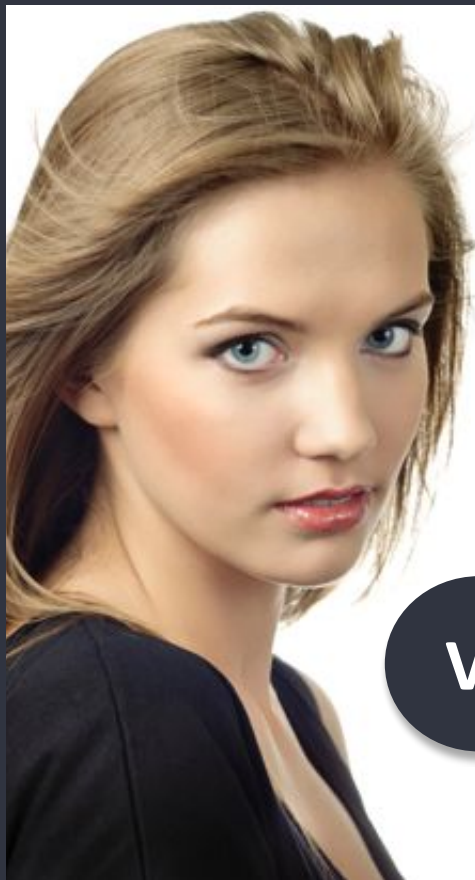


THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

Why My Girlfriend Dumped Me

It wasn't because I smelled bad or wore a mullet. It was because I believed in the Book of Mormon.



Vs

By Brother Daniel Stone

I was teased because I believe in the Book of Mormon. Can you believe it? I'm in college, an atmosphere that encompasses all different types of people with different cultures and beliefs. And yet, despite this liberal surrounding, I was still teased because of my religion.

How It Started

Someone I knew found out I believed in the Book of Mormon when my AIM profile read "...and he called it The Title of Liberty." It is a quote taken from Alma 46:13. The story is about a man named Moroni who, when hearing that many of the Nephites were dissenting by following an evil man named Amalickiah, he tore his coat to make the Title of Liberty in order to remind his people of the Lord their God.

When my friend read this quote in

my profile, she questioned me about it. I, however, just told her that it was a quote from an American history story. I was afraid to tell her the *whole story*. To this day I'm not proud of what I did, and you'll see why.

Not being satisfied with my answer, my friend then decided to Google the quote. When she did this, a bunch of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) links popped up, to her utter surprise. She then thought I was a Mormon and supposed I was trying to hide it. She then began to spread the word around to other people saying, "Daniel is a Mormon!"

How It Got Out of Hand

Of course, the questions now started to roll in. "Are you Mormon, Daniel? I never knew you were a Mormon." "Do you believe in polygamy?" My two close

friends were also asked similar questions about me. After a few days of dealing with these cross-examinations, feeling as if I was being teased and talked about behind my back, I just couldn't take it anymore. I got tired of trying to explain why I wasn't a Mormon.

I then said to myself, "You know what, Daniel? You're in school and you just need to worry about school. Don't worry yourself about your religion. Go ahead and put aside these things for now. That way, you can go about your life and no one will ever think that you're a Mormon ever again."

How the Lord Intervened

So the next weekend, I decided to get away for a while by traveling to Forest Hills. When Sunday rolled around, I went to church but only to go

through the motions. I was still pretty bummed about what happened to me the week before. We had a visiting elder that day from Ohio, and he requested that the branch open up with the song “The Standard of Liberty.”

Of course, this grabbed my attention, but my heart was still pretty hardened. Then, as this brother opened up the service, he stood at the podium and said, “I feel the need to speak to you all today about the story of Moroni and the Title of Liberty.”

“Oh man!” I thought. “Could this really be happening?” As this humble brother began to speak by the power of God, I felt the Spirit of the Lord shoot into my body. My heart, mind, and soul softened, and my attention was now fully the Lord’s. While holding back the tears, I listened as this brother told the congregation how Moroni stood up for what he believed in. He said that even though the Nephites were dissenting, Moroni wasn’t ashamed to tell the people about their true and living God.

I was stunned. The Lord, by His Spirit, had told this humble brother to speak to us about the story that had affected me so deeply during the prior week. This was God’s way of telling me not to be ashamed of the Book of Mormon. The Lord was telling all of us to stand up for what we believed in and to never be ashamed of the wonderful gifts that God had given us. As the meeting ended, one of my fellow brothers, knowing what had happened to me the week earlier, just walked up to me and said, “Brother, that sermon was cut and tailored just for you.” Praise God for His eternal, love, mercy and grace.

How I Got Dumped

A year later, I began to start dating a very nice Christian girl. When I told her about church and how I believed in the Book of Mormon, she first just listened and then began asking why our church wasn’t associated with the Mormon church.

Later, while talking on the phone with her one night, she asked me again to explain more about our church and the Book of Mormon. As we talked, I told her as carefully as possible why the Book of Mormon was so important to me. At the end of our conversation, with sleep deprivation kicking in, she finally said to me very bluntly: “Well, I understand why you believe in the Book of Mormon, Daniel, but as for me, I am never going to believe in it.” She then further stated why our dating shouldn’t continue.

The Lord doesn’t want us to push our beliefs on others, but he does ask us to share our beliefs humbly with our fellow man.

I was very upset. Being spiritually and emotionally drained, I knelt down and said a quick prayer that the Lord would bless me as I read some scripture before I went to bed. Not having any particular scripture in mind, I decided to just open the Book of Mormon to see where the Lord wanted me to read. As I opened it, I read the synopsis below 2 Nephi, chapter 28. It states: “Words of the book will be of great worth, but will come in a day when there are false teachers and doctrines – Woe to those who pervert

the things of God – The great and abominable church.”

As I began reading, I recognized every single topic that my friend and I had talked about. A verse that truly struck me was verse 6, in chapter 29. It states, “Thou fool, that shall say: A Bible, we have got a Bible, and we need no more Bible.” God said that some Gentiles would profess this statement when hearing about the Book of Mormon. And sure enough, this is exactly what my friend told me over the phone.

How You Can Stand Strong

Can we be strong enough to stand up for the Book of Mormon? We all know that the Book of Mormon condones no such thing such as polygamy or any other ungodly belief, so we need to be quick to defend these truths. The Lord doesn’t want us to push our beliefs on others, but he does ask us to share our beliefs humbly with our fellow man. Even just being a nice person is shining your light, and when people see that there’s something special about you, they might ask what makes you so unique. There’s your perfect chance to tell them about the Lord.

The Lord, by His infinite love, showed me twice that the Book of Mormon is true. Praise God!

If anyone has any doubts about the Book of Mormon, just ask the Lord. He will surely reveal the truth to you, just as he did to me and countless others in the past. I am nothing to deserve such great love from the Lord. But thank God that he never leaves us. I hope all of you will search the scriptures and pray humbly before the Lord, even as Joseph Smith did in his childhood. If you do that, He will reveal himself to you and lead you by His Spirit.

For the record, Brother Daniel wrote this article for the SSP four years ago, and he’s now happily engaged. Congrats, brother!

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