

Saturday, April 4

First Day

nowhere without money, so he betrayed his Lord for thirty pieces of silver. The sequence to that is that Judas hanged himself. I know a man who gave up his responsibilities in the Church in order to make money. As a result he is wealthy, and has become a power in the business world, but I now observe that he has lost his family and destroyed his chances and his opportunities for a place in God's kingdom. That is tragic, my brethren and sisters.

I know another man who gave up his position in a large business concern rather than give up his calling as a bishop. I loved that man. He died a year ago, but he left his widow enough for her care while she lives, and I have observed that his sons are recognized leaders in the business world. The Lord blesses devotion and faithful performance.

I have been reading just recently the life of Dr. Karl G. Maeser. Brother Maeser was a remarkable man. Somewhere in the book it tells about a group of missionaries who had met together in Meissen, Germany, the birthplace of Dr. Maeser. One of the missionaries made this remark: "Think what Dr. Maeser has done for the Church." Another responded promptly: "Think what the Church has done for Dr. Maeser." That remark offers a real suggestion. Have you ever stopped to think what the Church has done for you individually? How it has enriched your life? How it has given you courage and strength to go forward in your daily pursuits, and how it has brought you comfort in times of sorrow and distress? It is wonderful to belong to the Church.

Many of our leaders, past and present have made great contributions to the Church. I know men who have laid upon the altar every worldly possession they had for the gospel's sake.

They have gone into strange lands, sometimes far away from home and friends, to teach the gospel of the kingdom, and to explain God's revealed plan of salvation to others. Dr. Maeser, as I have read, was reared in an environment of culture and refinement. He associated with the elite in Germany. He had access to libraries. He was familiar with the best books of his day. His education was broad and varied, and included the study of music and art and several languages. God in his own way had prepared Dr. Maeser for his mission in the Church among the Latter-day Saints.

I can well imagine that it was difficult for Dr. Maeser to make the adjustment, yet I am sure that this good and great man did not complain nor compromise. He did not permit difficulties to obscure his vision of the truth. Brother Maeser had heard the voice of the Shepherd. That voice brought conviction to his soul. That conviction transformed his entire life, but whatever happened, confusion and uncertainty disappeared, and he stood for the first time on the solid foundation of faith in the True and Living God.

Brethren and sisters, may we appreciate our membership in this great Church. May we have the courage and the strength to devote ourselves unselfishly for the promotion of God's work among his children. That is our responsibility. It is our obligation, and may we not fail therein, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

He to whom we have just listened is Elder Alma Sonne, Assistant to the Twelve. Elder Spencer W. Kimball of the Council of the Twelve will now speak to us.

ELDER SPENCER W. KIMBALL

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

Beloved brethren and sisters, it is a joy to be back in this part of Zion. As the other brethren have mentioned their tours in foreign lands, my very recent memories were stirred. I bring to you

also the greetings of the thousands of members of the Church of all nationalities in South America.

Last Saturday and Sunday I was in Peru with various gatherings of Saints.

resurrection, an ascension, and now he had returned to the earth again.

As he went into the clouds and was received and absorbed by them after his forty days upon the earth, there were many standing looking up into heaven, and the angels stood by and said, "... Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11.)

After his appearance to the Nephites, it was a long time before he returned. He could not well return to a people who did not believe in him. He needed somebody who had a great, consuming faith, who would receive him as Jesus Christ, Redeemer, Savior, Son of God. That happened in a grove in New York State in the early part of the nineteenth century, and the same words were said again by a Loving Father, who had already delegated this particular work to a Glorified Son, and he said again to a young boy, "... This is my Beloved Son. Hear Him!" (Joseph Smith 2:17.)

You remember what Peter said when the disciples were asked, "... Whom do men say that I, the Son of man, am?" They spoke up and said men thought him to be Elias or one of the other prophets, and then the Lord said again, and I can imagine his piercing eyes, wondering and expectant eyes, "... But whom say ye that I am?" And the answer was one of the most stirring and glorious of all statements made, "... Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." And the next statement followed which must never be over-

looked: "... flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." (See Matt. 16:13-17.) In other words, man has not told you this, but my Father has revealed it unto thee, a great revelation has come unto thee, and ye *know* it.

I asked four hundred missionaries the Lord's question which faces every man, woman, and child on this earth: "Whom do ye say that I the Son of man am?" And I was gratified at the hundreds of replies from your sons and daughters, saying "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

And that is my testimony to you, my brothers and sisters, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

Elder Spencer W. Kimball of the Council of the Twelve has just spoken to us. The Congregation will now join in singing, "Redeemer of Israel," conducted by Brother Ralph Woodward. After the singing, Elder Levi Edgar Young of the First Council of the Seventy will speak to us.

The Brigham Young University Combined Choruses and the congregation joined in singing the hymn, "Redeemer of Israel."

President David O. McKay:

Elder Levi Edgar Young of the First Council of Seventy will be our next speaker. He will be followed by Bishop Carl W. Buehner.

ELDER LEVI EDGAR YOUNG

Of the First Council of the Seventy

I am happy to say something to my brethren and sisters on this occasion and I sincerely pray for their faith and prayers. We are all interested in the Christian world today. I have the honor of being a member of the American Christian Palestine Committee with the Reverend Bishop Moulton of the Episcopal Church to work for the redemption of Palestine, and its restoration. A few weeks ago we were asked to write about

the Constitution of the United States and what it means as a civic document. To us all, the Constitution of the United States is a very sacred document, and it has never been equaled in the history of the world.

I wish to read a paragraph written ages ago by a famous Greek orator whose name was Isocrates.

"The age in which we live should be distinguished by some glorious enter-