

### iChoose to Remember

This is the first of a series of stories for the purpose of giving strength for in stories we can be inspired to accomplish tasks that seem hard or impossible for us. As Nephi exhorted his brethren to go to Jerusalem he said,

“Let us go up again unto Jerusalem, and let us be faithful in keeping the commandments of the Lord; for behold he is mightier than all the earth, then why not mightier than Laban and his fifty, yea, or even than his tens of thousands?

Therefore let us go up; let us be strong like unto Moses; for he truly spake unto the waters of the Red Sea and they divided hither and thither, and our fathers came through, out of captivity, on dry ground, and the armies of Pharaoh did follow and were drowned in the waters of the Red Sea.

Now behold ye know that this is true; and ye also know that an angel hath spoken unto you; wherefore can ye doubt? Let us go up; the Lord is able to deliver us, even as our fathers, and to destroy Laban, even as the Egyptians.” (1 Nephi 4:2-3)

Nephi calls upon the story of Moses to give him and his brethren courage. Stories for us can do the same thing. It’s said that the Spirit can’t draw from an empty well. A role of the Spirit is to “bring all things to [our] remembrance.” (John 14:26) My hope for sharing these stories is to fill our wells that the Spirit might bring them to our memory and strengthen us in our times of need.

-Joshua Crockett

This is a story of my fourth great-grandfather, John Lowe Butler. This story takes place on August 7<sup>th</sup> 1838 during the period of time that the Saints were in Missouri.

On Tuesday, the morning after the election fight, John had breakfast with Samuel Smith. He checked on his family and then rode some fourteen miles to Far West and gave Joseph Smith a firsthand account of the fight [the Gallatin Election Fight], apparently just before Joseph led a group of men to Diahman. The Prophet gave John a direct command. "He asked me if I had removed my family. I told him no, I had not. Then, says he, 'Go and move them directly and do not sleep another night there.' 'But,' said I, 'I don't like to be a coward.' 'Go and do as I tell you,' said he."

John returned to his home two hours after dark. He told Caroline: "We must pack up our things and leave here directly, for Brother Joseph has told me to." She was "very glad," John said, for "she had been wanting to move for a long time." During the night they loaded one wagon and drove it about a mile-and-a-half down to Levi Taylor's home. Caroline and Melinda Porter, their boarder, packed up another wagonload by the time John returned. "We all started off about the break of day," he said, and went again to the Taylors'.

At sunrise or soon after, Brother Gee saw a large party of men approach and surround the Butlers' house. Thinking the Butlers were still at home and in great danger, he ran down to Levi Taylor's for help. He was thrilled to find the Butlers there. Said John: "I then saw the hand of the Lord in guiding Brother Joseph Smith to direct me to move my family away, for if he had not, why in all probability we should all have been murder'd, and I felt to thank God with all my heart and soul."

God speaks to Prophets who speak with His authority. We will be blessed as we follow their council. This story has for me been a strength and an example as I've sought to follow the Prophet.

Mosiah 8:17; Doctrine and Covenants 1:37-38