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## DISCOURSE

Discourse delivered in the Tabernacle,  
Salt Lake City, Sunday, September 20th, 1896, by

**PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON**

[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

I will read a portion of the 7th chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, commencing at the 21st verse:

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house, and it fell not; for it was founded upon a rock.

And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand.

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon the house; and it fell; and great was the fall of it.

And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at His doctrine.

For He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

In arising to address you this afternoon I solicit the aid of your faith and prayers, that I may be led to say those things that shall be of profit to all who are here. I suppose there are very few men belonging to our Church who can arise to address a congregation without feeling trepidation and being oppressed more or less by fear; at least, I have never been able to do this, notwithstanding the experience almost of a lifetime. But we know that when we arise putting our trust in the Lord and relying upon Him to give us that which we shall say to the people, we never fail in receiving that which comforts the hearts of those who speak, at least, and frequently the hearts of those who hear. It is a blessed thing to know that the Lord assists His servants in teaching the people. This knowledge has strengthened the Elders under many trying circumstances, and they have been able to prove to their entire satisfaction the truth of the words of the Lord upon this point. In this respect, as I have often remarked, this Church differs from every other Church that I know anything about on the earth. The ministers of the Gospel belonging to

the Church of Jesus Christ are required to seek unto the Lord to know His mind and will, and to depend upon Him to give unto them the bread of life as it shall be needed by the people. In this manner this Church has been led from the very beginning; it has been by the spirit of revelation, as the Lord has manifested His will from time to time in the midst of the varied circumstances under which the people have been placed. Whatever success there has been connected with the preaching of the Gospel to the nations of the earth and the gathering in of the people, or whatever success there has been in building up the waste places of the land, and in organizing, and in bringing about a condition of unity and of peace, it is all due to the Lord. No man can claim the credit of it.

The manner in which this Church is organized has been viewed by many with feelings, if not of admiration, at least of surprise, because of its strength and of the power which has attended it. I remember well some years ago, while I was representing the people of Utah in Congress, a very prominent member of Congress said to me, "Mr. Cannon, where did you get your magnificent organization from?"

He was a man who had paid considerable attention to religion, and he remarked that he had never met with anything or read of anything that could at all compare with the organization of our Church. I think that every reflecting man who will pay attention to the organization of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be compelled to admit that it is a very wonderful organization, a very strong, powerful, complete and far-reaching organization. Now, Joseph Smith, Jr., was the man in the hands of God to effect this organization. Through him it was accomplished; through him the details were given. But can Joseph Smith Jr., be credited with the ability necessary to accomplish this? He himself always disclaimed it. He gave the entire glory to God, the Eternal Father. Every member of this Church does the same. We reverence Joseph Smith, we love his memory, we treasure his words, and endeavor to follow his instructions. We do this because we accept him as a man of God—as a prophet raised up by the Lord to accomplish a certain work. But no glory has ever been given by this Church, collectively or individually, to Joseph Smith as the founder of this work, only as such under the direction of the Almighty, through the Lord Jesus Christ. If there be admiration entertained because of the completeness and thoroughness of our organization, it is not extended to man, but to the God of heaven. So with all the success that has ever

attended this work from the beginning until the present time.

The wonderful exodus, so full of dramatic incidents, that took place when the Latter-day Saints were driven from civilization into the wilderness; the grand qualities which were developed in the people themselves; the mastery that was shown by their great leader, and the remarkable courage and resourceful powers that he exhibited—in all this no credit is taken from the Lord to give to him. President Young himself attributed to the Lord all the success of leading the people forth to these mountains. He gave the glory to the Lord for the success that attended the settlement of these valleys. So did the people. And the people today give God the glory. They worship God for that which He has done, and praise Him for the salvation that has been wrought out, recognizing the men who have been the means in His hands of teaching and counseling the people as God's servants, instruments chosen by Him with which to effect these grand results.

I say, therefore, that there is no people upon the earth today who are like us in this respect. If a man preaches a powerful discourse; if a man writes a convincing argument; if a man accomplishes a great mission, or is successful in managing business affairs among us in a public capacity, he does not, if he is a true Latter-day Saint, claim the credit of this for himself. If he speaks in power, he does so because the Spirit of God gives him utterance; if he writes with clearness and convincing force, it is because God inspires him. The people do not give glory to man for that which he does in this Church.

In this way the God of heaven is being extolled, and a generation is growing up who look to the Lord, and who have faith in Him and believe in His power. There are frequent instances among us of men being called to administer to the sick, and their administration has resulted in the healing of the sick. Wonderful miracles have been performed in this Church by the anointing of oil and the laying on of hands. Men, women and children, trembling on the verge of the grave, almost ready to depart this life, have been raised to health through the administration of this holy ordinance and the exercise of faith. The blind have been restored to sight, the deaf have had their ears unstopped, and people have been healed of various ailments by the power of God through the administration of this ordinance. Does man claim the honor of this? Do the people who witness these manifestations give the glory to man? Do the sick who are healed give the glory to man? No. The Elder who would claim any credit for this would be likely to lose his