

Are we, as parents, doing our duty towards them? Are they trying to qualify themselves and preparing for the great destiny and work which lie before them? I think they are, to a certain extent. But when I see any of these young men going astray and going to these saloons, drinking and smoking, instead of going to Sabbath School and to meeting to qualify themselves, I feel sorry. I would regret to see any son or daughter of mine or of my neighbors going astray, because they would be losing great glory, and depriving themselves of the privilege of stepping forth and taking the place of their fathers and of the prophets and apostles of God, and filling the different quorums of the Church. They would be losing that which they do not comprehend. When, however, I hear a testimony like that given here today concerning our young people, it gives me joy and consolation.

I feel that it is our duty to do all that we can in behalf of these institutions in our midst. It is the duty of the presidents, the superintendents and the teachers to do all they can to influence our sons and daughters to unite together and to qualify themselves by learning out of good books. They should be taught to seek for the Spirit of God and to treasure up wisdom, and to obtain those principles of power which they will need in the day when the judgments of God shall descend upon the earth. I rejoice when I see our young men and maidens trying to do their duty. The Lord is raising up young men who are being clothed upon with the Spirit and power of God. I rejoice in this. I am satisfied that they will increase; but I feel that they should be taught and encouraged to qualify themselves to take the Kingdom of God and bear it off.

There is a great destiny awaiting our young men. Therefore, they ought to be temperate; not drink whisky, not chew or smoke tobacco, and not mingle with the drunken. And it is the duty of those who are not married to take these daughters of Zion to wife, when they arrive at a proper age. There are no better women on the face of the earth than those that dwell in these mountains of Israel. If there is any virtue anywhere, it exists among the women that live in Zion. The same with the men. Our young ladies are virtuous; their mothers are virtuous; and their fathers are virtuous. There may be exceptions; but the Lord has gathered together a people who are virtuous. My feelings are that every young man in Israel should get married when he arrives at a proper age. It does not cost any man more to provide these girls with food and clothing after they are married than it does before. It does not cost any more for yourselves. But you are then prepared to begin to gather some means around you. Do not wait until you have about ten thousand dollars and have fine horses and carriages. You will get them just as quickly after you are married, and possibly quicker, than you will before.

It is our duty to get married at

the proper time. It is the law of God. Therefore, I would like to see you young men take these daughters of Zion to wife. Look at the posterity of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and see how they spread throughout the whole world. The tribe of Judah has remained until this day; but had they not been of the seed of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and had they not been blessed by father Jacob, they would doubtless have been destroyed long before this. The Jews put to death the Savior and His Apostles, and had they not been of the chosen seed they would never have been allowed to remain on the earth; but they have remained almost undiminished, in the midst of all the persecution and tribulation which they have had to suffer.

These are some of my feelings, brethren and sisters, with regard to our young men and maidens. They occupy a position, as I have often said, that no previous generation ever occupied. Many of these young men and maidens that are here today will, in my opinion, if they are faithful, stand in the flesh when Christ comes in the clouds of heaven. These young people from the Sabbath Schools and from the Mutual Improvement Associations, will stand in the flesh while the judgments of the Almighty sweep the nations of the earth as with a besom of destruction, in fulfillment of the revelations of God, and they will be the very people whom God will bless and sustain. Therefore, I say, our young men cannot begin too quickly to qualify themselves by treasuring up wisdom and calling upon God and getting the Holy Priesthood; for they have got to stand in holy places while these judgments are poured out upon the earth. The nations of the earth are rejecting the testimony which we bear; they are rejecting the Gospel of Christ; and these judgments of God, like a few drops of rain before the shower, are beginning to descend upon the earth. We hear of floods, of fires, of earthquakes. These are only the beginning of sorrows. These judgments will increase, and they will continue to increase until all that has been predicted by the prophets of God will come to pass upon the earth.

Now, brethren and sisters, we are trying to prepare ourselves for exaltation and eternal life. We have received the Holy Priesthood. There is no change to that Priesthood. It belongs to the Celestial Kingdom of our God. It does not belong to the terrestrial nor to the telestial kingdom. If you and I ever get into the celestial kingdom, we have got to keep the law of that kingdom. Show me the law that a man keeps and I will tell you where he is going. We, as Latter-day Saints, have everything to encourage us. We have received the Gospel of Christ and the blessings thereof. What did we know in regard to God and salvation until the Lord revealed Himself? Who ever knew, before the Lord revealed it to us, that a man could have his wives and his children with him in

the morning of the resurrection, in the family organization, with himself at the head, to dwell together for ever and ever? I have thought many a time that if I labored until I was as old as Methuselah and by that means could have my family dwell with me in glory in the eternal worlds, it would pay me for all the pain and suffering I could endure in this world. And this is only one of the blessings that are promised unto us.

Our young people should labor to qualify themselves by reading the revelations of God. There is no time to waste in reading novels. Read the Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants and the records which the Lord has given unto us, and treasure up these revelations and see what the Lord has promised unto us. We then treasure up something of worth to us. At one of our meetings a short time ago President Cannon read the revelation contained in the Doctrine and Covenants with regard to what the Lord said to Orson Hyde, Wm. E. McLellin and other Elders going out to preach. The Lord said, speaking through Joseph Smith:

"And whatsoever they shall speak when moved upon by the Holy Ghost, shall be scripture, shall be the will of the Lord, shall be the mind of the Lord, shall be the word of the Lord, shall be the voice of the Lord, and the power of God unto salvation."

Why is this? Because the Holy Ghost is one of the Godhead, and consequently when a man speaks by the Holy Ghost, it is the word of the Lord. We should seek to obtain this Spirit that it may be with us all the time and become a principle of revelation to us. It is the right of every man in the Church to enjoy the presence of the Holy Ghost.

Brethren and sisters, we are living in a fast age, and we have no time to waste. This is a time when the Lord is going to cut His work short in righteousness. I have a desire that we, as a people, shall understand the position that we occupy before the Lord. In the 121st section of the Doctrine and Covenants, the Lord, in speaking to Joseph Smith while in Liberty Jail, says:

"Behold, there are many called, but few are chosen. And why are they not chosen?"

"Because their hearts are set so much upon the things of this world, and aspire to the honors of men, that they do not learn this one lesson—

"That the rights of the Priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven, and that the powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled only upon the principles of righteousness."

In Kirtland, a number of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles apostatized. Why did they apostatize? Because they forsook the Lord, they stopped praying, they wanted to get rich, they sought for the honors of men and for the riches of the world; and notwithstanding