

**“I can stand for truth, even when I stand alone.”**

The Come Follow Me manual offers the perfect summary of the chapters that we are to study. I would like to offer a couple thoughts that I had regarding these chapters, specifically chapter 17. For many of us in Oklahoma, we are all too familiar with the feeling of “standing alone”, although we are never alone. Many of us have often wondered if our efforts to share the gospel are even making an impact on the hearts of our peers. Perhaps these experiences help us gain a small taste of what Abinadi experienced.

Abinadi bore divine witness of the atonement of Jesus Christ. He was well prepared to deliver the message that God commanded him, and he did so with power and authority <sup>1</sup>. I can only imagine the frustration of Abinadi after providing heavenly witness and power and still being condemned to death<sup>2</sup>. I wonder if he ever realized that his obedience to the Lord would influence generations of Nephites and Lamanites. Before being dragged out and burned at the stake, I wonder if he saw that someone<sup>3</sup> actually did believe the words which he spoke. Many of us know the joy that comes from sharing the gospel and the even greater joy that comes when the message takes root into someone’s heart. In Abinadi’s case, there is a good chance that he never saw that Alma believed him. In what appeared to be a complete waste of time, Abinadi stood resolutely for truth, even in the face of utter degradation and death. May we find joy in standing for truth, even if we stand alone, and especially when it is difficult to see the fruits from the good that you do.

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<sup>1</sup> Mosiah 13:5-6

<sup>2</sup> Mosiah 17:7

<sup>3</sup> Mosiah 17:2