

thy strength, and with all thy mind, and thy neighbor as thyself.

But the lawyer, desiring to justify himself, said, "And who is my neighbor?" Then Jesus brought forth the following parable:

And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.

But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,

And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him on to an inn, and took care of him.

And on the morrow when he departed, he took two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbor unto him that fell among the thieves?

And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

By this parable Jesus illustrated who is our neighbor. Our neighbor is not alone the man who lives next door to us; but every soul that needs help, who needs comfort and blessing, is our neighbor. The whole world is our neighbor. It is because this spirit is in the hearts of this people that year after year missionaries are sent to the various parts of the world to preach this Gospel of the kingdom. It is that they may fill the hearts of men and women with the same spirit which they possess, and that they may rejoice in the knowledge and wisdom which God is pouring out so abundantly upon the human family in these last days. It is not because they desire to travel that our missionaries go. It is not to see the world, as some think is the case who do not understand the labor which we have taken upon ourselves. I admit that there are some Elders who go out without any clear idea of what is to be required of them. Some go with the view of gaining experience by travel and association with the world, and they have no greater object than this in accepting the missionary call. But even when they go with this spirit, if the seed of the Gospel has been planted in their hearts, it does not require long for them to feel the spirit which fills the heart of every true missionary in the world and they pass through trials, they endure fatigue, they suffer for food and raiment and shelter that they may bring to the people of the world the glad message of the Gospel which the Lord has revealed. Then it is that they feel that the labor which they are performing is the sweetest that has ever fallen to their lot; and thus it is that missionaries, when they come home, testify that the time they have spent in the field has been the happiest of all their experience. God fills them with a love of human kind and with an ambition to save souls, and they feel that if they can be instruments in the hand of God in bringing one soul unto the truth, how great will be their reward in eternity! I feel sometimes, however, even in this labor, that we are following the ex-

ample of the world too much. They send their missionaries to benighted Africa; they gather up the means, sometimes obtaining it from those who are in greater need of reformation than are the poor negroes of Africa; and they send their missionaries to preach what they term Christianity. I do not wish to belittle the good they do. Many self-sacrificing and noble men have performed wonderful labor among the uncivilized races of the world, in bringing them to a better understanding of the object of life. But these Christian societies too frequently neglect the very things at home which are in such great need of reformation and improvement. They will take money from the gambler, from the corrupt men, and from him who seeks to destroy his fellow-man, and sometimes they will praise him in their pulpits for his liberality, when the money they thus obtain could be better applied in seeking to effect a reformation in the man who gives it. They send abroad to teach the heathen how to live and neglect the greater and more important duties at home. Do we not more or less fall into this same error? Do our hearts not feel kindly towards the people of the world who sit in darkness? Yes, they do. Hence, we go when we are called, and sometimes we feel so prompted that we do not wait to be called, but go to seek the salvation of our fellow men. When we have done this, how is it at home? We bring in these souls which have been saved, these brands snatched from the burning, and where are they today? Where are many of those whose conversion has required dozens of missionaries? Many of them, I am sorry to say, are apostates to the truth. They have lost the love which so warmed them in their native lands. They do not now feel that zeal which once prompted them to endure anything for the Gospel's sake. They have lost the faith, they are recreant to the truth, and are working with Satan and his emissaries to retard the progress of the work of God in the earth. They are sending back to their kindred and friends letters filled with falsehoods, though sometimes telling the truth, be it said to our shame, concerning us, and thus giving offense to those who might otherwise receive the Gospel. I think we need missionaries to be called to the labor of looking after those tender and uninformed souls that come in here from abroad. When I was a missionary in the old countries we frequently used to sing,

Think not, when you gather to Zion,
Your troubles and trials are through,
That nothing but comfort and pleasure
Are waiting in Zion for you.

The Elders have frequently warned the people not to expect perfection in the Saints of Zion; but do you think it makes an impression upon them? No, they remember the words, but they forget the meaning, they do not realize that anything but purity can exist in the midst of the people professing such principles as our Elders teach in the world. And when they come here they are almost thrown from the cars and turned adrift, and left to go hither and thither to mingle with people of all classes. They see the weaknesses of those whom they have learned to revere and honor while absent from them, and they lose sight of their good traits; and especially do they find in the most

shining marks the greatest amount of weakness; and they take offense, which they should not do, at the acts of men, because they are not handled as they should be—as children. What would you think of a man who would build a beautiful ship and who, when it was completed, would turn it adrift or would launch it out among the shoals and the hidden rocks, with no pilot to guide it, and no officers to man it? Would you not think it a waste of means, a waste of intelligence and of energy for a man to do this? Yet we will labor year after year in building these beautiful vessels and in bringing them to a proper condition to receive their cargoes of goods and rich freight, and after they are loaded we turn adrift these little vessels, and we let them shatter themselves upon the first rock that happens to be in their way. I would like to see missionaries called from among this people to take hold of these converts who come from abroad, and teach them that all men are human, and that to err is human and to forgive is divine; to make us feel, when we see the weaknesses of our fellows, a desire to throw over them the mantle of charity, and to bring out in prominent relief the virtues and the noble characteristics of men and women in and out of the Church, that we may be better by copying after the good and not after the bad that is in the human heart. And we are gradually coming to this, and it is an improvement which it seems to me should take place in the Church. We say the Bishops have this matter in hand and they are expected to look after the people who locate in their wards. How many Bishops can or do do it? I believe there are some who know every member of their flock and who carefully nurse the weak and those whose step has not become firm in the truth. But not all Bishops have the wisdom to do this, just as all mothers do not have the wisdom concerning the proper feeding of their children. But while all these matters should occur under the direction and supervision of the Bishops in the various wards, wise Elders can be found who have been in the world, and who know how to handle people, and they can be chosen to labor among those who come here as well as those who live here, and teach them how to progress in the things of God. By this means we will gradually build up Zion.

We have to get this spirit of love for the human family, if we do not already possess it. How is it with us now? How has it been in the past few years? Who is there among us that has not felt in his heart that there were certain men opposed to us who were worthy of destruction? Who has not felt to condemn from the depths of his soul those who have persecuted us and sought our injury? We have felt it. But is it the Spirit of the Gospel to feel it? No, it is not. I believe with all my heart that there are men among those who have been our most violent persecutors who are just as honest, just as sincere, just as upright, so far as their knowledge goes, as some of the Latter-day Saints. And they have been pursuing consistently and steadfastly the path which they thought was the right one for them to follow. And I say that God will bless them, even though they have done wrong, in following that which they have conceived to be proper. Do you think because Paul associated with murderers (for though he did not