

carry to him the word of God. The Lord will sanctify your words and open the hearts of men. You are the messenger of truth and happiness.

WORK FOR BROTHERHOOD

Let us work for the brotherhood of man. I was happy to receive a report from one of our seventies quorums in Utah County. On the highway one day an automobile ran over a fine boy and killed him. The father and mother were broken-hearted. But the next morning twenty-one men were on the porch. Twenty-one men were extending love and comfort—showing real brotherhood in offering their services to bless that home.

I walked down the street of a small village in Maui one day with a Hawaiian woman, one of the presidency of the Relief Society. As we walked along, she said, "You see that building over there? Well, I have a very dear friend, a Chinese woman, who lives there. I went to visit her when we were building the temple at Laie. I asked her if she would like to contribute to the building of the temple. And although not a member of the Church, she said, 'Oh, yes, I believe in temples; I'd love to assist.' We chatted for a few minutes and then left her. Eight months later I was coming down this way again, and I thought, 'Why, I haven't been to see my Chinese friend.' So I went over and said, 'Have you forgotten our conversation?' She said, 'No, I've been waiting for you to come. Have you a purse or something to put the money in?' I took out of my bag a small black purse, and she said, 'Oh, I'm afraid that will not hold what I have saved for you.' She went into another room and brought back a bowl containing coins and other money. She said, 'If you'll kindly open your apron.' I opened it, and the Chinese woman poured the money into my lap. I said to her, 'Is this all for the temple? Do you mean for me to take it all?' 'Oh, yes,' she said, 'you may have the money. I have the blessing.'"

May God help us to know when we turn our hearts in love toward mankind that the resurrection then is happening to us, the gift of God is with us—the greatest gift bestowed upon mankind. The Lord is then building the house.

For these things I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER MARK E. PETERSEN

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

As I have listened to these beautiful sermons on repentance, I have thought over and over again about one of the commandments given by the Savior in the Sermon on the Mount. In it he said,

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. (Matthew 5:48.)

PERFECTING OF THE SAINTS

Paul tells us that the Church organization was given to us, among other reasons, for the perfecting of the Saints. In spite of this commandment, and in spite of this statement of Paul, there are some people who believe that it is impossible for us to become perfect. Perfection is not for this life, they say, and so why try?

I would like to say that I believe with all my heart that if the Lord had any idea that we could not begin in mortality on the march toward perfection, he would never have given us that commandment; neither would he have given us a Church organization for the perfecting of the Saints.

100% PERFECT

I believe that in many ways, here and now in mortality, we can begin to perfect ourselves. A certain degree of perfection is attainable in this life. I believe that we can be one hundred percent perfect, for instance, in abstaining from the use of tea and coffee. We can be one hundred percent perfect in abstaining from liquor and tobacco. We can be one hundred percent perfect in paying a full and honest tithing. We can be one hundred percent perfect in abstaining from eating two meals on fast day and giving to the bishop as fast offering the value of those two meals from which we abstain.

We can be one hundred percent perfect in keeping the commandment which says that we shall not profane the name of God. We can be perfect in keeping the commandment which says, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." (Ex. 20:14.) We can be perfect in keeping the commandment which says, "Thou shalt not steal." (*Ibid.*, 15.) We can become perfect in keeping various others of the commandments that the Lord has given us.

I am confident that one of the great desires of the Lord our God is that we shall keep that great commandment which says, "Be ye therefore perfect," (Mathew 5:48.) and that we may do so is my humble prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President J. Reuben Clark, Jr.:

On the program at this point the Tabernacle Choir and congregation will sing "For The Strength Of The Hills," after which we will hear from Elder Joseph Fielding Smith, of the Council of the Twelve.

Singing by the Choir and congregation, "For The Strength Of The Hills."

ELDER JOSEPH FIELDING SMITH

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

For a number of years on the editorial page of *The Deseret News* this has appeared: