

not we will accept their teachings and *keep the commandments*.

We choose whether or not we will accept President Harold B. Lee as a prophet of God, listen to his voice, and follow him, in the sure knowledge that he is the mouthpiece of the Lord and the leader of God's children on the earth today. We choose whether or not we are prepared to accept and live by the Articles of Faith and be honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, honorable and upright in our dealings with our fellowmen, showing our love for them by being good neighbors. As we choose to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, we can know that all other things for our good will be added unto us.

We cannot go astray if we listen to the prophet's voice and follow him, and as we do so we will be led in the path of truth and righteousness and enjoy the love, respect, and confidence of our fellowmen, and eventually enjoy eternal life with our Father in heaven. Or we may refuse and lose all these great blessings.

"Nevertheless, thou mayest choose for thyself."

May we choose wisely, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Tabernacle Choir sang the song, "Souls of the Righteous," following President Tanner's address, without announcement.

President Harold B. Lee

We have just heard from President N. Eldon Tanner, first counselor in the First Presidency of the Church, who has delivered one of the most timely messages, to set the tone and course this Church should take, and all other righteous people, to combat the permissiveness that is to be found in the world today. I would hope that everybody listening would apply the wisdom that he has given to us.

The Tabernacle Choir has just sung "Souls of the Righteous."

Elder Thomas S. Monson of the Council of the Twelve will now address us.

Elder Thomas S. Monson

Of the Council of the Twelve

Some 23 years ago I was called as a young man to serve as the bishop of a large ward in Salt Lake City. The magnitude of the calling was overwhelming and the responsibility frightening. My inadequacy humbled me. But my Heavenly Father did not leave me to wander in darkness and in silence, uninstructed or uninspired. In his own way he revealed the lessons he would have me learn.

Legacy of Kathleen McKee

One evening at a late hour my telephone rang. I heard a voice say, "Bishop Monson, this is the hospital calling. Kathleen McKee, a member of your congregation, has just passed away. Our records reveal that she had no next of kin, but your name is listed as the one to be notified in the event of her death. Could you come to the hospital right away?"

Upon arriving there, I was presented with a sealed envelope which contained a key to the modest apartment in which Kathleen McKee had lived. A childless widow 73 years of age, she had enjoyed but few of life's luxuries and possessed scarcely sufficient of its necessities. In the twilight of her life she had become a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Being a quiet and overly reserved person, little was known about her life.

That same night I entered her tidy basement apartment, turned the light switch, and in a moment discovered a letter written ever so meticulously in Kathleen McKee's own hand. It rested face up on a small table and read:

"Bishop Monson,

"I think I shall not return from the hospital. In the dresser drawer is a small insurance policy which will cover funeral expenses. The furniture may be given to my neighbors.

"In the kitchen are my three precious canaries. Two of them are beautiful, yellow-gold in color, and are perfectly marked. On their cages I have noted the names of friends to whom they are to be given. In the third cage is 'Billie.' He is my favorite. Billie looks a bit scrubby, and his yellow hue is marred by gray on his wings. Will you and your family make a home for him? He isn't the prettiest, but his song is the best."

World made brighter

In the days that followed, I learned much more about Kathleen McKee. She had befriended many neighbors in need. She had given cheer and comfort almost daily to a cripple who lived down the street. Indeed, she had brightened each life she touched. Kathleen McKee was much like "Billie," her prized yellow canary with gray on its wings. She was not blessed with beauty, gifted

with poise, nor honored by posterity. Yet her song helped others to more willingly bear their burdens and more ably shoulder their tasks. She lived the message of the verse:

"Go, gladden the lonely, the dreary;
Go, comfort the weeping, the weary;
Go, scatter kind deeds on your way;
Oh, make the world brighter today!"

—*Deseret Sunday School Songs*,
1909, No. 197

Yellow canaries with gray

The world is filled with yellow canaries with gray on their wings. The pity is that so precious few of them have learned to sing. Perhaps the clear notes of proper example have not sounded in their ears or found lodgment in their hearts.

Some are young people who don't know who they are, what they can be or even want to be. They are afraid, but they don't know of what. They are angry, but they don't know at whom. They are rejected, and they don't know why. All they want is to be somebody.

Others are stooped with age, burdened with care, or filled with doubt—living lives far below the level of their capacities.

All of us are prone to excuse our own mediocre performance. We blame our misfortunes, our disfigurements, or our so-called handicaps. Victims of our own rationalization, we say silently to ourselves: "I'm just too weak," or "I'm not cut out for better things." Others soar beyond our meager accomplishments. Envy and discouragement then take their toll.

Can we not appreciate that our very business in life is not to get ahead of others, but to get ahead of ourselves? To break our own records, to outstrip our yesterdays by our todays, to bear our trials more beautifully than we ever dreamed we could, to give as we have never given,

to do our work with more force and a finer finish than ever—this is the true idea: to get ahead of ourselves.

Sons and daughters of God

To live greatly, we must develop the capacity to face trouble with courage, disappointment with cheerfulness, and triumph with humility. You ask, "How might we achieve these goals?" I answer, "By getting a true perspective of who we really are!" We are sons and daughters of a living God, in whose image we have been created. Think of that truth: "Created in the image of God." We cannot sincerely hold this conviction without experiencing a profound new sense of strength and power, even the strength to live the commandments of God, the power to resist the temptations of Satan.

Outward appearance

True, we live in a world where moral character oftimes is relegated to a position secondary to facial beauty or personal charm. We read and hear of local, national, and international beauty contests. Throngs pay tribute to Miss America, Miss World, and Miss Universe. Athletic prowess, too, has its following. The winter games, the world Olympics, the tournaments of international scope bring forth the adoring applause of the enthralled crowd. Such are the ways of men!

But what are the inspired words of God? From a time of long ago the counsel of Samuel the prophet echoes in our ears: ". . . the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." (1 Sam. 16:7.)

Sham and hypocrisy found no place with the King of kings and the Lord of lords. He denounced the scribes and Pharisees for their vanity and shallow lives, their pre-

tense and feigned righteousness. He called them "whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones." (Matt. 23:27.)

They, like the beautiful yellow canaries, were outwardly handsome, but a true song came not from their hearts.

To their counterparts on this continent God's prophet declared: "For behold, ye do love money, and your substance, and your fine apparel, and the adorning of your churches, more than ye love the poor and the needy, the sick and the afflicted. . . .

"Why are ye ashamed to take upon you the name of Christ? . . .

"Why do ye adorn yourselves with that which hath no life, and yet suffer the hungry, and the needy, and the naked, and the sick and the afflicted to pass by you, and notice them not?" (Morm. 8:37-39.)

The better life

The Master could be found mingling with the poor, the down-trodden, the oppressed, and the afflicted. He brought hope to the hopeless, strength to the weak, and freedom to the captive. He taught of the better life to come—even eternal life. This knowledge ever directs those who receive the divine injunction: "Follow thou me." It guided Peter. It motivated Paul. It can determine our personal destiny. Can we make the decision to follow in righteousness and truth the Redeemer of the world? With his help a rebellious boy can become an obedient man, a wayward girl can cast aside the old self and begin anew. Indeed, the gospel of Jesus Christ can change men's lives.

Call of the fisherman

In his epistle to the Corinthians, the apostle Paul taught: ". . . God

hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty." (1 Cor. 1:27.)

When the Savior sought a man of faith, he did not select him from the throng of self-righteous who were found regularly in the synagogue. Rather, he called him from among the fishermen of Capernaum.

While teaching on the seashore, he saw two ships standing by the lake. He entered one and asked its owner to put it out a little from the land so he might not be pressed upon by the crowd. After teaching further, he said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets."

Simon answered: "Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes. . . . When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord." (Luke 5:4-6, 8.)

Came the reply: "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Matt. 4:19.) Simon the fisherman had received his call. Doubting, disbelieving, unschooled, untrained, impetuous Simon did not find the way of the Lord a highway of ease nor a path free from pain. He was to hear the rebuke: "O thou of little faith" (Matt. 14:31), and likewise the denunciation, "Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me" (Matt. 16:23). Yet, when the Master asked him, ". . . whom say ye that I am?" Peter answered: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matt. 16:15-16.)

Simon, man of doubt, had become Peter, apostle of faith. A yellow canary with gray on his wings qualified for the Master's full confidence and abiding love.

Saul of Tarsus

When the Savior was to choose

a missionary of zeal and power, he found him not among his advocates but amidst his adversaries. Saul of Tarsus made havoc of the church and breathed out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord. But this was before the experience of Damascus Way. Of Saul, the Lord declared: ". . . he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: . . . I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake." (Acts 9:15-16.)

Saul the persecutor became Paul the proselyter. Like the yellow canary with gray on his wings, Paul, too, had his blemishes. He himself said: "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me. . . . For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. . . ." (2 Cor. 12:7-9.)

Both Paul and Peter were to expend their strength and forfeit their lives in the cause of truth. The Redeemer chose imperfect men to teach the way to perfection. He did so then. He does so now—even yellow canaries with gray on their wings.

A call to serve

He calls you and me to serve him here below and sets us to the tasks he would have us fulfill. The commitment is total. There is no conflict of conscience. And in our struggle, should we stumble, then let us plead: "Lead us, oh lead us, great Molder of men; out of the darkness to strive once again." (From the "Fight Song," Yonkers High School.)

Our appointed task may appear insignificant, unnecessary, unnoticed. We may be tempted to question:

"Father, where shall I work today?"

And my love flowed warm and free.

Then he pointed out a tiny spot

And said, 'Tend that for me.'

I answered quickly, 'Oh no, not that!

Why, no one would ever see,

No matter how well my work was done.

Not that little place for me.'

And the word he spoke, it was not stern;

He answered me tenderly:

'Ah, little one, search that heart of thine;

Art thou working for them or for me?

'Nazareth was a little place,

And so was Galilee.'

—Meade MacGuire

My prayer today is that we indeed will follow the Man of Galilee. May we praise his name, and so order our lives as to reflect our love. May we ever remember that to us God our Father gave his Son, and that for us Jesus Christ gave his life. I testify that he lives and pray we may be worthy of such a divine gift, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Following Elder Monson's address, the choir sang without an-

nouncement the hymn, "Though Deepening Trials."

President Harold B. Lee

The choir and congregation will now join in singing "The Spirit of God Like A Fire Is Burning," following which we shall hear from Elder Loren C. Dunn of the First Council of Seventy.

The choir and congregation sang "The Spirit of God Like A Fire Is Burning."

President Lee

To those of the television and radio audience who have just joined us in this third session of the 143rd Annual Conference of the Church, we are convened in the historic Tabernacle on Temple Square in Salt Lake City, Utah.

We shall now hear from Elder Loren C. Dunn of the First Council of Seventy. He will be followed by Elder Henry D. Taylor, Assistant to the Twelve.

Elder Loren C. Dunn

Of the First Council of the Seventy

During the few minutes that I am before you, I would like to address my remarks to those who are not of this faith; and since we are all the children of God, I would like to refer to you as my brothers and sisters.

With the approach of the Easter

season, the world takes note of the greatest event known to mankind. The literalness of the death and burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ lifts him above the status of a great man or an inspired leader. To overcome death for all mankind, Jesus Christ had to be the Son of