

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.

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

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### 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

would be stretched across the earth and stakes would be planted in every land. We literally are seeing that fulfilled today.

As I have thought about these passages, I have thought of the awesome task of supporting the Brethren in carrying the gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. The responsibility of the Presiding Bishopric and all those who work with them is to aid the Brethren in their worldwide ministry. Because of those visions of Isaiah and Daniel, I plead with you, brothers and sisters, for help through your faith and prayers. I desire with all my heart to be a servant to these men and to the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

#### **Tribute to wife**

Today I pay tribute to my wife. She has stood beside me for thirty-five years. We moved nineteen times in the first twenty years of our marriage. She thought she had married an unstable man. But I pay tribute to her. I have marveled in the last eight months as she has worked by my side in the Asia North Area. Weekend after weekend we have gone to conferences, and I have watched as this little blonde-haired woman, among all these beautiful black-haired Saints, has won their hearts over and over again. There have been crowds of women around her giving her hugs as we have left. She is a mother of seven children and grandmother to fifteen. More importantly, she is my eternal companion. I'm grateful for her.

#### **A young Japanese man gains a testimony**

May I close my testimony with a short story. A few months ago, Sister Bateman and I were touring the Japan Fukuoka Mission. The missionaries in Kumamoto introduced us to a young Japanese brother who had just joined the Church and then told us of his con-

version. He was from a non-Christian background. When he met the missionaries, he was interested in the message. He liked the young men who were teaching him, but during the course of the lessons he could not understand or feel the need for a Savior. The missionaries took him through the lessons and taught him about our Heavenly Father, Christ, and the plan of salvation, but he didn't have a witness. The missionaries wondered what they should do and decided one day to show him a film, a Church film that deals with the Atonement. It is called *The Bridge*. The young man saw the film and was disturbed by it, went home, and couldn't sleep all that night, but still he didn't have a witness.

The next morning he went to work. He worked in an optician's shop making eyeglasses. During the course of the day, an elderly woman came in. He remembered her coming in a few weeks before. She had broken her glasses. She needed a new pair. When she had come in earlier, she didn't have enough money and had gone away to save more in order to purchase the new glasses. As she came in that day, she again showed him her spectacles and showed him the money that she now had. He realized that she didn't have enough yet. Then a thought came to him: *I have some money. I don't need to tell her. I can make up the difference.* So he told her the money she had was adequate, took her glasses, made an appointment for her to return when he had finished making the spectacles, and sent her on her way.

She returned later. He had the glasses ready for her. He handed them to her, and she put them on. "*Mimasu! Mimasu! I see. I see.*" Then she began to cry. At that point, a burning sensation began to grow within his bosom and swelled within him. He said, "*Wakari masu! Wakari masu! I understand. I understand.*" He began to cry. Out the door he ran, looking for the missionaries. When he found them, he said, "I

see! My eyes have been opened! I know that Jesus is the Son of God. I know the stone was rolled away from the tomb and on that glorious Easter morning He arose from the dead. He can make up the difference in my life when I fall short."

I pledge my all to the service of the Master. I have a deep testimony of Him and of His work on this earth. He is the one who guides and directs the affairs of this church. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

### President Hinckley

Our new Presiding Bishop, Merrill J. Bateman, has just spoken to us.

The choir and congregation will now join in singing "Come, Ye Children of the Lord." Bishop H. David Burton, First Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric, will then speak to us.

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The choir and congregation sang "Come, Ye Children of the Lord."

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## Bishop H. David Burton

I know that Bishop Edgley joins me this day in expressing our appreciation for the many years of service we have had with Elder Hales. We deeply love and appreciate him, and we feel like we've been taught at his feet for a number of years. We look forward to laboring in service with Bishop Bateman.

I was thrilled this morning, as I'm sure all of you were, to see and to hear President Hunter, a loving and gentle Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ who is an exceptional example of one who repeatedly displays extraordinary *courage* in *hearkening* to the will of his Father in Heaven.

President Hunter has sons who served their missions in Australia at the same time I served there. During this time, President Hunter received his call to the holy apostleship. Numerous of these missionaries have regarded him as "our Apostle." He is one of my heroes.

On this Sabbath day, a Sunday set aside to celebrate Easter, Christians should remember with thanksgiving the events surrounding the most momentous Sunday the world has ever known—the Sunday the Savior burst his three-day prison, completing victory over death. Descriptions of these events are vividly etched in my heart and mind.

### Jesus' crucifixion

I can envision Jesus bearing the heavy crossbeam as the procession winds its way along the narrow streets of Jerusalem, through the massive wall at the city gate, to a place called Golgotha. I can hear women weeping and Jesus offering words of warning: "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children" (Luke 23:28). The Savior knew destructive events would shortly come.

In my mind's eye I can see the executioners going about their abhorrent, heartless tasks. I can hear the Savior, in the spirit of compassion, appealing for his crucifiers as he uttered, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).

As this brutal incident proceeded, one of the thieves also suffering crucifixion discerned something divine in the Savior's demeanor and said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." Jesus responded with a promise only he could make: "Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:42-43).

Picture in your minds a weeping mother and a devoted disciple invited past the centurion to the foot of the cross. Jesus, in his agony, looked down