

## ELDER SEYMOUR DILWORTH YOUNG

*Of the First Council of the Seventy*

For seventy-eight years these buttressed walls have echoed with the words of the great men of the Church, giving advice, counsel, and the word of the Lord to this people. A person is fearful lest his words, mingling with the dust of those long ago spoken, and long forgotten, might not be in harmony with them. For as they were led by the Holy Ghost, their messages are timeless and of equal importance to us today.

## WORDS FROM THE PAST

Seventy-six years ago a great voice spoke these words to the people of that day:

"I was about as poor a man as ever gathered with the Saints. The little property I had when I came into the Church I gave to my friends, and I went preaching the gospel everywhere I could until I was called to the gathering place. The first inquiry of mine to the Prophet was, 'What can I do to build up Zion?' The Prophet told us never to spend another day to build up a city of the world, for the business of the Latter-day Saints was to build up Zion. . . . I have worked for Zion from that day to this."

I am not afraid to bring back to you, from the memories of this house, those words. I cannot do as was done last May, and bring back a voice [when KSL rebroadcast parts of President Grant's sermons]—but the words ring true. Words like them in portent and meaning have been uttered here and recorded in our hearts a great many times. They are of especial importance today. Our young men are coming home—home from the wars—from China, the Philippines, from Germany, from Italy, from Africa. Some of them are here already, their golden discharge buttons, an honorable decoration, on their new civilian coats. Others will follow in a mighty stream until our joy at their returning will be as a great flood. And they are going to say—most of them—"What can we do to build up Zion?"

## THE WORK AWAITING OUR SERVICEMEN

My young fellow servants, it will not be hard to answer your questions if you come home with a sincere desire to serve the Lord. We at home believe that you do desire to serve. Have you not written home many times from all parts of the world: "I was in danger. The bullets were flying all around—I thought I was a 'goner'—then I prayed and I was saved. God answered my prayer." And did you not write also: "I was shot down. How I got into that little rubber boat I don't know. I floated on the ocean for days. I prayed to my Heavenly Father—and I was rescued. And God did it." Did I not hear you when you reported the bombing flight over

Berlin when the flak was so thick that your plane was riddled like a sieve and you marveled that you ever came out of it alive, and again you gave the credit to your Maker?

Now you may wonder why your lives were spared. Perhaps it was so that you might be able to ask, "What can we do to build up Zion?" Some had to be spared to ask that question. You bear on your shoulders a double burden. Not only must you ask the question for yourselves, but you must ask it also for your absent comrades who wanted so desperately to come home and work for the kingdom of our God but who never will, and who must depend on you.

You will soon be faced with a decision—a most important one, I can assure you, for the gospel of the kingdom must be preached in all the world. And who will preach it? You, my brethren of the returning hosts, you will preach it. You are the youth and the strength of the Church—there aren't many others to ask to go forth and preach it. So you will be asked by those in authority—when the time comes—and in response to your question, "What can we do to build up Zion?" you will be told to go to China, to Japan, to Russia, to India, to Europe, to Asia, to Africa, to South America—to all the world, bearing, as did the apostles of a hundred years ago the kingdom on your shoulders.

What will you say? Will you ask, "But what about my college? When shall I get that? I've already lost three years! When do I make up my lost time?"

I should like to remind you that you have in the past three years been given a greater knowledge of the peoples of the earth than has ever been given before to our young people—you have seen not just a few, but most of the nations of the world. And now will you take to them the gospel of peace instead of that of war?

I can bear to you solemn testimony as your friend of many years, that you will be borne up in spirit, in health, and in power if you will put yourselves into the hands of the Lord and go when and where his servants send you.

Can you believe that the God who sustained you as you came into the battle, can supply you with your needs if you go about his business? Do you think that you will lose time, or college, or money, or business, if you place yourselves in his service for a year or two or three?

This building was built by those who gave time and money without stint. The temple on this block is a monument to your grandparents who gave in faith. Many of you are American citizens and living in this land of promise because, one time, a boy said to himself, "I'll go and preach to the people of that other land." And he went forth in faith. Your grandparents heard and had faith—and now you will have faith that God lives, that Jesus Christ lives—and that this is his Church. You will heed the call that will come, and by the thousands you will carry the glad tidings to the weary, the hungry, the heavy laden over all the earth.

I think I know the timbre and the temper of the youth of Zion, and when the question is asked: "Will you go forth now to build up Zion?" the affirmative roar of assent will be so great that the earth will tremble at its power and beauty. And in power you will teach salvation to the world—and in giving your lives to this service you will cleanse the world from its bath of blood and justify the sacrifice to liberty of your fallen comrades.

God grant you the faith and courage to do it I ask in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

### ELDER MARK E. PETERSEN

*Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

One of the parables of our Savior reads as follows:

. . . The Kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it. (Matt. 13:45-46.)

#### REVERSING THE PARABLE REGARDING THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

We have always felt that that merchant was an extremely wise man, because he was willing to give up all that he possessed in order to acquire the pearl of great price. But let me ask you, what would you have thought of that merchant had the parable been reversed and he had given up the pearl of great price in exchange for something of little or no value?

We have some among us who are doing that very thing. In their own lives they reverse the parable of the Lord and they give up the pearl of great price for a fleeting fancy. They actually sell their birthright in the kingdom of God for less than a mess of pottage.

From time to time in the Church section of *The Deseret News*—which section I do recommend to all of you as one of the finest publications that you can have in your home—from time to time that publication carries a list of names of individuals who have been excommunicated from this Church. These excommunicants at one time were all members of the kingdom of God, and at one time they all possessed the pearl of great price. But each one of them has reversed that parable in his own life and has given up the pearl of great price with all its values and with all its blessings. What a pity! What a tragedy!

#### FALSE TEACHERS DECEIVE MANY

How do people do such a thing as this? One of the reasons people apostatize from this Church is that they have failed to heed the warning of the scriptures against listening to false teachers who raise their voices in our midst. In spite of the fact that these warnings of the scriptures are crystal clear, many of our people fail to heed them.