

Sunday, April 5

Second Day

mother sprinkling vile oaths through her speech. You shudder to think of such a thing, but by the very laws of decency, it is no worse for them to do it than for you.

Speech Reflects Mind and Heart

The writer of Proverbs in referring to man declares: "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." (Prov. 23:7.) What is in our hearts and minds is reflected in our speech.

A person who is striving to pattern his or her life after that of the Savior will be pure in thought and action. His or her speech will then be clean, dignified, and worshipful. Jesus said: "... out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." (Matt. 12:34.) And "... thy speech bewrayeth thee," declared someone to Peter, one of the Savior's Apostles. (*Ibid.*, 26:73.) And a heart that is full of goodness, will utter good and kind thoughts through well-chosen words, the symbols that represent one's thoughts.

Now a word of encouragement to you, my young friends of the Church and the world: Make your speech pure and warm and dignified, devoid of vile-ness and profanity. Let it be of such a nature and character that the world will be attracted to you because of it. Make the Lord Jesus Christ your ideal and pattern after his speech and his ways. And as surely as you do this, he will magnify you and make you mighty before your fellow men, which I promise you, and I testify unto you that God lives, that the gospel is true, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

President N. Eldon Tanner:

We have just listened to Elder Henry D. Taylor, Assistant to the Twelve. Elder Victor L. Brown, second counselor in the Presiding Bishopric, will now speak to us, and he will be followed by Elder Spencer W. Kimball of the Council of the Twelve.

BISHOP VICTOR L. BROWN

Second Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric

A. B. Wells describes an experience she had one time: "The great overland bus came to a stop. I looked out of the window to see the fringe of a small town. On the other side of the highway, pastureland stretched in many rolling acres. Cattle nibbled at the grass made green by recent rains.

"Suddenly, I turned from that peaceful scene to see the reason for our stop. One lone passenger entered. The young man, hesitating a bit, looked shyly around. Noting the vacant place beside me, he asked haltingly, 'Do you mind if I sit here?'

"'Not at all,' I answered, 'I like company when I travel. Do sit down.'

"He removed his cap and slid into the seat. After a moment he inquired, 'Going far, lady?'

"'Only as far as Fort Worth, that is my home,' I replied. 'We will be there in a little less than an hour.'

"'Think of that,' he said, with a seeming air of relief. 'I've been hoping I'd run into someone from there. Don't

know much about the place; I grew up on a ranch far out beyond where I boarded the bus. I'm on my way to Fort Worth, but I don't know how to find the school, once I am there.'

"'What school is that? Maybe I can help you,' I said.

"'It's that real big school; college, I guess you would call it.' Then he went on gravely, 'You see, I'm just out of the Army, and I'll get to start school. Servicemen can go, you know, and Uncle Sam pays for it.'

"'You will be a student at Texas Christian University?' I asked.

"Attitude Test"

"'Oh, I don't know just where they'll send me, but I'm all excited over having the chance to go at all. You see I didn't have much schoolin' as I grew up. But before I get started anywhere I have to go to the Fort Worth School, an' take what they call an 'attitude' test. After I take it, they will know where to send me.'

"'Poor dear,' I mused, 'he means *aptitude*, but I can't embarrass him by explaining.'

"After a short silence he asked enthusiastically, 'Ain't it wonderful what they are doing for us guys—sending us to school?'

"'Well,' I suggested, 'the government feels that you did a lot for your country; it is the least the country can do for you.'

"'Maybe,' he drawled, 'but what's fighting a few battles amount to, if a fellow can get educated? I'm getting the big end of the deal, lady. I've made up my mind to study real hard. I don't want Uncle Sam's money thrown away on me.'

"'Later, we stood in the Fort Worth bus station. In his shirt pocket was the slip of paper on which I had written the directions for finding the school that was to give him his '*attitude*' test.

"'With a strong calloused hand he gripped mine. 'Thanks a million, ma'am; I feel like I am already on my way to gettin' that schoolin'. Ain't it wonderful?'

"'As I settled myself and my bags in a taxi, I began to review in my mind the gratitude and enthusiasm displayed by the prospective student. 'Why,' I thought, 'he has the priceless ingredient for success—a right attitude. Perhaps he used the correct word after all!'" (*Sunshine Magazine*, September 1963.)

With this kind of attitude, this young man will climb to the pinnacle of success. Without it, he could fumble along, living a life of mediocrity.

What kind of attitude do we have? What would happen if we were to take an *attitude test*? May I suggest that each one of us review his attitude. What motivates us into doing the things we do? Are we really happy and enthusiastic about life or is it somewhat of a bore?

"Count Your Blessings"

Dr. C. H. Baylor, assistant medical director of The Texas Company, says that whether one is happy or unhappy is largely a matter of either remembering or forgetting to count one's blessings along the way of life. He lists some of the most common unhealthy thinking

habits, which, of course result from *attitude*:

First, to forget the many good things in life you have and overemphasize the few things you lack.

To think that money is more important than it actually is.

To think that you are indispensable. To think that you have too much to do.

To think that you are exceptional or entitled to special privileges.

To forget that a sense of responsibility is essential to a democratic society.

To forget others.

To cultivate a pessimistic outlook. To feel sorry for yourself.

Let's take this last one: to feel sorry for yourself. I suppose that almost everyone in this world has one problem or another. As a matter of fact, someone has said that if we should gather all of the problems that we have into a great pile and then be permitted to take back the one we would like to have, we would probably take back our own.

Whether we are bowed down with sorrow and gloom or whether we face each day with a smile depends upon our *attitude*. Let me tell you about a young woman who had a problem and yet she greeted each day with a smile.

This young woman was a high school student, happy, vivacious, loved life. One day, the doctors informed her that it would be necessary to amputate her leg because of cancer. This was done. She went back to school on her crutches, still full of life, loving every minute of it, and then she was informed that her operation had been unsuccessful and that her life was drawing to a close very rapidly.

Now, this young woman's attitude could have been one of bitterness toward everything in life, but rather, she was an inspiration to her family and her friends because of her wonderful attitude. In her own words, she said, "I am thankful for the many blessings I have received throughout my life and for my wonderful parents and family. I am especially thankful for this wonderful gospel and for those who give their time to teach it to us. I truly appreciate the teachers I have had in Sunday School, Primary, and MIA."

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And she goes on, "Before my operation, I prayed that my leg might be saved. The Lord told me no, and afterward I thought how selfish and earthly my prayer had been. I could only see the present, and it certainly didn't seem that there could be anything for the best by losing a leg. The Lord can see much more, and he has the best interests of our whole future and eternity in mind."

This was the attitude of a teenager, a lovely girl who had the full knowledge that her life was almost over. She had no way of knowing how far-reaching her glorious attitude would be in helping others improve theirs.

Child of Unusual Talents

Let me tell you about some friends of mine who responded to this test so wonderfully. Just fourteen years ago, they were blessed with their firstborn, a son whom they named Carl. They were living in Germany at the time. Carl's father was a member of the Armed Forces of the United States. They were later transferred to the United States and subsequently moved from one Army post to another. As little Carl began to grow, it became obvious that he was a child of unusual talents. At the age of five, he was able to transpose some of the simple pieces of music from the major to the minor key. At the age of eight, he sang the male lead in the school Christmas musical opposite a girl in the fifth grade. He began to compose his own musical scores and played in a number of concerts. He became a Cub Scout. He won two blue ribbons in the "Pine-wood Darbies." He played football with his school team. At the age of eleven, he won the outstanding scholastic award at his school in Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. He composed several short symphonic pieces and some concertinas. He finished reading the Book of Mormon before his eleventh year. He finished reading the Doctrine and Covenants, the Pearl of Great Price, and almost finished the Bible before he was twelve years of age.

He was ordained a deacon in the Aaronic Priesthood on his twelfth birthday. As his father said, "He looked

upon the honoring of the priesthood as a sacred duty and an opportunity second to none."

About six months after Carl was ordained a deacon, it was found that he was afflicted with an inoperable cancerous brain tumor. He was taken to one of the finest hospitals in the entire country in Washington, D.C. It was finally determined that medical science was unable to help him further.

At this time, Carl recognized the seriousness of his illness and the possibility that it might be fatal to him. He refused to be sorrowed by this knowledge and was anxious to pursue all the learning he could get.

He was tutored at home by a most wonderful teacher and was very well along in his eighth grade studies before the disease incapacitated him.

Here was a young man not quite thirteen years of age, endowed with exceptional talent, whose attitude was an inspiration not only to his family but also to all who knew him. As his father said, "After Carl finally understood the seriousness of his illness, he refused to be sorrowed by this knowledge and was anxious to pursue all the learning that he could get."

And what was the attitude of Carl's parents? Their eldest son, the joy of their lives, a boy with brightest of prospects for life taken from them just before his thirteenth year!

Thankful for Thirteen Years

What bitterness could have enveloped them. They could have taken the attitude that the Lord was unjust. They had lived good lives. Why did this have to happen to a boy with such bright prospects? But rather, this was their attitude, in their own words: "We shall be eternally grateful for the thirteen wonderful years that we were privileged to have him in our midst. We know that we are blessed in the knowledge that we are sealed as an eternal family. We know that Carl was preparing to fill a mission. We know that he was prepared for that mission and that he is now filling it." No self-pity here, but rather an attitude of faith and hope and optimism, even under the most trying of circumstances!

Attribute of Spirituality

There are many who could tell just such stories, many whose attitude has carried them and their loved ones through dark pathways into the sunlight. To each of them I express gratitude. They are in very deed an inspiration.

I bear you my witness that God lives and that his Son Jesus Christ is directing this, his work, through our great President and his servant, David O.

McKay, and that if we will develop the right attitude toward the Master and his teachings, we will be privileged to return to his presence, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President N. Eldon Tanner:

He to whom you have just listened is Bishop Victor L. Brown of the Presiding Bishopric. Elder Spencer W. Kimball of the Council of the Twelve will be our concluding speaker.

ELDER SPENCER W. KIMBALL

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

My brothers and sisters and friends the world over, we bring you greeting:

As members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, we declare in all solemnity the reality of God the Eternal Father and his Son Jesus Christ, as like as any father and son, yet distinct individuals. On more than one occasion the Christ has made known that a knowledge and acquaintance with God is basic to exaltation.

"This is eternal lives—to know the only wise and true God, and Jesus Christ, whom he hath sent. I am he." And then his command: "Receive ye, therefore, my law." (D&C 132:24.)

Neither the Father Elohim nor the Son Jehovah would alienate himself from the children of men. It is they, the men, who cut themselves off if there be estrangement. Both the Father and the Son would gladly commune and associate with men. But men must be Godlike, pure, and perfected to attain such stature. Even with this high degree of worthiness, men must still be protected from the brilliance and glory of the heavenly personages.

Prize of Great Worth

If I were to tell you that in your own back yard you could find an acre of diamonds, would you ignore the suggestion and take no trouble to search? Today, I am telling you that in easy reach there is a prize of inestimable worth. Diamonds can buy one food and shelter. Diamonds can sparkle and glitter. Diamonds can embellish and decorate. But the prize which is within

your grasp is more brilliant than jewels. It will not tarnish nor be subject to market trends. I speak of the greatest gift—the gift of eternal life. It may not be obtained through mere wishing; it cannot be purchased with money; hopeful wishing will not bring it, but it is available to men and women the world over. There have been long periods of history when the total truth was not immediately available to the inhabitants of the earth. But in our day, the whole eternal program is here and can carry men to exaltation and eternal life all the way to Godhood.

Jeremiah declared:

"For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water." (Jer. 2:13.)

And Amos predicted:

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord:

"And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it." (Amos 8:11-12.)

Spiritual Famine Ended

After centuries of spiritual darkness, described by Amos and Jeremiah, we solemnly announce to all the world that the spiritual famine is ended, the spiritual drought is spent, the word of the Lord in its purity and totalness is