

holy priesthood will prize it, and account it as the chief blessing of his life, and use it for the blessing of his family and his fellows. Thank the Lord for this holy power. I know that it is genuine. I know that it is not a mere concoction of men, as Brother Bowen spoke of today. I know that it was divinely given, and I pray to the Lord that I for one may be worthy of this high

endowment that the Lord in his mercy has brought to me and to you.

May the Lord's blessings abide with you, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Tabernacle Choir Men's chorus and the congregation sang the hymn, "I'll Go Where You Want Me To Go."

PRESIDENT DAVID O. McKAY

AS NEARLY AS can be estimated or accounted, there are in the Tabernacle tonight 9,486 members of the Priesthood, on the grounds, 3,848, in the Assembly Hall, 2,285, in the Barratt Hall, 1,150, making a total in attendance at this Priesthood Meeting on this April night, of 16,769.

To stand in your midst, to partake of what I feel is the spirit of unity, stirs one's soul with emotion, and 16,769 men have said tonight, "I will go where you want me to go, dear Lord, over mountain or plain or sea. I will say what you want me to say, dear Lord, I will be what you want me to be." Another line, impressibly sung by this Chorus, is this: "There may be somewhere in the paths of sin, some wanderer whom I should seek."

A few years ago there appeared in one of our magazines, the story of a little lad that wandered from his mother's lap in the Badlands of the Dakotas and was lost. As night came on the mother was distracted and the neighbors alarmed. The next morning, on the public square of the town near there, the sheriff met a group of farmers, teachers, office men, citizens of all ranks. He organized them for a systematic search. Before they started out he said, "Little Ronald," (I have forgotten his name, it is years since I have thought of it) "is somewhere out in those Badlands. We must organize and search every bush, every crevasse, every water hole. We must not come back without that little boy. Pray God that we are not yet too late." They started out that Thursday morning, and at about three

o'clock in the afternoon a mighty shout went up. They had found the boy.

Brethren, a few years ago you received a letter, you bishops, stating that a committee had been appointed by the Council of the Twelve, to look after some of our girls who had wandered into the "Badlands" of the city. They did not intend to get caught in the meshes of sin, but they had wandered from home, and the protecting influence of home surroundings. You were asked if you would not kindly send the names and the addresses of those girls who came away from your town, to this committee, just so that members of this committee could see that they became associated with some ward, with some young people here of good reputation, and in some cases, in all cases if possible, could find suitable employment.

Later, you were asked from this pulpit if you would not please give closer attention to that phase of salvation of our youth. Only a few, comparatively speaking, have responded to that call. Well, if they were lost, and faced physical death, you would not hesitate, the whole town would not hesitate to go out and rescue the lost girl or the lost boy. I want to tell you, from direct reports from our police officers who cooperate, in several instances some of these fine girls have suffered things worse than death.

Now we ask you tonight, once again, please to send the names of those girls who legitimately, who unknowing what awaits them, some of them, leave their home and come to Salt Lake or Ogden or Provo, or some center, seeking em-

Saturday, April 5

Second Day

ployment, seeking to better themselves. Please cooperate with this committee, or enable this committee to cooperate with you, so that these choice young people may not be ensnared by vicious men who lie in wait, not only to deceive, but to ruin.

Now, be careful, if the parents are sending them in, that you do not offend those parents, that is not necessary. This is merely a means of cooperating with parents in helping young people to start out from home to better their conditions. Brother Spencer W. Kimball and Brother Mark E. Petersen constitute that committee, and you may correspond with them at any time.

Now this, of course, should be the last time that we should make an earnest appeal for your cooperation.

There is another matter to which I wish to refer. It is not very savory, but it is a condition that is giving us great concern, and that is the increasing number of divorces among Latter-day Saints, whereas here in the United States it is just a common thing. But brethren, we know what marriage is, what it should be, how sacred the marriage bond is; we know what it means to live a chaste life by men, as well as by women. Chastity is a standard of the Church; and it worries us deeply to see the large accumulation of applications for cancellations of the sealing ordinance. Indeed, they have become so numerous that we have had to appeal for help. As you know, there is but one who can cancel that, and if all his time were taken, that is, if he had to scrutinize every application as it should be, all his time would be taken for that one responsibility.

I wish here to acknowledge in your presence the able assistance of Elder Albert E. Bowen of the Council of the Twelve. He has been called because we believe that every case deserves very careful and prayerful consideration. Brother Bowen is a man, as you know, of clear mind, sound judgment; he is an experienced jurist, he has had years of experience in dealing with cases such as are coming before us, and best of all,

he is a true, conscientious servant of the Lord. With his able assistance, careful attention is being given to each case, but he has been shocked, as I have been, with what some of these applications disclose.

I am going to venture to enter into home life. I would rather enter into it as it should be, rather than what it sometimes is. But we find that the following conditions seem to be contributive to the separation of husband and wife, and the breaking up of the home: Unfaithfulness on the part of either or both. (do you know what that means, those of you who have been through the temple?) — drunkenness, physical violence; in some cases imprisonment has brought disgrace to the family; the union of an innocent girl to a reprobate; some cases disclosed sordid, licentious, brutal actions of covetous men. I know you think those are harsh words, but you can read in some of these applications reports of treatment that has wrung women's hearts with anguish.

I know that the woman is to blame in some cases, and particularly young women who married young boys in a hurry when the first World War broke out. — I know that, but we are speaking to men tonight, and let us, as men, take the blame.

May I now, suggest that we unite for just a few minutes as bishops, presidents of stakes, as fathers, and as young men in prospective marriage, to consider some things that will avoid the breaking up of the family, that will avoid this breaking of women's hearts, this turning out of children from what should be loving homes, or throwing them entirely upon the responsibility of mothers. Let us instruct young people who come to us, first, young men throughout the Church, to know that a woman should be queen of her own body. The marriage covenant does not give the man the right to enslave her, or to abuse her, or to use her merely for the gratification of his passion. Your marriage ceremony does not give you that right.

Second, let them remember that gentleness and consideration after the

ceremony is just as appropriate and necessary and beautiful as gentleness and consideration before the wedding.

Third, let us realize that manhood is not undermined by the practicing of continence, notwithstanding what some psychiatrists claim. Chastity is the crown of beautiful womanhood, and self-control is the source of true manhood, if you will know it, not indulgence. Sexual indulgence whets the passion, and creates morbid desire.

Let us teach our young men to enter into matrimony with the idea that each will be just as courteous, and considerate of a wife after the ceremony as during courtship.

And we have the ideal in this Church, I hope, today as ever, that a young man keep himself clean and pure during his courtship days, so that he can kneel at the altar and give just the same purity of life to that sweet girl as he exacts from her. I submit to you seventeen thousand men, that that is a glorious ideal. I know the world thinks we can not live it, but you and I know that we can and do so live.

Fourth, minimize the faults, commend virtues. After the first thrill of the honeymoon is worn off, couples begin to see frailties, idiosyncrasies which they had not noticed before. Responsibilities of motherhood come to the woman. Difficulties in paying debts come. And so we become prone to find fault. Let us learn to control ourselves in that respect.

I do not know who wrote this, but it is good advice: "In the first solitary hour after the ceremony, take the bridegroom and demand a solemn vow of him (this is to the girl) and give a vow in return, promise each other sacredly never, not even in jest, to wrangle with each other, never to bandy words, or indulge in the least ill-humor. Never—I say, never! Wrangling in jest, putting on an air of ill-humor, merely to tease, becomes earnest by practice. Mark that! Next, promise each other, sincerely and solemnly, never to keep a secret from each other, under whatever pretext, and whatever excuse it might be. You must

continually, and every moment, see clearly into each other's bosom. Even when one of you has committed a fault, wait not an instant, but confess it. And as you keep nothing from each other, so, on the contrary, preserve the privacies of your house, marriage state, and heart, from father, mother, brother, sister, aunt, and from all the world. You two, with God's help, build your own quiet world. Every third or fourth one you draw into it with you will form a party, and stand between you two. That should never be. Promise this to each other. Remember the vow at each temptation. You will find your account in it. Your souls will grow, as it were, to each other, and at last will become as one. Ah, if many a pair had, on their marriage-day, known the secret, how many a marriage were happier than, alas, they are!"

I regard it as an incontrovertible fact that in no marriage circle can true peace, love, purity, chastity, and happiness be found, in which is not present the spirit of Christ, and the daily, hourly striving after loving obedience to his divine commands, and especially, the nightly prayer expressing gratitude for blessings received.

God help us to build homes in which the spirit of heaven on earth may be experienced. You and I know that that is possible, it is not a dream, it is not a theory. We may have that sweet companionship between husband and wife which grows dearer and dearer as the troubles of life come on. We can have homes in which children will never hear father and mother wrangle or quarrel. God help us as men of the Priesthood, to build such homes, and to teach our young men and young women who are anticipating home life, to cherish such an ideal, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

President David O. McKay:

The Tabernacle Choir Men's Chorus will now sing, "Thou Art Repose," after which Elder Joel Richards, formerly President of the Northwestern States Mission, will offer the closing prayer.