

of commandment unto the Church, thou mayest do it."

That is, he could speak or teach at all times by way of commandment unto the Church. That was within the province of his Priesthood and calling.

Now listen—

"But thou shalt not write by way of commandment, but by wisdom."

Oliver Cowdery had no right to write revelations to the Church or give in writing the word of God. He had the right to pen words of wisdom and instruction; he had the right to teach and speak under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost; but there was only one man who had the right to write revelations and commandments to the Church, and that was Joseph; for, says the Lord:

"And thou shalt not command him who is at thy head, and at the head of the Church,

"For I have given him the keys of the mysteries, and the revelations which are sealed, until I shall appoint unto them another in his stead."

Therefore, so long as Joseph lived no other man, however great his authority, had the right to give commandments—written commandments—to the Church. When he departed, the right fell upon Brigham Young; and although he was no more of an Apostle than his fellow Apostles, he had a different calling. It was his calling to preside over the Church. It was his calling to be the mouthpiece of the Lord to the people. When he passed away it fell to another; and when he died, it fell to another, who is in our midst today—President Wilford Woodruff. He has this right, and no other man. Though there may be many Apostles, there is only one man at a time on the earth who can hold the keys, and who can exercise this authority, as the President of the Church, in giving voice to the mind and will of God in written revelations to the Church.

Now, to return to the idea that I started out with: Suppose any number of men should pretend that they had been visited by holy messengers and had received manifestations from God, can you for a moment imagine that God would give any authority, except it were given in the line or channel which He has prepared, and through which the Priesthood has already come? Can anyone think that the Lord would send His holy angels from heaven to lay hands upon Joseph and Oliver—chosen vessels for this purpose—and restore the everlasting Priesthood, as He did, and then

allow some side persons to receive it in some surreptitious and illegal manner?

I speak about this, because the idea has entered into my mind, for some reason, that there are doubts and uncertainty in the minds of some concerning these matters; and there is a fear—perhaps through unbelief—that the Lord has withdrawn in some manner a portion of His power and has withheld some of His blessings from the Priesthood of the Son of God which exists in our midst. I say to you, and I bear testimony to it, that all the keys, all the authority, all the power, and all the Spirit that were necessary to build up Zion were bestowed upon the Prophet Joseph; and by him conferred upon his fellow-servants, and are in existence and held and exercised at the present time by the Apostles of this Church.

But some have got the idea that there is something lacking, some absence of power, which some great prophet—a prophet greater than anybody we have ever had, will have to restore. Such ideas unsettle people in their minds and faith and produce dissatisfaction and discontent. I am looking for great manifestations of the power of God; but I am not looking—I never have been—for any great and wonderful thing of this kind to occur. Prophets will undoubtedly continue to arise. We shall have men with various gifts. The Prophet Joseph was succeeded by the Prophet Brigham, who, as I remarked today, was one of the mightiest Prophets that ever lived. Of course, there is a difference in men's gifts. Very few men have ever lived on the earth who have been gifted like the Prophet Joseph. We would not make any comparison between any Apostle and the Savior, and it is scarcely right to make a comparison between any prophet and the Prophet Joseph. He was chosen expressly to lay the foundation of this great work, and the Lord gave him wonderful power and wonderful revelations. He received a continued stream of revelation from the time that the Father and the Son visited him until the time of his death. He was a great and mighty spirit. I always try to avoid making comparisons between servants of God; but I doubt whether there ever was a prophet who received so much light in the same length of time; for he died in comparative youth, being only thirty-eight years of age.

Brethren, let us be satisfied with

the blessings that we have and not be looking forward with eager expectation for some great event to happen, and overlook the blessings and principles that we have today. It is the privilege of every man in the Church who holds the Priesthood, to have revelation from God for himself. You can have your minds enlightened; you can have the Spirit and power of God rest upon you. It is not necessary that you should preside over the Church, or that you should be one of the Twelve, to have such gifts and blessings as these. Read in the Book of Mormon about the sons of Mosiah. See what mighty power Ammon, one of the sons of Mosiah, attained unto. Was he the President of the Church? No; Alma was the President of the Church. Ammon was one of the servants of God, holding the Priesthood. Was there any limit to the power of that man? Scarcely any, apparently. The work that he did among the Lamanites is one of the greatest labors and missions that were ever performed by man. Yet, as I have said, he was doubtless only a High Priest or a man holding the Melchisedec Priesthood. His brethren also attained unto very great power. In their fourteen years' mission among the Lamanites they performed an extraordinary work, and God was with them. Then, after their day, there were the two sons of Helaman—Nephi and Lehi. We have the most told us about Nephi. Probably he was the senior; he was doubtless the presiding High Priest over the Church. But Lehi was scarcely a whit behind him in the power of God that he attained unto and the blessings that were bestowed upon him.

So it is with us. If we will live for these blessings, there is no limit to them. The only limit is our faith. If we have no faith; if we do not qualify ourselves; if we do not live near unto the Lord and seek unto Him for power and for gifts and graces, He will not bestow these blessings upon us. Every one of you brethren who bear the Holy Priesthood should be in such close communication with the Lord that you will know for yourselves all things pertaining to your duties; that you will not need to be taught, or, if you are taught, that you will understand in a moment what is required of you. If you were in such a condition, would Elders be contending one with another? Would they be arraying themselves one against another? Would there be