

ELDER NICHOLAS G. SMITH

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My brothers and sisters, this conference has been a thrilling one for all of us, I am sure.

JOY EXPRESSED AT SELECTION OF NEW APOSTLE

When President Joseph F. Smith was first voted upon as President of the Church in solemn assembly, I had the privilege of sitting here and voting for him. When President Grant was chosen, I was in Africa and missed that opportunity. Yesterday, as my own brother was voted upon, I thrilled to the very finger tips.

And in the selection of the new apostle I rejoice greatly. I was the bishop in the ward where his family resided, and on many an occasion I have had the opportunity of saying to President Grant: "President, that Cowley family is a model. Young Matt has been superintendent of our Mutual Improvement Association; his sister is president of our young women's organization; his brother, Gloyd, is in the superintendency of our Mutual. They are an inspiration." To see this young man come home from the mission field endowed with the great gift of spirituality and vision and be selected to sit in the same council in which his father sat and be one of the leaders of this people, shows us how our Heavenly Father works. I am so pleased with this selection. He has been giving in accordance with the thought that has been expressed throughout this conference, as have so many of our good people.

EXPERIENCE OF A YOUNG CHURCH MEMBER

This morning I saw and conversed with an eighteen-year-old girl. She had spent much of her life away from the wards and stakes, rather out amongst the people of the world, attending school. Her associates were not members of her own Church. She has been more or less on the defense all of her life. She spent last year in a private school in one of the large cities in the East. There, in attendance, were girls of prominent families, people who knew not God as she knew him, and in her association with these other girls, she said, "They seemed to be looking for something. They did not know what it was, but they were not at peace; constantly they were asking me why I was so happy. One girl I talked with for some hours, and this girl said, 'I see what you mean. I think I understand,' but she did not know just what to do about it all. And then she said, 'What is it that gives you this, that makes you so contented?'" This eighteen-year-old girl said: "I have been talking to you pure Mormonism."

A SERVICEMAN READY FOR MISSION

Those of our children who are reared in the homes of faithful Latter-day Saints, when they go out into the world have a great ability

to do good. Just before coming to this meeting a father came into my office with his son twenty-two years of age. He had returned from overseas where he had spent a couple of years fighting, and he wants to go back on a mission of love. I questioned him as to his chastity, and he assured me that he had kept himself clean and spotless, although he had been engaged in a great conflict. He had seen sin, but in his visit over there he found Saints and associated with them, and their effect upon him had been of an uplifting nature. Now he is home for a few days, but he wants to go back. Having filled that mission, he wants to go on another mission. He wants to give and not to get.

THE SIN OF COVETOUSNESS

They speak of peace, but is there peace? When you read in the papers of the constant bickering, the avarice of men that has been spoken of from this pulpit during this conference, the desire to get that which other men have, how tragic it is. It is this thing that causes dissension and trouble throughout the universe, and that has been warned against since the beginning of time, which has such a hold upon the people. We Latter-day Saints have a great responsibility, and as Latter-day Saints if we could but live our religion, what an effect it would have upon the people. As we go through our villages and towns, and see our membership working in the fields upon the Sabbath day, we wonder what they are thinking of, whether they are thinking of giving or only of getting. If we could just mend that one thing and remember to observe and keep holy the Sabbath day, then we would be better able to give, because the Lord would bless us so that we could give in greater abundance.

In the Ten Commandments, the last one is a great sermon to this great world of ours, and if we are ever going to have peace and if we are ever going to do away with war and contention, then we must put our lives in line with that tenth Commandment:

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbour's. (Exodus 20:17.)

If we could but do that!

Jeremiah, in speaking of Judah said:

. . . From the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness; and . . . [are] saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace. (Jer. 6:13-14.)

God help us to appreciate and understand that in this modern day he has, through his Prophet Joseph Smith, given us a grave warning, and he means every one of us, for in the fifty-sixth section of the Doctrine and Covenants, he says:

Wo unto you rich men, that will not give your substance to the poor, for your riches will canker your souls; and this shall be your lamentation

in the day of visitation, and of judgment, and of indignation: The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and my soul is not saved!

Wo unto you poor men, whose hearts are not broken, whose spirits are not contrite, and whose bellies are not satisfied, and whose hands are not stayed from laying upon other men's goods, whose eyes are full of greediness, and who will not labor with your own hands. (D. & C. 56:16-17.)

A just God has warned us, my brothers and sisters. Now the opportunity is opening up. These thousands of young men will be returning home. The experiences they have undergone have prepared them to go out into the mission field to tell of the restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ through that fourteen-year-old lad, Joseph Smith. I pray that the spirit of which Brother Stephen L Richards has just spoken, the desire to give, may spread throughout the Church, that every boy and every girl who desires to go, may have that opportunity to go to the ends of the earth and warn this generation. This is my prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

ELDER LEVI EDGAR YOUNG

Of the First Council of the Seventy

I wish to speak to the seventies of the Church today, and of course what is said will be in common to every brother who holds the priesthood of God. In a sermon delivered in the old tabernacle in Salt Lake City, October 11, 1857, President Joseph Young, who had been made president of all the seventies, in the Kirtland Temple, said:

Language is too frail to express the rich sentiments of the hearts of the Saints; the tongue fails to utter the glory and the pleasure of the kingdom of God. It cannot do it; language fails. There is an influence of the Holy Spirit in the understanding that surpasses all language.

MELCHIZEDEK

How true this is, when we speak of the restoration of the priesthood of God to the Prophet Joseph Smith. When John the Baptist came and gave unto the Prophet and Oliver Cowdery the Aaronic Priesthood, it was followed by holy baptism. They were given the promise of the coming of Peter, James, and John with the keys of the priesthood of Melchizedek. The promise was fulfilled.

In the days of Abraham, there lived in Palestine a "great king and priest of the Most High God." His name was Melchizedek. Beautiful is the thought we have when we are told by the prophet-historian Moses, that Abraham paid tithes of all that he had to Melchizedek, for he was the high priest appointed to keep the storehouse of God. Then we have another historic scene.

INCIDENTS FROM THE LIFE OF MOSES

The children of Israel had been with Moses at Mt. Sinai for many months. In fact it was not until the second month of the second year that things were ready for a new start. The children of Israel