

Saturday, April 5

Second Day

cherished sentences I recall from the utterances of the Prophet Joseph Smith is that one which says that "an hour of virtuous liberty on earth is worth a whole eternity of bondage." So long as men have their free agency, there will be temporary injustices and discrepancies and some seemingly inexplicable things, which ultimately in our Father's own time and purpose will be reconciled and made right.

There are many other things that give us cause for encouragement—and I shan't take time to name them now—I know that President McKay is under the pressure of time but I shall pass over to one last one quickly: Encouragement to our young people in the uncertainties they face. I should like to say to them before I close that our Father in heaven sent us here not to fail but to succeed, and he has made it possible for us to succeed. He knows us better than we know ourselves, and he knows the circumstances and uncertainties we face. It is his declared purpose to bring to pass our immortality and eternal life, and to give us joy, if we will, and he hasn't presented any impossible set of circumstances or any impossible plan or purpose for us to achieve.

Despite all the uncertainties and difficulties, there is a glorious and worthwhile future for all of these young people of ours, if they will set their sights on

some permanent, worth-while goal, look a decade or two ahead, pay the price they have to pay to achieve it, accept the interruptions as they come, and have faith, to work, to prepare, to pray, to keep the commandments of God, to pursue their lives with calm, quiet purpose. If they will do this they will be blessed; they will find great, rich treasures in life, of knowledge, and of other things also; they will surmount all the difficulties and discouragements of the day, and all the interruptions, and all else, if they will continue in faith.

It is, after all, a wonderful world that our Father has given us, in which everything is possible on the basis of repentance and obedience, and on observance of the principles on which the blessings are predicated.

Life passes quickly. I pray that we may all endure to the end, and keep the spirit of encouragement, many more reasons for which we might have mentioned and all of which are contemplated in our Father's plans and purposes for us and are within our reach, according to our obedience and our devotion to the gospel of Jesus Christ, notwithstanding what environment or what companions or what conditions we find ourselves faced with. May God be with us and bless us and give us the courage and the wisdom to endure to the end in faith, I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## ELDER CLIFFORD E. YOUNG

*Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

**A**s I awoke this morning and looked out over this beautiful valley, conscious, as no doubt all of you are, of the hard winter that we have had, I opened the Bible, and read the nineteenth Psalm:

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.

Their line is gone out through all the

earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun.

Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.

His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoic-

ing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.

Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer. (Psalm 19.)

As I contemplated these lines, and thought of the beauty of this day in contrast to our severe winter, I thought how much it is like life. We have difficulties, hardships, struggles. We have the storms and the clouds, and then we have the warmth of the sunshine to gladden our hearts, to give us renewed hope and faith. They are all necessary—these changes. It is all in keeping with the providence of the Lord. He never intended that we should have things easy. He intended that through sacrifice and struggle we should learn these great lessons of life and be able to adjust ourselves to them.

I remember one time listening to Sister Elsie Talmage Brandley relate an incident that happened as she traveled about for the Church. She was a member of the general board of the Mutual Improvement Association, and at one time associate editor of *THE IMPROVEMENT ERA*. Sister Brandley had a fine mind and a great faith. She told of her experience in Canada, how she and her husband living on a ranch had had sickness come to their home; they were too far away for medical help, and there was no way to summon help. She had related this incident to a friend who was not in sympathy with the tenets of our faith and who had asked Sister Brandley

if she ever had any pleasures out of life. She replied, "Yes, I have great pleasures in life." And then she related this incident. She said, "You know in our Church our men have a special blessing known as the Holy Priesthood. By right of that they are able to bless their children, and in the authority of that power, it may be to rebuke disease; and the Lord hears those prayers." And then she went on to tell of this experience on the ranch where one of their little ones had been ill, and how her husband had blessed it by the power that the Lord had given him. She said, "Those are our pleasures; those are our joys."

And so it is, my brethren and sisters, in our lives. Sometimes the shadows overwhelm us, but behind them all comes the sun, with its glory, as we saw today, and it radiates into our souls the reality of God, the consciousness of his great blessings, and the assurance that he is our Father, and that we are his children.

Job the prophet taught this lesson forcibly. Probably no man suffered more than he. All of his friends had deserted him; he had lost his crops; he had lost his flocks and his herds; and even his own children had gone. Then when someone said to him that there was nothing left for him to do but to curse God and die, there came to him a consciousness of the reality of God. And he said,

Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book!

That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever!

For I know that my redeemer liveth.

He knew notwithstanding all these things,

and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

And though after my skin [that is, after the way of the flesh; after all of these tribulations] worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me. (Job 19: 23-27.)

Seeing beyond the shadows—what a blessed faith it is, my brethren and sisters that we can do that, that we can adjust ourselves to the problems of life as they come. Our people have been very much concerned, especially our agricultural people in these mountain areas, during the last few weeks. Our livestock men fear that they can't get their flocks on the lambing grounds; feed is very short. It is a disturbing time. It is difficult. We have had these difficulties before. Our people have always had them. But in these struggles, in these economic adjustments we have to make from time to time, there come to us greater blessings, just as they come spiritually, and greater powers come to us. The Lord seems to have understood that as he endowed us and placed us here in the earth. And so there is a great ray of hope. The Lord declares his goodness. Everything about us proclaims his blessing, proclaims the reality of him in whose name we are met here.

We heard so much yesterday, so much to inspire us about the growth of this Church, its great power, and how the stakes in California are responding to this great trust incident to the erection of the temple. These things perhaps are regarded by those not of our faith as very material; they think that we judge our works by the material things. That is not true. They are the symbols of a magnificent faith in this great work. I don't know whether you noted it, but for the last three or four conferences, we have been told of the expenditures for the administration of this Church that come from non-tithing funds. I don't know whether you know the significance of that, but I recall as a young man, when this Church was in debt. It had lost much of its property at one time; it had been escheated by the government; and on its restoration to the Church, about 1896 it was, the Church was heavily in debt. And then when President Snow came into the Presidency on the death of President Woodruff, through the inspiration and the revela-

tions that had come to him in the St. George Temple, he promised the people that if they would be true and faithful to their trust, the Church would be relieved of bondage, and that promise was verily fulfilled.

When President Joseph F. Smith became the President of the Church he made certain sound investments for the benefit and blessing of this Church. And I recall that those not of our faith and who had no right to criticize, went up and down this land, in print and otherwise, maligning the Presidency of the Church, accusing the Church of a materialistic attitude, of not being a spiritual organization, of misleading the membership of the Church. That didn't make any difference. The leadership carried on just the same, and we have seen the benefits and blessings of that great leadership, and today we see that leadership, the spirit of it, the inspiration of it manifest.

And when I heard, I think the first time perhaps four conferences ago, when President Clark read the report, was thrilled when I heard him make the statement, "From non-tithes of the Church," are the expense of administration paid. Think of the wisdom, the inspiration of your leadership, the leadership of this Church. And so in these things that are regarded as material, there is a great spiritual power. There is evidence of the inspiration of the Almighty. There is evidence of the Lord directing his work, giving power and strength to the leadership thereof, and that is the way it will always be, because this is God's work, and it will not fail, no matter how the shadows may come, how the difficulties may come, no matter what sacrifices, seeming sacrifices; in the end they are not sacrifices; they are blessings. They are the accumulation of great powers that come to the members of this Church, and they become a sustaining force.

May God help us to appreciate these things and be true to our obligations. The Lord is in the heavens. Every-

thing proclaims his goodness. Everything about us proclaims the divinity of this great work in which you and I are engaged, and the divinity of Jesus Christ, and the prophetic mission of the Prophet Joseph, whose name we praise, he who communed with Jehovah, and talked with God, a reality, the greatest evidence

of our day of the divine mission of Jesus Christ. God bless you. Amen.

---

The congregation and members of the Tabernacle Choir joined in singing "Now Let Us Rejoice In the Day of Salvation."

### ELDER ANTOINE R. IVINS

#### *Of the First Council of the Seventy*

**M**Y BELOVED brethren and sisters, I stand before you with a good deal of timidity and trepidation. Although I have been doing this for a good many years now, I never get quite used to the feeling. I hope that you will help me with your faith and prayers, that there may be in what I say something that may be helpful to some of us, to give us renewed courage and faith. My sole purpose is to be of help.

When Dr. Widtsoe was talking the other day of his experiences and how he was called in as an expert on irrigation problems, I got to thinking about the similarity there is between that and life. I once read from a Spanish writer this statement: "There are more uncultivated souls in the world than lands."

Now the purpose of irrigation, of course, is to bring under cultivation lands that otherwise are not so useful and not productive, and the accomplishment of it represents some of the fundamental principles of our lives and our faith.

To begin with, the waters that we bring on to our land, when they are uncontrolled, may be the source of tremendous danger and damage to us. Sister Ivins and I stood on the banks of the river in Elmira, New York, and watched houses go by under the bridge, watched the water come into the city and fill all the basements of the town, and read in the newspaper of people who were drowned in the flood. And

why? Because the waters of that river were beyond control.

Now, when we can bring water under control, and through our faith and works bring it onto the arid lands, those lands become productive. But to do so, there must be a fundamental application of the principle of faith. Without it we would never make the effort. Then there must be such structures erected as will keep the water which we bring onto the lands under absolute control; furthermore, to make efficient use of it, it must have direction, wise and adequate direction.

When we can apply all those things to it, we reap a harvest, a rich harvest. But if at any time, during that process, we become lax and lose control, the hope of a season, and sometimes of the future, may vanish in an hour.

That is a good deal like life. The purpose of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is to redeem and cultivate the souls of the people. The purpose, even, is to build up and strengthen and make better the lives of the people who have come already to recognize the power of God, his restored priesthood in the earth, and become members of the Church, for none of us is perfect.

The development of those souls is the greatest responsibility of life. There is, of course, the time when that control must be exercised by others, just as we exercise control over the life-giving elements we lead on to the soil. Custody of a soul begins when a man is born—a puny, powerless, helpless child. There