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ily ties—the perpetuation of the family as the cornerstone of society.

Fifth: Proclaim the necessity of honesty and loyalty, doing an honest day's work for an honest day's pay. Preach that honesty in government is essential to the perpetuation and stability of our government as it is necessary to the stability of character in the individual. "We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men. . . . If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report, or praiseworthy, we seek after these things."

To summarize: Let us be instant in season, and out of season, declaring that a kind and loving Heavenly Father is as ready and eager today as ever to bless and to guide all his children who will sincerely seek him, and I bear you witness to that truth.

Proclaim that his Beloved Son, the Redeemer and Savior of mankind, stands at the head of his Church that bears his name—that he guides and inspires those who are authorized to represent him here on earth—authorized by the priesthood when heavenly messengers bestowed up-

on the Prophet Joseph Smith and others associated with him divine authority.

Preach that the responsibility of declaring this plan of life, this way of life, this plan of salvation rests upon the entire membership of the Church, but most particularly upon those who have been ordained to the priesthood and who have been called as leaders and servants of the people.

To them today, as Paul said to Timothy, we give the admonition:

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

In Zion let God's name be praised
Who has a feast prepared,
The glorious gospel standard raised,
The ancient faith restored.
Swift heralds, the glad news to bear
O'er land and ocean fly;
And to the wondering world disclose
The message from on high.

God give us power to fulfil this destiny of the Church, and to perform our duties, I pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

BISHOP THORPE B. ISAACSON

First Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric

PRESIDENT MCKAY, President Richards, President Clark, my dear brothers and sisters, and friends:

This is always a very difficult assignment for me, one which nearly overwhelms me, and I do feel very weak and very humble today. Personally, I am very grateful for the beautiful prayer that was offered at the beginning of the conference. Prayers always give one needed strength. Yes, "Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, uttered or unexpressed." Surely today, prayer is my soul's sincere desire.

We have all been greatly touched, blessed, and inspired by the words of the President of the Church, President David G. McKay, a prophet of the true and Living God.

The Spirit of the Lord will be at this

conference in rich and great abundance if the thousands who assemble here can come with their hearts turned toward our Father in heaven.

Yesterday, in a meeting in the temple of the General Authorities of the Church, there was in evidence a beautiful and great spirit, one that I question whether anyone can absolutely and accurately describe or explain. It was the spirit of peace and love and harmony and unity. Yes, that was the spirit of our Father in heaven.

I know that there is great love and harmony and unity among the brethren of the General Authorities of the Church. No one should ever infer that there is any lack of unity or harmony or love or brotherhood in the Church. I only wish that all of us, one to another,

could exhibit the same friendly love and unity that we saw in existence and that we experienced yesterday.

There is no place in the Church for lack of harmony, or lack of unity; there is no room for criticism in the Church. You may not agree with what individuals do or say, and none of us professes to be perfect. We shall be grateful to you if you will come to us and tell us of our shortcomings. But I am sure that you should not criticize those who serve in your bishoprics and stake presidencies, your auxiliaries and your quorum offices. I remember a statement that my little old grandfather once made to me, and I shall always try to remember it, when he said, "It does not take much brains to criticize." I am sure if we shall only stop to think of that, we will be more careful when we exhibit any degree of disunity.

I confess that I have humbly prayed to the Lord to forgive me for my shortcomings and imperfections. I have prayed to him daily to help me when my call should come to stand before you. I prayed, first, because I believe in prayer, and second, because I need the blessings of the Lord as one of the weakest among you.

The beautiful music today has caused us to put ourselves in tune with the spirit of the Lord, that we could come here and be truly strengthened and built up in our faith. Yes, faith in God is a requisite for the salvation of each of us. Oh, Israel, trust thou in the Lord, he is thy help and thy shield! A testimony of Jesus Christ should be the desire of every individual here. It may be necessary for each of us to make a right about change in our own life and turn our energy and our thoughts and our ambitions to our Heavenly Father. It may be necessary for a national crusade so that we can turn back to God, our Father; this may be an immediate essential, because of our apparent drifting, as individuals and as a nation, away from the teachings of our Father in heaven.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of great wisdom. A good understanding

have all they that do keep the commandments of God. Faith in God, our Eternal Father, and in his Son, Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of the world, the Savior of mankind, is essential to every one of us if we are to have happiness and partake of the blessings of the Lord.

It has been an inspiration to me to travel around the Church and throughout the wards and stakes and see these beautiful new meetinghouses being built and to see the enthusiasm and the contribution of the members of the Church. The Lord has truly blessed us.

Sometime ago I was in a ward, and I met the bishopric and their wives. It was not a large ward nor a rich ward. The people were trying to raise their portion to build a meetinghouse. They were having some difficulty. But a member of the bishopric told us that he and his wife decided to kill one of their cows. They did not have many; they were not in the dairy business; but they killed one of their choicest cows and had it slaughtered and the meat cut up. They made that meat into sandwiches and sold those sandwiches at basketball games and other functions to raise money so they could build a meetinghouse where they could assemble and renew their covenants with the Lord and worship God, their Eternal Father, according to the dictates of their own consciences.

I heard a man bear testimony recently of a time when he had been out on strike for two or three months; he was not a rich man; he had a large family; and his savings were nearly all gone. He did not have a job. One Sunday afternoon two of the brethren of his ward came to his house, since they were trying to finish their meetinghouse, and they said to him, "We are here to collect money to help finish our meetinghouse." They did not know his circumstances, and they said, "Your assessment is forty dollars."

He smiled, went in the bedroom, pulled out a drawer, and there was forty dollars, his last forty dollars. He looked at it and wondered if he should

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go back in and tell the brethren that he would pay half of it now, or if he should go back and beg off and tell them that he would pay part of it later; but then the thought came to him that he and his family had been blessed abundantly, and he took the forty dollars, buckled up his belt, went out into the room smiling, and said to the two brethren, "Here, I am glad to give you my assessment of forty dollars."

They gave him a receipt, not knowing the sacrifice that he had made, and bade him good-bye. Of course, he wondered how he was going to meet his current bills, but he is a man who prays diligently. And, of course, that night, in his family prayer, he asked the Lord to open up the way where material things could come to him, so that he could provide for his family. He testified that the next morning before breakfast a stranger knocked at his door and introduced himself to him. They had never heard of each other nor met before, he said, but this man introduced himself and said, "I have learned that you are a mechanic. Can you operate one of our machines (and named it)?" He said he thought he could. Then the stranger said, "We would like to employ you; we need such a man as you. The job isn't in this community, but we will have our company vans move you to the adjoining community where we need your services. We will furnish you with a modern house."

He was so anxious for that job that he hardly knew how to answer him. But he put him off for a moment and said, "Let me go into the kitchen and ask my wife how she feels." He went in there and told his wife of the visit of this gentleman who, by the way, was not a member of the Church.

He rushed back to the man and said, "Yes, we will consider that position. Would you mind telling us the salary?"

The man said, "No, I hesitated doing that because I wanted to know if you would really like the job."

He said, "Yes, we would like it very much."

And the stranger then told him the salary, it was twice as much, nearly, as he had ever been able to make before in his life.

He accepted the position; they shook hands; and the man said, "We will make that retroactive to the beginning of the year."

Well, some people may call that a coincidence, but not that good brother. That was the blessing of the Lord that came to him because of his faithfulness.

These beautiful new meetinghouses will be a power of strength to the membership of the Church. There are no such things as great sacrifices in this Church. There may be great responsibilities, but with them come great blessings. These meetinghouses will be a great value to you and your children, if you will only go there and partake of the sacrament. Sometimes I wonder if our people really understand and appreciate the value of the sacrament. Some of our wards are satisfied with 20% and 25% attendance at sacrament meeting. With these new, beautiful meetinghouses, we ought not to be satisfied with less than 50% attendance at sacrament meetings.

Oh, parents, if we would only take our children and go to sacrament meeting! If there were nothing else there but the singing of those hymns, and the prayer, and the beautiful administration of the sacrament, we would be abundantly blessed and strengthened, if we would assemble in the house of the Lord on his holy day and partake of the sacrament and renew our covenants with the Lord.

And when we partake of the sacrament, we make three covenants with the Lord: First, we covenant with the Lord that we will take upon us the name of his Son, Jesus Christ. And it means that we will endeavor by our works and our deeds to be in accord with him, whose name we have taken upon us. Second, we make a covenant that we will remember him,

Christ, the Savior of the world, who died that we might live; to call to our mind the sacrifice and the suffering, that we remember his body, and that we remember his blood that was shed for us, that we might have eternal life and the remission of our sins. And then we covenant, and we promise that we will keep the commandments of God, our Eternal Father.

Oh, if we could only accept the blessings of the sacrament and partake of it regularly, filling those meetings to overflowing, I believe we would do better. I think we would be more blessed. I think we could overcome our shortcomings more successfully than where we stay away weeks and weeks without the sacrament. Every Latter-day Saint should assemble there on the holy day and take his children there for the sacrament.

Recently I read a statement by the American Legion and its auxiliary, and I thought it was a very worthy aim:

"Finding their way back to Almighty God and his ideals," and an aim to "attend Church, not only today, but every Sabbath day."

"Yes, parents, it would be well if we would not let a Sunday go by unless we assemble in our houses of worship which have been dedicated to the Lord, and there renew our covenants with our Father in heaven."

Oh, we may have to change our attitude a little bit about the Sabbath day, and really keep it holy. We may have to read those beautiful prayers again. If we would only read them and follow the prayer in our sacrament meeting, I am sure we would be glad and grateful that we have been in attendance.

I hope, fathers, that we can be close to our sons, yes, that we can help them increase their faith, that their testimonies may be strong. There are some today who would shake the faith of a boy or girl. There are some who would tend to destroy, perhaps innocently, but there are those who profess to know more than the boy who has faith, and therefore, as fathers and mothers, we should be close to our sons, so that

no one will get an opportunity to shock their faith.

A father just handed me a letter that he received from his son and I want to read it to you. He received it just before Christmas.

Thanksgiving is just over, Father, and Christmas will soon be here, and it has turned my thoughts toward you and my home, but the thing that has been most in my mind is the gratitude that flows in my veins for the wonderful family that I have at home, and for the teachings that you have given me. Remember, Father, when you and I worked side by side, and while working, you were constantly giving me advice. I never said very much about the things you told me nor expressed my gratitude which I had for your companionship. I was more or less hoping that you could tell the way I felt by my actions and by my conversation. But I guess, Dad, my actions proved to you just the opposite sometimes. But now, Father, I want you to know that all you have taught me and all that you have done for me have not been taken as just something you owed me. Quite the contrary, Father. I am so happy that you have given me the chance to enjoy the beauties of this world. I am grateful for the testimony that you have given me, and especially I am grateful for being able to come on this mission. This is one of the many things I will never be able to pay you for, Dad. I have never seen such a change come over a person as I saw in you when Mother passed away. But I am sure the change was not in you but in me. I found that you weren't the person I thought you were. You had seemed cross with me, sometimes, and I misunderstood it. I don't see now, how I could ever have thought any different of you, Father. I have a great love and affection for you, not only as my father, but as my companion. I guess I am going to have to get new glasses, Dad; I can't write this letter without my eyes getting full and blurry with tears.

Yes, boys will be grateful for the faith that we help them maintain, for the testimonies that they have. I want to bear you my testimony. I know that God lives. I know that he has heard and answered my prayers. I acknowledge his hand because without his help

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I could have done little or nothing. I know that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God. I know that he went into the Sacred Grove, and I know that God and his Son appeared to him, and spoke to him, and I know he received heavenly messengers on many occasions. I know that President David O. McKay is a living prophet of God, a spiritual prophet. I know that these men are prophets, seers, and revelators, and servants of the true and Living God. I know that he inspires them and reveals his messages to them. Sometimes, I will admit, it is hard for us to be as humble

as we might. We do have to make an adjustment in our lives, often, so that we can be in tune with our Father in heaven.

May God bless us that we may be grateful for our membership in this Church, that we may have his Spirit always to be with us, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Brigham Young University Combined Choruses and the congregation arose and joined in singing one verse of the hymn, "For the Strength of the Hills We Bless Thee."

ELDER SPENCER W. KIMBALL

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

I PRAY for the Spirit of the Lord to accompany my remarks. My brothers and sisters, my heart goes out to you who are attempting to live the commandments of the Lord. The "strength of the hills" is with you.

It is a great joy to me, and my heart is overflowing with gratitude, to shake your hands, to look into your smiling faces, and to feel your spirit.

We heard this morning that seventeen thousand newly converted people are today enjoying the blessings of the gospel of Jesus Christ, are pointed in the right direction, and are on their way toward eternal life and exaltation. Ten thousand foreign and stake missionaries have been instrumental in bringing the message to them. These new members are here because these thousands have borne witness and testimony to them.

To all the millions of good, honorable people who live among us, we extend an invitation to investigate the gospel of Jesus Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation and to exaltation. It is the *pearl* of greatest price. It is the most glorious, the most far-reaching, the most wonderful program in the world. It is not conceived by men, but is conceived by God, our Eternal Father.

Sometime ago a sister said to me, "Why is it, Brother Kimball, that those

who do the least in the building of the kingdom seem to prosper most? We drive a Ford; our neighbors drive a Cadillac. We observe the Sabbath and attend our meetings; they play golf, hunt, fish, and play. We abstain from the forbidden while they eat, drink, and are merry and are unrestrained. We pay much as tithing and for other Church donations; they have their entire large income to lavish upon themselves. We are tied home with our large family of small children, often ill; they are totally free for social life—to dine and to dance. We wear cottons and woolens, and I wear a three-season coat, but they wear silks and costly apparel, and she wears a mink coat. Our meagre income is always strained and never seems adequate for necessities, while their wealth seems inexhaustible and wholly adequate for every luxury obtainable. And yet the Lord promises blessings to the faithful! It seems to me that it does not pay to live the gospel—that the proud and the covenant breakers are the ones who prosper."

Then I said to her: "As I remember, Job in his great distress made a statement which parallels yours."

But Job answered [Zophar] and said. . . . Wherefore do the wicked live, become old, yea, are *mighty* in power?