

A Prophet's Responsibilities

Imagine having the responsibility of a prophet.

- What do you think it would be like to speak against people's sins and warn of the consequences of sin?

Read the following statement by Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, looking for his explanation of what it is like to fulfill the responsibilities of a prophet:



"In addition to teaching, encouraging, and cheering people on (that is the pleasant part of discipleship), from time to time . . . messengers [of the Lord] are called upon to worry, to warn, and sometimes just to weep (that is the painful part of discipleship). They know full well that the road leading to the promised land 'flowing with milk and honey' [Exodus 3:8] of necessity runs by way of Mount Sinai, flowing with 'thou shalt's' and 'thou shalt not's' [see Exodus 20:3–17].

"Unfortunately, messengers of divinely mandated commandments are often no more popular today than they were anciently" (Jeffrey R. Holland, "The Cost—and Blessings—of Discipleship," *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2014, 7).

Remember that people in Lehi's day were angry with him, and they mocked his teachings and ignored his warnings.

- In what ways do some people in our day show anger toward prophets or mock or ignore their words? Why do you think some people respond this way?
- How have you or someone you know been blessed by the efforts of modern prophets to denounce sin, warn of its consequences, and testify of Jesus Christ?

