

17. Luke 24:5-6.

18. "I Know That My Redeemer Lives,"
Hymns, no. 136.

The choir sang "The Heavens Resound."

President Hinckley

President Thomas S. Monson has spoken to us, and the choir has sung "The Heavens Resound."

We will now be pleased to hear from President Howard W. Hunter, President of the Council of the Twelve Apostles.

President Howard W. Hunter

"What manner of men ought ye to be?"

I am delighted to be with you today and to greet this wonderful general conference audience. In so doing, may I thank you for the prayers you offer in behalf of the General Authorities, for our health and our travel and our personal circumstances. We are blessed by these faithful prayers offered, and we wish you to know of our gratitude.

One of the most important questions ever asked to mortal men was asked by the Son of God himself, the Savior of the world. To a group of disciples in the New World, a group anxious to be taught by him and even more anxious because he would soon be leaving them, he asked, "What manner of men ought ye to be?" Then in the same breath he gave this answer: "Even as I am" (3 Nephi 27:27).

Jesus Christ—the perfect example

The world is full of people who are willing to tell us, "Do as I say." Surely we have no lack of advice givers on about every subject. But we have so few who are prepared to say, "Do as I do." And, of course, only One in human history could rightfully and properly make that declaration. History provides many examples of good men and women, but even the best of mortals are flawed in some way or another. None could serve as a perfect model nor as an infallible pattern to follow, however well-intentioned they might be.

Only Christ can be our ideal, our "bright and morning star" (Revelation 22:16). Only he can say without *any* reservation: "Follow me; learn of me; do the things you have seen me do. Drink of my water and eat of my bread. I am the way, the truth, and the life. I am the law and the light. Look unto me and ye shall live. Love one another as I have loved you" (see Matthew 11:29; 16:24; John 4:13-14; 6:35, 51; 7:37; 13:34; 14:6; 3 Nephi 15:9; 27:21).

My, what a clear and resonant call! What certainty and example in a day of uncertainty and absence of example.

We all miss President Ezra Taft Benson today and wish that he could address us. I wonder if I might pay a small tribute to him by quoting something he said from this pulpit on the subject of Christ's marvelous example. He said (and I add my own witness to its truth):

"Nearly two thousand years ago a perfect Man walked the earth—Jesus the Christ. . . . In His life, all the virtues were lived and kept in perfect balance; He taught men truth—that they might be free; His example and precepts provide the great standard—the only sure way—for all mankind" (*The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson* [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1988], p. 8).

The great standard! The only sure way! The light and the life of the world! How grateful we should be that God sent his Only Begotten Son to earth

to do at least two things that no other person could have done. The first task Christ did as a perfect, sinless Son was to redeem all mankind from the Fall, providing an atonement for Adam's sin and for our own sins if we will accept and follow him. The second great thing he did was to set a perfect example of right living, of kindness and mercy and compassion, in order that all of the rest of mankind might know how to live, know how to improve, and know how to become more godlike.

Become even as Christ is

Let us follow the Son of God in all ways and in all walks of life. Let us make him our exemplar and our guide. We should at every opportunity ask ourselves, "What would Jesus do?" and then be more courageous to act upon the answer. We must follow Christ, in the best sense of that word. We must be about his work as he was about his Father's. We should try to be like him, even as the Primary children sing, "Try, try, try" ("Jesus Once Was a Little Child," *Children's Songbook*, p. 55). To the extent that our mortal powers permit, we should make every effort to become like Christ—the one perfect and sinless example this world has ever seen.

His beloved disciple John often said of Christ, "We beheld his glory" (John 1:14). They observed the Savior's perfect life as he worked and taught and prayed. So too ought we to behold his glory in every way we can.

We must know Christ better than we know him; we must remember him more often than we remember him; we must serve him more valiantly than we serve him. Then we will drink water springing up unto eternal life and will eat the bread of life.

What manner of men and women ought we to be? Even as he is. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

The choir sang "Dearest Children, God Is Near You."

President Hinckley

We have appreciated the remarks of President Howard W. Hunter, President of the Council of the Twelve Apostles, and also the choir singing "Dearest Children, God Is Near You."

We will now be pleased to hear the testimony of Bishop Merrill J. Bateman, who was sustained yesterday as the Presiding Bishop of the Church.

Bishop Merrill J. Bateman

Stretching the cords of the tent

Brothers and sisters, we have witnessed a miracle; I'm so grateful for Elder Hunter in exemplifying whom we should follow.

It is with a deep sense of concern and inadequacy that I come to the pulpit today. For two days, two passages of scripture have dominated my thoughts. One is Daniel, chapter 2, and the other is the fifty-fourth chapter of Isaiah, both

of them related. Daniel 2 describes the vision of Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel's interpretation of the stone cut out of the mountain in the last days, representing the kingdom established by God that will roll across the earth, crushing peacefully all nations and inviting all to come to Christ (see Daniel 2:44-45).

Isaiah, fifty-fourth chapter, verses one and two, talk about the tent which represents the gospel of Christ. He states that in the last days the cords of the tent