

are permitted to go to the House of the Lord and receive these great blessings, should be, for a time at any rate, placed under the lesser law, that they might be tested.

I do not think it is right for men to be recommended to be ordained to the office of an Elder if it is simply that they may have the privilege of being married in the way that is appointed. I think that a man ought not to be ordained an Elder unless he is called of God through His servants, according to the gifts of God unto him. "Lay hands suddenly on no man." Let us see to it that when men are ordained to this holy calling they are fitted for it, that they may receive the Priesthood in very deed, so that when they are ordained it will not be a mere matter of form, but they shall have the spirit and the power of their callings and be ready to labor and work in the holy ministry.

I wish to say to our brethren who have received this ordination, that they made a sacred covenant that if they were ordained they would fulfill all the duties of their office; and in a great many instances they have failed to do that which they agreed to do, and the Lord will not be pleased with them, unless they repent and do better in the future than they have in the past. It made me feel grieved in my heart that men called to this holy calling had no better conception of the duties thereof than appeared from the reports which we heard this morning. I hope there will be an improvement in this matter. If not, these brethren cannot prosper. When a man is called of God to occupy a position in the Church, it is expected that he will magnify that calling; and if he does not, the Priesthood placed upon him, instead of being a blessing to him, will be an injury.

The Latter-day Saints ought to remember that on the first Thursday in each month, we have a fast day—a day when it is supposed we will refrain from partaking of food, at any rate in the fore part of the day, and that we will devote that which we would have consumed, for the benefit of the poor. If this were done regularly, those abstaining from food on that day would be better for it, physically as well as spiritually. There are blessings that can only come by prayer and fasting, as Jesus Christ instructed His disciples. They failed in some things, because they did not obey that law. At any rate we should remember the poor. Large amounts have been drawn by the Bishops in the various wards from the General Storehouse, for the support of the poor, which ought to have been donated by the people in their respective wards. Remember your fast offerings. Meet together whenever you can on these occasions, offer up your prayers to the Lord, and bring in your offerings for the poor, that the Bishops may have means in their hands to look after the wants of the needy, that none may lack.

Let us attend to our prayers in the morning and in the evening. Let us attend to all our duties. Look after our sons and daughters, and train them up in the right way. Set them a good example, give them good teachings, and if they will not obey our words, the fault will not be ours, and we

will not be held responsible. Children, obey your parents; attend your meetings; hearken to the counsels of the servants of God. Live pure and virtuous lives. Refrain from every appearance of evil. Do not consort with the ungodly. Young men, do not frequent saloons, or gambling houses, or any places of ill repute. Preserve your virtue and your integrity before the Lord. Young ladies, avoid everything that leads to darkness and to evil.

And if we, as parents and as children, will follow the admonitions which God has given us, we will become a great and a mighty people before the Lord. He will multiply blessings upon our heads. The earth will yield to us of its increase. The elements around us will yield their wealth unto us. God will open the treasures of the everlasting hills, and he will pour blessings into our laps which we shall scarcely have room enough to receive. He will enlighten us from on high. His holy Priesthood will be full of rich counsels for us. The angels of God will minister unto us, and all things spoken of by the prophets will come to pass concerning Zion. God bless you, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF

next spoke. He gave a brief sketch of his connection with the Church from the time of his baptism in the year 1833, when he was ordained a Teacher, and told of the thousands of miles he had traveled in the cause of the Gospel. Every man in Israel who bore a portion of the Priesthood should understand as far as he could the importance of that calling; for the exercises of the Priesthood were inseparably connected with the heavens. They were called upon in this last great dispensation and fulness of times to establish the Zion and Church of God, to go forth among every nation under heaven and bear the Gospel to the people, so far as the doors were open unto them. They had been laboring as a Church and people for the last 60 years, and during that time had preached the Gospel to millions on the face of the earth, as well as gathered hundreds of thousands into these mountain valleys and into the fold of Christ. The speaker warmly counseled the Elders of quorums to be true and faithful in their calling and to be regular in their attendance in the various meetings, dwell on the subject of prayer, and predicted that this great latter-day work would stand firmly until the coming of the Son of Man, which event was not a long way off. Speaking on the subject of temples, he expressed the hope, his life having been spared thus far by the providence of God, that he would live to see the dedication of the Temple on this ground. He thanked the Lord that he was still in the midst of the Latter-day Saints, and rejoiced in the fact that the Lord had raised up this people in fulfillment of the prophecies contained in the Bible. President Woodruff touched upon the duties and obligations of the Saints, individually and collectively, dwelt briefly upon the work abroad, and upon the confiscation of the Church property by the Government of the United States. Despite all the difficulties which had surrounded this Church, they had been able to progress and would continue until the winding-up scene.

ELDER JOHN MORGAN

spoke of the peculiar circumstances by which the Latter-day Saints were surrounded, and stated that the genius and spirit of the Gospel forbade the existence of idlers in Zion, that it was contrary to the spirit of the Gospel for the idler to eat the bread of the laborer, and urged upon parents to take into careful consideration the condition of the rising generation, and to provide employment for our sons and daughters that would enable them to know the value of the money that it took to provide them with food and raiment. God has abundantly blessed us in our basket and store, and out of this abundance we have fed and clothed our children, without their having to give a thought as to how it was produced, or where it came from. Our sons and our daughters should be taught to be self-sustaining, to produce that which they need. Our boys should know how to till the soil, how to sow the seed, how to plant a tree and care for it, and what kind of a tree to plant; the untilled and unproductive land on the farm should be cultivated and made remunerative by their labor. The neglected and uncared for lots in this city should be by their labor made not only beautiful to the eye but valuable to the owner. The old and unfruitful tree should be grubbed out, and choice qualities of fruit should take their place; the fence rows should be cleared of their worthless undergrowth, and planted to advantage. Our daughters should be taught to make their own clothing and not run to the milliner, and impoverish their parents by the payment of exorbitant bills; they should make their own dresses, and consider it an honor to be able to do so. They should know how to make bread, to sweep and dust a room, and to look after household affairs. The queens and princesses of former days were not clothed and pampered as are our daughters. The rising generation in the midst of the Saints are passing into the battle of life with little or no conception of its responsibilities.

We have an army of young men studying the professions, with the probability of their being a drag in the market in the near future. A few will succeed; the many will fail because of a disregard of the law of supply and demand. Boys are forsaking the farm and crowding the cities looking for situations, endeavoring to evade the Divine command, "In the sweat of thy brow shalt thou earn thy bread." This question is one of paramount importance to the Latter-day Saints. Our future prosperity depends upon it; the salvation of our children is involved in it, and the progress of the work of God in the earth is closely identified with it.

Our families are all that we have, our wives and our children are the foundation of future glory and usefulness; without them we are as nothing, and their right training and preservation in the faith of the Gospel should be our first care and consideration. They are allowed to live in a whirl of excitement, in a continuous and ever increasing stream of amusement, balls, theatres, resorts, excursions, etc., until they have lost control of themselves, and are beyond parental control. It takes no prophet to tell