

The Price is Right

Many times I have thought of the trials and the struggles others have had in life that seem to be such Herculean tests of their faith. Some have children born to them that are mentally retarded or physically handicapped. Some have prodigal children. Some live in extreme poverty. We hear of so many women and children that are the victims of abuse. What of single parents that have the heavy burden of raising children and earning an income. I have often wondered how I would do under such difficult circumstances. I marvel at how strong many of these people are.

So what about all of us that have life so easy? Hopefully we will not be guilty of the *sin of omission*. Just because we do not have a serious, ongoing and specific trial in life does not mean we do not have a challenge. Perhaps our challenge is to take the multitude of blessings we have and then go do something of value to help build the kingdom and advance the work of the gospel. Maybe the Lord says, "What will this child do if there is nothing impeding him or her from consecrating their all to the building of the kingdom?" Hopefully we will never face the day when we recall our life in vivid detail and realize that there was nothing to stop us from laying all on the altar, yet, we did not take advantage of the situation.

I found this quote by Elder Marion G. Romney that I think summarizes some of the subject I am addressing:

"We might take a lesson from an account given by the Prophet of a vision of the resurrection, in which he records that one of the saddest things he had ever witnessed was the sorrow of the members of the Church who came forth to a resurrection below that which they had taken for granted they would receive.

I conceive the blessings of the gospel to be of such inestimable worth that the price for them must be very exacting, and if I correctly understand what the Lord has said on the subject, it is. The price, however, is within the reach of us all, because it is not to be paid in money nor in any of the world's goods but in righteous living. What is required is wholehearted devotion to the gospel and unreserved allegiance to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Speaking to this point, the prophet taught, '...that those who keep the commandments of the Lord and walk in his statutes to the end, are the only individuals who shall receive the blessings!'"

Let's pay the price to receive the greatest blessings available to mankind. Our decisions here in mortality have eternal ramifications!