

John, the sermon in which he paid that great tribute to John and turning to the multitude he said:

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

"For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Christ is the only one through whom, through his teachings and his work and his sacrifice and his atonement, by which we can reach the divine destiny which has been declared for us. We are living in perilous times. That is trite. Man has discovered and is trying to learn how to use some of the great forces that evidently were operative at the time of the creation of the universe. We know nothing about them, we play with them as a child plays with the live end of a high voltage transmission wire. We know not how to control them nor what they will do. We are equally challenged in all walks of life, economic, financial, social, religious, with new theories, new problems, new

solutions. We live in a maze of unknown, untried ideas and concepts.

Be not dismayed. Remember what I have read to you and referred you to. Christ is our answer. Christ is our salvation. "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27) And remember, you who may be influenced by discoveries of science today, that the discoveries of science in my day have been thrown away and given up and in so far as present discoveries are not in accord with truth, they will be thrown away and discarded. "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." "For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Brethren, keep your eye on the beam, the Word of God, and he will bless you.

May that blessing come to all of us, 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

I was privileged to look over the annual report of the General Relief Society Board the other day, and I noted this conspicuous record of service. In the year 1957 the Relief Society teachers made 3,125,813 Family Visits by the Visiting Teachers, an increase of 184,383 over the previous year. And in the category of what is called "compassionate service" the record shows 275,469 visits of Relief Society members to the homes of the sick and the homebound—an increase of 19,750 over the previous year.

I thought what a challenge to the brethren of the Priesthood of this Church! I regard the Priesthood of the Church of God as being the truest—I do not know numbers—if not the greatest of all the brotherhoods in this world. It is a great fraternity made up of men who have been initiated, not by secret oaths nor by strange initiatory ordi-

nances, but by receiving the ordination of the power bestowed by messengers of our Heavenly Father upon his servants with the restoration of the Holy Gospel.

I am sure that this fraternity contemplates affectionate feeling one for another, and mutual helpfulness. There have been presented to us tonight opportunities for helping, advising, counseling, safeguarding, the welfare of the younger members of the Priesthood as well as the older. Why ought we not to perform a service comparable to that of our sisters and go to see those who are in some form of distress, who need us, even without appointment as fellow members of this great fraternity?

I do not know that you noticed in our statistical information last night that there were approximately 3000 converts, or ten percent of all our converts, which were not made by the

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missionaries serving under appointment either in the stakes or in the regular missions. Nearly ten percent of the converts were made by friends, neighbors and families who brought the message of life and truth to their close friends.

May we not, as members of the Priesthood, without appointment, consider our obligations to our neighbors

and our friends, and do them the incomparable blessed service of taking the truth to them and teaching them the way of life?

The Lord bless us that we may truly be a brotherhood, and that our unity, our love, and our concern for each other shall characterize us as servants of our Lord, Jesus Christ, I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

PRESIDENT DAVID O. MCKAY

I hold in my hand the number of the men of the Priesthood in the quorums of this fraternity to which President Richards has referred, Melchizedek and Aaronic: In round numbers, in the Melchizedek quorums—High Priests, Seventies, Elders—High Priests, 41,552; Seventies, 20,649; Elders, 120,230—approximately 190,000 men; 150,000 Aaronic Priesthood members.

As I have listened to the wonderful messages given tonight, there came to my mind the words of the Savior:

“. . . whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock;

“And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

“And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

“And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.” (Matt. 7:24-27.)

Over three hundred thousand men holding the Priesthood, carrying the responsibility of exemplars as well as proclaimers. Exemplars! If we could get but half of these men to apply in their lives every practical suggestion given tonight what a mighty influence for good would be accomplished! May I take, for example, some suggestions from the theme of Brother Lowell Bennion?

Young people, young girls in high school, going daily in courtship with young boys of their age, of the girls' age, in their early 'teens, depriving

themselves of becoming better acquainted with other companions; and in that daily courtship in their early age, becoming so intimate as to arouse their passions for an hour's pleasure, bringing misery upon themselves through life. And that is not imagination! You men in the Presidencies of Stakes and Bishoprics of Wards, and you fathers and mothers of some of them, know that that is not imagination.

What practical suggestions Brother Bennion has given us in regard to this early association! The Mutuals are trying to work out Saturday night dances to entertain these young people. They merit entertainment, and we must furnish it for them. In our own wards, young men and young women come to those dances, and the young man and his girl spend the entire time they are there in that social in each other's company, dancing together hour after hour.

Years ago we did not use to do that. Now, they say, “Well, I pay my ticket; I bring my girl, and I have the right to dance with her.” I wonder if we can do something, Bishops, to help our Mutuals make more effective their plans to have all the young people become well acquainted with one another as suggested by Brother Bennion. That is just one means.

We have young people who go out in society, our young boys and girls; they are not quite strong enough to say no when the cigarette and wine glass are passed around. They look upon father and mother and some of us teachers as old-fashioned. They erroneously think that it is all right to participate in the “wine cup” in the social ethics of the crowd, out in the canyon and other places. Some of our