

Talk given by Elizabeth Roberts

February 13, 2000

Topic: Service

* President Spencer W. Kimball recalls

"When I was stake president in Arizona...there came to me a never-ending line of people with problems. As I struggled for proper answers to them, I found that by general conference time I was a sponge that had been squeezed until it was dry and vacuum-like. Then, we would come to Salt Lake to conference and, after many sessions here, I would return to Arizona still like the sponge, but one that was heavy with wetness and was dripping.

I have learned that it is by serving that we learn how to serve. When we are engaged in the service of our fellowman, not only do our deeds assist them but we put our own problems in a greater perspective. When we concern ourselves more with others there is less time to be concerned with ourselves. In the midst of the miracle of serving, there is the promise of Jesus, that by losing ourselves, we find ourselves."

* In Moses 1:39 it reads

"For behold this is my work and my glory to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man"

* The Lord seeks our help in accomplishing his purpose. Through the service of men and women and boys and girls God's work is done. President Kimball explained

"God does notice us, and he watches over us. But it is usually through another person that he meets our needs"

* Throughout our lives all of us depend on others for help. When we were infants, our parents fed, clothed and cared for us. Without this care we would have died. When we grew up other people taught us skills and attitudes. Many of us have needed nursing care during an illness or money in a financial crisis. Some of us ask God to bless suffering people and then do nothing for them. We must remember that God works through us.

When we help others we serve God. King Benjamin taught his people the principle of service by the way he lived his life. He served them all his life earning his own living instead of being supported by the people. In an inspired sermon he explained why he loved service, saying

"When ye are in the service of your fellow being ye are only in the service of your God...And if I, whom ye call your king, do labor to serve you, then ought not ye to labor to serve one another?"

* Service is helping others who need assistance. Christlike service grows out of genuine love for the Savior and of love and concern for those whom he gives us opportunities and direction to help. Love is more than a feeling; when we love others we want to help them. President Marion G. Romney observed:

"We lose our life by serving and lifting others. By doing so we experience the only true and lasting happiness. Service is not something we endure on this earth so we can earn the right to live in the celestial kingdom. Service is the very fiber of which an exalted life in the celestial

kingdom is made."

* Now who do we serve and how do we serve. We as latter-day saints have the responsibility and obligation to serve everyone. The young the old, the rich the poor, family, strangers, neighbors and even those whom we might not get along with. In John 4:20-21 it reads:

If a man say I love God and hateth his brother he is a liar for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen. And this commandment have we from him that he who loveth God love his brother also."

* There are many ways to serve we can help others economically, socially, physically, and spiritually. We can give food, money, clothing to those who need them. We can do something as simple as be a friend to a newcomer. We can teach the gospel to someone who needs the truth or comfort someone who grieves. President Kimball said:

"So often, our acts of service consist of simple encouragement or of giving mundane help with mundane tasks, but what glorious consequences can flow from mundane acts and from small but deliberate deeds..."

* We can do small and large acts of service. We should never fail to help someone because we are unable to do great things. Sometimes however we must sacrifice greatly to serve someone. Christ is the perfect example of service, he gave up his life in serving us.

* The savior provided the perfect example of service. He explained that he didn't come to earth to be served but to serve and to give his life for us.

* Jesus loves all of us more than we can understand. When he was on earth he served the poor, the ignorant, the sinner, the despised. He taught the gospel to all who would listen, fed crowds of hungry people who came to hear him, healed the sick and raised the dead.

* He is our God and Savior and Lord of the universe, yet he did many humble acts of service. Just before his crucifixion he met with his disciples. After teaching them, he took a basin of water and a towel and washed their feet. In those days washing a visitors feet was a sign of honor and was usually done by a servant. Jesus did it as an example of love and service. When we willingly serve others in the spirit of love, we become more like Christ.

* I would like to close with a poem my Dad wrote

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* I have a testimony of service I know it is right and good, I have seen it work in my life on both the receiveing and giving end. I pray that we can serve each other with a willing and loving heart. As we do this we will become like Christ. The ultimate example of service.