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Conference, am  (PPP, pm, BY)
      Elder Brigham Young addressed the meeting on the subject of our faith. We hear the Elders represent the feeling of the brethren concerning the gathering. This is right.  The Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ is a gathering spirit.  Its tendency is to gather the virtuous and good, the honest and meek of the earth, and, in fine, the Saints of God.  The time has come when the Lord is determined to fulfill his purposes.  The people are apt to say that if they had lived in the days of Jesus Christ they would have received His work.  But judge ye if the people are better now than then.  They are not.  When the full, set time was come, the Lord came in the flesh to do His work, whether the people were prepared or not; and He would not have come at all, if He had waited till the people were prepared to receive Him.  It was decreed from all eternity that He should come, and He came.  The people were not prepared then, nor are they any more prepared now.  And now the full set time has come for the Lord God Almighty to set His hand to redeem Israel.  We are not bound to make the people believe, but we are bound to preach the Gospel; and having done this, our garments are clear.

      The Lord does not require every soul to leave his home as soon as he believes. Some may be wanted to go to the isles of the sea, and some to go north, and some south.  But He does require them to hearken to counsel, and follow that course which He points out, whether to gather or stay to do some other work.

      The Spirit of the Lord and His work are on the alert, and those who keep up with the work must be on the alert also.  The Spirit of the Lord will leave them who sit down and refuse to obey.  When the Lord says, "Gather yourselves together," why do you ask Him what for?  Had you not rather enjoy the society of Saints than sinners whom you cannot love?  Is it not the principle of the Saints to mingle together and promote the great cause in which they are engaged?

      Perhaps some of you are ready to ask, "Cannot the Lord save us as well where we are as to gather together?" Yes, if the Lord says so.  But if He commands us to come out and gather together, He will not save us by staying at home.  Have you not received the Gospel?  Yes.  Then do you believe what we say?  Have you not received the Holy Ghost, by receiving the Gospel which we have brought unto you?  Yes.  Thousands have; and it stands as a testimony that God has got a Prophet on the earth.  You might have been baptized seventy times seven in any way except the way God had ordained and pointed out, and you would not have received the Holy Ghost.  This also is a testimony to you.

      Are you engaged with us in this great work?  "Yes, certainly," you answer, "heart and hand." "Can we do any good?" Yes, you can. The sectarian world send the Bible to the nations of the earth.  The poor among them put sixpence, fifty cents or a dollar into the box to carry out that object; and can the Latter-day Saints do nothing?  let them do what God requires. He has required that we should build a house unto His name, that the ordinances and blessings of His kingdom may be revealed, and that the Elders may be endowed, go forth and gather together the blood of Ephraim the people of God, from the ends of the earth.

      Can you get an endowment in Boston or anywhere, except where God appoints?  No, only in that place which God has pointed out.  Now, query could Moses have obtained the law if he had stayed in the midst of the children of Israel, instead of going up on to the mountain?  The Lord said, "Go and do so and so; stand before Pharaoh; pull of thy shoes, for the place is holy." Moses obeyed, and obtained blessings which he would not have received if he had been disobedient.

      Has the Lord spoken in these last days, and required us to build Him a house?  Then why query about it?  If He has spoken, it is enough.  I do not care whether the people gather or not, if they don't want to do so.  I do not wish to save the people against their will.  I want them to choose whether they will gather and be saved with the righteous, or remain with the wicked and be damned.  I would like to have all people bow down to the Lord Jesus Christ; but it is one of the decrees of the Lord that all persons shall act upon their agency, which was the case even with the angels who fell from heaven.

      Now, will you help us to build the Nauvoo House and Temple?  If so, you will be blessed:  if not, we will build it without you.  And if you don't hearken, you will not have the Spirit of the Lord; for the Spirit of the Lord is on the move.

      The Apostles tried to gather the people together in their day.  Christ said He would gather the Jews oft as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, but they would not.  Neither God nor angels care whether men hear or forbear:  they will carry on their work; for the full, set time is come for God to set up His kingdom, and we go about it.  We must build a house, and get an endowment, preach the gospel, warn the people, gather the Saints, build up Zion, finish our work, and be prepared for the coming of Christ.

      Now, we want to send four missionaries to the Pacific Islands, and we want a little clothing, and beds, and money to pay their passage.  Can you do something for them?  This is not all.  We want you to give all you have to spare towards building the Temple.  We shall be able to build it, if we have to work with a sword in one hand.  But perhaps you are afraid you will not have enough for yourself, when you get there; yet how easy it is for the Lord to take it away from you by fire or otherwise!

      Elder Maginn had an ivory cane.  I asked him for it, but he declined making me a present of it.  Not long after, he had it stolen from him in a crowd, and it now does neither of us any good.  Perhaps your purse may slip through your pocket, or you may lose your property; for the Lord can give and take away.  Jacob, with his faith, obtained all the best cattle his father-in-law had.

      If I had a wife and ten children, I would give all my money to build the Temple and Nauvoo House, and I would trust in God for their support. Yet I will be richer for it; for God would prosper me in business.  Men are apt to serve God on Sunday, and neglect Him all the week.  Who blesses you and all the people?  God.  But do the people acknowledge the hand of God in all these things?  No; they turn away from Him, and do not acknowledge Him, or realize from whom their blessings flow.  They know not who blesses them. It never comes into their hearts.  So with the farmer.  The blessings are constantly flowing to him, and he considers not whence they come.

      Let me tell you a secret.  When the Lord shakes the earth, and every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, He will bring gold for brass, silver for iron, brass for wood, and iron for stones. Then you will have no use for gold, for money and gods as you now have. You will not care so much about it; but the Lord will think as much of it then as now.

      But now we want some of the gods of the Gentiles---some of the gold and silver to build the Temple and Nauvoo House for the accommodation of the kings, princes and nobles of the earth, when they come to inquire after the wisdom of Zion, that they may have a place for their entertainment, and for the weary traveler to be refreshed.  Let us have your gold to take to Nauvoo for this purpose.

      Is there wisdom in Zion?  We think so, and the world begins to think so. Let the world come forward and translate the plates that have of late come forth, if they have wisdom to do it.  The Lord intends to take away the gods of the Gentiles:  He pulleth down and He buildeth up at His own pleasure.

      Sacrifice your gods for the building up of Zion.  Administer of your substance.  Send our missionaries to the islands of the seas.  Don't be afraid of a dollar, or a hundred dollars, or even a thousand dollars.  I would not.  I have made a sacrifice of all I possessed a good many times. I am richer the more I give; for the Lord has promised and does reward me a hundredfold; and if I sacrifice all for the cause of God, no good thing will be withheld from me.  I have taken this course to get rich.  I have given all I had, and God has given many blessings in consequence.  If I am too bold in asking, be too bold in giving.  I ask, expecting to receive. Put your shoulders to the wheel with all your might.  Give your all, and become rich by receiving a hundred-fold.