

place. He held the keys of the Kingdom of God. It was for him to have association with God the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ, and to lead Israel. You know what he has done. It is before you. He has filled these mountains of Israel with cities and towns and villages. He performed a great work. God was with him. He was true and faithful. He was one of the first Quorum of Apostles. He never varied; he never shrank from duty. He stood by the Prophet Joseph while he lived. He stood by the Kingdom of God and by the Lord as long as he lived himself. After his death, Brother Taylor took his place; and when he passed away it fell upon me, for a little while. It is my duty to have fellowship with God, as weak an instrument as I am in the hands of God. It is my duty to have power with God. And when I have this, then my counselors should stand by me and with me. We should be of one heart and mind in all matters, temporal and spiritual, that come before us in the labor of the Church and Kingdom of God. And I am thankful to say that this has been the case since I have been called to this position, or since the organization of the Presidency of the Church. Standing connected with us here are the Twelve Apostles. It is their duty to be of one heart and one mind. They have no right to be otherwise. They cannot be otherwise and prosper before God. They should be one with us, and we one with them. They have their rights; they have their agency. But when the Presidency of the Church say unto any of them, "This is the word of the Lord," or, "This is right," they should take hold and work with us. The law of God requires this union at our hands. It is the duty of the Seventies, also, to be united with the Twelve Apostles. The Seventies are called upon by the Apostles to go forth and labor in the vineyard of the Lord, and they work together. So, brethren and sisters, with every organization in this Church. There should be union. There should be no discord, no disunion. If there is, the Lord is not pleased with it, and we are hindered in our work. I want all the Quorums to understand this. The lesser Priesthood should be united. Here is Bishop Preston. He stands at the head of the Aaronic Priesthood. He has got counselors. They should be united together. They should be united with the lesser Priesthood, and they should labor to promote their interest and welfare. I have no fault to find with the brethren in these matters. I mention these things as duties devolving upon us.

Now, brethren and sisters, we should all be united. Unless we are one, we are not the Lord's. I wish to exhort the Latter-day Saints to observe this principle. Our aim is high. What is that aim? It is the Celestial Kingdom of our God. We have been called out of the world, from almost all nations under heaven, in fulfillment of the revelations of God. We have been called

unto these mountains of Israel. We are fulfilling revelations that were given thousands of years ago. The eyes of Jeremiah, of Ezekiel, of Daniel, of Isaiah and of the ancient Patriarchs and Prophets beheld our day. They saw our Zion. They saw our temples and our tabernacle, built "for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain."

Brethren and sisters, let us look at these things as they are. What is this world? Our lives here are temporary; they are of short duration. We are here upon a mission. This people have been called together from almost every nation under heaven. They have gathered here—a little handful out of fourteen hundred millions of the human family. Do you suppose the eyes of the Lord have been withdrawn from this people? Have the eyes of the heavenly host been withdrawn? No; they are watching over us with feelings of the deepest interest. They know where we stand. Why do we have this warfare that we are passing through? Because it is the Church and Kingdom of God; because we are the people of God. No man can live godly in Christ Jesus without suffering persecution. This is your legacy. It is the legacy of all the Saints of God in every age of the world. Therefore, I say to the Latter-day Saints, let your hearts be comforted. All is right in Israel, as far as we make it right, and as far as we do our duty.

I listened yesterday to the reports made by the Bishops and others. No doubt there is room for improvement in Logan. There is room for a great deal of improvement in Salt Lake City. There is room for improvement throughout these mountains. These Elders of Israel who bear the Holy Priesthood should prize their standing enough to never permit themselves to go to these saloons and drink with the drunken, or to pursue a course whereby they lose the Spirit of God. Brethren, if you do this, you will be sorry for it; and you will have to repent of these sins and turn from them, in order to get forgiveness before the Lord. I know that this is the kingdom of God. I know this is the people whom He has raised up. They have been kept, as I have often said, in the Spirit world the last six thousand years, to come forth and stand in the flesh in this day and build up this Church and kingdom and warn this generation of the judgments which await them. We occupy this position before the Lord. Then let us not betray our trust. As the Lord said to the Prophet Joseph, in answer to his prayer while in Liberty jail:

"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."

There is not a man that breathes the breath of life today on the earth, who holds and honors that Priesthood, but has power with the heavens, and he can go before the Lord and have his prayers heard and answered. This is what the Latter-day Saints should do. We should live in that way and manner that we can go before the Lord and ask for those blessings, in faith and in power, that we need to sustain us to carry out the purposes of God here in the mountains of Israel. This is necessary for our advancement. We live in a fast age. Events are hastening on, and the Lord is going to cut His work short in righteousness, lest no flesh should be saved. No matter about our persecutions; no matter about the advantages our enemies may have from a political or temporal point of view. God holds your destinies. He holds the destinies of this nation and of all men in His own hands. He governs and controls them. And His angels are ready and waiting to go forth and reap down the earth. But the Lord will fulfil His promises. Do not be discouraged, therefore, with regard to these things. But we have got to be humble. We have got to be prayerful. We have got to have faith in God, and to be united, and carry out those principles which the Lord requires at our hands. All the organizations of the Priesthood have power. The Deacon has power, through the Priesthood which he holds. So has the Teacher. They have power to go before the Lord and have their prayers heard and answered, as well as the Prophet, the Seer, or the Revelator has. It is by this Priesthood that the work of God has been accomplished. It is by this Priesthood that men have ordinances conferred upon them, that their sins are forgiven, and that they are redeemed. For this purpose it has been revealed and sealed upon our heads.

Brethren and sisters, these are a few of the thoughts I have upon my mind. There is a union that God requires of every quorum in this Church, from the Presidency down; and when we set up our will and our views against those of our brethren, we want to be careful what we are doing. We should all do the will of God, laboring for light, for truth and for those things that we stand in need of. Speaking of the love of the Saints of God, no man knows the love that men bear one another who hold the Holy Priesthood. It is above the love of women. Why, when I traveled abroad alone, on my early missions, I would have done almost anything to have met a Mormon Elder. It was worth more than gold to me to meet anybody that was in the Church. Our brethren here—Brothers Cannon and Snow and others—were called in early days, before they received the Apostleship, to go upon missions. They went forth and proved themselves before heaven and earth. The Lord knows these men. They have been called by revelation. We should all be careful not to hurt the tender vine, nor to hurt one another. Love one another, sustain one an-