**Study Guide 17**

**D&C 121-123—Liberty Jail**

**Article 9.2**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Instructions: The purpose of the study guide is to direct your course of study of the Foundations of the Restoration, and assist you to focus on important salient points of your reading and study. The study guides are due on Learning Suite each class period by **8:59 am**. Your upload should only include the questions with your answers highlighted in yellow.

**Church History:**

**People (Go to JosephSmithPapers.org and search under Reference and People):**

**Places (Look at the Maps in your Scriptures):**

**Doctrine and Covenants 121–123 contain selections of an epistle, or letter, from the Prophet Joseph Smith who dictated the letter while he and a few companions were imprisoned in Liberty Jail. In the letter, the Prophet included some of his prayers, asking the Lord to bless him and his companions and all the Saints who were suffering because of the actions of their enemies. He also included answers he had received to those prayers.**

**D&C 121**

1. Verses 1-6 show Joseph pleading with the Lord. In your own words, what was the Lord's answer to Joseph's pressing questions concerning Joseph and the other brethren with him (vs 7-10)?
   1. The Lord tells Joseph to endure his trials well, and that eventually the Lord will reward him for being patient. He reminds Joseph that his trials aren’t as bad as Job’s.
2. What do you think the difference is between enduring a trial and enduring it well (verse 8)? Who do you know that seems to embody this principle?
   1. Anyone can endure a trial. Enduring a trial simply means making it through a trial. However, those who endure trials well do so with a soft heart that allows them to learn from their trial and see the benefit of it. Those who don’t endure trials well become hardened by their trials and don’t learn anything. My grandma is a good example of enduring trials well.
3. In your own words, what was the Lord's answer to Joseph's pressing questions concerning those who persecuted the Saints (vs 23-25)?
   1. The Lord tells Joseph that he knows of the evil works that their enemies have done, and that they will all be punished accordingly.
4. What are **at least three** actions the Lord explains would cause a man to be called, but not chosen, and would result in the grieving of the Spirit and loss of priesthood power (vs 34-38)?
   1. Having hearts set upon the things of this world
   2. Exercise control or dominion upon others
   3. Cover sins

**D&C 122**

1. What does the Lord promise the prophet about his friends in the Church **(see verses 1-4, check footnotes?)**
   1. The Lord promises that they won’t be lead away by traitors.
2. In the previous Section of D&C, verse 10 says “Thou art not yet as Job.” Combining that idea with the things taught in this section **(see verses 4-8 especially)** explain in **two-three sentences** how you feel about this principle. Have you felt this in your own life, or in the life of someone close to you **(for more help, compare to D&C 58:2-4**)?
   1. Yes, I know in my own life sometimes I feel like the trails I have experienced have been unfair or unnecessary. However, then I realize that the things I go through are not nearly as bad as the trials others face, let alone what Christ went through in gethsemane and on the cross. The Lord will consecrate our trials for our good if we endure them well.
3. There are many great principles to learn from D&C 121 & 122. Among them are:  
   1) When we call upon the Lord during times of adversity and affliction, we can receive peace.   
   2) If we endure trials well in mortality, God will bless us now and in the eternities.

3) Afflictions last a comparatively short time, and can give us experience and be for our good.  
4) In times of trial, we can find comfort in the support of true friends.  
----There are many more, but number 4 is my favorite. Which one is your favorite **and why** (Feel free to include a principle not listed that you got out of these Sections)

* 1. My favorite is number three. If we have an eternal perspective, we can get through anything. Ultimately, the trials we go through now are just a tiny sliver in eternity and we will look back on are trials and realize it really only was for a “small moment”.

**D&C 123**

1. What information did the Lord want gathered by the Church? Why?
   1. Information regarding suffering and persecutions, as well as damages done by enemies to property and soul.
   2. That they may publish to all the world the things they had gone through
2. What are at least **three** of the many purposes this information was to be collected?
   1. Many people are blinded by the subtle craftiness of men
   2. It is a duty they owe to God, angles, and those who have suffered.
   3. That they may publish to all the world the things they had gone through
3. Verse 16 teaches the profound lesson, ***“a very large ship is benefited very much by a very small helm in the time of a storm, by being kept workways with the wind and the waves.”*** Explain this principle in your own words, and provide an example from your life where you have seen this truth manifest itself.
   1. Although we can’t control the winds of life, we can direct the sails, and even small adjustments in the sails can make a big difference. Likewise, just a small shift in attitude or work ethic can yield life changing results. I know in my own life that it has really been the small and simple choices that have made the biggest difference.

***9.2 Lessons From Liberty Jail***

1. To gain a sense of the harsh conditions the Prophet and his friends faced while in Liberty Jail, Elder Holland explains they were, ***“Surrounded by stone walls four feet thick, the floor-to-ceiling height in the dungeon was barely six feet. Inasmuch as some of the men, including the Prophet Joseph, were over six feet tall, this meant that when standing they were constantly in a stooped position. When they lay down, it was mostly upon the rough, bare stones of the prison floor covered here and there by a bit of loose, dirty straw or an occasional dirty straw mat. The food given to the prisoners was coarse and sometimes contaminated, so filthy that one of them said they “could not eat it until [they] were driven to it by hunger. On as many as four occasions poison was administered to them in their food, making them so violently ill that for days they alternated between vomiting and a kind of delirium, not really caring whether they lived or died.”*** NOW imagine what it would be like to be imprisoned in such a small place with 4 or 5 other men for 4 winter months.  
   ----Since you’ve already read D&C 121-123, with this new description of their circumstances, what **new** thoughts or insights come to your mind about the Prophet and Liberty Jail?
   1. It sounds like an excruciating ordeal. I don’t know how they made it out alive. Just the fact that they did live though this experience is evidence of God’s goodness, and that Joseph couldn’t die yet because the Lord still had more work for him to do.
2. Why does Elder Holland (while referencing B.H. Roberts and Neal A. Maxwell) refer to Liberty Jail not just as a Prison, but also a proverbial Temple?
   1. Liberty jail can be thought of as a temple, because it was this terrible experience that helped sanctify Joseph and lead him to rely on the arm of the Lord. Temples are places of revelation, and Joseph also received great revelations there.
3. Aside from in-textual lessons about Liberty Jail, Elder Holland lists different lessons he feels are important to learn from the Liberty Jail experience:
4. Everyone Faces Trying Times
5. Even the Worthy Will Suffer
6. Remain Calm, Patient, Charitable, and Forgiving
7. Do All Things Cheerfully

\*----Similar to before, which of these sections was especially insightful or resonated with you, **and why**

* 1. Number two especially resonated with me. I know in my life when I am living right sometimes I feel invincible and entitled to goodness. However, even though righteous living can prevent some trials, they don’t prevent all trials because trials are what make us better people and bring us closer to God.