

Alma 37.⁹

Yea, I say unto you, were it not for these things that these records do contain, which are on these plates, Ammon and his brethren could not have convinced so many thousands of the Lamanites of the incorrect tradition of their fathers; yea, these records and their words brought them unto repentance; that is, they brought them to the knowledge of the Lord their God, and to rejoice in Jesus Christ their Redeemer.

This is the 7th reading for Lent 2025. With this reading, we revisit the topic of repentance, one of the principal themes and purposes of Lent.

1. Alma asserts that it was scripture and their words that brought the audiences of the sons of Mosiah to repentance.
 - ? As you call to mind the missions of these sons of Mosiah, how did they use scripture to bring Lamanites “unto repentance.”
 - ? How does scripture shed light on “incorrect traditions” found in one’s culture?
 - ? What example/s can you point to in your own life when scripture has revealed an “incorrect tradition” that you had inherited?
 - ? How has scripture inspired you to want to repent and improve?
2. After affirming a second time that scripture had “brought [the Lamanites] unto repentance,” he followed it up with “that is,”
 - ? When someone makes a statement and follows it up with “that is,” what does that “that is” signify?
 - ? What does, “that is,” do in the following examples?

I went to the store, that is, I went shopping.

He yelled at the cashier, that is he treated the cashier rudely.

Used in this way, “that is” is meant to emphasis or clarify a previous statement. Here, Alma utilizes “that is” to clarify what he means by repentance.

- ? If you were going to add a “that is” statement to help clarify or enhance what you mean by repentance, what would it be?

A common “that is” statement to further explain repentance might be, “We must repent, that is, we must forsake our sins.” This is not unreasonable or wrong. However, this was not Alma’s “that is” statement to further explain what repentance meant to him.

- ? What is Alma’s “that is” statement?
- ? What do you think and feel about repentance after reading Alma’s “that is” statement

“They brought them unto repentance... *that is*, they brought them to the knowledge of the Lord their God, and to rejoice in Jesus Christ their Redeemer.”

- ? How are repentance, coming to a “knowledge of the Lord,” and “rejoicing in Jesus Christ the Redeemer” so intimately connected that they become essentially synonyms of each other in Alma’s mind?

- ? Given that coming to a “knowledge of the Lord” and “rejoic[ing] in Jesus Christ” are such an essential aspect of repentance, how would you judge the experience and depth of your repentance?
- ? What can you do, especially during Lent, to deepen your “knowledge of the Lord” and your “rejoic[ing] in the Lord;” *that is*, your repentance?

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