

Sunday, October 12

Third Day

wise, I may never have learned to know him so well." This mother remarked that a day or two later, her husband came to her and said, "You know, I think the world of John. I did not know he had it in him, but when I say to him, 'Tonight it is your turn to give the lesson,' you would be proud of John if you could hear him present the topic to the families that we teach. He is developing into one capable of going on a mission." I began to think what a lovely thing it is for a father and a son to become acquainted through one of the great programs of the Church—the ward teaching program.

Finally, I feel to say: "What is the objective of our Heavenly Father after all?" I should like to quote a passage of scripture that Brother Hinckley gave in his message last Friday. One of the Lord's objectives has been put in these words: "For behold this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man." (Moses 1:39.)

Brethren of the priesthood, we are the assistants of our Heavenly Father in helping him to achieve this great objective for the blessing and benefit of those who live upon the earth. When we magnify our callings in the priesthood to the extent that we are willing to put our arms around our brethren who need assistance and encouragement, we are strengthening the kingdom of God. If every man in the Church who holds the priesthood magnified his calling in that priesthood, we would go forward with a power the like of which this world has never seen before. Nothing could stay it.

Literally, we are engaged in our

Father's business. Have you ever thought of the impact of this statement, to be engaged in our Father's business? Many of us are engaged in a business or we work for men engaged in a business, but how many of the eternal blessings will come to us from our work in these businesses? Compare your business with our Father's business, and then thank the Lord that you have an opportunity of being engaged in his business. It is a tremendous responsibility and yet a wonderful opportunity.

I sincerely hope and pray we will always be found engaged in our Father's business, helping to carry his great message of glad tidings and peace on earth to the people of the world, and keeping active those who are members of his kingdom now established in the earth.

My testimony is that if we dedicate our lives to magnifying our calling in the priesthood and awake and arise to our opportunities, the work of our Heavenly Father will grow and prosper until no power can stay it. This is my conviction and my testimony to you. I pray that our Father in heaven will give us the deep and abiding appreciation for our membership in the Church and then nudge us all to serve as we have never served before, and I ask it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

We have just listened to Bishop Carl W. Buehner of the Presiding Bishopric. We will now hear from Brother Henry D. Taylor, Assistant to the Council of the Twelve. He will be followed by President Ernest L. Wilkinson of the Brigham Young University.

ELDER HENRY D. TAYLOR

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles

My dear brethren and sisters, after sitting for three days waiting to be called on to speak, it has been difficult for me to realize the great blessing that comes to him who endures to the end. My soul has been thrilled and deeply touched with the inspiration of this conference, and more than ever in my life I appreciate my membership in the

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

I would like my message today to be an expression of gratitude and appreciation for the privilege that has been Sister Taylor's and mine of laboring for the past three years with your sons and daughters in the mission field. It has been a glorious period in our lives, a

rich and rewarding experience. We love these young people.

The question is often asked, "Why does the so-called Mormon Church engage in such an active proselyting program?" Our answer is, "We have the truth and have not only the responsibility, but the urgent desire to share that truth with all the people who dwell here upon the earth. We have been warned; we have the responsibility of warning our neighbor."

Also in fulfillment of prophetic vision, the gospel message, which has been restored, must be carried to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. Young women and young men primarily constitute the army in excess of five thousand fulltime missionaries who are engaged in carrying the gospel message to the people of the earth in the forty-six missions of the Church. It is an inspiring experience to watch the growth and development that comes to these missionaries. They come from all walks of life, from the farm, from the cattle ranch, the sheep camp, from business and professional fields, students from the schoolroom, and many young men recently released from the armed services of our country. And yet regardless of where they are when the call comes from the President of the Church, they gladly respond. They are happy to be engaged in the work of the Lord.

Their parents share with them this great happiness, and support them financially and offer encouragement. These young men and young women go out into the world with little formal training. They are inexperienced, often immature, timid, lacking in confidence, and yet we find that their home training, activity in the priesthood quorums, auxiliaries, in the seminaries, is a wonderful blessing and advantage in preparing them to do missionary work. Through study, prayer, hard work, and the blessings of the Lord, these young people do grow and develop. They gain a knowledge of the gospel; confidence, power, and a maturity far beyond their years. They acquire a strong and burning testimony, and bear that testimony with such a fervency that it carries conviction to the hearts of the people they are teaching.

Certainly the methods of teaching the

gospel have changed over the years since many of us were in the mission field. We are currently using what is known as the Systematic, or Uniform Plan of teaching the gospel, where our beliefs are presented in a systematic, orderly fashion. This has proved an effective way of teaching the gospel, a noticeable increase in convert baptisms is a result of these improvements in methods.

Brethren and sisters, the Lord is blessing the missionary work. It is a stirring experience to sit in a meeting with the missionaries and hear them relate instances where they have been led by the Spirit of the Lord to certain doors. They have knocked on the door, introduced themselves, had the people greet them warmly and say, "Come in, we have been waiting for you to call. Why have you been so long in coming?"

I am acquainted with one fine woman whose husband passed away quite some time ago. She was deeply impressed with the beauty of one of our LDS temples. She had heard somewhat regarding our beliefs of a literal resurrection, our belief in a life hereafter, and wanted to know more concerning those concepts. One day upon arising from her prayers she began scanning through the telephone book in an attempt to discover the address of one of our LDS chapels. Just then a knock came on her door, and upon answering it she found two young missionaries there. They had been prompted by the Spirit to approach this home. Upon introducing themselves, they were invited in and commenced teaching that good woman the gospel, and she is now a faithful and devout member of the Church.

The time of a mission in the life of a young person is a time of dedication. It is a time of consecration. Young people are willing to forego worldly pleasures and concentrate on things of the spirit.

And now to you parents. I am confident that I represent all the mission presidents of the Church when I say to you, "Thanks for the encouragement that you give to your sons and your daughters, not only the financial assistance that you furnish them, but for

your love and your understanding." Your hearts would be warmed if you could sit in a testimony meeting and hear the young people stand, with tears in their eyes, and say, "I love my father and mother. I am grateful for the sacrifices that they are making that I might be here in the mission field. I neglected to express that love before I left home, but when I return that will all be changed. I shall always be grateful to them."

Missionary work is a wonderful unselfish work, and I would strongly urge that every young man in this Church set as an aim and a goal the filling of a mission; that he will live a clean and pure life so that when he reaches the required age his bishop and his stake president can recommend him for missionary service.

It has been pointed out that every member in the Church can and should be a missionary. We can do that, brethren and sisters, by setting proper examples, being good neighbors, keeping all the commandments. I have noticed in the various sessions of the conference groups of our young men and women who are wearing the uniform of the armed forces. Now you young brethren and sisters in the military service can be effective missionaries if you will remember that "actions speak louder than words." We know that you are confronted with many temptations, but if you will live the commandments you can be a shining example for your associates.

I have been impressed with the great number of young men that we have in the mission field today who were converted to the Church while they were in the military services, and that was through the efforts of their good companions, faithful Latter-day Saint boys. You can be good missionaries, brethren, if you will maintain the standards of the Church.

Now, brethren and sisters, what is the

message that the missionaries are teaching? In brief, it is this: that there is a Supreme Being. He is the Father of our spirits. He is our Father in heaven: That our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, is the Redeemer of this world, and through his atonement mankind is assured of salvation and has the possibilities of exaltation; that the gospel and the priesthood, which was taken from the earth due to the acts of men, has been restored, and Joseph Smith was the chosen prophet through whom the restoration was effected; that the Book of Mormon is true and was translated from ancient golden plates by power from on high to Joseph Smith; that prophets have succeeded Joseph Smith as Presidents of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; that President David O. McKay, the great presiding high priest, is a prophet, seer, and revelator, and holds all the keys and the powers that had been bestowed upon his predecessors.

I accept and subscribe to these teachings of the missionaries. I bear you my testimony and witness my brethren and sisters, that I do know they are true, and this I humbly do in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

We have just listened to Elder Henry D. Taylor, Assistant to the Twelve.

From every state in the Union and several foreign countries, from homes of members of the Church, come our sons and daughters to the Brigham Young University, probably the leading Church University in the world. I felt impressed to let you and all those listening in meet personally this afternoon the president of the Brigham Young University, Elder Ernest L. Wilkinson. He knew nothing about this, and was recently—a year or so ago—in the hospital with a heart attack. I hope this will not affect him in any way.

ELDER ERNEST L. WILKINSON

President of the Brigham Young University

I was once taught that if one wants to make a good off-hand speech he should have a good speech on hand,

but I am caught at this time totally unprepared.

It was just one hundred and fourteen