

## **KING BENJAMIN SPEAKS ON SERVICE**

(Mosiah 1:38-63)

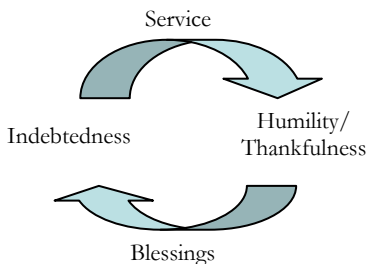
### **V38-47**

Benjamin lets them know the primary purpose for his summoning them there is to teach them the spiritual things of God (v.38-39), and not to promote himself (v.40) as he is no more than a mortal man who owes everything to the Lord (v.41-42).

Benjamin then recaps his tenure as king by pointing out he didn't do a lot of things it is so common for kings to end up doing (v.43-45). Rather, he has done the opposite (v.46). But, he is not telling them these things to boast about what a great king he has been. He is telling them because he knows that as a result of staying away from these things he has a clear conscience (v.47).

### **V48-63**

Benjamin changes the subject to explain his personal views on how to stay humble.



If one stays humble through service, then they stay out of the kind of trouble he has avoided. In other words, king Benjamin did not go badly like many other kings because he applied this principle of service. The general pattern in the text is service (v.48-50), thankfulness (v.51-54), blessings (v.55-56), indebtedness (v.57-61), but the principles do overlap with one another in his explanation. Obviously, once you are in debt, then you owe more service, and the whole cycle repeats itself.

The implicit message is that if the cycle is broken then you are like those in v.58-61 whom Benjamin castigates, those who boast saying “aught of yourselves”.

He states the service he has performed for the people has actually been service to God (v.48). He shares this with the people because he wants them to learn wisdom: When you serve others, you are serving God (v.49). He points out that according to social conventions he is the king, the leader of the people. If the king is the servant of the people, shouldn't the people serve one another as well (v.50)? And if the people feel they ought to thank the king, but he has only been in the service of God, then they ought to thank God (v.51) because if they did everything they possibly could to praise and thank Him they would still be in debt (v.52-54). This is because all He requires is they keep His commandments, and as soon as they do He blesses them for it, so the original debt of life remains (v.55-59). Thus, we cannot say anything of ourselves, for we are made of the dust of the earth and even that belongs to God (v.60-61). And even the king, who is supposed to be the greatest among men, is no better than anyone else, because he is going back to that dust from which he was created (v.62-63).

- 1. Why are faithful people always indebted to the Lord?**
- 2. Compare the state of those who (a) knowingly transgress God's commandments and (b) keep his commandments.**