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### THREE STEPS.

Pale and solemn stars were gazing  
Thro' the ebon bars of night,  
And the midnight hour was standing  
Wrapp'd in sables gemm'd with light,  
And a form of light and shadow  
Waited in a tempted heart,  
Pleading, when the one had triumphed,  
Then the other must depart.  
"He has all, and thou hast nothing,"  
That was all the tempted said;  
But, the boy's fair forehead darkened,  
And the bright-winged pleader fled.  
Robes of sunlight draped the morrow,  
Nature woke, and smiled the same,  
But the boy had pledged to sorrow;  
In his earlier taste of shame.

Pale and solemn stars were gazing;  
Night-winds hymn'd a requiem low;  
And an aged man was resting,  
Pillowed on his locks of snow.  
Very soft and deep his slumbers;  
Very noiseless, too, the tread,  
Of the form, that hung a shadow  
O'er the moonlight near his bed;  
And a sin-dark face looks sternly  
On the calm-brow'd sleeper there;  
Tho' his lip e'en now is smiling,  
Hallowed by its latest prayer;  
Oh! a blade is in his bosom,  
And the hand upon its hilt,  
Dark with many crimes, is crimson'd  
With its latest dye of guilt.

Pale and solemn stars were gazing,  
And the hush'd night-shadows wept,  
Softly, where the guilty started,  
Or the pure and gentle slept.  
On the home-hearth of the happy,  
On the dwelling-place of shame,  
On the shaded home of sorrow,  
Nature calmly looked the same.  
Calmly—altho' madness shouted  
Round the altar reared to death;  
Where the drunkard pledges poison  
Till it scorches up his breath;  
Calmly—tho' the shame-bound brother  
On his fellow's bosom trod,  
And the erring stepped, unbidden,  
To the judgment-seat of God.

S. E. CARMICHAEL.

### DISCOURSE

By President DANIEL H. WELLS, Tabernacle Sunday morning, March 30, 1862.

REPORTED BY J. V. LONG.

I feel it a great privilege to be associated with so goodly a people in the kingdom of God. I feel that we live in an important age of the world, an age in which the Almighty has spoken from the heavens, an age in which he has commenced to perform that great work which the ancients foresaw while the vision of their minds was open to the future, and while under the influence of the spirit of prophecy. They looked down through the vista of time and saw this as one of the most glorious epochs in the world's history; they saw the vastness of his mighty work and the glory that would ultimately follow. I feel that we live in an important day and generation, but perhaps it is not every one that looks upon it as I do. It is this work in which we are all engaged that has brought us together in these peaceful valleys; it is this that has raised the ire of the wicked, because of the truth which has been revealed from the Almighty in these last days. It is this that has raised persecution against this people in the world from whence we came, which all of us, I might say, have more or less experienced in gathering out from among the wicked.

Now if the world understood what would be for their true interests, for their lasting benefit they would hail this event, this era as much as you and I do, with joy and rejoicing. If they understood and could see and know the great blessings they could enjoy, and believe that this is the work of the Almighty, that he has actually spoken from the heavens; if they could believe this fact, and think that they are led by that Supreme power and influence, it seems to me that they would take a different course. If it were possible to enlighten mankind generally upon the subject of our faith, then this work would furnish one of the greatest inducements for them to cherish instead of persecuting it, and also to cherish and uphold those that have been sent forth as messengers to proclaim those principles that have been revealed, I say that instead of persecuting those messengers who are clothed with salvation for the human family, they would cherish and sustain them. But the power of the devil which has so long reigned on the earth still predominates in the hearts of the people, and to a greater or less extent, perhaps, their consciences are more scared,

their minds more darkened than ever before, and it is so all over the face of the earth.

We hear a few of the things that are transpiring in the world now; we see its confusion, its opposition to the truth, and this ought to make us the more anxious and determined to labor for the spread of truth and the building up of the kingdom of God here on the earth. Some of us heard the gospel in one place and some in another. Before the gospel with its glad tidings reached our ears we were scattered over the wide face of the globe; we received the word of life in good and honest hearts, and in due time gathered out of mystery Babylon and came to be associated together where the Lord had appointed. There are many reasons for the Saints gathering, and one among the number is that they cannot live and enjoy the rights pertaining to mankind in those countries, for the simple reason that they have become imbued with the truth from heaven, and it is as it was expressed in the days of the Saviour, "And now also, the axe is laid unto the root of the trees; therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." Matthew 3, X. Hence the anxiety of the Saints to sustain this principle which has for its object the uprooting of the power of Satan. It is like the axe laid at the root of the tree which the people are fearful will hew it down.

We have part in this great and glorious work, and it is something to live in this age of the world; it is something more, to have those principles revealed to our minds, and to have the responsibility of this intelligence which is emanating from on high, and also to consider our conduct, the necessity of our being righteous, especially those of us who have been wicked, for the gospel teaches us to be righteous, causes us to throw aside our evil habits of life, to become a holy and righteous people unto the Most High. This is a principle that we enjoy in this age and generation. This is a reformation in which we can all participate and which the Latter Day Saints can continually encourage in their hearts. This knowledge and this intelligence, and the principles which we have espoused have placed us upon a platform through a power by which we can be made to associate with the Gods of eternity, and the sanctified in the worlds to come. In this manner those men who are endowed with power to overcome evil, with power over themselves and influence over the minds of others to do them good have more cause to be thankful than that individual who has it not in his possession. I consider that the man who has a desire to overcome all evil and pernicious practices and who has power to do so, has more cause to be thankful than he who has not this ability to overcome those vicious habits, ignorance, and traditions which may have been contracted while in the world, previous to receiving the light of the gospel.

Let us all live by those principles which have been revealed for our salvation and exaltation, and we shall do well. This gospel places us all upon an equality, so that each and every one, may act up to his privilege, having more or less responsibility according to his ability, which the Lord gives him, and which we are capable of attaining by an exemplary life, by integrity, by being faithful and diligent in the pursuit of righteousness, having humility and obedience that we may be endowed with the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit which are freely imparted unto all. If we could but see and understand aright, we would feel that we were indeed the most blessed of any people upon this earth, but we do not see and understand enough, not sufficient to induce us to lay aside many evils that surround us, and to obtain that knowledge and intelligence which should govern and control us, and prompt us onward and keep us in the purity of the most holy faith. We see, sometimes, the beauty and glory of this course, and we see the great trials and difficulties of life which are encountered while endeavoring to be steadfast, true and faithful day by day.

There lingers yet about many people the sectarian notion that a little religion is sufficient. This fallacious doctrine is implanted in the bosoms of the people from their youth. No matter how a man has lived, if he can get religion in the hour of death, according to the sectarian doctrine, he is sure of salvation. This tradition still holds its influence over the minds of some people. I heard a man say, who had been a conspicuous member in this Church, that this was as good or better than any other religion. For two or three months, he said, he could be as religious as anybody else, as steadfast and zealous, but then after that his zeal would die out.

I have seen more or less of this kind of feeling, and especially among those whom I have observed to take hold with such enthusiasm at the commencement; with such it generally dies out. But with those that have commenced coolly and gone on obtaining influence by degrees, it has been different. Some

seem to see and comprehend as much, or more at first than they ever do afterwards; but this work is not a play spell; it is not a thing of naught to be trifled with, but it is a thing for the future as well as the present, and should engage our attention from the beginning, and we should progress and increase as it progresses. Revealed religion from on high is the greatest blessing that could possibly come to man from any source. There is no greater blessing that could be given to the children of men for their guidance and direction, for their reformation and final salvation in the celestial kingdom. The world lies in darkness and wickedness, and I might add that it is sunk in sorrow; the power of the oppressor is very great, and the oppression upon many people is very sore. The Lord has witnessed the doings of many people, the oppression of the poor and destitute, and he has commenced his work for the purpose of redeeming all those who will render obedience to the laws of redemption, and also for the purpose of bringing them unto the light and understanding of the truth. Satan has held the world in the chains of darkness for many centuries, and the darkness in the world is as great as it ever was; but from this great darkness, thralldom and sin, the Lord has set his hand to gather his people. It is that people are willing to be honest before the Lord that the Spirit teaches. We may say, why does not the Lord go forth with great power? and if his intentions are so good towards the children of men, why not manifest his power to compel or enforce this religion upon mankind? Simply because man has his agency and the liberty to choose the good and refuse the evil, to take hold of that which is right and good, or he has the ability to reject it. The Lord works in this way; he imparts sufficient light for all people to see the truth, and to understand that it is the best way, and with those that are willing he lets it work upon their agency, sets life and death before them, and allows them to say which they will choose. He will not compel people to walk in the way of salvation, but he will permit them to do as they please, setting before them those things which are for their exaltation, and show them the result of wickedness, and then he says, choose ye the happiness of the one or the misery of the other. Mankind being wrought upon by the power of the devil, prefer the pomp of the world, and they would rather have its transient blessings and enjoyments than those of a more enduring kind; hence they reject the light, despise the good and solid blessings of the kingdom, of salvation and exaltation, and they go on the road to destruction; and they yield themselves captive to that power.

Well, here then are the two roads or paths, and those who are gathered into these valleys of the mountains, and who have obeyed the first principles of the gospel have made a wise choice. And now, it is for those who have made this choice not to falter, nor allow their minds to be shrouded in darkness, or led astray by the traditions and notions which they have learned or contracted in their younger years, and which have thereby gained a hold upon their senses.

We can look back and see wherein we might have received many blessings that we have not, and how we might have been benefitted in various ways, provided we had not given way to our old traditions. There is no salvation in the sectarian world. There is no son or daughter of Adam, but is just as well off without the sectarian religion as with it, so far as the ordinances of the House of God are concerned. If we wish to have life and salvation, which all people desire to have, this is the Church and this is the channel in which to find them, and it is the only channel upon the face of the earth through which salvation can be obtained. How great and glorious are the prospects that this people have before them! And how great and glorious it is to witness the joy and union that exists in these valleys, among the Latter Day Saints, and yet how far short we come of that which our Heavenly Father would like to see, and although we feel that we are improving and say that we are encouraged to see the union and peace that do exist, and the diligence and united exertions of the people who never they are called upon to do and perform anything; still how many things there are that require to be done in our own bosoms, in order that we may go on to greater perfection, that the light, power and illuminating rays of the gospel of life may be seen and felt to earth's remotest bounds. We are amongst the nations, and we have been surrounded by the wicked, and they have been determined and still are not to understand nor see us aright, neither will the wicked open their eyes and see the work which God has commenced to perform in these last days, but they will construe the doings of the servants of God into selfish motives and to those things that are unrighteous. These wicked people seek to hoodwink the people, to lead them astray, and then give us no credit for honesty of purpose or desire to save the people, but they

charge us with indolence, sinister motives and hypocrisy, and persist in misrepresenting our motives and character. The delight in letting the holiest principles that the world ever saw be trodden under their feet, and the more holy and righteous the principles are that are set forth, the greater the opposition is; but the time will be when they will see us in our proper light, and then they will see to their sorrow that they have treated lightly the messengers of the Lord of Hosts. We read that the Almighty will plead with the people after another manner. Those who have their eyes open can see that the Lord has commenced his judgments, for the enemies of the Saints have war, pestilence and every kind of evil that will contribute to make them miserable; and their misery will increase upon them, for they have shed the blood of Apostles, opposed the principles of truth and righteousness the same as those wicked and hard-hearted people who put to death the Saviour of mankind, which murderous act caused a jar in nature, caused the overflowing of the sea; but no matter what may come, the wicked have some excuse; in fact, they make every and all except the true one. Some will doubtless see things as they are, but many will not until the power of the wicked is broken; and the Lord will break the power of the adversary, if not in one way, he will in another. He sends forth the principles of righteousness among the people, and do you think he will be thwarted in his purpose? No, he will not, for he has the power and the ability to thwart the world, and he will, as he has said, plead with them through plagues, pestilence, famine, distress and afflictions of various kinds; and until this power is broken it will result in their destruction to the extent that the righteous will have the ability to overcome and control that influence which has so long held dominion in the world.—Great afflictions are in store for the wicked, and the earth will be emptied of sin and iniquity, and righteousness will spread abroad with power and great influence. Sin and iniquity will be trampled under foot of men.

This work commenced with each and every one of this people in their own hearts. It is a progressive work; and it is for us to take hold with energy and faith, and so far as we can obtain light and knowledge go on from one step to another until we shall overcome the evil which is within ourselves, form and establish the principles of righteousness in family associations, in cities, counties, Territories, States and kingdoms, until we shall swallow up the powers of darkness upon the face of the whole earth, and each and every one can do and have a part allotted to them in this great work, and each and every one of us can find plenty to do if we will only do it. It requires the utmost exertions of the Saints, the exercise of their abilities, physically, mentally and morally, and the use of all the intelligence and power which the human heart and body are capable of performing. We can be engaged day by day in the great reformation and work of the last days, in which great work, the Lord is engaged, for he it known to all people that it is Him that is engaged helping us in the accomplishment of this great work. It is indeed a great work and worthy of the admiration of all mankind, and Gods and angels doubtless look upon it with great pleasure, witnessing with interest the good conduct and diligent labors and exertions of all the faithful for the promotion of his righteous cause upon the earth.

Let us ever realize that notice is taken of our daily life, and of the influence that we exert at home and abroad, and of the motives that influence us in our daily acts, in our intercourse with each other, and in every capacity in which we are called to act in life; let us remember, I say, that there are witnesses who are "silent notes taking" and that the reward is great, always being according to our works.

May the Almighty assist us in the great work committed to our charge, and enable us to go forth with power and energy having with us the principles of eternal life, in the discharge of our duties, day by day, which shall cause an increase of light and knowledge that will be a satisfaction to us, and may we be enabled to be useful in our day and generation in building up the kingdom of God, here upon this earth; which I ask in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

### REMARKS

By President BRIGHAM YOUNG, Tabernacle, March 30, 1862.

REPORTED BY G. D. WATT.

I love to talk upon the principles of the holy Gospel, to sing about them, to read about them, and to hear others do so. The human mind requires a constant course of teaching and instructing through public preaching, printing, or private conversation, as the case may be. The same principles are thus pre-