

There is nothing given to the children of men that is equal to it.

This is our position today in these mountains. We have been led here by the power of God—led by a prophet, seer and revelator, President Brigham Young, who was full of the Holy Ghost and full of revelation, appointed of the Lord, and who magnified his calling up to the hour of his death. We came here and found a barren desert. From that day till this it has been a continual growth and increase, until we have arrived at a point where we have a tabernacle as a "shadow in the daytime from the heat \* \* \* and for a covert from storm and from rain." These things have all been prophesied of thousands of years ago by the ancient Prophets and Patriarchs who foresaw the work of God in the last days.

I want to say a few words to our young men who are rising up among us. I want them to comprehend and understand the blessings that are within their reach. The Lord has given us a large number of sons and daughters. They have got to take the places of their fathers, the same as the sons of Adam had in his day and generation. A great responsibility rests upon them. The Lord requires at the hands of our sons that they shall bear off this kingdom of our God while they dwell in the flesh, that they may be justified. The Lord told Oliver Cowdery, "And if it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and bring save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father." It requires light, knowledge and understanding; it requires the spirit and power of God for us to comprehend our position, our blessings and our gifts that God has placed upon us. I feel to rejoice and thank God myself that I have lived to see what I do in these valleys of the mountains; that I have lived to see these multitudes that fill these tabernacles and temples and labor here in the building up of the kingdom of God. The Lord has been very merciful to me, and my life has been preserved to pass through these things, and I still remain in the midst of this people. I have to acknowledge the hand of God in the whole of it. I suppose you have to do so with regard to your lives. The fact is, there is not a blessing that God has bestowed upon us from the beginning but has been the gift of God. We should understand this. We have preached the Gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue and people, as far as the Lord has opened doors for us and we have had the privilege of going. Still the world today is full of people who have not heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and while the Priesthood rests upon our shoulders we are still under obligation and are still held responsible for the salvation of the children of men, as far as we have the privilege of bestowing these gifts upon the sons and daughters of Adam. Only think that by embracing the Gospel of Christ we can become heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ, that we can have part in the first resurrection, and come forth out of our graves and be clothed with glory, immortality and eternal lives, and pass into the presence of God and the Lamb and dwell with them eternally in the heavens! Who comprehends this? Do the inhabitants of the earth? They do not. Satan has warred against us from the organization of this Church, to try

and destroy this people; but so far we have been preserved. We should be thankful for these blessings. I realize myself that we are dependent upon the Lord in all things. The Lord is our preserver. He is the author of our salvation. Jesus Christ has laid down His life to redeem us by His blood, and through that we have these blessings bestowed upon us.

Among other things, we live in a generation in which the Lord has enabled us to rear several temples—some in these mountains and some before we came here; and hundreds and thousands of people go into these temples to redeem their dead. This is a blessing the Latter-day Saints should prize. It is a duty that is required at our hands to do what we can in this direction. It is a blessing that the inhabitants of the earth have not had for centuries until this dispensation. I hope that no man who has got a record of his father's house will go down to his grave without having attended to this work. How would I feel, after living as long as I have, with the privileges I have had of going into these temples, to go into the spirit world without having done this work? I meet my father's house, I meet my mother's house, I meet my progenitors, and they are shut up in prison; I held the keys of their salvation, and yet did nothing for them; what would be my feelings, or what would be their feelings toward me? They would not like it. I feel that while the Lord has given us this blessing, every man and woman in this Church that has any faith at all in God and in the Gospel should attend to this duty. Jesus Christ, while His body lay in the tomb, went and preached to the spirits in prison, that were drowned in the days of Noah by the flood, because of their wickedness and abominations. They had been in prison for a long time, and He went and preached to them, "that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit." Joseph Smith, Hyrum Smith, David Patten, and the Apostles and Elders who have been true and faithful unto death have also gone to the spirits in prison in their day and time and preached the Gospel of Christ to their fathers' houses and to those who are shut up in prison, and they are laboring there for the salvation of the children of men. These are glorious principles—principles which the Latter-day Saints should not neglect while they have the privilege and power. As I said in the beginning, there is no calling, a man can be called to, any greater than to have this right and privilege to go forth and save the souls of men—save them by preaching the Gospel to them, by administering the ordinances of the house of God to them, that they may be prepared themselves to go into the kingdom of heaven, and into a celestial glory. There are three glories. Paul in speaking upon that subject said, "There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead." These glories overshadow the whole human family. Now, how much better it is for a man to receive these ordinances, that he may go where God and Christ dwell, which is the highest glory. But Jesus said in His day, "Straight is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it;" while "broad is

the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat." I think many times that we ourselves do not prize the blessings that we enjoy and that are within our reach. Our hearts should be set upon the building up of the kingdom of God, the Zion of God and the work of God, while we are here and have power to perform these things. It is our duty as the Presidency and as Apostles, not only to labor ourselves, but to send forth the Elders of Israel to the nations of the earth to proclaim the Gospel. Doors are open today among many of the nations for the spread of the Gospel of Christ, and to bring the people unto Christ, that they also may receive these blessings.

Brethren and sisters, this is the way I feel this morning. Of all people under heavens we should be the best, the most righteous, and the most true and faithful to God and to our fellow men. We should be true and faithful to the Holy Priesthood while we have it resting upon us, and true to our labors. I rejoice at our condition today. I rejoice at the peace that has come unto us by the power and blessing of God. I rejoice at the change that is taking place in the world. We are visited now by hundreds of people from the nations of the earth. They are coming to behold the glory of Zion. They come to enquire at our hands concerning various matters, and there is a very different feeling to what there was in former days toward us. Brother John W. Taylor referred to our going to St. Louis and to Chicago. Yes, I recollect very well when we went into Jackson County, Missouri. My labors there have been alluded to. When I went on my first mission in 1834, I had to go through Jackson County on my way to Arkansas. It was just after our brethren had been driven out. I had to go and hide in the cornfields and in the brush during the day, and walk along in the night, till I got through that county, for the lives of myself and companion were in danger there. The last time I went there, the Mayor of Independence came out to meet us with a fine carriage. He had but one arm, having lost the other in the army, but he gave us that arm and made us welcome. I could not help but feel the difference between then and when I went through there as a missionary. There is a change taking place. Zion is going to rise and shine, and the glory of God will rest upon her. This people, if they do their duty, will fulfill and carry out these great principles, and the eyes of the world will be turned towards Zion, and men will come to enquire concerning the things of the kingdom of God. We are in a good condition. We are blessed of the Lord. The Latter-day Saints have never been so well off temporally. Go into the houses of the Latter-day Saints, and you will find them in a better position than they have ever been before. These are the blessings of God, and we should prize these things and give God the glory for them, while we try to do our duty and magnify our calling. I want to say that I am in for salvation and for eternal life. I have labored for that since I was a boy. I have desired the gifts and graces and blessings manifest in the days of Jesus and His Apostles. In my childhood I prayed God that I might live to see a prophet or somebody who could teach me the principles I read of in the New Testament. The clergy of the day did not do it. Nobody around there ap-