

1. That Laman and Lemuel were driven out of the land of Jerusalem "because of the iniquities of their father." (Actually Lehi and his group were led away from Jerusalem and impending destruction because of the righteousness of Lehi.)
2. That Laman and Lemuel were "wronged" by their brethren "in the wilderness" . . . "while crossing the sea" . . . "while in the land of their first inheritance." (The Lord was directing the righteous leaders, Lehi and Nephi, as to what should be done.)
3. That Nephi had wrongfully "taken the ruling of the people" out of the hands of Laman and Lemuel. (The Lord designated Nephi as the new leader because of his faithfulness in keeping the commandments.)
4. That Nephi robbed Laman and Lemuel by taking "the records which were engraven on the plates of brass." (Nephi was rightfully entitled to these records because he was God's chosen religious leader of the group.)

Because of these false traditions the Lamanites had taught their children that they should hate, rob, and murder the Nephites; therefore, the Lamanites had "an eternal hatred towards the children of Nephi." (Mosiah 10:17.)

Daniel H. Ludlow, *A Companion to Your Study of the Book of Mormon* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1976]

- 3 Carefully study the scriptures and counsel of the prophets to understand how the Lord wants you to live. Then evaluate each part of your life and make any adjustments needed. Seek help from another you respect who has been able to set aside some deeply held convictions or traditions that are not in harmony with the Lord's plan. When in doubt, ask yourself, "Is this what the Savior would want me to do?"...

I testify that you will remove barriers to happiness and find greater peace as you make your first allegiance your membership in the Church of Jesus Christ, and His teachings the foundation of your life. Where family or national traditions or customs conflict with the teachings of God, set them aside. Where traditions and customs are in harmony with His teachings, they should be cherished and followed to preserve your culture and heritage. There is one heritage that you need never change. It is that heritage that comes from your being a daughter or son of Father in Heaven. For happiness, control your life by that heritage.

Elder Richard G. Scott, "Removing Barriers of Happiness," *Ensign*, May 1998, pp. 86-87

Tradition – Ritual

- 4 E. E. Jensen states, "Observable, repetitive behaviors which involve two or more family members and which occur with predictable regularity in the day-to-day and week-to-week life of the family are conducive to child health." Studies of children's patterns of colds and sore throats indicate that the single most predictive factors in such illness is the presence or absence of family ritual. There is something intrinsically healthy in patterns, in predictability, something that may even help our immune system pattern itself for better defense of our wellness . . .

Routine is born of superstition and selfishness, and is intended for individual preparation and self-efficiency. Ritual is born of a celebration of family togetherness, through attention to and enjoyment of while family ritual is intended for getting "with" life and for the solidification of the family bond. Routines are done quickly, automatically, and without thought. Rituals are done slowly, intensely, and contemplatively.

5 Family ritual is making the effort to impart dignity and symbolism to the simple acts of eating together, going to bed, and rising in the morning. Family ritual is attempting to “share” rather than just “do” what life requires. Family ritual is not just saying grace at the dinner table; it is making the effort to help all of the family experience grace together, through the simple act of attending fully to being together for a meal, slowing down the process of preparing to eat and eating, and using what must be done as a means of giving meaning, significance, and context to what we are doing. When a family keeps their rituals alive, they do not “do lunch” or “have dinner.” Instead, the family shares a meal.

Paul Pearsall, *The Power of the Family*, pp. 38-39

6 *To you, my child,
An amazing blend
Of tree and bird—
I give two things:
For your staying—roots,
For your going—wings.
Carol Lynn Pearson*

7 *Mosiah 26:1-4*

1 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.

2 They did not believe what had been said concerning the resurrection of the dead, neither did they believe concerning the coming of Christ.

3 And now because of their unbelief they could not understand the word of God; and their hearts were hardened.

4 And they would not be baptized; neither would they join the church. And they were a separate people as to their faith, and remained so ever after, even in their carnal and sinful state; for they would not call upon the Lord their God.

Helaman 15:7-8

7 And behold, ye do know of yourselves, for ye have witnessed it, that as many of them as are brought to the knowledge of the truth, and to know of the wicked and abominable traditions of their fathers, and are led to believe the holy scriptures, yea, the prophecies of the holy prophets, which are written, which leadeth them to faith on the Lord, and unto repentance, which faith and repentance bringeth a change of heart unto them—

8 Therefore, as many as have come to this, ye know of yourselves are firm and steadfast in the faith, and in the thing wherewith they have been made free.

2 Thessalonians 2:15

15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.