

Every man when he gets old enough, if he has the Gospel in him, and knows the power of the eternal covenant of the fathers that are sealed upon us, will want to be putting in for a share of those covenant blessings, and to get a righteous and holy race planted in the earth, that when he goes hence, he can feel that though he goes they will perpetuate his honorable name in the earth and glorify God in him. The Lord bless you with wisdom and understanding, that you may become a wise, healthy and strong race.

Now, I will turn back a little. I was talking about going to the temple to get married. When a young man goes to the temple to get married, he goes a bachelor; when a young woman goes, she goes a maiden. But when they are married, he comes home a husband, and she comes home a wife. She has changed her name to his. They are married folks, and settle down for life. Now, how much of what they heard in that temple that day do they remember? They forget most of it over the idea of being man and wife. You ought to go to the temple as often as twice every year; and if you have not anybody to be baptized for, ask some of your friends who have long lists of them, and officiate in their behalf; and let these things which were sealed upon you be refreshed in your minds. Learn them, keep them, and never forget them, and let them steady and help you in all the walks of life. It is said in the scriptures that in the millennium those who will not go up to the temple once a year, there shall no rain come upon them. The temples are made to go to. If any have an earnest desire in their hearts for something they cannot get anywhere else, there is the place for them to go and pour out their souls; and if it is something that they do not want anybody to hear, they can make their lips act, as did Hannah of old. Is the terrible question of divorce is before you for consideration, go to the house of the Lord and learn of Him what is the right thing to do and what not to do. For things that are done in the temple are of eternal import, of life unto life or of death unto death. There was a report made at the end of last year of all the baptisms and ordinances that have been performed in these three temples ever since they were opened. I will not undertake to give you the figures; but there was a vast number of baptisms and other ordinances, for the living and the dead, which I will not stop now to enumerate and yet the work has only just begun. Think of the millions of spirits that have departed whose lives and deaths are hid up. If they are in any arrears, to-y are where the brethren have not been able to find them. But we should get after them; and if you cannot go, send your sons upon missions, and instruct them to go and hunt in the records of the places where your fathers and your forefathers lived, and find them out; and when you have got so far, though it be but few, when they are delivered from their prison houses, they will help you to hunt up more. Do not wait till you get a book full. We are at work forming connections with the dead. The hearts of the fathers are tuned to the

children, and the children to the fathers. You all want to understand that you have a right to go to the temple, and you ought to go frequently so as to keep these things fresh in your minds. This makes you the sons and daughters of God, and makes you to grow up as Elders, High Priests and Patriarchs, honoring God in all the walks of life.

I will give you another instance wherein a great blessing is bestowed in these last days. Some of us have been to work hunting up the genealogy of our dead. I have myself, and I have been greatly blessed in it. President Woodruff has also, and a number of the brethren of the Church have been blessed to get hold of great numbers of their ancestors and to be baptized for them. This is a great work. Some of you may remember the sermon that the Prophet Joseph preached at the time King Follett was killed in a well—one of the last sermons he delivered. He told us in that sermon that "The greatest responsibility in this world that God has laid upon us was to seek after our dead." Can you enter into exaltation and glory and be happy without your father and mother, who trained you up to fear God, and led you thereby to embrace the Gospel? or without your grandfather and your grandmother, your uncles and aunts, with whom you have lived and labored, ate and drank? No, never. Then it is for you, being blessed with these authorities and powers in the Priesthood, to go and secure blessings unto them. My father and his relatives have been baptized for several thousand of their dead kindred. President Woodruff obtained a book full of names of his kindred on his mother's side, and also a considerable number of names of the Woodruffs; and you recollect that when President Young dedicated the Temple at St. George he appointed Brother Woodruff to be President of that temple. While he was in that position the people loved him, as we do today, and on one of his birthdays they turned out and attended to a host of ordinances for his kindred dead. He deemed it a great and precious gift, appreciating it exceedingly as a mark of the love of the people for him. It was a great blessing. It would have taken him and his family a lifetime to have got through with them. He had hardly got this done when word came to him from Cache Valley that his son Brigham was drowned—one of the brightest sons in his family, and one that he was looking forward to with anticipations of becoming a bright light in his house and a pillar in his generation. But he was taken away. Well, what of this? President Woodruff began to criticize himself. What had he done that this son should be taken from him, when he wanted some good boys to build up his family and his kingdom in the earth? He bethought himself that he was President of the Lord's house, and he went into his room in the temple there before the Lord and asked him what was the matter, what had he done that he should have this son taken from him in this way, and he stuck to it until he got his answer. The word of the Lord came unto him, saying, "Have you not had a host of your kindred administered for in

the temple, and do you not know that that they must be testified to by one of your own lineage, that they may have the privilege of embracing the fulness of these blessings?" That satisfied him at once. I presume that he expected this son to live and go abroad on a mission and do great good here; but he had gone yonder to untold thousands, to inform them of the glorious work already performed here for them, that joy might come to them and they be liberated from their prison house and rejoice in the blessings of the everlasting Gospel. When President Woodruff told me of this it filled me with satisfaction in thinking of my boy who in 1883 was taken sick and suffered long, and notwithstanding the Priesthood labored with us to try and save his life, the Lord could not let us keep him. That answered our question too, as to why he should be taken away. Thousands of our kindred had been administered for, and they had just as much need to be informed of it as President Woodruff's kindred. The Lord deals with these things on principle. It is the work that we are doing here that makes the connection with those who have gone before. How many there are who when they have gone up and done their little work in the temple, and have wondered how they could get knowledge of any more, have had dreams given to them telling them the very names of persons they ought to do for. The Lord is doing this to those who are seeking Him with clean hands and pure hearts. And is it not just as reasonable, if we have any matters that we do not understand, for us to go there and get answers to our prayers as it was for Brother Woodruff, or Sister Hannah? Is it one God that ministered unto them and another that we have to do with? No, it is not. It is the same God—the God of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob, and the God of our fathers whose children we are.

That is just how it is. We have got temples amongst us, and people do not sense the value and importance of them; and until they understand them how can they be sufficiently thankful for them?

Now, we have another temple that is nearly ready for dedication. This temple will have been forty years in building, next April. When it is dedicated it is expected that it will be an extraordinary time in Israel. It is decided by the First Presidency and counsel of the Twelve that arrangements be so made that all the Saints in the mountains who are worthy to go in, shall have the opportunity to attend the services. Of course, it cannot be done all in a day, or two days; but it will be continued, day after day, until all Israel shall have the chance to attend. I tell you this for your comfort, and that you may be satisfied in your feelings, and not be afraid you will not be permitted to go there, if health and fellowship permit.

We think that the dedication of that house is a time of supreme importance to God's people. We think that the Saints ought to go to it with a preparation of heart and of nature that shall be acceptable before the Lord. When Solomon got his temple ready to be dedicated, he directed the whole Priesthood to sanctify themselves before going into the temple. Even the