

ness, but shall have the light of life." (John 8:12.)

I say to the youth of this Church, and to all people everywhere: God exists. He is near. Have faith in him; seek him diligently, and he will reward your efforts. Submit yourselves to him and to his environment, that you may have that testimony that comes from within. Such is your privilege. Such a feeling and testimony you may obtain if you but seek him diligently. Live clean, upright lives, and devote your-

selves not to self but to the life and happiness of others.

That you may gain that testimony, which I now bear to you, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President N. Eldon Tanner

President McKay's message has just been read to us by his son, Robert.

Elder LeGrand Richards of the Council of the Twelve will now speak to us.

Elder LeGrand Richards

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

I am sure, my brothers and sisters, that our hearts have been touched with gratitude to the Lord for the presence of our Prophet and for his wonderful message to us. So many of us have enjoyed him through the years. He has been a great leader. With all our hearts we can sing, "We thank thee, O God, for a prophet to guide us in these latter days."

Statements of the Savior

I appreciate the privilege of standing here. I realized that I might have to say a few words in this conference, and so on my bended knees I asked the Savior, whose servant I am, if I might have his inspiration that I might say to you what he would like me to say. I had the thought come to me that if he were standing here at this pulpit this morning, what would he want to say to us? And I began recalling some of his marvelous statements to his people when he tarried among them in his mortal life, such as the one in the song this beautiful mother's chorus sang today, "If Ye Love Me, Keep My Commandments." How could we in any better way prove to him that we love him than to keep his commandments?

Then he said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 5:16.) I think that applies to this Church collectively and to us indivi-

dually. If there is any question in our minds individually as to whether we are contributing to help make the light of truth shine through this entire world through the achievements and the accomplishments of this great Church, then we are failing in our great responsibility.

I think of his words when he said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 7:21.) It isn't the words we speak that will bring forth his love. It is the keeping of his commandments and doing the will of our Father in heaven. That ought to apply in every hour of our lives, day and night, and as we come and go, so that we will feel that we can walk and talk with him. I tell you that you can feel a nearness to him through the power of his Spirit that will enrich your lives. Each one of you, as you know, can testify as I do here before you this day.

Then he indicated that "wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat;

"Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matt. 7:13-14.)

Be not of the world

In other words, as I have thought of the statements of the Master, it

seems to me that his whole thought was around the fact that we live in the world, but we must not be of the world; that we can have the power to live his commandments, rather than to follow the ideas and the ways of the world, which, as President McKay has pointed out in his address this morning, can only lead to destruction.

I am grateful that as people come among us, they recognize there is a difference among our people, speaking of us collectively and of many of us individually.

Comments of visitors

A short time ago we had a great economist here in our midst. One of our banker friends gave a luncheon for him at the Hotel Utah. Twenty-five of us were invited to attend that luncheon. The President of the Church said a few words, the governor of the state said a few words, and then they asked this great leader if he would like to say something. He stood up, and his jaw began to quiver, and the tears began rolling down his cheeks. Then he made a statement like this: "I have never stood in such presence in my life. I have to come out here to these valleys of the mountains to find the kind of Christianity I think can save the world."

Now we knew that, because we knew that we had the Church of Jesus Christ, his only true church upon the face of the earth. But it is delightful to find that thinking men realize that.

We had a Dr. Polian here in our midst just a few years ago. He was sent to the United States by the Iranian government to study the American people, and he told the receptionist in the Church Office Building:

"I have been in the United States 11 months as a representative from my government to study the American people, and I have obtained a more favorable impression of them in the two days I have spent in Salt Lake City than in all the rest of the 11 months."

A peculiar people

Brothers and sisters, there is power in this Church. We can't live like the world does. I used to be in the real

estate business. I have attended conventions in several of the large cities of this land, and we were all right as long as we were in the conference room; but when it came to the entertainment, we had to step aside, because that kind of entertainment could not be enjoyed by a real Christian. A real Christian is one who shows his love of God by keeping his commandments.

I think of the words of the apostle Peter to the members of the Church in his day, when he said:

"... ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood [and we are the only royal priesthood in this world today], an holy nation, a peculiar people."

Now we are peculiar to the world. Wherever we go they want to give us different kinds of drinks than we are used to, and they wonder what they can do for us peculiar Mormons.

Then Peter adds the reason for all of this:

"... that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light." (1 Pet. 2:9.)

Isn't that what Jesus meant when he said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven"? (Matt. 5:16.)

This is God's work

Just a few years ago we had a prominent woman here from New York. She came to attend our MIA June Conference. I had the privilege of meeting her several times. She was escorted around in the different departments, as many as she could attend. On Sunday morning we had our meeting here directed by the First Presidency. As she went into the little anteroom, I walked up to her, and calling her by name, I said, "Mrs. So and So, someday you will know that the spiritual capital of the world is Salt Lake City."

"Oh," she said, "I know that already."

It is interesting to know that when people come, they are impressed. I think it was at that very same conference that we had national representatives of the Boy Scout organization

here. After they had seen what was done at the stadium in our dance festival (at that particular time the Boy Scouts put on a demonstration), one of them made a statement like this: "It can't be done, but you people do it." And why do we do it? Because this is God's work, and there are so many faithful, devoted people giving their time and their attention, and doing it freely without price. "... freely ye have received, freely give." (Matt. 10:8.)

As I look over this audience and see this vast congregation of priesthood, and as I have sat during the last few days in council with many of you, I thank God for your faith and for your devotion, for your spirit and your leadership are helping to mold the destiny of this Church. And this work shall continue to roll forward until it shall become as a great mountain and fill the whole earth, as the Lord has decreed through his holy prophets.

Talk of non-member

While I was president of the Southern States Mission, I held a conference in Columbia, Mississippi. At the close of the morning session, a young man came up to me and asked me if he could talk in the afternoon session of the conference. I said, "Certainly, if you would like to."

"But," he said, "I am not a member of your Church."

"Oh," I said, "that doesn't make any difference. You can't hurt our people."

So we let him talk. He stood up and said, "I was raised here in Mississippi to believe that the Mormons were the most undesirable people in all this world. After I finished my college education, I went over to Arizona, and I was thrown in with the Mormons there. When I came back here, I was thrown in with the Mormons again, and I have been attending their Sunday Schools and their other meetings. I no longer think of them as the most undesirable people in this world. I am wondering when I will be good enough to become a member of the Mormon Church."

The Lord has called us out of the world to be a light unto the world,

and we can't hide our light under a bushel. The world realizes, and we realize as a people, that we can live in the world and yet not be of the world.

Reputation of Mormons

I used to like to check up a little on us when I was a mission president. I was driving along the highway in Alabama one day, and a man was hobbling along the highway. I picked him up, and as we drove along a little way, I said, "I suppose you have no idea whom you are sitting by?"

He looked me over and said, "No."

I said, "Have you ever met a Mormon elder?"

His face lighted up, and he said, "We had two of them in our home last week, and we have one of their bibles [meaning the Book of Mormon]." Then he said, "They blessed me for my leg, and when they left I said, 'Ma, when they come back next week, let's join their church.'"

I didn't know what kind of response I would get from him!

I was driving in western Florida and stopped to get some gas for my car; to a man sitting down by one of the pumps I said, "Are there any Mormons living around here?" (I knew there were!)

He said, "There is a whole colony of them here."

I said, "What kind of people are they?"

"Oh," he said, "they are the most wonderful people. One of them is my nearest neighbor, and I never had neighbors like that family." Then he said, "You don't happen to know Jim Martin up in Magnolia, do you?"

I said, "Oh, yes, I have stayed in his home."

He said, "He's my uncle. What do you think of him?"

"Oh, he is a wonderful man."

When I was going up through the marble quarries in northern Georgia, I walked ahead with the guide. He had a whole group there that he was showing around. I said, "I suppose you have no idea whom you are walking with, have you?"

He turned and looked at me and said, "No."

And I said, "Have you ever met a Mormon missionary?"

And then he stopped and turned to the whole group and said that he had lived out in Idaho, and his nearest neighbor was a Mormon. He said, "He was the most wonderful neighbor I have ever had."

Now I could tell you many stories like that, because I like to know what people think of us when they know us.

So I come back to the words of Jesus: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." May God help each one of us individually to do that, I humbly pray, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

President N. Eldon Tanner

Elder LeGrand Richards of the Council of the Twelve has just spoken to us.

The Singing Mothers and the congregation will now join in singing, "We Thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet."

The congregation and the chorus sang the hymn, "We Thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet."

President N. Eldon Tanner

Elder Hartman Rector, Jr., of the First Council of Seventy, will now speak to us.

Elder Hartman Rector, Jr.

Of the First Council of the Seventy

My dear brethren and sisters:

This is a traumatic experience for a convert, and I ask for an interest in your faith and prayers in my behalf this morning.

Strong reasons required

The Lord through the prophet Isaiah required strong reasons of his people for their acts.

"Produce your cause, saith the Lord; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob.

"Let them bring them forth, and shew us what will happen: let them shew the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come.

"Shew the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods: yea, do good, or do evil, that we may be dismayed, and behold it together." (Isa. 41:21-23.)

Motive makes the difference

Surely reason or motive is all important in determining guilt or innocence for our acts.

Nephi went to Jerusalem determined

to obtain the records of his people. The Lord commanded it. As he proceeded on the errand he recognized the risk. Laban had threatened his life and the lives of his brothers. He found Laban drunk and received the clear command from the Lord to slay Laban, and he obeyed.

Consider now Cain. He was jealous of Abel, a righteous man, whose offering was acceptable to the Lord God. Cain in his jealousy and in his greed listened to Satan; and urged by him, he slew Abel in order to obtain his brother's flocks.

In the one case, one was entirely righteous in his motive. In the other, the motive was entirely evil. Motive is the main difference in these two acts in which men were slain.

The Lord through Peter says that every man should "be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you. . . ." (1 Pet. 3:15.)

If reason or motive is so important and the Lord requires it of all of us, then every man should examine his motives lest they be found wanting at the last day.