

Samuel Jordison

The week-long trip to New York, is without a doubt, the thing I looked forward to most coming into the Internship. Getting to see where the church was restored, praying in the grove, and touring Niagara Falls were all things I have wanted to do at some point in my life. However, there was an activity on our agenda that had never crossed my mind as something to do before the Internship—talk to the protesters at the Mormon pageant.

Thankfully, the Foundation didn't just send us into the fray oblivious to questions and attacks the protestors would have. David Gilmore, Bob Bobbitt, and many others taught classes on defending the faith and witnessing to those who deny the Book of Mormon.

The first point of Bob Bobbitt's class when witnessing to evangelicals was to establish that we have the same Jesus. This was backed up with a scripture: Mosiah 1:97. With the LDS church being much more widely known than other Restoration churches, we often get grouped in with the Mormons, and the evangelicals assume we have the same beliefs. This is why establishing that we have the same belief in Jesus is so important. Unfortunately, being the student that I am, I did not study the material as I should have.

On the night of the pageant, we said a prayer in the van before heading toward the signs and megaphones of the protestors. Jared and I approached a guy named Jim. Jim started off a little icy toward us, more ready for a debate than a conversation. He was also someone who didn't know anything about churches believing in The Book of Mormon that were not LDS. Questions were traded back and forth after his curiosity rose, as he heard about the RLDS branches of churches.

After moving onto the topic of salvation, just like Bob had said, Jim brought up the fact that we believed in a different Jesus. I got excited knowing that I had a scripture that could share our common Jesus with him... just one problem: I had no clue where the scripture was. Thinking and hoping it was in 2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi, I opened my Book of Mormon. It opened to Alma, and knowing that wasn't it, I grabbed a block of pages and turned. It opened to Mosiah and, after a quick glance down, I realized that it had the exact verse I was searching for.

I was able to share with Jim the verse and, after hearing that, he agreed with what it said. After realizing we had the same Christ and belief in Him as our savior, things went even smoother. A conversation that had started with Jim saying we were doomed, ended with him commenting that we were on the right path. I know that the scripture I shared with him helped open his mind, and I also know that the Lord helped guide me to the exact page I needed.