

ELDER OSCAR A. KIRKHAM

Of the First Council of the Seventy

I PRAY that the Lord may be with me and bless me and that you will incline your hearts toward me and lend that sympathetic understanding in this moment of real effort on my part.

There is a matter I wish to present on behalf of our President, President McKay, and brothers and sisters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. As a National Council member at large of the Boy Scouts of America, I am pleased to say that President David O. McKay received last summer the highest honor award which can be given by that organization to its leaders—the Silver Buffalo.

Scouting membership has reached over three million in the United States of America, making a total of five and a half million members in the world. Among the persons receiving this honor of the Silver Buffalo award are some of America's most distinguished leaders in business, education, art, and religion. "In the service of youth" reads the citation.

We in scouting in the Latter-day Saint Church feel highly honored to have this distinguished recognition come to President David O. McKay. May the Lord bless his kindly words, his noble example, and the power and strength of his message that he has placed in the hearts of men in this glorious movement.

There are two great trails for a boy: from deacon to high priest; from Tenderfoot to Eagle Scout. I humbly pray in my heart that every boy—your boy, my boy, your neighbor's boy—all boys in this good land, may have the high privilege, through your encouragement and mine and all good men to devote their energy to following these two great trails that they may bless and glorify their lives.

As youth goes, so will civilization go. Thus we must safeguard their future with noble example on the part of worthy parents and leadership, with

devoted personal attention; then our civilization will continue to progress.

Some time ago, a man on the highway halted, impressed by the rolling hills. In the midst of these hills he saw a beautiful straight furrow. He stopped by the fence, expecting to see an old, experienced farmer coming toward the end of the furrow, but instead he saw a youth. Immediately he said to the young chap, "Did you plow the first furrow in this field?"

"Yes, sir."

"You will do many straight things in life." And on his way he went.

Twelve years went by. The man came again. He was met by a lovely limousine at the station. "We have a fine hotel in the city," he was told, "but I am taking the privilege of inviting you to my home. Will you kindly come?"

"Yes, I will be pleased. I am tired of hotels," the gentleman replied.

That night before a large auditorium and before this man arose to address the audience, the man who had been entertaining him said, "I am the mayor of this city. Do you remember twelve years ago seeing a boy plow a straight furrow in an open field? That was I. Please do not say anything about it to this audience, but I shall be everlastingly grateful to you."

Oh, may the Lord keep deep down in our hearts the fine teaching of our religion, our devotion to our work, to do our utmost to guide youth to its destiny.

How I would love to be a boy again! God bless my boys and your boys.

Not long ago, from a cabin home, a humble home, a telegram was sent to a son in a distant city, "Come home, Charles. I am not well." Signed, "Mother." And when the son arrived by plane, his mother said, "There are two gifts I want to give you, Charles. I have been thinking about them all day. Each day, on your knees and

alone, say a prayer. And the second gift I would love to give you, is each day walk with good men. These are my gifts, Charles. Each day, pray alone on bended knee, and each day walk with good men."

God bless that boy who today is one of America's great Christian leaders, president of a bank of thirty million, head of one of the largest organizations in our land, a real Christian gentleman.

This is the touch that must be given. Halt, now; you can help a boy. It may be the army that he may face tomorrow, but today it is only a boy who needs a kindly word. These are precious moments. These are great days in the life of a boy.

And may I say, finally, I am humbly grateful. I wish my words may be from my lips to your hearts. In grati-

tude I thank God for a fourteen-year-old boy, who read the sacred word, who meditated, who prayed, unafraid, alone, and the Lord heard his prayer.

God bless us that your boy and my boy and the neighbor's boy may grow in the path of the Prophet, Seer, and Revelator. That is who the boy of fourteen was. These are our opportunities. These are our glorious privileges. God help us, I pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

Elder Oscar A. Kirkham, of the First Council of Seventy, has just addressed us. Our concluding speaker for this morning's session, will be Elder Spencer W. Kimball, of the Council of the Twelve.

ELDER SPENCER W. KIMBALL

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

MY BELOVED brothers and sisters: My heart is filled with gratitude this morning for this occasion, for you, for the gospel, the Church, the priesthood, my family, and for all the privileges that have come to me.

Recently, as I held a meeting with a group of members of bishoprics, I had occasion to read to them that scripture of Paul's, given to Timothy, in which he said:

A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre. . . . (1 Tim. 3:2-3.)

My mind began to explore and I wondered: "What is filthy lucre?" I read a little farther and found that he said the same of the deacons, that they should not be "greedy of filthy lucre."

I found also that Paul spoke to Titus, his son in the faith:

For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God . . . not given to filthy lucre. (Titus 1:7.)

Peter also gave the same instructions to the elders, making the warning quite universal to the Church:

The elders which are among you I exhort, . . .

Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind. (1 Peter 5:1-2.)

I wondered about the term. I went to the dictionary to see just what Webster would say, and found that lucre, itself, has a bad connotation, and filthy lucre is worse; and to be "greedy of filthy lucre" is, of course, still worse.

This instruction was given by John, the Revelator, to the Laodicean Saints:

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot; I would thou wert cold or hot.

So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: