

to greater church activity. On the other hand, we see frequent examples of selfishness being built up in the hearts of children as the reward program is carried to excess by unthinking parents who give too freely to their children and keep giving and giving and giving.

All should be sensitive to duty. We are a part of society, a social organization or a religious group, and as such we have an obligation to the group, not always at our personal convenience. We are sometimes moved to good works simply because it is our duty to do so, and a God-given conscience will not let us rest until our duty is done. We should feel very sorry for people without conscience. It is a manifestation of selfishness, in my opinion.

But first and foremost, at the top of the list, second to none, brethren, is that motivation which is love. "If ye love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15.) Obedience will always be the result of love. It is an eternal principle. More love in our hearts increases our capacity for love and, consequently, greater devotion and an even greater degree of obedience. And after we are more obedient, we have greater capacity for love and on it goes like an endless spiral upward, terminating in the presence of our Heavenly Father.

My final plea tonight is to all youth of the Aaronic Priesthood and concerns one of the most important of God's commandments. It was given to the children of Israel and has never been set aside nor altered through the ages. "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." (Exod. 20:12.) This is

our duty. Our spiritual Father has spoken out of his love for us. And as we do our duty and keep this commandment the very process of honoring our parents will promote a love and affection that will eventually replace the duty aspect and bring an eternal love into the family circle.

An unkind word of disrespect to a parent is incompatible with the priesthood. If such has been the case, we must seek help from the Lord in fervent prayer to overcome a tendency that, if continued, will assuredly stand between us and the ultimate presence of the Lord.

Now, what about the promise associated with this commandment, "... that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee"? (*Idem.*) This is not only a promise of a maximum mortal span but an eternal promise as well. President Joseph Fielding Smith made it very clear yesterday morning that this earth upon which we live will be celestialized. May we not then logically conclude, brethren, that as we honor our mothers and our fathers, we can also think in terms of living on this goodly land forever and ever, provided the other areas of our lives are worthy of a celestial reward. That we might stay long upon the land that God has given us, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President Hugh B. Brown

Elder Jay Welch, Assistant Choir Chorister, will now lead the Chorus and the congregation in singing one verse of "Do What Is Right," after which President Nathan Eldon Tanner will address us.

PRESIDENT NATHAN ELDON TANNER

Second Counselor in the First Presidency

Brethren, it is truly a great privilege for each and every one of us to meet with the priesthood. I suppose that tonight we have the largest gathering of the priesthood ever recorded in the history of the world—gathered in different places to hear the messages that have been given to us here tonight.

Acknowledgement of Importance of Home

I thought what beautiful messages and instructions we have received and scriptures have been quoted to let us know what our responsibilities are as priesthood holders and members of fami-

lies. And as I listened to President McKay's message to us tonight, I thought of all the work that he has done and the progress he has made, and though he is loved by everyone and respected by everyone regardless of race or creed, he says, through his son tonight, that he gives great credit for that to his family and the teachings that he received in the home.

Priesthood, the Power of God

I am happy to face this body of priesthood tonight and ask you this question: Do you really believe and appreciate the fact that the priesthood which you hold is the power of God, delegated to you to act in his name in the things which you are directed to do when you are ordained to the priesthood you hold and the office therein?

Brethren, if we did nothing more than answer that question and leave the buildings in which we are meeting tonight with a determination that we would keep the covenants we made when we were ordained to the priesthood and let our lives be lives of example to our children, to one another, and to the world, our gathering would be very, very profitable indeed.

Every father present and listening in was a boy who held the Aaronic Priesthood not long ago and the boys that are listening in tonight—these young men who gave us such beautiful talks—will be holding the Melchizedek Priesthood in a very few years and occupying the seats and the offices, carrying the responsibilities that are being held by every man in this building and in the buildings in which you are gathered tonight, even as the President of the Church.

Fathers are for Sons to Imitate

What a wonderful thing to think about, brethren. And it is because of the priesthood which you hold. The future and success of these boys, these young men who hold the Aaronic Priesthood, depend on the way their fathers live and the way the boys determine to live, what they determine they want out of life. I want to tell you, brethren, they want to be like their dads. Some would like

their dads to be better, but they still want to be like their dads.

I received a letter from a missionary just the other day, and he said, "I wish you would take time to go and talk to my dad. See just how he feels about the Church. See if he can be ready to go to the temple when I get home." Now his dad is proud to have him in the mission, very happy to support him there, but for some reason he is not prepared to do what he agreed to do, to keep the covenant he took upon himself when he was ordained as an elder in the Church.

We as a group have responsibilities in the home, and I would like to emphasize that tonight. I haven't time to preach to you, for which I am sure you are glad, but I would like to give you two or three experiences, and I hope you don't mind my using my own family. I am going to give you three experiences that we actually had in home night programs, taken from three different families of my daughters and their husbands. The last one I am going to mention first.

Pray Away from Home?

When we were at Waterton Lake this summer, with Grandpa and Grandma there, we had two or three families together. Do you know what those kids wanted to do? They wanted to have family night, and we did. One of the boys who is a deacon was asked to take charge, because their fathers were absent and he was the only deacon there in that group and there was no one who held higher priesthood. But in the discussion the one boy said, "What should you do when you are out with young fellows camping or with a group out away from home fishing or anything of the kind, and when you go to bed you want to pray?"

Someone suggested, "Well, you might go outside and pray, outside the tent. Or if you're in a home, or a building where there is a bathroom, you might go in the bathroom and pray."

Another one said, "Well, couldn't you go to bed and pray?"

One of the girls of the same age spoke up and said, "Why can't you pray where they are?" She said, "I have been out with a group of girls, and I have prayed

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with those girls there. All the girls pray, at least they did when I was with them. They knelt down and prayed when I did."

I thought there was a very fine answer, and I would like to give my experience, in addition to that. I have never found it embarrassing after the first time I knelt down to pray where other men were associated. But more than once I have seen men kneel down when I knelt down, or when I got up, I found them kneeling down offering prayer. I am as sure as I am that I stand here that every man wherever he may be, though he doesn't pray regularly would, if he found himself in very great danger or emergency, be glad to call upon God. We need not apologize for being one who calls on the Lord and knows he stands ready to answer our prayers.

Prepare to be a Missionary

Another home night—this time we had all the families together—and this is regarding a boy from another family. He was seventeen years of age. We had each one participate one way or another. We held a little discussion. But when we came to this young man, he said, "Grandpa, do you think it would be all right for me to give the First Discussion tonight?"

I said, "I think it would be fine."

He said, "Well, I have the material here and I would like this family to be the investigators, and I would like to give the First Discussion."

Seventeen years of age, and he did it beautifully! Why? Because his family had set out to teach him that he should be prepared to go on a mission. Now there is a great difference, brethren, in being prepared to go on a mission and being given the idea you should go on a mission. There is some social pressure there when you try to make someone feel that he should fill a mission because everybody is going on a mission. The President says you should go on a mission, and it is the proper thing for a boy to do. But it is most important that our boys prepare to go and fill honorable missions, realizing that they are going out as ambassadors of the Lord and not just to be like other boys.

Prepare for the Best!

I have heard parents say to their daughters, "Now you be sure that you get the right kind of husband. Don't ever marry anybody that isn't worthy of you." Well, I don't know whether my philosophy is good or not, but we have five daughters, and I said to those girls, "You be sure you are prepared for the best man you can get. That's the thing I want you to do, girls—be prepared to be the kind of mother you should be, the kind of wife you should be, the kind of member of the Church you should be—so that you are worthy of the best man available, and you will be much more likely to get that right kind of husband."

Another little example of how another one of the families is preparing. The two older boys were thirteen and fourteen when this incident took place. The mother arranged to get the phonograph records of the Book of Mormon. She said to these two boys, "Now look, here is a Book of Mormon for each one of you. We will play these records and you read the Book of Mormon while the record is playing. And when you finish this, if you finish it by a certain time, I will give you each ten dollars with the understanding that half of that ten dollars goes into your missionary fund."

The Book of Mormon as Preparation

I think that mother is preparing her boys to go on missions. She is using the time profitably. It gives them an opportunity to discuss the Book of Mormon and for them to read it while they listen to it being read beautifully. As she reported on it, she said how profitable it had been to the boys and the whole family. The other children wanted to do the same thing when they heard the older boys. What a wonderful thing it is to teach the gospel to your children.

President Joseph Fielding Smith told us yesterday that his father gave him a copy of the Book of Mormon and asked him to read it, and he did read it, and it was very helpful to him. See how far he has gone in the Church, and now he is accepted as one of the greatest authorities of the scriptures.

I want to tell you, President Smith, when I was presiding over the West European Mission and attended a con-

ference here, you pleaded with all of us to read the Book of Mormon, and I went home and read the Book of Mormon. You asked us to do it before Christmas, and I did it before Christmas. I didn't have much to do over there as President of the West European Mission, did I, Brother Petersen? Well, I found that I could read the Book of Mormon long before Christmas, and I got busy—I'm not boasting—I want to thank President Smith. I got busy and read the Book of Mormon, and after I read the Book of Mormon, I read the New Testament, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price, and finished it up before Christmas night. I want to thank you, President Smith.

And I would like to make this appeal tonight to every man who is here or elsewhere under the sound of my voice, that you read the Book of Mormon before the end of this year. Now that's not asking too much, I don't care how busy you are,

because I have proved it. And I want to tell you it will be worth a great deal to you, and how much better it would be if your time could be arranged so that you read the Book of Mormon in your home so that the other members of the family can hear it and have it discussed and learn something about it.

Brethren, you are the head of your homes. Be worthy of being head of the house. Make your family proud and make it profitable for them that you are the head of the house. Live a life that is a worthy example to them that they might follow it and that the work of the Lord might go forward, realizing that the greatest influence in the life of any individual is the influence in the home. May they gain testimonies of the truthfulness of the gospel because we are their fathers, because we are members of the Church holding the priesthood, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRESIDENT HUGH B. BROWN

First Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric

I commend to all what has been said by the various speakers. I have appreciated so much what these young boys have said tonight, the wonderful message of the President, Brother Simpson's timely instruction, and Brother Lee's part of the program which was so very important to all of us. We commend it to you. We trust that all will undertake to profit by what Brother Lee has told us.

"Every man," James M. Barrie said, "is a diary in which he means to write one story and writes another, and his humblest hour is when he compares the volume as it is with what he vowed to make it."

Prepare to Receive the Holy Spirit

I think it important as we think of life, its opportunities its possibilities, its challenges, its inspirations, that we undertake to qualify ourselves to receive from the Holy Spirit the instruction and direction from day to day that will keep us in the path of duty.

May I make a suggestion, and I thought of it after I came into the

building tonight. I wish the head of every house would get a large cardboard and print on it by hand in letters large enough to be seen across the room the twentieth chapter of Exodus, the third through the seventeenth verses. Will you put that on the wall where you and other members of the family will see it every day. Read it, assimilate its meaning, profit by its instruction.

And then get another cardboard the same size and write on that one the fifth chapter of Matthew, from the third through the twelfth verses. If you will put these side by side and read them every morning—you can read them while you are shaving or washing or getting ready to go to work or to school—they will remind you of who you are and what is expected of you.

I am going to take just a moment to read quickly what I want to recommend that you put in your rooms.

The Ten Commandments

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

"Thou shalt not make unto thee any