

Saturday, October 5

Second Day

“ . . . Joseph was irregular like all prophets of God, and I believe he was a prophet of God, in spite of any proven blunders that might be suggested on the part of his enemies.”

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“ . . . The Mormon church has something that the world needs, and ignorance of Mormon truth will not help us solve the problems of our national life.”

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“ . . . No two men in the religious history of America were hated like Joseph Smith and Brigham Young, but they had something the world needed in spite of any personal faults they might have had in life.”

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“ . . . It is high time that some honest scribe wrote about the importance of the truth that Joseph Smith and Brigham Young preached while being the most brutally opposed men in American religious life.”

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It is wonderful to note how the Lord is fulfilling his promise that he would bring his work forth out of obscurity and out of darkness.

To all who are listening to me this day, I say unto you, that God the Eternal Father has restored his Church and kingdom to the earth, that he has built his Church again upon the foundation of apostles and prophets with Christ our Lord as the chief cornerstone; and no matter what your faith may be, I promise you that if you will investigate and join this Church with sincerity of heart, that it will enrich your lives beyond anything that you could purchase with the wealth of this world. Hence, I repeat, the greatest thing in this world is to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all other blessings will be added. I prize my membership in his Church and kingdom above all other things I have in this world, even to my life itself. May God bless you all, I pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

Elder LeGrand Richards of the Council of the Twelve has just spoken to us. We shall now hear from Elder Eldred G. Smith, Patriarch to the Church.

ELDER ELDRED G. SMITH

Patriarch to the Church

One morning on my way from the parking lot to my office in the Church Office Building I stopped momentarily at the large excavation behind the building. A young man stepped over by me and asked what was going on. I told him it was the excavation for a large multistory church administration building. He replied as he turned and went down the street, “*That’s too much to spend on religion.*” Obviously he didn’t place much value on religion.

I’ve been thinking since then, *how much is too much?*

In this busy world, are we so concerned with other things that we have not time for God? We need to stop and ponder—Where are our values centered?

“There is something very remarkable about what we have to give under the

gospel plan,” said President J. Reuben Clark, Jr. “No matter how much we give of *truth, of good example, of righteous living, of our stores, of our blessings increase, not decrease* by that which we give away. . . .

“We are expected to give out of our store all that we possibly can give away, and in proportion as we give unto others, we become thereby more and more enriched ourselves.”

In serving our fellow men we are also serving God. As he has said, “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” (Matt. 25:40.) The more we serve, the more we are blessed. King Benjamin in addressing his people said, “I say unto you that if ye should serve him who has created you from the beginning, and is preserving

you from day to day, by lending you breath, that ye may live and move and do according to your own will, and even supporting you from one moment to another—I say, if ye should serve him with all your whole souls, yet ye would be unprofitable servants.

“And behold all that he requires of you is to keep his commandments; and he has promised you that if ye would keep his commandments ye should prosper in the land; and he never doth vary from that which he hath said; therefore, if ye do keep his commandments he doth bless you and prosper you.

“And now, in the first place, he hath created you, and granted unto you your lives, for which ye are indebted unto him.

“And secondly, he doth require that ye should do as he hath commanded you; for which if ye do, he doth immediately bless you; and therefore he hath paid you. And ye are still indebted unto him, and are, and will be, forever and ever; therefore, of what have ye to boast?” (Mosiah 2:21-24.)

Have you ever tried to get the Lord indebted to you? He has offered that challenge to you.

“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” (Mal. 3:10.)

We are indebted to God for our very life: the air we breathe, our sight, speech, hearing.

Typical of many other such cases is the lady who was born blind. Through the goodness of the missionaries who provided her with the Braille and talking records necessary to teach her the gospel, she became converted to the Church. She told me she had two sisters who had their sight, but she wouldn't trade places with either one of them. They had their sight, but they didn't see. She had the gospel and a testimony of its divinity, but they did not.

Another typical example is the man who was grateful for the accident which caused him to be paralyzed from the waist down. He said if it had not

been for the accident he would not have received the gospel. He had been too busy before to be interested in religion. After the accident he had plenty of time to think and set his values straight. Then the missionaries called on him. He accepted the gospel and now has been to the temple and had his wife and family sealed to him for time and all eternity, without which he wouldn't have his family after death. For this he was most grateful. *What price is too great for the blessings of exaltation and eternal life, and what is there in this world that is more precious than the gospel of Jesus Christ?*

In early days of the Church it was not uncommon for converts to be rejected by family and friends and forced to make a choice between loved ones and the gospel of Christ. They chose the gospel because it gave them a joy and security which could not be found in any other way. There are still some converts who are forced to make this choice. On the other hand, some of us who have been given blessings in such abundance have no time for God. Our search for wealth and riches means more to us, and we are sufficient unto ourselves. We no longer depend upon God.

The Lord has said in the section called the Word of Wisdom:

“And all saints who remember to keep and do these sayings, walking in obedience to the commandments, shall receive health in their navel and marrow to their bones;

“And shall find wisdom and great treasures of knowledge, even hidden treasures”; (D&C 89:18-19.)

How can one set a price on the “hidden treasure” of knowledge of the gospel of Jesus Christ?

And again the Lord has declared:

“And also all they who receive this priesthood receive me, saith the Lord; “For he that receiveth my servants receiveth me;

“And he that receiveth me receiveth my Father;

“And he that receiveth my Father receiveth my Father's kingdom; therefore all that my Father hath shall be given unto him.” (*Ibid.*, 84:35-38.)

What price is too high? Can you ap-

preciate the blessing which belongs to you priesthood holders to take your child in your arms in the congregation of the Church and give it a name and blessing, or to baptize and confirm the members of your family, or others who may be worthy?

Count your many blessings, see what God has done.

Someone has said, "True faith is that which teaches that things which matter most, should not be at the mercy of things which matter least."

Let us not be like the man in the parable Christ gave who filled his storehouses with the riches of the world. When they were filled to overflowing he said, "I shall tear them down and build greater." (See Luke 12:18.)

"But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: . . ." (*Ibid.*, 12:20.)

None of us knows when our soul may be required of us. *It may be later than we think.*

May we more fully appreciate the great and wonderful blessings which the gospel offers to us, and may we

show that appreciation by righteous living and service to our fellow men and unto God, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

Elder Eldred G. Smith, Patriarch to the Church, has just spoken to us. The Congregation will now join the Brigham Young University Chorale in singing "High On the Mountain Top," conducted by Elder Kurt Weinzinger.

Following the singing we shall hear from Elder Boyd K. Packer.

The Brigham Young University Chorale joined with the congregation in singing the hymn, "High On The Mountain Top."

President David O. McKay:

We shall now hear from Elder Boyd K. Packer, Assistant to the Twelve. He will be followed by Elder Bernard P. Brockbank.

ELDER BOYD K. PACKER

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles

Between sessions I was speaking to Brother Alma Sonne, whom I affectionately call my "big brother." He was the concluding speaker at this morning's session, and sensing some apprehension on my part about this moment, he said: "Don't worry, little brother. I promise you this: There is a good spirit when you get up there." And I confess that I am totally dependent upon that good spirit and plead with the Lord for his blessings during the few moments allotted me here at this pulpit.

Some time ago I stood at the bedside of an aged little Danish woman. She was near the close of her life. There was a serenity and anticipation, even a beauty about her as she talked of what soon would be. There stood with us her middle-aged son, a pathetic figure. He had lost his wife and family through self-indulgence and for the past number of years had been living at

home with his aged mother. Tearfully he pleaded, "Mama, you can't go. Mama, you've got to live. Mama, you can't die."

Now, as the last person who seemed to care much for him at all was about to go home, his pleadings became almost frantic as he demanded, "Mama, you can't go." And then he said with emphasis, "Mama, I won't let you go."

I shall not forget. The little mother looked up at her son, and in her broken Danish accent she said, "But vher iss yoa powah?" It is to her question, "Where Is Your Power?" that I would speak.

Her son had brought no honor to the family name. As a father he had failed. How sharper than a serpent's tooth is failure such as this! I address my remarks to every father who has a son—not to the exclusion of fathers who have daughters only, for much of