

come enslaved to a life of mediocrity, and the tragic fact about this is that not only are they entering into this deplorable condition, but they are probably going to take many of their children with them. If they could only foresee the opportunities and rewards that will pass them by because of their decision to be satisfied with a minimal preparation for life! It is essential that each person recognize that the responsibility for these decisions rests with himself. John Oxenham has written:

"To every man there openeth
A Way, and Ways, and a Way,
And the High Soul climbs the High way,
And the Low Soul gropes the Low;
And in between, on the misty flats,
The rest drift to and fro.
But to every man there openeth
A High way and a Low,
And every man decideth
The Way his soul shall go."

It is my earnest prayer that young men and young women everywhere will consider carefully before choosing their highway of life.

What a wonderful thing it would be if all young people of this generation decided that mediocrity would not touch their lives but rather that excellence in all things would be their ambition. John W. Gardner, president of the Carnegie Corporation, spoke of excellence in this way:

"The most important moral of all is that excellence is where you find it. I would extend this generalization to cover not just higher education but all education from the vocational high school to the graduate school. . . . We must learn to honor excellence (indeed to demand it) in every socially accepted human activity, however hum-

ble the activity, and to scorn shoddiness, however exalted the activity. . . . An excellent plumber is infinitely more admirable than an incompetent philosopher. The society which scorns excellence in plumbing because plumbing is a humble activity, and tolerates shoddiness in philosophy because it is an exalted activity will have neither good plumbing nor good philosophy. Neither its pipes nor its theories will hold water."

Freedom of choice is a basic principle of the gospel. This was true even before the earth was created. Each one of us has the divinely granted right to choose for himself. In choosing, we have the responsibility to use our intellect, which also has been given to us by our Heavenly Father. He has shown us the way; now it is our responsibility to choose which way we will go.

I bear you my testimony that God lives, that Jesus Christ, our Elder Brother, gave his life that we might live, and that he gave us the teachings which, if properly lived, will permit us to return to his presence. I also bear witness that President David O. McKay is a prophet of God, just as surely as Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, the instrument in the hands of the Lord in restoring the gospel in this latter day, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

Bishop Victor L. Brown of the Presiding Bishopric has just spoken to us.

Elder S. Dilworth Young of the First Council of Seventy will be our next speaker. He will be followed by our concluding speaker, Elder Marion G. Romney.

ELDER S. DILWORTH YOUNG

Of the First Council of the Seventy

About a year ago I was reading in the Doctrine and Covenants and came upon a verse of one of the sections. I suppose everybody has an experience of the type I had as I read. I think the Prophet had such an experience the day he read, "If any man lack wisdom let him

ask of God" (See James 1:5), for that scripture leaped at him; and so this one leaped at me. For a year or so I have been reading it off and on, contemplating it. Now I should like to read it to you, but first I should like to give it its framework.

Saturday, April 6

Second Day

Back in 1829 the Lord, through the Prophet Joseph Smith, said there would be appointed twelve disciples, which of course we know as apostles, and he appointed two of the three witnesses to choose them. And then he did a thing which to me is remarkable. He began to instruct the Twelve before they were chosen, and after having instructed them he then gave them this verse. In 1835 the Twelve were chosen, as you know, and on one occasion they were called together and given their instructions. Oliver Cowdery was the spokesman; and after having given them some very powerful and heartwarming instruction, so moved was he, himself, that he had to stop two or three times to weep. He finally read the revelation to which I refer and this verse.

Brigham Young was so impressed by it that he copied it in his laborious handwriting into his diary. I am impressed by it likewise. These are the words:

"These words are not of men nor of man, but of me; wherefore, you shall testify they are of me and not of man;

"For it is my voice which speaketh them unto you; (now this is six years later that they are hearing it) for they are given by my Spirit unto you, and by my power you can read them one to another; and save it were by my power you could not have them"; And this is the verse—"Wherefore, you can testify that you have heard

my voice, and know my words." (D&C 18:34-36.)

The thing that impresses me about this is, and I have never thought of it before, when I read a verse in the Doctrine and Covenants I am hearing the voice of the Lord as well as reading his words, if I hear by the Spirit.

Now I have heard it said many times by men that they have often asked the Lord for a special testimony and oftentimes haven't had it. They seem to want to hear the voice of the Lord. I confess I have often wanted to hear the voice of the Lord, without knowing that all these years I have been hearing it with deaf ears. This woke me up.

I can testify that, having read, I hear the voice of the Lord. I also testify to you that when you hear the Prophet, here sitting on the stand, speak by the voice of prophecy and by the spirit of the inspiration which possesses him, you also hear, through him, the voice of the Lord. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

Elder S. Dilworth Young of the First Council of Seventy gave that important long speech.

Elder Marion G. Romney of the Council of Twelve will be our concluding speaker.

ELDER MARION G. ROMNEY

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

Mis queridos Hermanos y Hermanas de los países donde se habla Español. Me da mucho gusto a veros aquí con nosotros esta día. Con todo corazón, muy bienvenidos.

To you who wonder, I have just greeted and welcomed our people from Latin America. My Spanish may not have been such as they could understand, but you are in no position to challenge my interpretation of it.

I love these, my brothers and sisters. To me they are white and delightful. And of course I love you, too.

Pursuant to assignment from the First Presidency of the Church, I have for the past two years been supervising the Latin American missions. It may not, therefore, be wholly inappropriate for me to say something about the Lamanites, many of whom live in these missions. With this intent, I take for my text the following statement made by the Lord to the Prophet Joseph Smith in March 1831.

"... before the great day of the Lord shall come, Jacob shall flourish in the wilderness, and the Lamanites shall