

President David O. McKay:

The German-speaking Choir and the congregation will now sing, "O Say, What Is Truth?"

Elder Oscar A. Kirkham, of the First

Council of the Seventy, will speak to us following the singing.

Singing by the Choir and congregation, "O Say, What Is Truth?"

ELDER OSCAR A. KIRKHAM*Of the First Council of the Seventy*

I HUMBLY pray that the Lord will bless me, as I address you. How serious and important is this responsibility! Yesterday I read from the Book of Isaiah; the first lines were a theme for the M. I. A. some time ago.

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found,
Call ye upon him while he is near. . . .

Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily; and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy reward. (Isa. 55:6; 58:8.)

I would like to address myself, with the blessings of my Heavenly Father, to my sons. I am very happy that one of them is in the audience today. The others are scattered in different parts of the world. This is the admonition I would give to them: *Be worthy, and advance in the priesthood of God.*

What a glorious thing it is to be sufficiently humble, to live sufficiently worthy that one may speak and perform and bless and grow in the name of the Lord! What a glorious blessing our Heavenly Father has made possible in his great plan of salvation for the men of his Church to receive the priesthood of God. This great blessing I pray may be part of the blessings that the gospel brings to my sons. I hope they are worthy to advance in that glorious opportunity from deacon to high priest. A truly great adventure? Yes—adventure with the Lord, full of blessings the like of which no man can give you, it will bring them to spiritual heights, and the enjoyment of full living.

How happy I was last summer on shipboard with 627 American youth going to Austria to a world jamboree of Scouts. When the Sabbath day came,

we were having a sacrament service. Two of our young men took care of this sacred ordinance of the Lord. A stranger was standing in the door watching the ceremony. He was listening carefully to what was going on, and after these boys, holding the priesthood of God had humbly performed their sacred duty, he walked across the dining room and said to me,

I want two hours. I want them as soon as possible. I have seen nothing like this. I have felt nothing like this on our journey. These young men, blessing the sacred sacrament, calling upon the Lord that they may renew their covenants with the Lord to keep his commandments, that they may have his Spirit to always be with them. This is deeply impressive. Let me meet with you soon.

Yes, truly this is the greatest blessing from God, to speak and perform, to bless and grow in his holy name.

And I would like to express another wish to my sons and I say it with reverence, and with sincere desire: "*Be an active Christian citizen.*" On September 1, President Clark on his eighty-first birthday, was interviewed by the press. I was impressed by the message he gave to them. "This is a great day for each youth," said President Clark, "but he must conquer it for himself, by work, and by right living." This is a theme for a young Christian citizen.

Not long ago I read a story of Benjamin Franklin. On one occasion he went to visit a friend. He took with him his seventeen-year-old son. When he came to the home of his friend, he said to him, "I wish you would bless my boy." The aged man put his hands upon the head of this youth, and said

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to him, "My son, God and liberty. God and liberty—remember these two words." So I say to my son, and your son, to every mother's son throughout the land, as you exercise the glorious right and privilege of Christian citizenship, let this be ever in your heart and mind, "God and liberty."

Next summer, July 17 to 23, fifty thousand boys will camp on the hills of southern California. My, what a glorious experience, a high privilege will be theirs, learning the art of living happily together, and to live as Christians, at least all have expressed their faith in God. I hope your son will be there. I would love to pitch my tent next to his. I would love to see him, as I have seen thousands of others, and before they retire at night, hear them give their prayers to God in thanksgiving and for guidance.

I have a friend whose son was killed in Japan. When his effects were sent home, the parents found a note in his uniform. The note read:

If I happen to die in this war, here is something I want you to do. I have a ten-thousand-dollar insurance policy, and I want you to take that money, and when the war is over, bring to America a Japanese boy and educate him, so that when he may go back to that enemy land, it will help him that he may build his life in the spirit of our democracy.

There is Christian citizenship in its high expression.

I would love to have my son fill a worthy and honorable mission, yes, humbly and worthily. I just returned from touring the Canadian Mission. When I asked the young missionary men what is their greatest spiritual need, nearly all of them would answer, "To be humble—that's my need. To seek the Lord, to know the strength which comes when he is near." What a glorious experience it is for a young man to have the privilege of going on a mission, as a servant of the Lord, and I appeal to this great audience, today, and those listening on the air, God grant to you that high privilege, for the

world is on its knees, waiting for you or your son or my son to come and bring the gospel's glorious message, that their lives may be made more beautiful before the Lord with spiritual blessings.

A final wish I make:

Son, go courting with a lovely Latter-day Saint girl, and go to a temple of the Lord and be married there, and build a good Latter-day Saint home.

What a lovely thing it was one year at M. I. A. time when nineteen couples came from California and were married in the temple here at Salt Lake City. How charming! What a delightful excursion that was! How eyes were filled with tears of rejoicing as they stood before the altar of the Lord and were married for eternity. What a beautiful experience when eleven young ladies of one of the Ogden stakes made a dress, a wedding gown, together, and in their turn, as opportunity came, each one of them was married in this lovely dress. There are no more beautiful experiences than these. What a grand expression of love and appreciation it was in Prescott, Arizona, for a Brother Johnson and his good wife to sacrifice and save and plod along through the years until their seven boys and girls had had the privilege of going on a mission. Then one happy wedding anniversary time, the boys and girls had saved quietly, and the bishop had spoken to them about their father and mother, and they also were privileged to go on a mission. What a glorious blessing, and I wish it for my sons and daughters—a happy Latter-day Saint home.

These things I wish for my children and your children, and for them I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

We shall now hear Elder George Q. Morris, Assistant to the Twelve, who will be followed by Elder Henry D. Moyle.