

President David O. McKay:

He to whom we have just listened is President Joseph Fielding Smith of the Council of the Twelve Apostles.

We shall now hear from Elder S. Dilworth Young of the First Council of Seventy. He will be followed by the Patriarch to the Church.

ELDER S. DILWORTH YOUNG

Of the First Council of the Seventy

I echo the words of President McKay this morning and of President Smith this afternoon expressing an anxiety we should have for our children. In that connection I also remember that the day after tomorrow is the anniversary of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. I think, too, that April 6 is as near the anniversary of the actual day that it took place as we shall ever be able to ascertain.

I believe, too, that the Lord himself did not consider that the resurrection was his greatest gift to man. I do not attempt to defend the statement. I believe that he knew that we could not understand all of his purposes but that as humans we might understand what it meant to lay down a body and take it up again. I believe his highest purpose is that his children who will support and sustain him will be given exaltation in his presence. That, I think, is what he had in mind when he came to the earth in the first place. I think he taught it to those who could understand the doctrine, and I believe that he has restored it to us in this last day with the purpose now of bringing it to a fulfillment.

If that be true, then the family is probably the greatest element in our lives today. Without the family we shall not attain exaltation, as I understand exaltation to be. And of course without children the family would not be very much.

But if we lose our children in the process of attaining exaltation, I think it is a little vain to assume that we are going to have very much happiness. Therefore I would raise my voice in asking that we give special attention to the children. Too, in 1958, we should begin to take steps which will correct the abuses which affect their lives in many places.

It so happens that much of my life

has been spent working with children. This gives me some right to mention three needs which I think I can draw from that experience. I could name a dozen, but I have chosen these three because of associations I have had with three men. Each of these men is associated in my experience with children. In one case, one taught me as a youth. In the other two cases, in my work with children, I had dealings with them. I think in the things they told me and in the things they did themselves are found possibly some bases upon which we can begin our work. Here, then, are lessons from the three.

Dr. Adam S. Bennion would not have said, "Make things easy for youth." Rather he would have them develop honor by means of sharp competition. On the playing court he would have applied the lessons which would be their strength in manhood. He wanted keen, sharp, hard play; to win hard, fair, and square; to lose gracefully. But let some man try to use these fields of action to win illegitimately, to use an unfair tactic to further his own ends, to make the end justify foul means, and Adam Bennion became at once a hornet and a cudgel to drive him away.

At some point in their lives all children must be protected from the designs of conspiring men. Adam Bennion was one who was fearless, outspoken, their protector. Youth needs that protection by adults.

Oscar A. Kirkham could lift boys and girls out of themselves, to aspire to high things. In his hands they rode on the wings of eagles; they acquired the rugged strength of the mighty oak. He pointed the way to show that the greatest adventures are those in fields of morality, honor, and integrity. When he left them, the embers of the campfire dying down, somehow each one knew that the message was the echo of his

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own unformed ideals leaping into high resolve. We need more of that, too.

Thomas E. McKay was a stake president. I was a member of his stake for many years. Thomas E. McKay was for children. When help was needed, his weight and his influence were applied with full force and without reservation, and it was no mean force. He made only one stipulation to me when I was working with children. The man operating the program must not let the parents or the Church down. The principles of salvation and the testimonies of leaders must be the guiding factors.

These three elements were part of the living souls of the three men of whom I speak, whom I loved and revered.

Now, may I summarize what I have just said as to what our children might need and which we should be alert to give them:

Teach youth to play fair and square, to play hard and to win modestly, to lose gracefully, but, above all things, protect them from evil men until they are old enough to protect themselves. That is a vital thing.

Fire each child with the desire to reach the heights of happy achievement.

Unless the spark kindles the flame, an inner flame, it will not warm the soul. This is vital, too.

Finally, keep always in mind the ultimate goal, exaltation in the presence of the Father and the Son. Do nothing to cloud this goal in the minds of children, my brethren. Do everything to keep its guiding light brightly shining.

I believe that if these three things, plus others which could be mentioned in handling children, can be applied, somehow our eternities will be sure. In this group here before me is the power to lead our children into righteousness, if we will but apply the principles.

My testimony is that God lives and that Jesus Christ the Lord lives and watches over us and desires us to come into his presence if we will but obey. I say it in his Holy Name. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

Elder S. Dilworth Young of the First Council of the Seventy has just spoken to us. Now we shall hear from Elder Eldred G. Smith, Patriarch to the Church.

ELDER ELDRED G. SMITH

Patriarch to the Church

I pray that I shall have an interest in your faith and prayers while I take this precious time. We have heard of the successes of the missionary work and the other activities of the Church. The growth of the Church is glorious in all its activities. The success of man and the Church can be measured, I think, in the answer to the question, "How near to God are you?"

Every one of us came from a pre-earthly existence. We always existed. Before coming to this earth we lived with our heavenly parents. We were their children. Challenging Job, the Lord said:

Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? (Job 38:4, 7.)

And again Abraham said:

Now the Lord had shown unto me, Abraham, the intelligences that were organized before the world was; and among all these there were many of the noble and great ones;

And God saw these souls that they were good, and he stood in the midst of them, and he said: These I will make my rulers; for he stood among those that were spirits, and he saw that they were good; and he said unto me: Abraham, thou art one of them; thou wast chosen before thou wast born. (Abraham 3:22-23.)

We are all children of our heavenly parents. We lived with them in the celestial kingdom. We walked by sight. We knew what the celestial glory was. As spirits only, we could not partake of the fulness thereof. We knew how our Heavenly Father came to his exaltation. Was it any wonder, then, that we