

Set a personal example by keeping the commandments. Pay tithes and offerings, attend sacrament meetings, read the scriptures, and have family home evenings so that your sons will be prepared for their missions.

As couple missionaries, you and your wife should prepare to serve when that time comes. We need many, many more couple missionaries.

Testimony of joys and blessings

The joys and blessings of serving a full-time mission are so personally sacred, they are hard to express adequately. Thirty-five years after I served my first mission, I received a letter from a family whom I had taught but did not baptize. The letter shared that their family of four little children, whom I once knew, now consisted of four temple marriages, three full-time missionaries, three bishops, a Relief Society president, and a dozen grandchildren maturing and developing in the gospel. You can well imagine the thrill and joy I received knowing that I had helped to find them and to teach them the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In conclusion, may I testify of the blessings of missionary service. Last year, my father passed away at age 88. As a young man, he was called on a mission during the Depression, when few were able to serve. It was hard and difficult. He always said that his decision to

serve a mission was the best decision he ever made. When he died, he left 10 children, 9 living; 56 grandchildren; and 116 great-grandchildren.

Of his posterity, 32 served full-time missions and 15 spouses who married into the family had served missions, resulting in 47 full-time missionaries—or almost 100 years of full-time missionary work. All of this resulted, in part, because one man served a mission. I shall be forever grateful that my father served a mission and that I was motivated and taught to follow his example.

I bear witness of this great privilege we all have in the Church—to be missionaries. Inherent in our responsibility of holding the priesthood is being a missionary. I pray that we will all fulfill that obligation we have to the Lord, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

NOTES

1. See D&C 118.
2. *The Discourses of Wilford Woodruff*, ed. G. Homer Durham (1946), 309.
3. See Orson F. Whitney, *Life of Heber C. Kimball* (1888), 275–76; Wilford Woodruff, *Leaves from My Journal*, 2nd ed. (1882), 69.
4. “Minutes of Conference,” *Deseret News*, 18 Sept. 1852, 1.
5. D&C 28:16.
6. D&C 29:7.
7. D&C 42:6.
8. *Discourses of Brigham Young*, sel. John A. Widtsoe (1954), 328.

Elder James M. Paramore

The brotherhood of the priesthood

To the priesthood of the Church here on this earth, I salute you. It is an honor to be in your presence tonight. The priesthood that is here and across the whole earth is a wondrous thing. A few months ago, I was in the main lobby

of the Church Administration Building waiting for an elevator when three men came in and asked the receptionist at the front desk, “Is this where the brothers are?” The receptionist smiled, and I thought, “Isn’t that a great salutation.”

Wherever I go, we are brothers. It is instant, and it is reassuring. I return to

my home after each assignment thanking God for this brotherhood and the love and the good works that I see. You are unbelievable, my friends.

“The heart and a willing mind”

Men of the priesthood, I remember a story about a schoolteacher who asked a returning class what their fathers had taught them about self-reliance during a summer vacation. After several accounts were told, she asked Johnny what his dad had done. And Johnny replied, “My dad taught me how to swim; he took me out in the middle of Utah Lake, threw me overboard, and told me to swim back to shore.” “Wow,” the teacher said, “that took a lot of courage.” And Johnny replied, “It wasn’t bad at all after I got out of the gunnysack.” Well, my young friends, life will be a challenge, but our Father in Heaven has given us the means to get through it safely. Let’s talk about that for a few minutes.

The Lord wants you to have the greatest of all experiences as you make your journey on this earth. This can be a magnificent journey filled with literally thousands of tremendous experiences and spiritual confirmations if you will find your way through the many choices that will be yours along the way. The road given by our Father in Heaven is clearly marked, but the patterns and ways of the world can deceive you. But remember, “Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood” (1 Peter 2:9). You are the means by which truth and goodness and eternal life will be made known to the whole world. We are all part of it. As the Lord said to Joseph Smith in 1831, we will all need “the heart and a willing mind” (D&C 64:34).

Young men, life is eternal. The Lord Jesus Christ and His servants give hope and witness to the world that the journey we take is from our Father’s presence to earth and then home again to our Father in Heaven to live eternally. We all bear

this good news to the world. It is a super-nal message of everlasting life and everlasting relationships—even eternal marriages and families. Nothing transcends its meaning, its value, its promise. With this knowledge and love, we can help transform hopes and dreams and help others to find eternal truths and the inward peace and security that they bring.

For instance, consider my friend Bob and his watch care over an elder who smoked. Nearly every morning, Bob would see a fellow member of his quorum and pray with him to help him overcome smoking and then give him a pack of Lifesavers or package of gum to help him during the day. Later, Bob would see him and his wife with hands linked across the temple altar, sealed for eternity. What was it that changed and helped to bring this all about? The gospel and “the heart and a willing mind.”

Trust in God and His Son

Youth, may I leave with you a few thoughts that will help you create that kind of a “heart and a willing mind.” *First*, we testify to this world that *there is a God and He has sent His Beloved Son* to establish the importance of this journey to earth and back. He has provided the plan for successfully making that journey. We just need to “trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5). The philosophies of men will ever be there, but they do not carry the promise of eternal life or even peace on this earth. Put your whole trust in the Lord. His scriptures and His prophets testify of Him and show the way.

Live within the Lord’s boundaries

Second, God, through His Son, Jesus Christ, has *established boundaries*. These are the *commandments* that He gives to us to help us make the journey safely. When, with “the heart and a willing

mind," we are obedient to these commandments, we go through a change process that alters the way we think, the way we feel, the way we dress, the way we live, what we eat and drink, and the way we serve others. As Alma the Younger said, "They become new creatures" (Mosiah 27:26). These boundaries protect us. They are essential to a safe journey.

When I was five years old, my mother helped me to learn about boundaries when she said to me nearly every day, "Jimmy, don't go near the quicksand," which was just a few hundred feet away from our house. Well, guess what Jimmy and his young friends would do? We would go there. As we walked closer to the quicksand, one of my friends walked onto this rather wet, darker looking sand. It looked almost like the rest of the sand. At first his feet wouldn't move, and we all laughed. And then they sank a little deeper into the quicksand, and he panicked. He couldn't get out of the quicksand, and he started screaming. The rest of us ran as fast as we could go to a cowboy's house, screaming at the top of our voices. He immediately grabbed a rope and ran with us back to the boy, who was now up to his waist in the quicksand. He quickly lassoed the boy, and we held the rope while he put out a log and climbed onto it to pull the boy out of the quicksand.

We learn that when we cross over the Lord's boundaries, we are often caught in a quicksand of sorts. The ways of the world are often like that quicksand, and they can be so destructive. They seek to divert us from the Lord's boundaries—His commandments. These worldly ways—drugs, drinking, smoking, living together without marriage, some of the music, and on and on—

- Seem very enticing,
- Appear to be the normal way of life,
- Seem to be accepted by everyone,

and

- Are extolled in television, on the movies, over the Internet, in videos, et cetera.

These things lead us outside the boundaries the Lord has set. When followed, they bring despair and devastating health, financial, and other problems.

The boundaries of the Lord are set forth in your *For the Strength of Youth* booklets and are clear and a great blessing to everyone who follows them. We go forth as missionaries and as members to help people find and value the commandments or boundaries of the Lord. If it is done with "the heart and a willing mind," or in other words anxiously, happily, and enthusiastically, like President Hinckley as he goes forth across the earth, it will make us different, appreciative, and thankful for each opportunity that we take.

Begin with the end in mind

Third, young and, yes, old alike, *begin with the end in mind*. Where do you want to be at 19 years of age or at retirement? On a mission? Make that decision even this very night. I promise you that it will change your life and others' as God directs you on your mission. All He requires is "the heart and a willing mind." You can do so much good that it will astound you as you are changed and as you see others changed.

God will honor those who honor Him

In a testimony meeting in Bari, Italy, you can imagine my surprise when a young man stood up and said, "If it hadn't been for the missionaries, I wouldn't be here today." He then went on to tell how his mother and grandparents had been found in Paris, France, by Elders Ben Walton and James Paramore 30 years earlier. After many meetings, the family was baptized. Now this son was on a mission. I later learned that over the years more than 170 people had been baptized

by that family. I had been privileged to serve a mission, and those two and a half years were crucial to my testimony. I cannot thank God enough.

I testify that God lives, that His Son is the Redeemer of this earth, and that this gospel will bless all mankind everywhere. May we all:

- *Trust in God and His Son.*
- *Live within the boundaries* they have given.
- *Begin with the end in mind* with *“the heart and a willing mind.”*

Remember the Lord said, “For them that honour me I will honour” (1 Samuel 2:30). May this be our journey, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

President Hinckley

We have just listened to Elders Earl C. Tingey and James M. Paramore of the Seventy.

The choir and congregation will now join in singing “High on the Mountain Top.”

President James E. Faust, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, will then speak to us. He will be followed by President Thomas S. Monson, First Counselor in the First Presidency.

The choir and congregation sang “High on the Mountain Top.”

President James E. Faust

Brethren, I am pleased to be here with you tonight. Few responsibilities weigh heavier than speaking to this great assembly of priesthood holders because the priesthood is the mightiest force on the earth. As B. H. Roberts reminds us: “The priesthood is a solemn thing. To hold power delegated to one by Almighty God—to have authority to speak and act in his name, and have it of the same binding force as if the Deity himself spoke or acted, is both an honor and a responsibility.”¹ To me, you young men look like Helaman’s stripling warriors, “exceedingly valiant for courage, and also for strength and activity.” Like them, we hope you are men who are “true at all times in whatsoever thing [you are] entrusted.”²

Consistency between beliefs and actions

Tonight I plead for greater consistency between our beliefs and actions. I take as my text the thirteenth article of faith. “We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; indeed, we may say

that we follow the admonition of Paul—We believe all things, we hope all things, we have endured many things, and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things.”³

Brethren, does the Spirit of Christ that we have taken upon ourselves spill over into our behavior in the workforce? Brigham Young said: “We want the Saints to increase in goodness, until our mechanics, for instance, are so honest and reliable that this Railroad Company will say, ‘Give us a “Mormon” Elder for an engineer, then none need have the least fear to ride, for if he knows there is danger he will take every measure necessary to preserve the lives of those entrusted to his care.’ I want to see our Elders so full of integrity that they will be preferred by this Company for their engine builders, watchmen, engineers, clerks, and business managers. If we live our religion and are worthy [of] the name of Latter-day Saints, we are just the men that all such business can be entrusted to with perfect safety; if it can