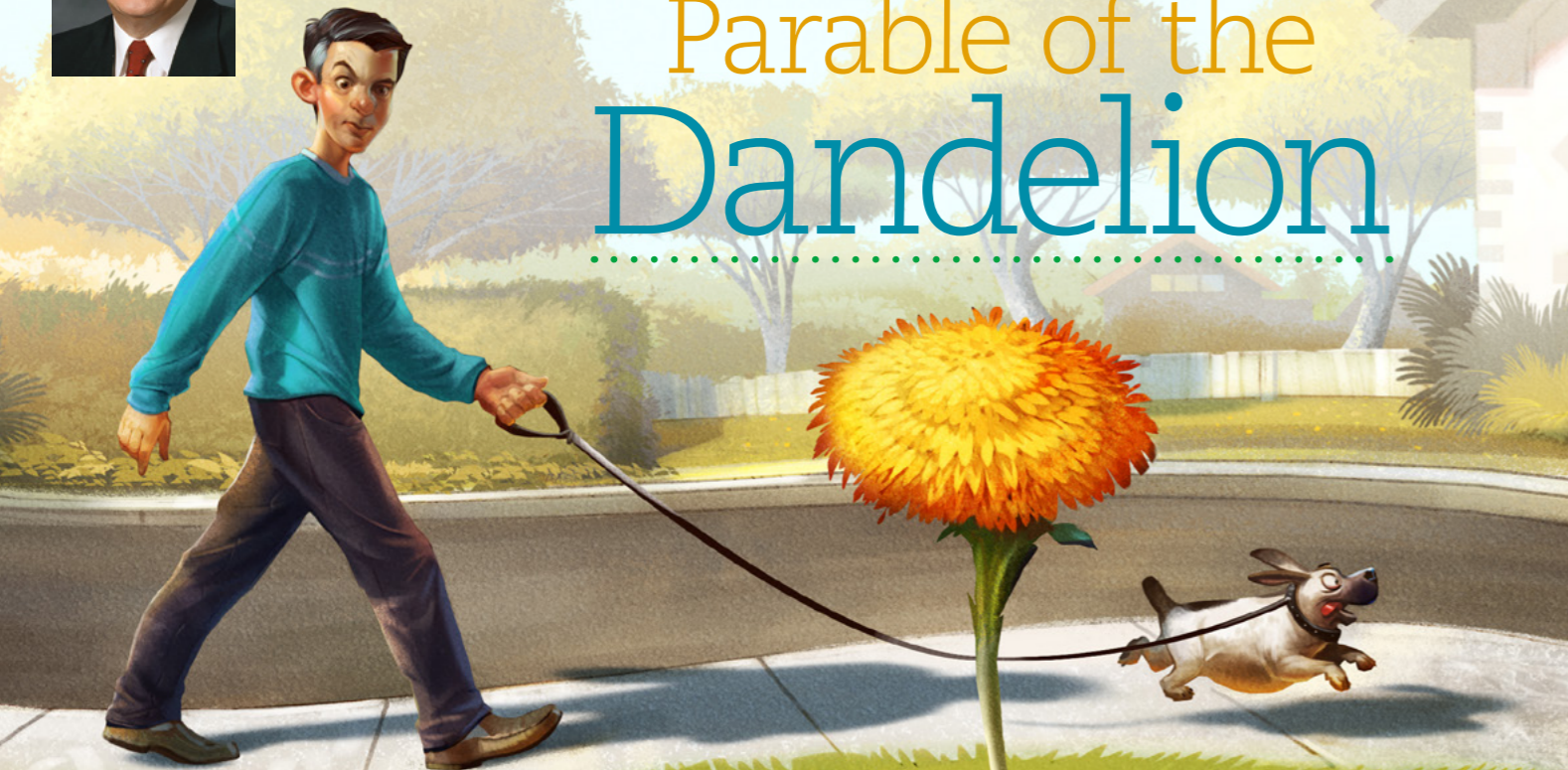




FROM THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

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# Parable of the Dandelion



Once there was a man who liked taking evening walks around his neighborhood. He particularly looked forward to walking past his neighbor's house. This neighbor kept his lawn perfectly mowed, with blooming flowers and healthy, shady trees. It was obvious that the neighbor worked hard to have a beautiful lawn.

But one day as the man was walking past his neighbor's house, he noticed in the middle of this beautiful lawn one enormous yellow dandelion weed. It looked so out of place that it surprised him. Why didn't his neighbor pull it out? Couldn't he see it? This dandelion bothered the man so much that he wanted to do something about it. Should he spray it with weed killer? Perhaps if he went at night, he could remove it secretly.

The man kept thinking about the dandelion as he walked toward his home. He walked into his house without even glancing at his own front yard—which was covered with hundreds of yellow dandelions!

I'm not sure why we are able to tell people how to fix their problems so well, while we often have difficulty seeing our own. But we need to see ourselves clearly. We must **approach** our

come to

ready to learn

Heavenly Father with **teachable** minds. We must be willing to learn and change. As we do so, God will lead us by the hand. We will "be made strong, and blessed from on high" (D&C 1:28). ♦

Adapted from "Lord, Is It I?" Ensign, Nov. 2014, 56–59.

ILLUSTRATION BY JIM MADSEN



## BEAMS AND MOTES

Jesus Christ taught not to judge other people. He asked why we would pay attention to a small speck, or mote, that was in someone else's eye if we had a large piece of wood, or beam, stuck in our own eye! Read what Jesus said at right.

"Why beholdest thou the **mote** that is in thy brother's

**eye**, but considerest not the **beam** that is in thine

own **eye**? ... First cast out the **beam** out of

thine own **eye**; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast

out the **mote** out of thy brother's **eye**" (Matthew 7:3, 5).



**CHOOSING TO CHANGE**  
Because of the Atonement of Jesus Christ, each of us can change for the better! Draw a line between the two pictures of the same child. How did that child choose to change?