

President Marion G. Romney

Elder John H. Groberg of the First Quorum of the Seventy has just spoken to us.

We shall now hear from Elder S.

Dilworth Young, Emeritus member of the First Quorum of the Seventy.

He will be followed by Elder M. Russell Ballard, Jr., of the First Quorum of the Seventy.

Elder S. Dilworth Young

I shall begin by bearing a testimony. I am certain and bear the witness, by applying the principle just stated by Brother McConkie, that the calling which has come to me and my colleagues in the last two days is as much the inspiration of the Lord as was my call thirty-three years ago. I should like you to know that.

Childhood days

In this day of mechanical marvels my mind hearkens back to the days of my childhood. I suppose that is natural enough for those upon whom age descends.

I remember well the old one-room rock meetinghouse of the Second Ward on Seventh South between Fourth and Fifth East in Salt Lake City. This particular ward was one of the gathering places for members from Denmark. The bishop, Heber C. Iverson, could speak their language. In fast day meetings, testimonies were often unintelligible to me as the Saints struggled to testify in English, their new tongue. In Sunday School the room was divided into classrooms by green curtains hanging from wires overhead. If I was not interested in what my teacher was saying, I could choose from five other classes, all of which I could hear. It was always interesting to try to solve the problem of the identity of the boy who kept poking me in the back through the curtain at my rear.

Even in those early years I somehow grasped the idea that I alone must

work out my salvation, and that I could not blame anyone else if I didn't. Today I cannot identify the exact teaching of this principle, but I suspect that it came from those testimonies I heard in the Second Ward, the Sunday School class, my parents, and the repetition of the second Article of Faith, which I repeated many times in that day. This article states: "We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression."

Responsible for own acts

I made an early resolve to be good and thus escape the punishment. The word *punish* was also quite common. My father and mother used it to explain to me why I was being spanked, both before the event and after. I grew up with the sure knowledge that I was responsible for my own acts of good and evil.

I have come to know that the acts of men, once governed by the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount, are in my day to a great extent governed by the whims of the persons committing the act. The excuse is that one has to "do his own thing." And apparently the commandments are forgotten. But they have not been cancelled. They still stand as a beacon light on the way to eternal life—which is, of course, eternal happiness and joy.

The Ten Commandments

The stern, short statements of the

Ten Commandments have always held me in awe. They become more sharply etched when I see some of the acts of people. Let me quote, in part, Abinadi, who repeated them to King Noah:

1. Thou shalt have no other God before me.

2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.

3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

5. Honor thy father and thy mother.

6. Thou shalt not kill.

7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

8. Thou shalt not steal.

9. Thou shalt not bear false witness.

10. Thou shalt not covet. (See Mosiah 12:35-36; 13:12-24.)

Abinadi told those present with King Noah that he perceived that these Ten Commandments were, to quote him, "not written in your hearts" (Mosiah 13:11).

But there they stand, the immutable word from the great meeting of Moses with his Maker amid the thunderings and lightnings of Sinai.

Application in our day

In our day the necessity of following the Ten Commandments is all the more urgent. Five of them were repeated in section 42 of the Doctrine and Covenants. Others are spoken of in other sections. I early resolved to keep them all.

Incidentally, to this generation of young fathers I suggest that they spend overtime teaching their children the fifth commandment, which tells them to honor their parents.

We teach children they must not lie and steal, but do little to have them understand that adolescent rebellion is a flagrant breaking of the commandment to honor parents. To make the teaching

effective, parents must live to deserve the honor children are commanded to give them. It is devastating to a child to learn that his father does not have integrity.

Scriptural injunctions

One day I came upon some words of Micah which seemed to me to state my line of conduct. I quote them, for even now they arouse the best that is in me:

"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Mic. 6:8).

"To do justly"—I desire that. "To love mercy"—my heart swells at the thought. And "to walk humbly with thy God" brings me close to him. These thoughts are repeated in section 11, verse 12 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

Later I heard Sister Jessie Evans Smith sing a solo as part of a great Tabernacle Choir number. Anyone who ever heard her sing those words was lifted into resolve to make his life conform to the teaching. In the words from Psalm 24 the Psalmist first asks two questions: "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place?" The answer comes with startling simplicity: "He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully." Then comes the promise: "He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation." (Ps. 24:3-5.) The Psalmist then goes on to assert that the generation thus obedient is the generation that truly seeks his face.

Marks of the righteous

These statements of the qualities of character which mark the righteous can be held in our hearts as a guide in those situations which confront us in our daily intercourse with our fellowmen. We dis-

cover then that it is not difficult to follow the teaching of the Prophet Joseph Smith when he declared that we have as our standard of daily conduct to be "honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and [to do] good to all men" (Articles of Faith 13). For if one has clean hands and a pure heart, does justly, loves mercy, seeks not vanity, and walks humbly, the temptation to violate the Decalogue will hardly ever enter into his head.

I testify that he who obeys the commandments and thus seeks the virtuous, righteous life will find the pearl of great price of knowledge of the Son of God who is our Savior, and, finding this, will have joy. If in addition he loves and serves his fellowmen, he will add a chain of pearls and will find eternal life in the presence of his Heavenly Father and that Savior.

We obey the ordinances which make exaltation possible.

We follow and obey the code of conduct which makes it certain.

This dual obedience, faithfully kept, is our surest way of bearing testimony that we honor the Lord God, keep his commandments, and sustain President Kimball as his prophet. These are my desires as I bear witness of the truth that the Lord Jesus Christ is our Savior. In his holy name, amen.

President Marion G. Romney

Elder S. Dilworth Young, Emeritus member of the First Quorum of the Seventy, has just addressed us.

We shall now be pleased to hear from Elder M. Russell Ballard, Jr., of the First Quorum of the Seventy.

Elder M. Russell Ballard, Jr.

On behalf of all of us, I'd like to say, we love you, President Young.

Our little ones

Recently I held our first grandchild in my arms and had the same feelings come to me that I had when I held each one of my own children shortly after their birth. As I looked into their innocent faces, these questions came into my mind: "Who are you, my little one? What does Heavenly Father want you to accomplish in this life?" I imagine that many of you parents have had the same thoughts as you have held your infant children.

I wonder if Spencer W. Kimball's father had any idea, when he first held this infant son, that into his home had come a spirit ordained in the premortal life to someday grow in such spiritual strength and power that he would sit in this great conference today as our

prophet and President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints? It is possible, my brothers and sisters, that among the little ones in your homes and in your care are spirit children that were sent to you to be trained and prepared to fulfill callings as General Authorities, stake presidents, bishops, Relief Society or Primary presidents. In someone's home there is a little one sent from our Heavenly Father that someday will be called to sit in the seat where our great prophet now sits. Whoever is training our prophet of the future generations, please train him well. Teach him to love the Lord, the scriptures, and his fellowmen as President Kimball loves us today.

Preparation for eternal roles

What can we do to better prepare our children spiritually for their eternal roles? Perhaps the most inclusive an-