

things which are material. They are insignificant.) And so he was left half-dead in the roadway. A priest came along, and seeing this man, even though he professed Christianity, crossed to the other side, and left him. Then a certain Levite came down the street and likewise saw this man, and he also crossed to the other side. But there was the Samaritan who beheld the condition of the man and administered to him by anointing his wounds with oil, putting him upon his own beast, and taking him to an inn, where he might receive assistance. He left funds that he might be taken care of, and advised the innkeeper that he would be back, and if it took additional funds, he would gladly see that those expenses were defrayed. Then the Master said, "Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?"

And the answer was, "He that sheweth mercy on him." And there followed the great command of the Savior, which is significant to me, "Go, and do thou likewise." (See Luke 10:25-37.)

Yes, my brethren and sisters, if we truly exemplify this teaching of the Master to love our Heavenly Father sincerely and deeply, then we will love by natural consequence our neighbor. Thus many of the conditions in the

world today which are contrary to the gospel of Jesus Christ will be overcome. There would not only be peace in the world, but also we would have peace in our hearts and in our souls. And I humbly pray as I bear witness to you, my brothers and sisters, that this is true, that Jesus Christ gave us this commandment for a purpose. May we have the energy and the desire within our own hearts, and the fortitude within our souls from this moment on to put it into practice more fully in our daily lives, that we may reap the rich blessings which are predicated upon these truths. I bear witness to you that God lives, that Jesus is the Christ, that the Prophet Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, and those who have succeeded him as President of this Church down through the years to our present President David O. McKay have been men divinely inspired and called of our Heavenly Father. May we uphold and sustain them, and the revealed truths of the Lord, which are given to us by them from time to time, that we may be doers of the words, and not only listeners, I humbly pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Choir and congregation sang the hymn, "We Thank Thee, O God For A Prophet."

ELDER OSCAR A. KIRKHAM

Of the First Council of the Seventy

I PRAY that I may enjoy the blessings of our Heavenly Father. I have been deeply impressed, as you no doubt have, with the words we have heard. And I have been deeply impressed by something I have seen this morning. It has impressed me so sincerely that I want to give you the benefit of it. In the crowded condition of this Tabernacle, there came at the beginning of the service a mother with four children. The usher provided a blanket for the children to sit upon, and then the

mother took a seat quite a way up the aisle. These children behaved themselves in splendid fashion. I thought how lovely it was for a parent to have such confidence and faith. And then I was thrilled when we all stood to sing "We Thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet" to see these children, as if they stood in the Sunday School or Primary, sing with enthusiasm. So deeply was I impressed, and so near is it to what is now in my heart to say, that I have taken the liberty to bring this il-

lustration here from our very midst: that of a parent who had trained well and then had faith in her children.

O this is the day of our salvation—now, not in some great future time but now. This is the day of our salvation! These things that are all about us, this is our opportunity to live, and to practise the glorious teachings of the gospel.

One or two things have come to me as I see this day of salvation, things that perhaps we might do. May the Lord bless me that I may be understood in their presentation. They are very simple things. The first is to study prayerfully the word of the Lord—study prayerfully. That is the key to it—the word of the Lord.

I went to the North Jordan Stake quarterly conference not long ago. I was a little early. As I drove my car to the parking place, I saw a young man reading. As I looked closely, I saw it was the Book of Mormon that he was reading, and I walked quietly to the car, and the young man said, "Good morning, Brother Kirkham."

And then his father extended his hand toward me, "Well, is this Brother Oscar Kirkham?"

I said, "Yes."

He gave his name and said, "My son has just been reading the Book of Mormon for me. We read together the word of the Lord very often. We greatly enjoy the Book of Mormon." He was a blind man; for eight years he had been blind. And in the conversation that followed he told of the many things that he was grateful to the Lord for, one of which I recall: "I have three sons down at Brigham Young University. They have earned their way. We are a very happy family."

This is the day of our salvation. That brother will meet the tomorrow and enjoy it to the full.

This is the day that we must be mindful of, and devote our best to its many blessings. Let us study prayerfully the words of God. The great Shakespeare, when asked by Bacon, "Where did you get your inspiration for the great plays which you have written?", replied:

"From the Psalms of David." I want to read just a few lines from one of these great psalms, the word of God. These lines have stood the test of time. They are most worthy of our careful reading and meditation. Here are words that have been read by millions and set to some of the finest music in the world. You will recognize them at once but read them again. There are deep and beautiful inspirations in them. Just the first few lines:

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside still waters. He restoreth my soul. (Psalm 23:1-3.)

Alma in the Book of Mormon gave these words of counsel to his son Helaman:

... for I do know that whosoever shall put their trust in God shall be supported in their trials, and their troubles, and their afflictions, and shall be lifted up at the last day.

... but behold I say unto you, that by small and simple things are great things brought to pass; and small means in many instances doth confound the wise. (Alma 36:3; 37:6.)

And from a revelation given through the Prophet Joseph Smith on the day when the gospel was opened up in England to Thomas B. Marsh, these lovely words are taken, this glorious admonition:

Be thou humble; and the Lord thy God shall lead thee by the hand, and give thee answer to thy prayers. (D. & C. 112:10.)

God bless us. This one step we can take today, tomorrow, and the next day: Daily, prayerfully, read the word of God. Live and enjoy the gospel of Jesus Christ. Carry the word to a friend somewhere that his life may be blessed. Then peace shall come, and God will love and bless us. Now is the day of our salvation. May the Lord bless us, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.