

life for the redemption of all, and if you and I love our neighbors, as God has commanded, as ourselves, we shall close our priesthood ranks and we will gather our brethren who may be inactive in the priesthood to our side and present to the world a priesthood solidarity which will give all of us the strength to destroy the enemy of indifference and temptation and criticism, and which will inspire us to be as one, as are the Father and the Son one, and as Lehi declared: "Men are that they might have joy," and above that and most important of all that we shall be instrumental in the Lord's greatest work to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man, which I humbly pray will be the heart-felt desire and accomplishment of all of us, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Bishop Joseph L. Wirthlin:

Brethren, the First Presidency, out of their kindness and generosity, have permitted the Presiding Bishopric to show you a film tonight that deals with the

procedures of the Adult Aaronic Priesthood plan and program. May I say to you that in this film there is a story and in the story there is a character. We want you to understand that while we show the extremes to which this particular man went, the purpose is to show what can be done if we are kind and patient, no matter how far afield some of our brethren may go. This film does not intend to carry the impression that all of our senior Aaronic brethren have gone as far as this particular character went.

(There was then presented on a screen a film story entitled "Come Back, My Son.")

The congregation and the Chorus joined in singing: "I'll Go Where You Want Me To Go."

President David O. McKay:

President J. Reuben Clark, Jr. will now speak to us.

PRESIDENT J. REUBEN CLARK, JR.

Second Counselor in the First Presidency

MY BRETHREN: I hope that you will help me by your prayers for the few moments that I shall stand before you. This is a humbling experience, and I am sure we are all mellowed by that powerful picture showing how one man was led back from temptation and waywardness to enjoy the blessings of the Lord.

In recent years there has come to be a new philosophy which affirms that the world has been working on the wrong theory over the centuries, and they say that we must not longer talk of punishments, but only of rewards. You know, I believe that there are no real punishments except those which we bring upon ourselves. The felon in the penitentiary cell has punished

himself by his course of action which has taken away from him a blessing with which God endowed him, namely, his freedom.

The Lord has laid down as a part of the eternal plan great principles which we are to follow if we are to gain the blessings which are predicated thereon. If we fail to live those principles and rules we fail to get the blessings. The Lord does not need to punish, we punish ourselves, we deprive ourselves of the blessings which the Lord promised us.

And so with these members about whom we have heard and have seen tonight,—they are not punished by anybody. They are just failing in themselves to enjoy the blessings which they could enjoy if they lived as they should. And I should suppose that of

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the ways in which, some at least, might be approached, one would be from the point of view entirely of leading them to blessings, not to pointing out the punishments. For instance, the Word of Wisdom. Lead them to see the blessing which sobriety brings, the giving up of things which the Word of Wisdom denies. That is the point. We are not enjoying the blessings we might enjoy by righteous living. It is not a question of somebody imposing punishments upon us.

And so through the whole realm of our activities.

Now one thing stood out tonight, I thought, in that picture: Here was a bishopric, finally shaken into a realization of their duties, but the bishopric did not undertake to do it all alone; they immediately called in help. You know, it takes more than three good men as a bishopric to make a good ward. Three good men may build a good ward, but they cannot do it all by themselves, and so with a presidency of a stake, so with a presidency of a quorum, and so with every group of leaders in the Church. They cannot do the service alone. They must have the help of every man and woman who serves under their direction.

And that brings me back to my theme song—this question of unity. We shall never, brethren, get to the place that the Lord expects us to go and marked out for us to get to, save we shall work together in unison. We cannot each one go out by himself, along his own lines, live his own life, so to speak,

and have this Church reach the destiny which it will reach if we do cooperate.

And I repeat to you what I have said time and time and time again in these Priesthood meetings, and pardon the repetition, but I think there is still room for some to hearken to the suggestion: We must work together as one. We must follow our leaders and if we do I say again, there are no limits to the things which, in righteousness, we may accomplish. Every man living as he should, cooperating as he should, brings into the ward or into the quorum a power against evil that cannot be attained in any other way.

Now, brethren, I should like to urge you to take to heart the lesson which this picture has taught us tonight. Remember the splendid instruction given us by the Presiding Bishop and rally around our leaders, let them tell us what to do and how to do it, and then so doing, we shall build up in our quorums, in our ward, in our stake, in the Church, a power for good, for righteousness which Satan cannot tear down and he is on the look-out all the time, all the time, day and night. Perhaps all of us, each of us, can think of some way in which we might help our presiding officers and to build up the unity, the standing together which is so essential to this Church.

May the Lord give us this spirit of unity, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

President Stephen L Richards of the First Presidency will now address us.

PRESIDENT STEPHEN L RICHARDS

First Counselor in the First Presidency

MY BRETHREN: With the impressive presentation which we have witnessed here in this building tonight, I wish that all assembled who are privileged by special wire to hear this service might have seen it also.

With President Clark's remarks as something of a background and justification, I would like to say a few words to the priesthood upon a subject which has been weighing upon my mind for quite a period of time. I would like to speak briefly on the subject of justice and mercy. The Gospel of Jesus Christ