

"While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

"And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

"I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

"I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

"They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

"As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

"And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through truth.

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

"That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

"And the glory which thou gavest me

I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

"I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

"Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

"O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.

"And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them." (John 17:8-26.)

Brethren, I take it that that is a prayer offered for us, just as applicable to us as it was to the Apostles in whose immediate behalf Christ was intervening.

May the Lord give us the unity, the faith, the powers, which the Lord prayed that his Disciples might have, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

President Stephen L Richards will be our next speaker.

PRESIDENT STEPHEN L RICHARDS

First Counselor in the First Presidency

I MIGHT well have chosen a subject for this evening other than that on which I propose to dwell had I not been impelled a few days ago in contemplating this meeting to bring a particular matter to your attention. I trust that it may not be too inappropriate for this great occasion. If at the beginning it seems so, please reserve judgment.

I read in the newspaper the other day an article. It prompted me to bring the matter here. It is written by Judge Rudolph C. Geissler of Connecticut. Some of you may have seen it, but I fear that it was not read generally and seriously, or I would not take the time to reproduce at least part of it. The Judge says:

"In the 24 years I have been on the bench, I have never given a speeder a second chance. I never will. If he is convicted in my court or pleads guilty, the speeder gets a fine or a jail sentence and his license gets blemished.

"In the sense that I adhere strictly to the law, I am a 'tough' judge. In my opinion, that is the judge's job. As a speeder, you are one man in a traffic court on one particular day; as a judge, you are a witness day in day out, by the hundreds and thousands, to the worst carnage man has ever known. Worse than plague. Worse than war.

"Motorists are inclined to think that when they come up before a judge on their first speeding charge, they should

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be given a second chance. They don't want that 'black mark' on the back of their driver's license. They offer excuses. They get friends of the judge to try to fix things for them. They hire lawyers to pull strings. What they don't understand is that speed is their enemy, not the court. The court is simply their conscience.

"Excuses, entreaties, attempts at influence, I've heard them all:

"Judge, I've been driving for twelve years with a clean record—just give me this one chance."

"Judge, if you put this second speeding on my license the company will fire me."

"Your Honor, I don't have a job and my kids are sick and if you fine me, I'll have to go to jail."

Then he cites the cases of friends pleading for those who are arrested.

"Yes, I've heard them all, and I've turned them all down. Sometimes it makes my heart ache, like when a man is out of a job and is up against it, but I don't give him a second chance. 'What kind of justice is that?' you may ask. 'Have you no compassion? Can't a man be forgiven one mistake?' One mistake. Compassion. What do you think I have seen and heard during my 24 years on the bench? A man drives at 70 miles per hour at night on a two-lane highway. He sideswipes another car going around a curve; both cars spin out of control and crash. Four people are dead. That's only one mistake, isn't it?"

"A group of young people are coming home from a dance, and the 19-year-old driver decides to show off by pushing the speedometer up to its limit—one mistake. A driver speeds up to beat a changing light at an intersection—just one mistake.

"The fact is, that's all a speeding accident ever amounts to—just one mistake. The vast majority of serious collisions involve people, with 'clean' records. Yes, I have compassion, and so do most other judges, but the compassion is for the permanently crippled, the 'innocent' corpses in the other car, the children left without one or both parents. We judges have to look at unending photographs of butchered bodies and mangled automobiles, introduced into evidence by police officers—the

mute evidence of a speeder's one mistake."

And he cites other instances. Then he says:

"I know quite a lot about boys, and I do think about them. For instance, I think about those two young fellows at Storrs, Conn., who killed themselves smashing into a tree; the Hartford boys who wound up on morgue slabs after their car turned over three times and landed in a ditch; those four college boys who were doing 75 on the Wilbur Cross Parkway—two died instantly and two in the hospital.

"I know about boys, all right. I've got three sons and eight grandsons, and if they ever start speeding I only hope and pray that a State Trooper is there to catch them and that a judge fines them properly.

"Here's what I tell most young people who come before me and try to talk themselves out of their 'jam.' 'Young man,' I say, 'consider this one of the luckiest days of your life—for you have wound up in a traffic court instead of a graveyard.'

"I recently had an 18-year-old high-school student in my court. He had been clocked at midnight doing 80 m.p.h. on a two-lane highway. I asked him why his father had not come to court with him.

"He's here," the boy said, 'in the back of the court.' I asked the father to come forward.

"My son got himself into this," the father said, 'and he'll have to get himself out of it. There's no excuse for driving a car at that speed.'

"Did you have a reason?" I asked the boy.

"Yes, sir," he answered. 'I had been up late several nights in a row, so I wanted to get home to catch up on my sleep.'

"Well,' I said, 'you had a distance of twenty-five miles to cover. Now by going eighty miles an hour instead of the legal limit you probably saved about fifteen minutes. And in the process, you might have been killed—or killed somebody else. Do you think the risk was worth it?'

"No, sir," the boy said. 'I guess not. I guess I deserve to be fined.'

"I noticed the father perk up at that, and I could see he felt a little better

about his son's scrape with the law. I admire that father much more than one who tries to 'protect' his son by influencing the judge or prosecutor.

"How can we slow you down? How can we make you obey the speed limit which is clearly and incessantly indicated on every highway in this country?"

"Fines haven't worked.

"Threats haven't worked.

"Public education doesn't seem to be working.

"Maybe Connecticut's new experiment will. Governor Abraham A. Ribicoff recently issued an order which, as far as I know, is the most drastic speed rule in the nation. Any one who exceeds the speed limit on any road, highway or street in the state of Connecticut now automatically loses his driver's license for 30 days; if it is a second conviction, he loses it for 60 days. And the regulation applies not only to residents of Connecticut, but also to speeders from other states with which Connecticut has reciprocity agreements." (Reprinted from *This Week Magazine*. Copyright 1956 by the United Newspapers Magazine Corporation.)

Now, I did not read this to advocate that Governor's recommendation. I do not know enough about it to know whether that is the best recommendation that can be proposed. I read this to try to save the lives of some of our people. I notice these smash-ups in the paper every day or two, and if it does not tell what Church they belong to, I nearly always follow it up and find where they are to be buried from, and I find out that a great proportion of all those in this area are members of my own Church, my brethren in the Priesthood.

I know that some young folks think that they have freedom to do what they will. They seem to think that they have freedom to do with their lives as

they desire. They ought to be taught the Lord's words regarding life. Life is precious, "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Cor. 6:20)

No man has the freedom and the liberty to dispose of even his own life and to be so careless as to endanger the lives of others.

I used to have an old friend—Brother McKay will remember him—who was taken out of business, almost, by the prohibition act. I remember him making a statement that I never forgot. He said, "I reserve the right to criticize the law, but not to break it." As far as I know he never broke it.

Who makes the law? Your representatives. Isn't it disloyal to them to break the laws they make? I think there is not only an element of disloyalty to it, but I know that it breeds disrespect for the law, and it is immoral to break the laws of the land.

Life is too precious. It is the greatest gift that the Lord has given to us. We cannot waste it, and if I, by bringing this to your attention, can save one carload of teenagers from careening into a station and killing them, as they did the other night, I shall be grateful, and therefore I take the liberty of bringing this to the attention of my brethren of the Priesthood to see if we cannot develop a respect for the law which will enable us to avoid many of these tragic accidents. My heart bleeds for the victims. My heart bleeds for the innocent victims who ride along safely and are run into by these speed demons. This Judge has a whole lot of good sense, and I think maybe he has a deterrent that will be helpful in this greatest carnage that our Country has ever known.

The Lord bless us, help us to preserve our lives, and to use our lives for the high purposes that the Lord has given us, I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

PRESIDENT DAVID O. McKAY

MY ESTEEMED fellow-workers. I hope what I say now may not detract from the spiritual instructions received and the appeals made for our young people. But there are a few sug-

gestions to you, stake officers, stake presidencies and bishoprics of wards, which we hope you will take without comment. I will just name them.

1. In our Handbook of Instructions we