

all. I do not know where you will ever see his like again. You can imagine, from the association I was privileged to have with President Joseph F. Smith, especially during the later years of his life—and indeed for more than forty years of his life—what the loss of him means to me. I feel at times alone.

As President Grant said this morning in the Tabernacle, no two preachers of righteousness like him and his son, Hyrum M., has this Church ever produced. I endorse that sentiment.

He was a manly man, a man of God, a man whom it was an honor to know and a pleasure to be with, a man whose example has meant much to me—and indeed, had it not been for him, I know that I could not have accomplished what little I may have done in this world. In a way he was my guiding star. I did not worship him—I worship only God, and that I try to do faithfully—but he was more like unto God, the most godlike man that I ever knew in all my life.

Such is my testimony concerning Joseph F. Smith. I love his memory. I revere his name. There is not anything I would not do for him or his, that I possibly could do. And loving him and his, so likewise I try to love my brethren and sisters, with the same spirit that he loved the brethren and sisters of this Church, and the people of the world as well—for he was not narrow.

Some people have thought Joseph F. Smith was a narrow-minded man. His comprehension and vision were the broadest, most extended, most glorious, of any man's I have ever known. He could grasp and comprehend futur-

ity. He knew what was in store for those who served God and kept his commandments. He knew the principles of the gospel. They were so thoroughly imbued and indoctrinated in him that they were a part of his very being. It was natural for him to be a Latter-day Saint, and he was willing to sacrifice for the work, and he did sacrifice. Without father, without mother, alone, he sacrificed as much as the Lord required of him.

Let me beseech you, my brethren and sisters, that we get some of the spirit of sacrifice in our hearts, that we, too, may be willing, and may say before God: "I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord; I'll work where you want me to work; I'll try to be what you want me to be."

If we have this in our hearts, we will grow in some humble way, at least, in small degree, to be like this the noblest of men whom I have ever known, Joseph F. Smith.

ELDER MELVIN J. BALLARD

Although we have lost our beloved leader, we rejoice that he has left with us an illustrious posterity. We feel grateful that the children of President Smith are following in his footsteps, and I take pleasure in introducing one of his worthy sons, Bishop David A. Smith, of the Presiding Bishopric, who will now address us.

ELDER DAVID A. SMITH

(Of the Presiding Bishopric.)

My brethren and sisters.—When I look over this assembly and think of the thousands of Latter-day Saints who are meeting in the Assembly Hall and in the Tabernacle,

my heart is filled with joy; yet I cannot approach this task at this time without a feeling of sadness. All my life, I have known President Joseph F. Smith. As a little fellow, I only saw him occasionally, and knew him best through the letters he wrote to me, as it was his custom to write personal letters to his children when absent from home. And during my early childhood he was away from home on missions most of the time. But when at home, no father ever took more pleasure or greater delight in his children than he did.

I remember when Bishop Nibley, as he has said, made it a custom to call at our home occasionally. He was almost as much a father to us as our own father, and we learned to call him Uncle Charlie. I did not know for many years that Charles W. Nibley was not my own uncle.

For over eleven years it has been my privilege to be nearer, closer to President Joseph F. Smith, I believe, than any other man. Morning, noon, and night, I have been with him. Having been honored by him, having been trusted with many of his private affairs, being urged on by Bishop Nibley, who loved him and knew what work he was doing, I was finally given much of his private work to do. And when, today, in coming to this conference, I recall the fact that never before for over eleven years had he attended a general conference on this block that it was not my privilege to accompany him here and home again, you can, therefore, imagine to a small degree at least, the reason for that feeling of sorrow which comes to me at this time, for I loved him and miss him greatly.

It is not because he loved me

more than he did other of his boys that I was with him perhaps more than they, for President Smith had no favorites. It could not honestly be said of him that he loved one boy more than he loved another, or that he loved one of his girls more than he loved another, or that he loved one of his wives more than he loved another. As Bishop Nibley has said, President Smith was a just man, and he loved his wives and he loved his children, and tried to treat them as wives should be treated and as children should be treated—no favorites among them, and they loved him and tried to honor him. I was greatly honored, and more so than some of the others, because of the position I had been blessed with, which gave to me a greater degree of freedom, which permitted me to associate with him more and to assume part of his responsibilities, which would gladly have been assumed by any one of his children had any one of the others been placed in the same position and given the same opportunity.

I rejoice, my brethren and sisters, today, in the fact that I had such a father. And O, I pray God that I shall prove worthy of such parentage. Think of the honor that has come to me: honored by you, my brethren and my sisters; honored of God, having been permitted to come through this lineage which has been so blessed of him. O, I am grateful for the blessings I have received, the blessings that I do receive from day to day, and I want to live worthy of the confidence that has been placed in me by you and by this people. I want to serve the Lord that I will be entitled to his blessings.

When I look over the congrega-

tions of the Saints in their conferences, when I am permitted to meet with you in your homes and in your meetinghouses. I rejoice in that privilege, because there I always find the Spirit of the Lord. I feel it. I come away filled with it; it is that same influence that has caused you to come here today and stand for two hours; that which has caused others to crowd into the buildings, and what for? To hear the word of God, for we are seeking knowledge and strength that we may better serve the Lord. We know that just so far as we have in our hearts a desire to learn of his will, we are blessed and strengthened and are better able to carry on the work and the responsibility that rests upon us as Latter-day Saints, and I pray sincerely that I may have an interest in your prayers, in your faith, the sustaining influence of which will enable me to do that which is required of me, that I may better uphold and emulate the noble example which has been set me by my beloved father.

May God bless us all in my prayer, and I ask it in the name of Jesus. Amen.

ELDER MELVIN J. BALLARD

We have another long-time associate of President Smith with us in Bishop John Wells, of the Presiding Bishopric of the Church, who will now address us.

ELDER JOHN WELLS

(Of the Presiding Bishopric.)

I hope I shall be able to make myself heard to this large circle of my brethren and sisters who have gathered about this building this afternoon.

I am thankful to the Lord for

the gospel of Jesus Christ and to all that it has done for me. I appreciate sincerely my membership in the Church as a Latter-day Saint. Many honors and privileges have come to me through my associations with my brethren and sisters. I am thankful, I am grateful, to be associated with the good men who preside in this Church. They are men after God's own heart; men who are full of faith and integrity and who have set me a splendid example; men who are willing to do everything within their power to serve God and to bring about his purposes on the earth. The Lord has established this great Latter-day work. It is a marvelous work and a wonder, wherein the wisdom of the worldly wise shall perish and the understanding of the prudent shall come to naught. It is only upon this idea that we grasp or understand the magnitude of the work that the Lord has established in these latter days, so that he may bring about the gathering of the House of Israel and the establishment of his kingdom upon the earth.

It has been my pleasure and privilege, as an officer and an employee of the Church, to become personally acquainted with the late President Joseph F. Smith. I remember him well, from the year 1893, when I was an employee in the Presiding Bishop's Office. I called upon him for counsel, many of the leading brethren being away, and some of the duties of the Presiding Bishop's Office had at that time devolved upon me. I waited upon President Smith and asked his counsel and advice concerning what to me was a very intricate problem, and my first impression of President Smith was that he was sound