

Friday, April 4

the moment. His day is coming. Retribution is sure.

The Lord gave us the impressive parable of the prodigal son. This squanderer lived but for today. He spent his life in riotous living. He disregarded the commandments of God. His inheritance was expendable, and he spent it. He was never to enjoy it again as it was irretrievably gone. No quantity of tears or regrets or remorse could bring it back. Even though his father forgave him and dined him and clothed him and kissed him, he could not give back to the profligate son that which had been dissipated. But the other brother who had been faithful, loyal, righteous, constant, retained his inheritance, and the father reassured him: "All that I have is thine."

When one realizes the vastness, the richness, the glory of that "all" which

the Lord promises to bestow upon his faithful, it is worth all it costs in patience, faith, sacrifice, sweat and tears. The blessings of eternity contemplated in this "all" bring to men immortality and everlasting life, eternal growth, divine leadership, eternal increase, perfection, and with it all—Godhood.

May God bless us all that we may live his commandments more faithfully, more perfectly day by day, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

We have just listened to Spencer W. Kimball. Brother Thomas E. McKay, Assistant to the Twelve, will now address us. While he is coming we will just say that any important messages or calls that come to us from persons who are supposed to be in attendance will be broadcast over the loud speaker.

ELDER THOMAS E. MCKAY

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles

PRESIDENT MCKAY and Counselors, President Smith, and other General Authorities, and brethren and sisters: Never before in my life have I felt so thankful for the gospel of Jesus Christ, and for the testimony that I have that it is true—a great plan of life and salvation. I have felt very much impressed this morning with all that has been said, especially about the gospel, which is the great plan of life and salvation as revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith.

I have felt the nearness of our angel mother, especially during the time that President McKay was speaking. Her great faith and courage have had much to do with his being where he is today. When my father was called on a mission in 1881, it was just a few weeks after they had buried my two older sisters. It was a very hard blow for my father, since they were just at the age, eleven and nine, where they could be of much help to my mother; and my father was always very kind and considerate of her. It was difficult for

Father to recover from this loss, and then this call came from Box B to go on a mission. It worried him. He could not eat or sleep. He loved my mother with all his heart, of course; and out of consideration for her and her condition, he finally decided that he would ask for a postponement of that mission call. He told Mother of this decision. She appreciated that love and consideration, of course; but she looked at him and said, "David, you go on that mission. You go now. The Lord wants you now, not a year from now, and he will take care of me." My father accepted the call.

Of course, it was a trial for him to leave, as he left on the nineteenth of April in the spring of 1881, and ten days later, on the 29th, my sister Annie was born. That made four of us—my brother, President McKay, seven years old; I was five; my sister Jeanette, three; and that sweet little darling baby, Annie, just born.

I am going to take time to refer to

this incident in connection with the wonderful sermon that was delivered by President McKay this morning to illustrate how the great gospel plan operates.

In order to get a little ready cash to send to my father, my mother planned for that next winter. We were greatly blessed with good crops—more than the sheds would hold of the hay—so we stacked the surplus just outside of the stables. Instead of selling that hay, Mother decided to take a few cattle from others to feed, among them a big yoke of oxen, and the owners were to pay monthly. In that way she got the money to send to Father. My mother never did the chores. We hired a man. In fact she was very much frightened of the cattle, especially of these oxen. But she was a little worried. She was getting a good cash payment, and she wanted to see that they were taken care of. I remember one evening after the hired man had gone, she took us boys and slipped out to the barn to that stack of hay. We had a homemade hay puller of maple, and she would pull the hay out of that stack, and David O. would put it in his little arms and carry it into the oxen. He wasn't afraid. I was. I stood right by Mother, and I would pull out a little hay. After making about five or six trips feeding those oxen, he put a little extra in his arms about the sixth trip. He hurried in and then ran out and said, "Come on, Mama, let's run now before they eat that."

Brethren and sisters, it was because of the decision of that angel mother that my father went on that mission, and went on it then, not a year from then, that we are here today. That set the example.

In 1897 the test came again. There were four of us, those four that were the babies in 1881, were then at the university. We had borrowed money, of course, but we had it all planned. David O. and Jeanette had been there two years before, and Father sent us down to get acquainted before they graduated. They were to graduate and

teach and help pay the debts, and keep my sister, that missionary baby girl, and myself in school. Just before school closed in June, another letter came from Box B. It was forwarded from Huntsville to Salt Lake City where we were living. The girls had already gone to school that morning. I was writing a composition. The doorbell rang, and David O. answered. The mailman handed him the letter, and as he read, I glanced up and saw that he was quite agitated. I said, "What is the matter? Is somebody sick at home?"

He threw the letter across the table in disgust and said, "Isn't that heck?" He used a stronger word.

He was deeply concerned for several days. The rest of us were a little worried. I know my parents were worried, but they did not interfere; they did not write. But because of that angel mother who told my father to go on that mission, David O. did not turn that call down. God bless the memory of that angel mother.

God bless this gospel plan, that gives us so many opportunities. May we, brethren and sisters, live in accordance with the gospel, the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the plan of life and salvation, and from this time on resolve to "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you," I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

You have just listened to Elder Thomas E. McKay, Assistant to the Council of the Twelve.

The Brigham Young University Combined Choruses will now sing, "An Angel From On High," conducted by Crawford Gates.

The closing prayer will be offered by Floyd G. Eyre, formerly president of the Canadian Mission, after which this conference will be adjourned until 2:00 this afternoon.

The proceedings of that session will be broadcast over KSL and by arrangement through KSL over the other sta-