

Let me say that I had one experience—if you will forgive me for mentioning it, personally—but my stake was out in the country. President Faust who gave the opening prayer this evening is president of the Cottonwood Stake over which I once presided. And my work was in the city. My predecessor lived in the county, had plenty of time, and I doubt very much that he ever missed a funeral. He realized that it was an opportune time, when there is grief in the family, to show the interest of the Church in that hour of their bereavement, so he was very diligent, and I said to myself, "What in the world can I do? Here I am in court nearly every day."

Well, I had a stake clerk who lived there in the center of the city of Murray; he had a business; he knew everybody in the stake and had intimate contact with most of them in his store, so I said to him, "Will you please keep track of every funeral, every death in the stake?" And I was rather fortunate, because I had 400 high priests—it was one of the old stakes. I think there are thirteen or fourteen stakes now covering the same territory as the one did in the twenties.

And do you know that we would call upon one of those high priests to attend every funeral, to contact the family, to tell them they came as a representative of the stake presidency and the high council and brought their greetings and their sympathy? They would attend

the funeral and in most cases speak, and it was not uncommon for families in the stake to tell me that they were so happy that brother so-and-so had come representing us, that they were sure they got as much from him as they would have if the stake president had come himself.

But the important thing was that the work was done, and there was not a high priest who received that kind of call but what felt proud that his stake president would remember him and would call upon him to represent him.

That is true of ward teaching. Every ward teacher is a representative of the bishop. Think what a bishop can do if he puts all of his resources to work.

You know, in the early days of the welfare program, we had a picture of the bishop and his two counselors with their arms outstretched trying to hold up the meetinghouse or move it, and it presented an impossible situation. And the next film showed the entire priesthood of the ward under that meetinghouse, and they walked along with it and bounced it as they went, a relatively easy job.

Well, now, brethren, let us go forward in this priesthood work in the wards and in the stakes and see if we cannot touch every one of the lives that come under our presidency and touch them for good.

That the Lord will help us so to do, I pray humbly, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRESIDENT DAVID O. McKAY

As I listened to the very able presentation of the scholarly plan to correlate the studies of the priesthood and auxiliaries of the entire Church, I thought what is the end and purpose of all this? I visualized the fact that 30,000 or 40,000 men and boys in priesthood assemblies this night constitute an organization in the world with one great purpose in mind, and that is to fulfill or respond to the call that Jesus gave Nicodemus: "... Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." And Nicodemus wondered, he could not comprehend it. And Jesus

answered, "... Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (John 3:3, 5.)

In that first sentence, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God," we have the answer to the end and purpose of this great plan—to have our boys and our girls realize that there is a higher purpose in life than yielding to the pleasures and temptations of the flesh.

In our conference today we had a great sermon—two sermons in fact—on the Holy Ghost and what it means.

Saturday, September 30

Second Day

Associate with those words of Jesus to Nicodemus the words of Peter after he had been ordained and was guiding men of his associates to a higher life. He wrote on one occasion: "... that we might be partakers of the divine nature." (2 Peter 1:4.) He realized what it means to be in touch with the spiritual, to rise above the temporal, the sensual and partake of the divine Spirit of God.

Fellow men of the priesthood, that is the purpose of making us more capable of responding to the Spirit and subduing the sensual.

I am glad that Elder Lee referred to the ordaining of members of the First Council of the Seventy as high priests. There seem to be a number of men of the priesthood in the Church who are wondering about it, because they know that the Prophet said that what was going on in the early days of making high priests of seventies, was not in accordance with the will of God.

Do you know what they were doing? Before a man was ordained a member of the First Council of the Seventy he was ordained a high priest. This practice, the Prophet said, was not in accordance with the will of the Lord. It should be sufficient for you who have the Spirit of the Lord to know that the work today is required of those members of the First Council of the Seventy which needs the High Priesthood. They do not join the high priests' quorum, but they are sent out by the Council of the Twelve Apostles to set in order the Church in the stakes and missions, and they should be given authority to set apart a president of a stake, a high councilman, a bishop of a ward, which requires the High Priesthood.

The Lord has never said, nor has the Prophet Joseph, that that is against the will of the Lord. These men are sent out now to take care of 300 and some odd stakes, and they are given the authority as members of the First Council of the Seventy to attend to anything necessary in order to set in order the affairs of the stake and the ward, and that is in accordance with the will of the Lord.

The members of the First Council of the Seventy are now given the authority

of high priests to set in order all things pertaining to the stake and the wards, under the direction of the Twelve Apostles.

There come to my mind now the following words of the writer, John Dryden, which I think are applicable to the spiritual part of our work, getting the Holy Ghost, and rising above the temporal, selfish, envious things which are contrary to the calling of any high priest, seventy, elder, priest, teacher, or deacon in the Church:

"Dim as the borrowed beams of moon and stars to lonely, weary, wandering travelers, is reason to the soul." Notice that comparison—"Dim as the borrowed rays of moon and stars to lonely, weary, wandering travelers" (on the earth) "is reason to the soul. And as on high those rolling fires discover but the sky, not guide us here, so Reason's glimmering ray was lent, not to assure our doubtful way, but lead us upward to a brighter day."

That day is faith, a realization of the enjoyment of the Spirit of God. What the sun is to the earth, so that Holy Spirit is to man, and the 40,000 assembled tonight—or 30,000, whatever the number may be—are entitled—each individual is entitled to that glorious light of the Holy Spirit.

That is why we like to have every young man and every young woman utilize his or her time intelligently, usefully, to bring the soul in harmony with the spirit, that we all might be partakers of God's Spirit, partakers of his divine nature. That is the privilege, fellow workers, of all who hold the priesthood of God.

I think this has been a glorious meeting—one of the best, if not the best, ever held in the Church. There is a glorious future. Our minds have been led to visualize the opportunities of the priesthood, and to be true to the priesthood, to be loyal to it, that we might in our own little way, give to the world the spiritual message of the gospel of Christ. People are denying his divinity. Nations are now taught— young boys and babes of forty years ago are now men forty years of age, who, during those forty years have been taught that God does not exist; that

Christ was not an eternal being. Poor deluded men and women!

Your responsibility and mine, of everyone who holds the priesthood of God, is the responsibility of letting men see that light which is to the spirit what the vital sun is to the old earth, "not as borrowed beams of moon and stars," but as the sunlight of the Spirit.

God help us to discharge our responsibilities acceptably before him, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

We have a partial report of the attendance here on the Grounds. In the Salt Lake Tabernacle: 7,641. Assembly Hall and Barratt Hall: 2,210. A total on these two blocks of 9,851. Last October there were 9,911 on these Grounds. And in April, 1961, 10,778. The total tonight is about the same—9,851.

There is one more matter, brethren. I think that one of the greatest manifestations of faith and devotion that we have in the Church is the willingness of men and women to contribute of their time and their means to the erection of needed chapels—not only in stakes, but throughout the missions. We have reports from some of our stake presidencies and bishops of wards that move us to tears of the devotion of women, men, and children, and members of the Lesser Priesthood to their duties in erecting suitable chapels and furnishing them, as perhaps never before in the history of the Church.

But we have received word that some bishops are rather over-eager in asking these members of the Church to contribute beyond their means. In one case recently we heard of a bishop who visited a family and told them that their assessment was such and such an amount. They did not have it. The man had lost his work, and unfortunately one of their children was stricken with polio. And this unwise bishop said, "Well, we want to finish our building and get it out of debt. We recommend that you borrow the sum from the bank and pay your assessment."

I wish, and I am speaking for my associates in the Presidency and the Twelve, that such a thing as that would never happen in the Church. Con-

tributions to chapels, to ward maintenance, or free-will offerings are left entirely to members of the wards to do as best they can, and no officer should require any member to go to a bank to borrow his so-called assessment.

I have one or two matters here, but we shall not occupy more time tonight.

Keep the faith that is within you. Make your baptism into this Church real by burying the old life, with all its vanity, indulgence, jealousy, hatred, and rise from the waters of baptism in a newness of life, as Christ was raised from the grave. What a beautiful comparison! And in the newness of life let us, as men of the Priesthood, seek as Peter of old, to be a partaker of his divine spirit, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

The Male Chorus of the Tabernacle Choir will now sing, "I Need Thee Every Hour," conducted by Richard P. Condie. Elder Howard D. Knight, president of the Parowan Stake, will offer the benediction, after which this Conference will be adjourned until ten o'clock tomorrow morning.

Brother Condie, and brethren of the Choir, we thank you for your presence here tonight, and your inspiring music. We have said that before, but you are better tonight than ever. We have enjoyed you and thank you all.

The session at ten o'clock Sunday morning will be broadcast as a public service over television and radio stations throughout the West. The Tabernacle Choir Broadcast will be from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. Those desiring to attend the Choir Broadcast must be in their seats at 8:15 a.m.

As thousands leave this great Priesthood Meeting tonight, let us keep in mind the admonition that is constantly being given us to drive carefully. Let us have courtesy in the city and on the highway.

"I Need Thee Every Hour," and President Howard D. Knight of the Parowan Stake will offer the benediction.

The Male Chorus sang the hymn, "I Need Thee Every Hour."

President Howard Dean Knight of the