

Sunday, October 4

Third Day

serve their parents hustling about getting ready to go to the temple, to do work for the dead; to see them preparing their temple clothing; to note that emphasis is given to genealogical research and temple work. I think that is all conducive to good. Children then will inquire of their parents why this is so important and the parents then have the opportunity to explain these grand and glorious principles in terms that are understandable to their children. With such help children will have a desire to go themselves to the temple.

Now, the Doctrine and Covenants is replete with the word of the Lord, saying that the obligations and covenants that we enter into for this life that are not sanctioned and entered into by the laws of God, end with this life. But it is equally plain when it states that those who do enter into covenants of marriage and sealings in the temples of the Lord shall pass by the angels and the gods and the sentinels and go on to their exaltations and have glory in all things, as hath been sealed upon their heads, which glory shall be a fulness and a continuation of their seeds forever, and that such a marriage will be in full force when they are out of this world.

Oh, how I wish we could teach that to the people of the world, and especially to our own people, so they may

not lose the glorious blessing and associations promised to the faithful children of God.

God bless us, my brothers and sisters, that as parents we may teach our children early in life to walk uprightly before the Lord and help them to understand these principles before it is too late.

I pray that we may do this, in wisdom and in love, and in kindness, and prepare them and point them toward the temple and temple marriage as soon as they are able to understand what we say. I testify that this work is true, that the power to seal is upon the earth, and that these men who sit before us here have the keys and the authority to act in the name of God and seal upon the earth and have it ratified in the heavens. Thus I testify because I know it is so. I do it humbly, and in the name of Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

We have just heard Elder ElRay L. Christiansen, Assistant to the Council of the Twelve. Elder Evans, whom you know and have known because of his work on the radio and his service in the stakes, and whom the entire nation knows,—Richard L. Evans,—will now speak to us, and he will be followed by Elder Marion D. Hanks of the First Council of the Seventy.

ELDER RICHARD L. EVANS

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

I PRAY that I may be given utterance in that which I should briefly say.

I have frequented these beloved walls for a period now approaching a quarter century in many situations and assignments. But this is the most difficult thing that I have here had to do. It seems that this chapter was not in the script which I had written for myself.

In the brief, but in some respects too long a time since first I became aware

of this possibility, I have measured the full measure of my life many times over. There are those here who know much better than I the weight of this work. There is none here who knows better than I my own limitations, inadequacies, and imperfections, and the feeling of smallness which I have. But if you and my Father in heaven will accept me as I am, with your help and his, I shall earnestly endeavor to be better than I am or have ever been.

I should not want to pass without thanking God for a noble father whom I never knew; for a blessed mother who, in her widowhood, reared nine of us, and faced her problems on her knees in prayer and on her feet gloriously in courageous action; for brothers and sisters, who with their children, I have had no cause but to be proud of in their faith and their awareness of their responsibilities in life.

I thank him for the choice and lovely girl who has been by my side for twenty years and for the four sons that are ours. I pray for them, for their generation, and for youth everywhere, for their guidance in the ways of truth and righteousness. I pray for their generation, that they may know of the promise of the future, that despite all uncertainties there are glorious certainties that transcend them all, as President McKay noted in his opening address.

I would say to their generation: be prayerful, keep the faith, avoid cynicism, be not shaken by the waves of controversy and confusion which sweep over and are quickly spent, while the truth remains forever.

This is a gospel not of despondency and discouragement, not of ensnaring technicalities, not of quick condemnation, but as President Clark suggested so beautifully in his utterance last evening, it is a gospel of hope, of happiness and of helpfulness, of peace and of promise.

There is no act of man, nor any combination of men, despite what passing troubles they may bring upon this earth, who can thwart the purposes of our Father in heaven, nor stay him in his plans to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of his children, and I thank God for it.

As to these, my brethren, they know of my affection for them—President McKay, President Richards, President Clark, President Smith, President Young of the First Council of the Seventy, Bishop Wirthlin, all others here, each of whom I could name with some point of affection and distinction. No one could be to any man more considerate

or gracious or kindly than they have been to me.

I shall miss some of the intimate associations with my beloved brethren of the First Council with whom I have sat for fifteen years. God bless them.

I wish I had had some greater part, or some part at all, in the making of this choice young man who has been sustained by you to sit with the First Council of the Seventy, Brother Marion D. Hanks. He is a man of courage and of faith, and I love him; and you who do not know him will learn to love him. Likewise Brother Hugh B. Brown, with his great gifts of utterance, will give sincere service to the Church.

May I leave with you the witness of my very soul that God lives; that Jesus the Christ is the Only Begotten of the Father in the flesh, our Savior and Redeemer; that the Father and the Son did appear in this dispensation to the Prophet Joseph Smith, and that he and all in line of succession, including our present President McKay, have held the keys and the powers of the priesthood, and do unto this day.

President McKay, I pledge my love and loyalty, and all that is good or useful in me, with gratitude to you for many kindnesses and considerations and for your confidence.

I beg of you, my brethren and sisters, your confidence and help.

May God bless each and all of us in the things we need most, in understanding and peace and joy in living, and in the realization of our highest possibilities here and hereafter, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

Elder Richard L. Evans, whom you have this day sustained as a member of the Council of the Twelve, has just spoken to us. We shall now hear Elder Marion D. Hanks, whom you have sustained to fill the vacancy in the First Council of the Seventy made by the calling of Elder Evans to the Twelve.