

Saturday, October 11

Second Day

like one who takes his first drink, until they may end up as alcoholics, or they may end up as gambling addicts, as this man calls them—compulsive gamblers. He could not stop, he could not get away from it. I hope you are sympathetic with that position because I know from long experience that it is the wise thing to do never to bet, but keep on the safe side and never trust your powers of resistance with the wrong thing. You would not with many other things, why trust yourself with this nefarious habit?

Now, brethren, I will not take more of your time, but at the risk of repetition, I wanted to mention those two items again to you tonight. It is a tremendous responsibility to bear the Holy Priesthood. I wish all of you—perhaps all did not—had heard what President Joseph Fielding Smith told us yesterday, something I have long believed, and I was glad to have sanction for my belief. He said in substance that there will be no Sons of Perdition who do not hold the Priesthood. I have believed that for years because I do not think that the Lord in his mercy would ever condemn a man to that indescribable penalty of being put out entirely from the Kingdom and from all grace unless that man

knew that Jesus was the Christ, unless he knew the power of the Christ, and he could only know that, I think, by holding the Priesthood. I believe that in the main that can be said to be true—that only men who hold the Priesthood of God stand in danger of that terrible penalty of being classed as outcasts.

On the other hand, only men who hold the Priesthood can aspire to the highest things of life, and that is the balance—to use this Priesthood to reach exaltation in the Eternal Presence or to abuse it and lose it and be cast out. I think that is a solemn thought for all of us, and I trust that as we ponder it we shall all decide, as I have reason to believe we will, that we will aspire to the highest ideals, to the loftiest stations attainable with this holy power that God has given to us. If we aspire to attain that exaltation, work for it consciously, serve faithfully, keeping the commandments, our rewards will exceed even our fondest expectations. Of that I am convinced.

May the Lord bless you, my brethren, and be with you always, I ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

PRESIDENT DAVID O. MCKAY

When this vast congregation responded to Brother Condie's baton on the first note of "Do What Is Right," I was thrilled. The strength of your voices expressed a spirit which is sublime, and strangely enough, I was reminded of a statement that a leading businessman in the United States made to me on the plane that carried us to South Africa a few years ago. There were three businessmen—one who was president of the Board of a mining company there on the Coast of Africa; another who was a member of the Board going down to a Board meeting; and this gentleman who was head of a national Drug Store chain.

When he found out we are Mormons, he said, "Whenever I can find a young Mormon boy to take charge of running our drug stores, I tell my men to give him a position. I have many of them

in my employ." He has found integrity in them. I thought I felt the strength and source of that integrity tonight.

I thought when the gentleman made that statement, that any young member of this Church who gets a position in that chain of stores may cast a reflection upon the entire body if he failed in upholding the standard of the Church. That is what he would do. Whenever anyone, any husband in this Church, treats his wife unfairly, or stoops so low as to strike her, as I heard only recently a man did, he disgraces his Priesthood, casts reflection upon the whole Church. That would be true if he were only a member, but if he holds a prominent position in the Church, as this man does, he disgraces his Priesthood, and proves himself untrue to his

fellows. He disgraces his quorum, and proves himself unworthy of membership in it.

It is an inspiring sight to see this body in the Tabernacle, and to realize that assembled in 139 other houses there are members of the Priesthood, from the high priests to the deacons, meeting tonight and feeling the power of the Priesthood.

One principle emphasizes itself in my mind tonight, and that is the virtue of self-control. When a man accepts the Priesthood, he accepts the obligation of controlling himself under any circumstances. That is the first lesson that the Savior gave to us after his baptism—the power of resistance. Arising from the plain through which the Jordan River flows into the Dead Sea, near the spot of Christ's baptism, there is a precipitous cliff called the Mount of Temptation. People point to it and say, "It is on that Mount that Jesus went after he was baptized in the River Jordan."

Those three temptations which were given to Him are given to us. The first was an appeal to his appetite after 40 days of fasting, which temptation is really an appeal to the appetite. Second, an appeal to his vanity. 'Cast thyself down. I dare you this; and I dare you that.' And third, 'the kingdoms of the world and all the wealth thereof will be yours if you follow me.' When Satan reached that point he was not challenging, he was pleading. 'All these I will give thee if thou wilt bow down and worship me.'

As Christ resisted the temptation of appetite, of passion; as he resisted the appeal to his vanity and pride, he grew in power. I had better put it this way: that Satan's bombastic attitude, his challenging attitude, "If thou be the Son of God," is changed to one of pleading, and when Christ said, 'Get thee behind me Satan, for it is written thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and him only shalt thou serve,' we glimpse what it means to be the victor over temptation, and we understand also how temptation loses its power and leaves us. As Satan slunk away, angels came and administered to Christ.

Well, the temptations come to every

man who holds the Priesthood. One of the bishops who spoke to us tonight referred to the relationship of self-control, self-mastery, and reverence. That is one of the great lessons in this matter of reverence. Both bishops, who gave us some excellent suggestions, and whom I thank at this time, referred to the necessity of reverence in the home, control of presiding authority in conducting meetings, controlling their own tongues. I know of no attribute, no quality, more conducive to peace in the home than self-control. If the husband sees something in the wife about which he could find fault, it would be better for him to say nothing, to control his tongue. That is an excellent thing to do, say nothing about it. And if the wife would practice that same thing, how many disputations and quarrels would be stopped, quenched at their beginning.

Parents who suddenly become angered or hurt or injured at some act of a child innocently committed might hurt the child's feelings. Parents should manage to exert control of themselves, control of their hands, control their tongues particularly, then the child's feelings would not be hurt.

Every Sunday when we partake of the Sacrament we covenant that we will do just this one thing at least, wherever we are. Read what James says about controlling the tongue, an unruly member, and you will see that this is one of the fundamental principles. We covenant on that Sunday that we will take upon us the name of the Son, we witness that we will do it. It takes some control to keep that promise. We witness that we will always remember him.

We should be always dignified, self-possessed. When Pilate said, "Behold the man," he asked all to behold the perfect man. He was just that. We covenant that we will keep the commandments which he has given us. One reason why nonmembers, disbelievers in Christianity and in religion, so express themselves against it is because of the inconsistency between the Christian who pretends to do these things, and then in business affairs and in his home life he does just the opposite, and I apply to him that terrible title, "hypocrite," a sin condemned more vehemently by the

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Savior than any other excepting the great sins of adultery and murder.

I plead with the members of the Priesthood throughout the Church to practice self-mastery. That applies to prospective missionaries and to missionaries who are in the field. Be master of yourselves, master of your appetites, master of your passions. Husbands, wives, be as a light set upon a hill, that men seeing your good deeds and your good lives will glorify our Father in Heaven.

What was it that made the president of I suppose the greatest Drug Store chain in the United States say, "I choose the Mormon boys wherever I can get them." He has confidence in you. You will resist the temptation of taking any of his money. You will represent him in his business in giving returns for his investment. The poet has said:

It is easy enough to be pleasant
When life flows by like a song,
But the man worth while is the one
 who will smile,
When everything goes dead wrong.
For the test of the heart is trouble,
And it always comes with the years,
And the smile that is worth the praises
 of earth
Is the smile that shines through tears.

It is easy enough to be virtuous,
When nothing tempts you to stray,
When without or within no voice of sin
Is luring your soul away;
But it's only a negative virtue
Until it is tried by fire,
And the life that is worth the honor
 on earth
Is the life that resists desire.

By the cynic, the sad, the fallen,
Who had no strength for the strife,
The world's highway is cumbered today;
They make up the sum of life.
But the virtue that conquers passion,
And the sorrow that hides in a smile,
It is these that are worth the homage on
 earth
For we find them but once in a while.

—"Worth While,"
by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

I commend Bishop Wirthlin and Bishop Richards for their excellent messages to us on reverence, and as one of them said at the base of it all is this virtue of self-control, self-mastery. There is no whispering by parents during the administration of the Sacrament when they exercise this virtue. There is no whispering after entering the House of God. There is communion between the spirit, and the Spirit of the Lord. There is no whispering on the rostrum, because all preparation is made beforehand.

And children should know, though they want to play, that they have to resist it during the worshipping hour so they will not intrude upon the concentration and the spiritual communion of others.

God bless us that we may be true to the responsibilities given us directly from heaven. There is no use excusing it or modifying it, that is the truth, and the body of Priesthood listening in tonight, representing the hundreds of thousands who hold the Priesthood, carry the responsibility of setting an example to the whole world.

May God give us power to discharge our duties honorably and well—in our homes, in our business relationships, and especially in our association with leaders in the world who, seeing our characters, our leadership, may be influenced to lead many others of their members nationally under their control to favor acts and laws necessary that the missionaries, representatives of this Church may carry the Gospel to all the world. That is our duty—to teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things, whatsoever he has commanded, and he says, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

I leave my blessing with you, my dear fellow workers. Our hearts are full of pride—righteous pride—for the brotherhood exemplified last night by those young boys of the Aaronic Priesthood, and tonight by the tens of thousands of men holding the Melchizedek Priesthood.

I pray God to give us power, to enlighten our minds, quicken our understandings, give us good judgment under all conditions, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

Will Bishop S. E. Abbott call Boise 4-2906. We will excuse you right at this moment.

They report that in the Salt Lake Tabernacle tonight we have 7,085 present. I thought we had more. It is crowded to capacity. We should have counted those in the doorways. In the Assembly Hall and Barratt Hall we have 2,272; in the 139 groups reporting in, 29,046, or a total of 38,403 men in the Priesthood Meeting tonight.

We thank Brother Condie and members of the Choir for the excellent singing tonight. I do not know if we have had anything better than that second song which you gave us.

The Brethren of the Council of the First Presidency and the Twelve receive recommendations from you presidents of stakes every week about releasing bishops and recommending new bishops. Occasionally we have as a reason for releasing bishops, length of service. Sometimes that is a good reason, but other times it does not seem to the Brethren that it is a sufficiently valid reason to release a good bishop who has served perhaps only a few years—two or three or four years. Five years is sometimes considered quite a length of time. Some of you brethren who are past 70 will remember that bishops served 15, 20 and 25 years,

and were real leaders in their social and political circles, too.

Now, five years is quite a long time because the bishop in this day has more to do than a bishop had at that time. He has a lot of work, but don't release bishops just because they have had two or three years at it—five years, 10 years,—let's get up to 20. If you have a good bishop most of your troubles are over. Isn't that true? A bishop who uses his counselors wisely, who has an influence over the young people of the ward, who has an influence in business circles, I tell you, he exerts a good influence spiritually.

The Choir will sing, "Sweet Hour of Prayer," conducted by Richard P. Condie, after which Elder A. Lewis Elggren, formerly president of the Western States Mission, will offer the closing prayer.

The session at 10:00 tomorrow morning will be broadcast as a public service over television and radio stations throughout the West. The Tabernacle Choir broadcast will be from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. Those desiring to attend the Tabernacle Choir broadcast must be in their seats at 9:15 a.m.

We will now hear, "Sweet Hour of Prayer."

Singing by the Tabernacle Choir Men's Chorus, "Sweet Hour of Prayer."

The benediction was pronounced by A. Lewis Elggren, formerly president of the Western States Mission.

Conference adjourned until Sunday morning, October 12, at 10:00.

THIRD DAY

MORNING MEETING

(For a full report of the *Tabernacle Choir and Organ* broadcast, see pages 130-131.)

The Sunday morning session of the General Conference convened promptly at 10 o'clock, following the *Tabernacle Choir and Organ* broadcast, with President David O. McKay presiding and conducting the meeting.

The Tabernacle Choir furnished the choral music for this session, Richard P.

Condie conducting, Frank W. Asper at the organ.

President David O. McKay:

The Tabernacle Choir, under the direction of Richard P. Condie, with Frank W. Asper at the organ, will open these services by singing, "Hear My Cry, O God." The opening prayer will be offered by Elder Nathan Eldon Tanner, president of the Calgary Stake.