

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

what I say will suit them, too—but pointedly to every man who has a son to carry on his name.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is a family-centered Church. I bear fervent, solemn witness that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was divinely instituted; that there stands at the head of this Church today a prophet of God, and that the program of the Church is ordered by revelation from on high. In the Church there is reverence for family relationships. Family relationships are sacred. The family is eternal.

I speak to the father simply in recognition of his place at the head of the home. Recently a priesthood home teaching program was inaugurated in the Church. It reaffirms to every father his responsibility. It brings to every father new opportunity.

The responsibilities of fatherhood cannot be delegated to social agencies, nor even to the Church, for a father may unwittingly erase all of the good effects of those outside the home who seek to build for him a worthy son.

Parents frequently call upon the General Authorities of the Church and anxiously argue that we are the last hope to rescue a wayward son or daughter. They seek a blessing we cannot always bestow, for often we find it is the parent and not the child that needs reproof. How wise was the prophet when he said:

“. . . The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge.” (Ezek. 18:2.)

One cannot, I repeat, escape the obligation of fatherhood. The father who neglects his son may suffer the condemnation that the Lord placed upon the Prophet Eli when he said:

“For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.” (1 Sam. 3:13.)

I would remind you that the father is first of all a husband, and essential to rearing of fine stalwart sons is proper regard for the wife and the mother of the family. O how important it is for a son to have a proper relationship with

his father and with his mother, and for him to know that his father and his mother live together in love. There are some hideous things that can happen to a boy—ugly, abnormal, perverted things. A proper parental pattern is the greatest insurance against tragedy such as this.

The Prophet Jacob, in accusing wayward fathers of his day, said:

“Behold, ye have done greater iniquities than the Lamanites, our brethren. Ye have broken the hearts of your tender wives, and lost the confidence of your children, because of your bad examples before them; and the sobbings of their hearts ascend up to God against you. . . .” (Jacob 2:35.)

If the father does not honor the priesthood he holds, rest assured that the son will do more than duplicate the inactivity. He will likely magnify the mischief he sees in you, father. Fortunately, the same may be true of your virtue and activity also.

Give careful, prayerful, conscious thought and consideration to your family. Do not bury your life in merely providing a living. Many men play the role of fatherhood just by ear. They only react to what is, rather than to strive with conscious, prayerful effort for what ought to be.

A necessary and important discovery with reference to a boy is that he is an individual. Boys must be taught to work, but boys are not miniature men, and the Lord has urged:

“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” (Eph. 6:4.)

A boy is not born to know that his father loves him. He must be told and shown and shown and told a thousand times or more. A father must be wise and patient, but most of all he must be consistent, and his expectations must be reasonable. For as the poet said:

“What unjust judges fathers are, when in regard to us they hold
That even in our boyish days we ought in conduct to be old.
Nor taste at all the very things that youth and only youth requires;

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They rule us by their present wants,
not by their past long-lost desires."
(Terence—*The Self-Tormentor*,
Act I, Scene 3,
F. W. Ricord's Trans.)

Recently in California a church leader described a lecture he had given his children. He had forcefully affirmed to them how he had been self-sufficient as a youth, how dependable he had been, how hard he worked. His tiny daughter brought him back to earth by saying, "Daddy, when you were a little baby, did you fix your own bottle?"

Where is your power to rear children to bring honor to your name? Each father would do well to recognize that he is himself a son. This is true in an eternal way. It is my testimony that the word "father" in the scriptures means father; that we have a child-parent relationship with God; that we were created in his image; that we are his children, and each one of us, particularly those who hold the priesthood, will one day have to answer to him.

The late President George Albert Smith once lay critically ill. Those close to him despaired of his life. He later recorded: "One day, under these conditions, I lost consciousness of my surroundings and thought I had passed to the other side. I found myself standing with my back to a large beautiful lake, facing a great forest of trees. There was no one in sight, and there was no boat upon the lake or any other visible means to indicate how I might have arrived there. I realized, or seemed to realize, that I had finished my work in mortality and had gone home. I began to look around, to see if I could not find someone. . . ."

" . . . soon I found a trail through the woods which seemed to have been used very little, and which was almost obscured by grass. I followed this trail, and after I had walked for some time and had traveled a considerable distance through the forest, I saw a man coming toward me. I became aware that he was a very large man, and I hurried my steps to reach him, because I recognized him as my grandfather. . . ." (I say parenthetically here

that his grandfather was George A. Smith, First Counselor to President Brigham Young.) President Smith continues: "I remember how happy I was to see him coming. I had been given his name and had always been proud of it.

"When grandfather came within a few feet of me, he stopped. His stopping was an invitation for me to stop. Then—and this I would like the . . . people never to forget—he looked at me very earnestly and said:

"I would like to know what you have done with my name."

"Everything I had ever done passed before me as though it were a flying picture on a screen—everything I had done. Quickly this vivid retrospect came down to the very time I was standing there. My whole life had passed before me. I smiled and looked at my grandfather and said:

"I have never done anything with your name of which you need be ashamed."

"He stepped forward and took me in his arms, and as he did so, I became conscious again of my earthly surroundings. My pillow was as wet as though water had been poured on it—wet with tears of gratitude that I could answer unashamed."

This vision or dream of President Smith reminds each of us of the responsibility we bear with reference to the name that has been given us. We have taken upon ourselves the name of Christ and have entered into a covenant to remember him always and to keep the commandments which he has given us, and in consequence of keeping the commandments there comes a promise that we shall have his Spirit to be with us.

Our measure will not depend on academic degrees or political preference or property or influence so much as simply how we lived at home. To be a worthy father is to be a faithful son. The formula for either is the same.

Where is your power? It is in the power of example. Where is your power to raise sons to do honor to your name? It is in the power of the priesthood.

In closing I quote a few lines from Jane Terry written to teachers, applicable to fathers who are the teachers of their sons:

"You are called to be true under-shepherds,
To keep watch o'er the lambs of the fold;
"And to point out the way to green pastures,
Of more value than silver or gold.

"Unto you are entrusted the children
Priceless treasures from heaven above,
You're to teach them the truth of the Gospel
Let them bask in the warmth of your love.

"Do you ask for the help of our father
In teaching his children so dear?
Do you put forth a true, honest effort?

Is your message impressive and clear?

"Are you living a worthy example?
Is your character what it should be?
When the children have gathered
around you,
Can you say, 'Come, follow me'?"

"Earnest effort is always rewarded,
Righteous lives are inspiring to all,
You can render your thanks to our Savior,
By making the most of your call."

In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

Elder Boyd K. Packer, Assistant to the Twelve, has just spoken to us. Elder Bernard P. Brockbank, also an Assistant to the Twelve, will now speak to us. He will be followed by Elder S. Dilworth Young.

ELDER BERNARD P. BROCKBANK

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles

Brothers and sisters, it is always a joyful and honored occasion to look in the faces of so many priesthood bearers, to be in the presence of our prophet, twelve apostles, and so many fine people desiring to enjoy and know the spiritual things of life.

I would like to just mention that in the passing of President Henry D. Moyle, working so close with him in the mission field, I learned to appreciate his great strength and his power and his interest in taking the gospel to every soul. He knew no limit, and he always had an open door to everyone. He always had time for the right things. I have never experienced an individual like President Moyle, a man of leadership, capacity, and strength, and with so many varied interests.

Also working in the mission field with President Tanner, I used to marvel at how he could make so many interviews. I am sure that he tired the same as the rest of us, but it never seemed to show. Courage and strength—he has only one real desire and interest and that is to further the work of the Lord.

It was good to share missionary blessings and to have friendship with these two great missionaries.

I enjoy reading the scriptures. You know, they seem to have quite a human touch. You remember Peter saying after the Savior's resurrection, and in his absence, "I go a fishing." (John 21:3.) That is just about as brief as you can put it. The Savior appeared while Peter and the disciples were fishing. After the Savior had shown them how to catch fish by casting their nets under his direction—casting the net under his counsel and his guidance—that is the way to fish. He taught them how to be fishers of men, to cast their nets under the direction of the Savior. I would like to take the next part of this great message that the Savior left with Peter on how to be an effective missionary. This was now the third time that Jesus showed himself to his disciples after that he was risen from the dead. Jesus saith to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?"

These scriptures are well known to