

"You will be benefited after a little by the influence the Latter-day Saints will exert in stemming these evils of which you speak." "Oh, yes," says she, "you believe that we'll all be Mormons." "No," I said, "I don't believe anything of the kind, I do not expect everybody will be a Mormon. We do not labor with a view that everybody is going to be a Mormon, but we expect to introduce a better state of society, and others will see and admire it, and they will be glad to have the influence of our example to help correct the evils which are now growing so fast, and which are threatening good society."

A great many of our friends who are not of us imagine that we are working as we are to build up something exclusive, in other words, that we are going to build up some Mormon institution, as they call it, and give the Mormons some tremendous power over everybody else. A greater mistake could not be entertained. Yet our opponents—I won't call them enemies, I think we indulge in that word too much in our public discourses—make that a ground of complaint against us, and they allege that if we had the power we would make everything Mormon and bring everyone else into subjection to us. Nothing could be farther from the truth. There is no such design in any of our hearts. If we had the power we would not do it. But what we do want is to introduce a better condition of affairs. We want love to reign in the hearts of the children of men, as far as we can get them to entertain and cherish it. And we know that the principles that God has revealed will do this. The object that we ought to have in view, my brethren and sisters, is to labor for the establishment of a reign of righteousness. I am very anxious myself to see a better state of things. I know that God designs that there shall be. We have on the earth an abundance of every element necessary for man's happiness. It is a goodly earth that God has given us as a habitation; it is well supplied with all the elements necessary for man's comfort. And the land that we occupy—this continent of America—is a choice land above all other lands on the earth. The elements of wealth in the greatest abundance are all around us; the land is rich and will produce to an unlimited extent; there is an abundance of animals; the treasures of the earth are abundant; there is no end to the precious metals, nor to those which are more useful and necessary. In fact, there is nothing to prevent every human being from enjoying happiness, so far as happiness can be derived from the possession of the elements necessary to sustain life and to make it comfortable, and even luxurious. And the Latter-day Saints will find, if they do that which is right and keep their eyes single to the glory of God, that they will become a very rich people. It is bound to be the case, and nothing can prevent it but our own misconduct. Wealth will increase in our midst, on our right and on our left. But the great lesson for us to learn is to use the wealth that God gives us in a way that will bring glory to Him and that will bring about the full salvation—temporal and spiritual—of our fellow-creatures. We should have the same spirit in the

management of wealth that we have in going out without purse or scrip, or that we had in sending teams down, to which I have alluded, to bring up the poor. It would be a very unfortunate thing for us to have blessings bestowed upon us that we would abuse and that would prove our destruction.

Already among us we have seen the bad effects of wealth. The division of property among children whose parents have died possessed of wealth has not in every case proved a benefit to those who inherited it. It should be a lesson to all of us that there are other things besides wealth to bestow upon our children, there is something higher and of greater value and we should seek after those greater riches and endeavor to have them inherited by our offspring.

I felt very much impressed at one time to talk to one of the brethren who was a rich man and with whom I was intimately acquainted. I heard that he was very close, did not pay his tithing and neglected other things which a Latter-day Saint would take pleasure in doing. I met him on the street and I said to him, calling him by name:

"I feel greatly impressed to speak to you. It seems to me that you are taking an unwise course. God has made you a steward. He has placed substance in your hands; now is your opportunity to use it wisely and in a way that will contribute to your future gratification and happiness. I hear you are very careless and do not pay any tithing and you do not help in other directions. Now, as your friend, I feel to say this much to you. You will not stay here a great while, and somebody else will inherit that which you now have. You have it now in your power to do good and help forward the work of God. Make use of the opportunity while you have it, so that when you go hence you will have no reflection to indulge in of sorrow and regret that you let the opportunity slip."

He seemed to be greatly impressed at the time, but I do not think he did anything about it particularly. Not long after that he died. His property, of course, has been divided. If he did not avail himself of the opportunity which he had there is not a shadow of doubt in my mind that it will be a source of endless regret to him to think that while the means was in his possession he failed to do his plain and simple duty as a Latter-day Saint.

I have had some ask me concerning the meaning of the parable of the unjust steward, contained in the 16th chapter of Luke. They cannot understand why the Savior commended the unjust steward who, when threatened with the loss of his stewardship, resolved to make friends of his master's debtors so that when he should be put out they might receive him into their houses. The Savior commended this steward because he had done wisely; and he said to those who listened to him: "Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations."

There is an important principle involved in these teachings. God has entrusted us with means. We are His

stewards. He will call us to an account for our stewardship. This unjust steward saw what was coming. Now, he said, in effect, "I will take of this which I have and over which I am steward, and I will make with it friends to myself." And he did so, so that when his stewardship was taken from him he would have friends. We should be equally wise in using the means with which God has entrusted us as stewards. Men and women who are rich, if they only knew the right course, would do as the women did to Jesus—"And Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others which ministered unto him of their substance." This was how the women who had means made friends with Jesus, and others have made friends of the prophets in the same way, as if to say: "I will make friends with the prophets, with the apostles, with the men of God who will have power in days to come, so that if I fail they may receive me into everlasting habitations." For do you think that God makes men kings and priests without giving them authority and power? No. These men who are despised of the world, will yet sit upon thrones, and exercise power and dominion; and I would like to make friends of them, and gain their love; and if I were a man of means, and they were destitute, I would like to impart means to them, and thus make friends of them with that which God had made me steward over.

God has made us all stewards. He has placed means in our hands. What better use can we make of this substance than to build up His kingdom upon the earth, to help establish His righteousness, and to devote everything that we have to the advancement of His cause? And He will reward us. He will receive us into everlasting habitations, and He will increase His glory, honor and power upon us. Do you think those who have given a cup of cold water to the Elders of this Church will be forgotten? Do you think those who have entertained the Elders of this Church—the messengers of God—given them lodgings, food and clothing, will be forgotten? No. God will reward all such. No man ever gave a cup of cold water to a servant of God; no woman ever prepared a meal of victuals, or made a bed for a servant of God to rest upon, without the Lord being cognizant of it, and He will reward all such abundantly. Every man that helps his fellow-man, whether he be a Latter-day Saint or not, will receive a reward for doing so. God loves His children. He wants His children to love one another. How is it with your children? What feeling does it produce in your hearts when you see your children practicing self-denial and helping each other? Why, you feel as though you could give them anything you have, while they have that spirit. Do you not think that God has that feeling concerning us, His children? Certainly He has; and when we help one another there is a spirit that comes upon us from Him that testifies to us that that is a good act, and that God approves of it. Everything that we do that contributes to righteousness God will bless. This people will be a blessed people because of this, because they do love one