

Please be *still* and *listen!* The Psalmist said, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

I know that he lives. He loves you. He wants you to follow him, and to follow him not because of any spectacular showmanship on his part, but simply because you love him—simply! I bear my solemn witness that he lives and is near you and that we are being led by his living prophet in these last days. All of which I do in the holy name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, amen.

President Monson

We have just listened to Elders Julio E. Dávila and Graham W. Doxey of the Seventy.

The choir and congregation will now join in singing that favorite hymn "Redeemer of Israel."

Elder Cree-L Kofford, who was also sustained as a Seventy at April conference, will then address us.

The choir and congregation sang "Redeemer of Israel."

Elder Cree-L Kofford

Standing at this historic pulpit with memories of those men and women who have stood here before me filling my thoughts, I am reminded of the admonition given to Moses when he was told, "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground" (Exodus 3:5).

I pray that as I stand upon this holy ground I may do so with my shoes from off my feet.

Trial to receive your inheritance

I desire to teach you concerning matters of eternal significance. In doing so I shall speak allegorically, which simply means that I will teach by using a story which has symbolic meanings.

In an allegorical sense, I am here today as a member of the trial team assembled by your chief advocate. We have now received the legal action in which each of you has been named as a party defendant. I and others of the trial team have reviewed the pleadings carefully and have confirmed that the real purpose of opposing counsel is to prove that you are *not* eligible to receive your ultimate inheritance. Our

adversary's trial team is even now working tirelessly to assemble the facts necessary to bring about your defeat.

By virtue of motions made, heard, and previously decided, we have been compelled to produce on behalf of each of you all records relating to your business and personal transactions. These include a schedule of your neighbors, friends, and business acquaintances. Additionally, full disclosure concerning your spouse, your children, your parents, and members of your extended family has been made.

You should know that our adversary is prepared to spend such time, effort, and money as is necessary to deprive you of your inheritance. They have already expended untold millions of dollars in preparing their case against each of you. They have hired gifted, talented, and experienced people to work for them. They intend to win!

Fortunately, you are represented by the *most* skilled, capable, and diligent counsel I have ever seen. It's amazing to watch him as he argues on your behalf before the Supreme Judge.

Judgment waits until life's end

For example, our adversary brought a motion seeking an order that some of you have already forfeited your rights to your ultimate inheritance and therefore a summary judgment should be entered against you. I must admit he was brilliant in his presentation. For a time it seemed to me that he would prevail. Many of the court personnel were nodding their heads in seeming agreement with him. His argument was powerful.

Citing several of you by name, he said: "If these defendants have lived this long and have not yet taken serious steps to qualify for their ultimate inheritance, why should we waste further time of the court? Let us simply enter judgment against them now and be done with it." So powerful was his presentation that many in the public gallery applauded when he concluded.

You could have heard a pin drop when your chief advocate arose. The suspense in the courtroom was electrifying. What arguments could he possibly make that would overcome those just presented? I wish you could have been there.

In contrast to the bombastic and cynical arguments of opposing counsel, your advocate began your defense as a trickle and built to the force of a mighty river. Humbly, softly, meaningfully, and compellingly, he pled your case. I knew the impact he was having when I saw tears streaming down the cheeks of many in the courtroom. I don't remember all of his arguments and logic, but I do remember him saying that man is a little lower than the angels (see Psalm 8:5) and that the worth of souls is great (see D&C 18:10). In one of the most majestic moments, his eyes filled with compassion and his voice quivering with indignation, he admonished, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone" (John 8:7).

He went on to argue that "this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God" (Alma 34:32) and closed with a breathtaking summary in which he said no one has the right to judge the sum total of a man's life until that life has been lived.

There was silence in the room when he finished, silence broken only by the voice of the Supreme Judge announcing his decision: "Motion of counsel for the plaintiffs is denied. The issues sought to be summarily decided here are better left until trial of this matter on the merits," he said.

Questions you will be asked

Now, in preparation for your appearance on the witness stand, you should be advised that in the law we have what are known as threshold questions. These are simply questions that are the point of beginning or the starting place. The threshold question in your trial is, "Do you love the Lord God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind?" (see Matthew 22:37). If the answer is no, there will be a motion for judgment against you. That motion will be granted.

On the other hand, if you answer yes, opposing counsel will immediately test the validity of your answer with the question, "Do you keep his commandments?" (see John 14:15). A negative response will reveal your fraud, and you will stand judged by your own testimony. If your answer is in the affirmative, there will then follow hours, perhaps days of questions, each designed to prove that you do not, in fact, keep his commandments. Among those questions will be the following:

1. Do you love your neighbor as yourself? (See Matthew 22:39.)
2. Do you place worldly pursuits or personal pleasures above your service to God? (See Exodus 20:3.)

3. Do you take the name of the Lord God in vain? (See Exodus 20:7.)

4. Do you keep the Sabbath day holy? (See Exodus 20:8.)

5. Do you honor your father and mother? (See Exodus 20:12.)

6. Do you commit adultery or fornication? (See Exodus 20:14.)

7. Do you steal? (See Exodus 20:15.)

8. Do you bear false witness? (See Exodus 20:16.)

9. Do you covet? (See Exodus 20:17.)

Remember, opposing counsel and his trial team will be fully conversant with your conduct and behavior. Witnesses will have been subpoenaed by them to testify against you. Your neighbors will present their testimony concerning your conduct with them. Those who have observed your Sabbath day activity will be called to the stand. On each point where you are vulnerable, witnesses will be produced to contradict your sworn testimony.

As your counsel, we will, of course, be equally well prepared. Your chief counsel will produce every witness favorable to you and elicit from them every fact which may be used on your behalf.

Life's facts can still be created

However, one thing is clear—the ultimate outcome of your case is dependent upon the facts which you provide. There's an old adage among trial lawyers that says, "We don't make the

facts; we only present them." The facts which represent your life are the facts that will ultimately determine your victory or your defeat.

That is one of the reasons I have come today. I have been asked to see that you are clearly informed concerning this matter and to urge you, where necessary, to create facts which will allow the Supreme Judge to find on your behalf. Fortunately for you, your life's facts *can* still be created. No matter how long you have lived, no matter how many mistakes you have made, your life's story *can* still be changed. It *can* still be written. It is not too late. Please, I plead with you, help him to help you win your ultimate inheritance.

Now before closing, I should like to express my deep love to Ila, who is my sweetheart and my heartbeat. I honor her and the womanhood which she so elegantly represents. I love our five children, who are my best friends, and our twelve grandchildren, who regularly teach me the joy of unconditional love, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

President Monson

We have just listened to Elder Cree-L Kofford of the Seventy.

Elder Joseph C. Muren, who was also sustained as a Seventy at April conference, will be our next speaker, and he will be followed by Elder Neal A. Maxwell of the Council of the Twelve Apostles.

Elder Joseph C. Muren

Elder Muren's conversion

My conversion to the gospel and my baptism into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints began some thirty-seven years ago. I was in my first year of university studies when Elder

Henry Eddington of Shoshone, Idaho, and Elder Eleazer Asay of Orem, Utah, began to teach me of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ.

I was intrigued with the discussions. I found that my intellect was