

sened. Who can not understand the danger there would be under such a condition of affairs? But how to obviate it, how to remove it so that it should no longer exist! God has removed it by making it plain that it is the duty of every man to be sealed to his father, where his father is not a man that has proved entirely unworthy. And when such a case arises—which will be very seldom—we have the man in our midst who has the keys of the Priesthood and unto whom this question can be submitted for him to decide what should be done.

My brethren and sisters, I have this belief concerning us: that it was arranged before we came here how we should come, and through what lineage we should come. We were not born of the seed of Ham; we were not born of some questionable race; but, as the Lord has taught us in the eighty-sixth section of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, our Priesthood has been hid with God. That section says:

Therefore, thus saith the Lord unto you, with whom the Priesthood hath continued through the lineage of your fathers,

For ye are lawful heirs, according to the flesh, and have been hid from the world with Christ in God;

Therefore your life and the Priesthood hath remained and must needs remain through you and your lineage, until the restoration of all things spoken by the mouths of all the holy prophets since the world began.

I am as convinced that it was predestined before I was born that I should come through my father as I am that I stand here. And if God chose to give to Wilford Woodruff's father the honor of begetting him, and it was so arranged before they were born, who shall step in and deprive him of the honor which God gave to him, and give it to somebody else? Reflect upon it and you will see that it would lead to endless confusion if this were done. We would be broken up in families and in our lineage, and there would be no distinction, consequently it would result in great confusion. Paul says, "that in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him; in whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will." I believe we were predestined to come here. I believe that it was arranged that we should come here as we have done. No doubt when we trace our ancestors back, we will find that they trod in muddy places. We shall find that there was wickedness among them. There can be little doubt about this, because they were human beings; they were exposed to temptation and to sin. Nevertheless, that was the arrangement; and when we meet with cases about which there will be question, we can then inquire of the Lord concerning them, and whether it would be right to continue the sealing of the children to them, and through them to somebody else or whether there shall be a break in the link; for we shall all be linked together as a chain. One generation will be linked to another by the power and authority of the Holy Priesthood until we get back to the time when the Priesthood was upon the earth, and when the authority to administer these ordinances was among men in former times.

Another thing that what we have heard today will effect. There has been a disposition manifested among our people, to some extent, for some men and women to gather up all the names of families they could find, whether they were related or not, and perform ordinances for them. I am a believer in this when it does not interfere with the rights of heirship. We should do all we can for those for whom we have friendship, or to whom we are attached in any way, and who have no living representatives that we know of in the Church. But you can see the advantage of pursuing now the course that is pointed out by the word of God to us. It will make everyone careful to obtain the connection, and to get the names properly of the sons and of the daughters of men, to have them sealed to their parents. It will draw the line fairly. It will define the lineage clearly. "But," says one, "that may take a long time." Well, we have got a thousand years to do it in. We need not be in such a hurry as to create confusion. The Lord will give us time enough to do it all; and when we have gone as far as appears possible, He will give to us opportunities that, at the present time, we are ignorant of; and we will find that everything will be made plain, and each man will trace his genealogy clear back, and we will know our connection, and what to do in relation to these matters, for the Lord will reveal it to us.

My brethren and sisters, suppose that each of us should seek some great man in the Church to be sealed to. For instance, we would like to be sealed to the President of the Church, because it would be a great honor to be adopted to him, and we think, "well, that man is much better than my father. I would rather be adopted to him than to be sealed to my father. I do not think very much of my father or my mother." Now, I think, when we feel that way, that we are, to a certain extent, despising the arrangement which the Lord has made. We should not despise our origin. On the contrary, we should seek to preserve it, and honor those who have given us birth.

It always has seemed to me, in reflecting upon this, that the Prophet Joseph honored his father who begot him; yet Joseph was the man chosen by the Almighty to stand at the head of the entire people of this dispensation. We all have to look to him. Every Apostle, and every great man in the Church, must of necessity turn his eyes towards the Prophet of God, whom He chose to lay the foundation of this work. You don't find anything in Joseph's life nor in his history, as it is recorded, that would give the least idea that he thought himself of so superior a nature that he could not honor his father and mother. In fact, I remember well the Prophet, in speaking about the sepulchre that he had prepared near the temple block, describing the joy that he would have in rising from the dead and striking hands with his father and with his kindred, and how delighted he would be to come up in the resurrection and grasp them by the hand. That spirit attended him in all his allusions to his kindred, to his father and mother especially. There is no doubt in my mind that the Prophet Joseph would be sealed to his father. He will honor his father and his mother. He will be sealed to them, and they and their lineage will doubtless be con-

nected with him by the sealing ordinance as the head of this dispensation. They will have to be connected with him by some link or bond that will be created, if it does not already exist, as we all will be connected with him because he is the head of the dispensation. But as a son he will be connected with his parents; he will honor his parents; and in his turn he will be honored by his ancestry and all who come within the range and under the jurisdiction of this dispensation. All such will necessarily be sealed by some bond to the Prophet Joseph. In this way we shall all be united; and there can be no question on our part as to the propriety of being all connected with Joseph, carrying up every lineage directly as far as we can, and then linking them on to the head of the dispensation. There need be no jealousy, then. There need be none to say, "Well, I am sealed or adopted to a greater man than you. I am adopted to Joseph, or to Brigham, or to John Taylor, or to Wilford Woodruff, or to this man or the other man." There will be no need to pride and plume ourselves on the fact that we are adopted to these various men, and thus divide the people asunder in their feelings, creating to a certain extent a feeling of rivalry which does not belong to the Gospel of the Son of God. Every man that reflects upon it can see that this revelation which God has given through His servant Wilford Woodruff removes that danger out of our pathway and prepares us to go forward and honor our kindred and do everything we can for their salvation, concentrating our feeling upon our ancestors, and not upon somebody else's ancestors. In thus honoring our parents we also observe that ancient law which was given by God to the children of Israel, and which has such a great blessing attached to it:

Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Why should a man come to one of the Apostles and be sealed to him and then trace his genealogy through him and his ancestors, and neglect his own? There have been some cases of adoption, I suppose, where the parties have not felt clear in their minds concerning this. This light, however, that we now have clears it all up and makes it plain; and we can see and understand it.

God bless you, in the name of Jesus, Amen.

The Bank of California has been annoyed and several traders have been victimized by a clever petty swindler. The man, says the *Chronicle*, whose name is unknown, was successful in getting about \$200 from a score of storekeepers, about four months ago. This time he has cleaned up at least \$100. The man selects Saturday afternoons and nights and Sundays for his work and then flies to parts unknown. His plan is to enter a store, make a purchase amounting to \$2 or so, and give a check on the Bank of California for \$40 as security. He then asks for a few dollars to make up the difference between the \$2 purchase and \$10 so as to have money to last him until Monday. He promises to call on Monday to redeem the check. The check in nearly every instance is made out to Werner or Welner and endorsed by Schmidt or Schmitt.