

be furnished by the Brigham Young University Faculty Priesthood Chorus, with Harold H. Goodman conducting, and Robert Cundick at the organ.

We shall begin this service by the chorus and congregation singing, "Come, O Thou King of Kings," after which Elder Kay Schwendiman, regional representative, will offer the invocation.

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The congregation and chorus sang the hymn, "Come, O Thou King of Kings."

Elder Kay Schwendiman, regional representative of the Twelve, offered the opening prayer.

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#### President N. Eldon Tanner

I should like to emphasize that this priesthood chorus is made up of the Brigham Young University faculty and staff, and they will now sing, "I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go."

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The Brigham Young University Faculty Priesthood Chorus sang the hymn, "I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go."

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#### President N. Eldon Tanner

President David O. McKay's message to the priesthood will now be read by his son, David Lawrence McKay, General Superintendent of the Deseret Sunday School Union.

### PRESIDENT DAVID O. McKAY

(Read by his son David Lawrence McKay)

My dear brethren of the priesthood, I welcome you, and appreciate this privilege of once again expressing my feelings to you of our great callings.

As I contemplate the vast audience of priesthood assembled tonight in the various places named at the opening of the meeting, and realize the power of this great body of men, I am overwhelmed.

I felt my feelings swell within my breast as to the possibility of the good that will be done, and can be done, by these many thousands of men of the priesthood who are worshipping tonight.

"There's surely somewhere a lowly place  
In earth's harvest fields so wide,  
Where I may labor through life's short day  
For Jesus, the Crucified;  
So trusting my all to thy tender care,  
And knowing thou lovest me,  
I'll do thy will with a heart sincere,  
I'll be what you want me to be."

(Hymns, No. 318.)

I hope everybody who listened to

that verse tonight applied it to himself, and in a way made a sacred vow to do better in the future than in the past. There came to my mind some fundamental virtues that should be associated with that will. I will just name them.

#### Fundamental virtues

*First is faith:* faith in God the Father, faith in his Son, faith in our fellowmen.

*The second is honesty,* a childish sincerity, honesty in dealing with our fellowmen. It is the foundation of all character. If you offer prayer at night and you have dealt dishonestly with your fellows during the day, I rather think that, as the king in *Hamlet*, your words fly up but your thoughts remain below; but if you have dealt honestly, the Lord will hear and answer your true feelings.

*The third is loyalty.* It is a wonderful principle. A true friend is loyal. Many acquaintances are not, and may not be. Be loyal to the priesthood. Be loyal to your wives and your families, loyal to your friends.

### Strength in resistance

To the men of the priesthood I give this caution. Your weakest point will be the point at which Satan tries to tempt you, and will try to win you, and if you have made it weak yourself before you have undertaken to serve the Lord, he will add to that weakness. Resist him and you will gain in strength. He will tempt you in another point. Resist him and he becomes weaker and you become stronger, until you can say, no matter what your surroundings may be, "Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." (Luke 4:8.)

Now, I mention this because there are too many broken hearts in our Church because men, some of whom hold the priesthood and prominent positions, are tempted right where they are weak. They forget that they have made covenants with the Lord, and step aside from the path of virtue and discretion, and will break their wives' hearts because of foolish indulgence and because of their yielding.

### Sacred covenants

We have one of the most sacred covenants in all the world pertaining to the happiness of the home. There are men within the sound of my voice who have forgotten how sacred that covenant is. The brethren of the Twelve, the General Authorities of the Church, the stake authorities are urging youth everywhere to go to the temple to be married. Do not go to that temple unless you are ready to accept the covenants that you make.

Marriage in the temple is one of the most beautiful things in all the world. A couple is led there by love, the most divine attribute of the human soul. A young man looks, rightfully, upon that bride who will be the mother of his children as being as pure as a snowflake, as spotless as a sunbeam, as worthy of motherhood as any virgin. It is a glorious thing for a woman thus to wear the robes and be the pride of a young elder's heart, one who trusts her to be the head of his household.

She trusts him as being as worthy

of fatherhood as she is of motherhood, and rightfully, too, because on his shoulders are the robes of the Holy Priesthood, testifying to his young bride, and to all, of his worthiness.

Together they stand in the house of the Lord to testify and covenant before him that they will be true to the covenants they make that day, each keeping himself or herself to the other and no one else. That is the highest ideal of marriage ever given to man. If those covenants are kept as sacred as sacred covenants should be kept, there would be fewer broken hearts among wives and fewer among the husbands. A covenant is a sacred thing. A man who is married in the temple has no right to be looking at young women, whether they are in the choir or in the Relief Society, or a member of a general board, or doing any of the duties of the Church. You have a covenant to be true to that wife. Brethren, keep it true, be true to it.

"It is easy enough to be prudent,  
When nothing tempts you to stray,  
When without or within no voice of sin  
Is luring your soul away;  
But it's only a negative virtue  
Until it is tried by fire,  
And the life that is worth the honor of earth,  
Is the life that resists desire.

"By the cynic, the sad, the fallen  
Who had no strength for the strife,  
The world's highway is cumbered to-day;  
They make up the sum of life.  
But the virtue that conquers passion  
And the sorrow that hides in a smile,  
It is these that are worth the homage of earth  
For we find them but once in a while."

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox, "Worth While"

### Keep true to covenants

I plead with the army of the priesthood assembled tonight in this meeting to keep true to the covenants made in the house of God. You have no right to neglect your wives and go and seek

the company of others who seem to be more attractive to you because you are thrown with them in daily life, in your business affairs, or in church affairs. This may seem general, but while I speak to you, a wife with her tears and her pleadings comes to me now, asking, "Won't you please just say a prayer, won't you offer a prayer to try to bring my husband back?" Well, she may have been to blame for the trouble—she said that she was partly to blame—but I know that her husband was to blame, for he is a man who holds the priesthood and has no right to break his covenants.

The Spirit of God will not strive with a man who in any way helps to break up another man's family. "The greatest battle of life is fought out within the silent chambers of the soul."

### Duties of priesthood bearers

I ask you fellow priesthood bearers to do again what undoubtedly you have done frequently, to sit down and commune with yourself. There is a battle going on within you, and within me, every day. Fight it out with yourself, and decide upon your course of action regarding, first, what your duty is to your family. Avoid conditions and people getting into your life who will cause unhappiness in your home. Second, decide what your duty is to your quorum. Decide whether you owe your quorum anything, and see if you have strength enough to do it after you decide. Third, decide in that silent moment what your duty is to your Church. And fourth, decide what you owe to your fellowmen. Decide where your duty is, even remembering that "the greatest battle of life is fought out within the silent chambers of your own soul."

### "... Act well thy part"

Remember this as a guideline in whatever position you are called to serve: "What e'er thou art, act well thy part." That, of course, applies to moral and lawful endeavors, and not to harmful or villainous actions. That influenced me many years ago when, as I have told some of you before,

Peter G. Johnston and I were walking around Stirling Castle in Scotland. I was discouraged; I was just starting my mission. I had been snubbed that day in tracting. I was homesick. We walked around the Stirling Castle, really not doing our duty; and as we reentered the town, I saw a building, half-finished. To my surprise, from the sidewalk I saw an inscription over the lintel of the front door, carved in stone. I said to Brother Johnston, "I want to go over and see what that is."

I was not more than halfway up the pathway leading to it when that message struck me. Carved there was: "What e'er thou art, act well thy part."

As I rejoined my companion and told him, do you know what man came into my mind first? The custodian at the University of Utah, from which I had just been graduated. I realized that I had as great a respect for that man as I had for any professor in whose class I had sat. He acted well his part. I recalled how he helped us with the football suits, how he helped us with some of our lessons, for he was a university graduate himself. Humble, but to this day I hold respect for him.

What are you? You are men who hold the priesthood of God, who hold divine authority to represent Deity in whatever position to which you have been assigned.

### Appreciation of fellowship

It has always been my nature to enjoy the company of my associates. I love to be with my friends. The older I grow, the more intense becomes my appreciation of fellowship in the brotherhood of Christ. I sense that tonight more deeply, more sincerely than ever before.

May God add his blessings to the instructions and reports that will be given this night; may we depart with greater determination in our hearts to serve the Lord and keep his commandments; may we go forth with greater resolution to defend one another in righteous living, to defend the Church, not to speak against our neighbors, nor against authorities of the Church, local,

stake, or general. Let us avoid evil speaking; let us avoid slander and gossip. These are poisons to the soul to those who indulge. Evil speaking injures the reviler more than the reviled.

### Statement on Communism

In the United States of America, the Constitution vouchsafes individual freedom, and let us pray also that the Lord will frustrate the plans of the Communists who would deprive us of freedom.

I desire to refer to some remarks concerning Communism that I made in the general priesthood meeting three years ago. At that priesthood conference, in addition to encouragement to study the Constitution and be alert to communistic inroads that would undermine it, I said the following:

"The Church, out of respect for the rights of all its members to have their political views and loyalties, *must maintain the strictest possible neutrality*. We have no intention of trying to interfere with the fullest and freest exercise of the political franchise of our members under and within our Constitution, which the Lord declared he established 'by the hands of wise men whom [he] raised up unto this very purpose' (D&C 101:80) and which, as to the principles thereof, the Prophet Joseph Smith, dedicating the Kirtland Temple, prayed should be 'established forever.' (D&C 109:54.) The Church does not yield any of its devotion to or convictions about safeguarding the American principles and the establishments of government under federal and state constitutions and the civil rights of men safeguarded by these.

"The position of this Church, however, on the subject of Communism has never changed. We consider it the greatest satanical threat to peace, prosperity, and the spread of God's work among men that exists on the face of the earth." (*The Improvement Era*, June 1966, p. 477.)

### Neutrality of Church

It is suggested that, in educating themselves on the perils of Commu-

nism, members should not expect bishops and stake presidents to join with them or through their positions lend support to their efforts, since they are expected to maintain a strict neutrality as referred to. Nor should organized movements to become informed on Communism impose their ideas upon the membership of the Church in any area in a manner that may lead to division among the members. Nor should bishops, stake presidents, and other Church leaders take the lead in support of such efforts of groups in such a way as to impose such movements upon other Church members.

It is the right and obligation of every citizen, and therefore every member of the Church, to be alert and to be informed about social, educational, communistic, and other political influences that would tend to undermine our free society. But it would defeat its own purposes if it were done in a manner that would tend toward division in our own membership.

### Responsibility to teach truth

It must never be forgotten that conversions to the Church come from all nations, representing diverse views on controversial issues. Ours must be the responsibility to teach our members from all nations the true doctrines of Christ with such power that they be fortified against all false ideas, regardless of the label under which they may be presented.

The Melchizedek Priesthood course of study for the coming year will include in the lesson material such subjects as liberty and freedom, religion and the state, the dangers of Communism, and other subjects considered of vital importance in the study of the profound truths of the gospel.

The study of these lessons will enable the brethren of the priesthood to become better acquainted with forces that are opposed to righteousness, as well as with the Lord's plan of salvation for all his children.

In these days of great turmoil and social upheaval, it would be well if all our leaders and members of the priesthood would be constantly reminded

of the apostle Paul's wise counsel wherein he said: "And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

"For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." (1 Cor. 2:1-2.)

### Defense of the truth

God help us to defend the truth—better than that, to live it, to exemplify it in our homes. What we owe to our parents we cannot express. Are you parents—fathers and mothers—going to have that same influence on your children? God give you power so to have that influence, that your children may be true to the last, to death if necessary, to the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ, which magnifies God, our Father, who, with his Beloved Son Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of the world, appeared to the Prophet Joseph Smith. They revealed themselves in this dispensation and his work was established, never more to be thrown down or given to another people.

Satan is still determined to have his way, and his emissaries have power given them today as they have not had throughout the centuries. Be prepared to meet conditions that may be severe, ideological conditions that may seem reasonable but are evil. In order to meet these forces, we must depend upon the whisperings of the Holy Spirit, to which you are entitled. They are real.

### Admonition to be true

God is guiding this church. Be true to it; be loyal to it. Be true to your families, loyal to them. Protect your children. Guide them, not arbitrarily, but through the kind example of a father, and so contribute to the strength of the Church by exercising your priesthood in your home and in your lives.

As I bring my remarks to a close, I want you to know that I am mindful of the sacrifices being made by those serving in the armed forces. May they have the strength to resist temptation and by their examples be a living testimony to others.

God bless our missionaries who day by day seek out those who will accept their message. May they resist evil influences and thus become true servants in building the kingdom of God.

May his blessings attend you all as you go forward in the work of the Master. May this work continue to expand to fulfill its divine purposes. Be true to your callings, brethren, and the Lord will bless and lift you up.

I bear testimony to the truth of this great work, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### President N. Eldon Tanner

Elder Lysle R. Cahoon, president of the Chicago South Stake, will now address us. His subject is "The Father and the Melchizedek Priesthood."

## PRESIDENT LYSLE R. CAHOON

### Chicago South Stake

My brethren: I express my gratitude and appreciation to my Heavenly Father for this opportunity, and to the General Authorities for my position here this evening.

I know, my brethren, as I know I stand before you and have the privilege of breathing and gazing upon this great audience, that God lives, that he hears and answers prayers. And I want all my brethren of every nation,

kindred, tongue and people to know that God lives.

As I considered the subject that has been given me, I spent many hours, and I have recorded many words, and I am not sure now that this is the appropriate subject and material.

Since I know that God lives and that he is my Father, the Father of my spirit, and likewise you, my brethren, are his children, it comes to me that