

there, set out on the real purpose of life.

We have been supplied with heaven-sent programs such as the family home evening program, to keep families secure and our homes intact. It has been predicted that in the last days men shall become "lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." (2 Tim. 3:4.)

"For behold, at that day shall he rage in the hearts of the children of men, and stir them up to anger against that which is good.

"And others will he pacify, and lull them away into carnal security, that they will say: All is well in Zion; yea, Zion prospereth, all is well—and thus the devil cheateth their souls, and leadeth them away carefully down to hell." (2 Ne. 28:20-21.)

I like that word *carefully* because that is the way he operates. He never jerks. He never pulls—just misleads us gradually, step by step. Now in this situation and in the world today, let us remember the admonition of James:

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." (James 4:7-8, 10.)

May we all repent and place our lives and our homes in order and in perfect harmony with the gospel of Jesus Christ, I pray, testifying to the truthfulness of the restored gospel and in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### President Harold B. Lee

We rejoice in the strength of Brother Christiansen as manifested here today.

The congregation and the chorus will now join in singing "How Firm A Foundation." After the singing, Elder Henry D. Taylor, Assistant to the Council of the Twelve, will address us.

---

"How Firm a Foundation" was sung by the congregation.

---

### President Lee

Elder Henry D. Taylor, Assistant to the Council of the Twelve, will now address us. He will be followed by Elder O. Leslie Stone, Assistant to the Council of the Twelve.

## Elder Henry D. Taylor

*Assistant to the Council of the Twelve*

After the Lord had created Adam, he made it crystal clear that he did not intend that Adam should go through life without a companion, when he said: "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." (Gen. 2:18.) So Eve was created and given to Adam to be his wife and companion.

### Period of courtship

Many of you young people in the Church have reached an age where you are old enough to look for a companion and mate. As you commence dating on a steady basis, you will enter a period known as courtship. This will be a thrilling and important time in your

lives. President McKay referred to it in these words:

"Courtship is a wonderful period. It should be a sacred one. That is the time in which you choose your mate. Young men, your success in life depends upon that choice. Choose prayerfully the one who inspires you to your best and always remember that no man injures the thing he loves. . . . The seeds of a happy marriage are sown in youth. Happiness does not begin at the altar; it begins during the period of youth and courtship. . . ."

Young people, choose prayerfully and carefully. Don't rush hastily into marriage. Determine that you have common goals and interests. Especially be certain that you possess the same religious convictions and beliefs.

A wise man once counseled: "Before marriage keep thine eyes wide open, then after marriage keep them half closed."

### **Making a successful marriage**

Marriage brings adjustments, because each has his or her own personality. Reared in homes with varying backgrounds, marriage naturally will require the making of adjustments.

Marriage, my beloved young brothers and sisters, should not be just taken for granted. It must be worked at, but realize that you can have the kind of marriage that you earnestly desire and for which you are willing to work. Marriage will require giving and taking; it will mean sharing, because life was meant to be shared. A happy and successful marriage means forgetting oneself and thinking of ways in which to make one's companion happy. It might be well each day for the husband to think, "What can I do today to make Mary happy?" And Mary should say to herself, "What can I do today to make John happy?" A happy home is where the wife is treated like a queen and the husband is treated like a king. And so, it is not only marrying the right partner, it is *being* the right partner.

### **Principle of love**

A happy and successful marriage will be one that is built on the important principle of love; a love recognizing not only a fleeting physical attraction, but more importantly a deeply spiritual love that will continue forever. At the dedication of the beautiful Oakland Temple, the prophet of the Lord, David O. McKay, emphasized the fact that love is eternal in these words: "One great purpose carried out by those who come into the temple is the sealing of man and wife in the sacred bonds of matrimony. That purpose is based upon the fact that man and woman truly love each other. That means that a couple coming to the altar should be sure that there is love in each heart. It would be a terrible thing to be bound for eternity to one whom you do not love, but it is a glorious thing to be sealed for time and eternity to one whom you do love." President McKay then continued, saying: "Let us ever remember that love is the divinest attribute of the human soul. . . . love must be fed; . . . Love must be nourished; love can be starved to death just as literally as the body can be starved without daily sustenance. . . . If that love is fed daily and monthly and yearly throughout a lifetime, the husband's attention will not be drawn to somebody else. . . ." He then concluded with these words: "If your spirit lives after death, as it does, then that attribute of love will persist. . . ." (David O. McKay, "Responsibilities of Those Who Enter the Temple," *Improvement Era*, vol. 68 [1965], p. 92.)

### **"Wedded courtship"**

Honeymoons should not end right after the marriage ceremony, but should never cease. President and Sister McKay set a wonderful example to the Church and to the world. On their 65th wedding anniversary President McKay referred to their married life as 65 years of "wedded courtship."

There are many kinds of mar-

riages, but Latter-day Saints should realize that there is only one place on earth where one can obtain a first-class marriage, and that is in a House of the Lord, and it is one of the purposes for which temples are built. What a worthwhile and splendid tradition it is for those who are married and sealed in the temple to return each year on or near their wedding anniversary and recall the promises they have made to each other and to the Lord. Of course, this will be in addition to the many other times that they will attend the temple.

### A happy home

We are mindful that the Church has constantly stressed the importance of the home. Many valuable and worthwhile suggestions and programs have been introduced to point to ways in which a happy home may be realized.

I am convinced that a happy home is the result of a happy marriage: that is why it is so important to select a suitable companion and mate.

In our world today there is an apparent disregard for the marriage vows made, and we view with concern and alarm the noticeable increase in divorces throughout the land. This would indicate that homes are not happy and, as a result, marriages are failing. Too many men and women become discontented and develop a "roving eye" as their attention is attracted to someone else. Hence, too many divorces are a result of unfaithfulness on the part of the wife, the husband, or both. There would be fewer divorces if the counsel and guidance given by the Lord were followed. In a revelation to the Prophet Joseph he said: "Thou shalt love thy wife with all thy heart, and shalt cleave unto her and none else." (D&C 42:22.)

### Divorce to be avoided

I am persuaded that many divorces today could be avoided and are not justifiable. President Stephen L. Richards, a former counselor in the

First Presidency, once aptly remarked: "In the case of marital disagreement, which may lead to separation, the proper remedy is not divorce, but *repentance*—repentance usually on the part of both husband and wife, repentance for both acts committed and harsh words which have made a 'hell' instead of a 'heaven' out of the home."

In order for a married couple to make a "heaven" out of their home, they must realize that repentance, love, faithfulness, humility, and forgiveness are basic essentials in achieving this noble and lofty goal.

A serene home must also be a place where the Spirit of the Lord will dwell and abide. The Spirit of the Lord will not dwell nor abide in a home where there is constant bickering, quarreling, arguing, discord, or disharmony.

### Experience of Joseph Smith

The Prophet Joseph had to learn many of these valuable lessons, as we will likewise have to do. David Whitmer, a close associate of the Prophet and one of the Three Witnesses for the Book of Mormon, related an enlightening experience which occurred while the prophet was translating the gold plates. These are Brother Whitmer's words:

"He [Joseph] was a religious and straightforward man. He had to be; for he was illiterate and could do nothing himself. He had to trust in God. He could not translate unless he was humble and possessed the right feelings towards everyone. To illustrate so you can see: One morning when he was getting ready to continue the translation, something went wrong about the house and he was put out about it. Something that Emma, his wife, had done. Oliver and I went upstairs and Joseph came up soon after to continue the translation but he could not do anything. He could not translate a single syllable. He went downstairs, out into the orchard, and made supplication to the Lord; was gone about an hour—came back to the house, and

asked Emma's forgiveness and then came upstairs where we were and then the translation went on all right. He could do nothing save he was humble and faithful." (Brigham H. Roberts, *A Comprehensive History of the Church*, vol. 1, p. 131.)

It is my sincere and humble prayer that we may all live in such a way that we will have happy and serene homes where love abounds and the Spirit of the Lord is ever present, for

which I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

### President Harold B. Lee

We have just listened to Elder Henry D. Taylor, Assistant to the Council of the Twelve.

Elder O. Leslie Stone, Assistant to the Twelve, will now address us. He will be followed by Elder David B. Haight, also an Assistant to the Council of the Twelve.

## Elder O. Leslie Stone

*Assistant to the Council of the Twelve*

It is an inspiration to all of us to remember the teachings of our Savior and the many wonderful things that he gave to the world. He lived long before recorded history. He was in the great council in heaven—he helped his Father in the shaping of the heavens, in the creation of the earth, and in the making of man.

In opposition to Satan's plan, it was he who proposed man's free agency—giving him the glorious privilege of choice which means so much to all of us.

### The teachings of Jesus

He lived on earth in the meridian of time—in the promised land.

He went about teaching and doing good. Men followed him, not for worldly riches but to gain treasures in heaven.

He set up a new code for living—to love one another—even one's enemies. He enjoined us to judge not, to forgive, and to give all men a second chance.

In the Doctrine and Covenants section 64, verses 8-11, he tells us that it is our duty to forgive one another and that he who does not forgive his brother stands condemned and is *the greater sinner*.

He gave our society our most undying formula for getting along together when he made this statement found in Matt. 7:12:

"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."

There are very few of us that are fully living up to this. Yet I am sure we all agree that if men followed this principle they would solve the problems that we are now facing in all the nations of the earth. Yes, if we lived this principle it would be easy to love and forgive those who trespass against us.

### The great commandment

In Matt. 22:36-39, we read about an instance where Christ was approached by some of the leading lawyers of the day who said:

"Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

It should be remembered that our nearest neighbors are the members of our own family. Next are those living