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Message 1 - In the Service of Your Fellow Men

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Abstract: Uses the teachings of the Book of Mormon to show the importance of Christian service by members of the Church.

VISITING TEACHER MESSAGE — Truths to Live By
(Correlated With the Family Home Evening Manual, 1968-69)

Message 1—In the Service of Your Fellow Men

Alice Colton Smith

Northern Hemisphere: First Meeting, October 1969
Southern Hemisphere: March 1970

OBJECTIVE: To realize that when we serve our fellow beings, we are in the service of our God.

A few years ago a group was discussing the meaning of service. One said, "I'm a business man. Everything I manufacture and sell is to help others have a better life." A teacher said, "My whole day is devoted to helping others develop." A mother said, "I gave birth and thus life to a number of people and I serve them." A lawyer said, "A public servant is well named. An elected official serves others."

Centuries before this, King Benjamin called all his people together to teach them the will of God. In his memorable address he said:

And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God. (Mosiah 2:17.)

What was he saying about service in this verse and the following verses of his speech? Did he mean what the businessman, the teacher, the lawyer, even the mother did, or was he speaking of something beyond the general goodness that people

may extend to one another and for which they often receive remuneration and other earthly rewards?

Jesus said:

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Many will say to me in that day: Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name, and in thy name have cast out devils, and in thy name done *many wonderful works?* (italics added.)

And then will I profess unto them: I never knew you. . . .(3 Ne. 14:21-23.)

And again Jesus said, "For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?" (Matt. 5:46.)

In these teachings is God not calling us to a more profound meaning of loving service? Is it enough just to take care of others we love? Do not sinners do the same?

In his early instructions to the Relief Society, Joseph Smith said that one of the purposes of the society was in ". . . searching after objects of charity and

in administering to their wants. . . .” (*History of Relief Society*, 1842-1966, p. 18.) Moreover, Jesus taught it was to be done so “That thine alms may be in secret. . . .” (Matt. 6:4.)

Again Joseph Smith said, “. . . Relief Society is not only to relieve the poor, but to save souls.” (Joseph Smith, *History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, Vol. 5, p. 25 [commonly called *Documentary History of the Church*; hereafter referred to as *DHC*].)

Our service to our fellow men, then, has special meanings. It is to be a part of serving God with our “whole souls” (Mosiah 2:21), to follow Jesus into total

righteousness, and do the “. . . will of my [our] Father which is in heaven.” (Matt. 7:21.) We should love and serve our enemies. We should *search* out those in need. We are not only to attend to their physical needs but to help them find the kingdom of God, to keep his commandments “. . . that they might rejoice and be filled with love towards God and all men.” (Mosiah 2:4.) We are to help them lift their lives to greater goodness, to help them achieve salvation. As we serve our fellow men, then, with these added dimensions, we are in the service of our God helping to bring about his multiple, great purposes.

HOMEMAKING—Development Through Homemaking Education Woman’s Role in Family Preparedness

Discussion 1—“She Looketh Well to the Ways of Her Household.” (Prov. 31:27)

Celestia J. Taylor

Northern Hemisphere: Second Meeting, October 1969
Southern Hemisphere: March 1970

OBJECTIVE: To show the need for family preparedness and the role of the Latter-day Saint woman in achieving it.

INTRODUCTION

Have any of us ever known a period of time when our leaders have not counseled, advised, and even urged us to prepare our homes and families that we might be self-sustaining in a time of need? The answer would

certainly have to be in the negative. Why, then, are many of us so reluctant or so indifferent, or even so negligent that we fail to heed this counsel? Is it because we have lulled ourselves into a state of false security by using excuses—excuses which