

At a prayer meeting of the priesthood of the Conference held in the Stone Church, Sunday April 4, there came to me one of the most powerful spiritual experiences of my whole life.

-Elbert A Smith, On Memories Beam

A Message to the Ministry (*Saints' Herald* No. 16 April 21, 1920)

Communication given through Elbert A. Smith, to the Priesthood, in the Lower Auditorium of the Stone Church, Independence, Missouri, at communion service, Sunday forenoon, April 4, 1920. . . .

This is the message of your Lord and Master: I greet you as I did my disciples of old; and though I am your Lord and your Master, yet do I call you my friends and my brethren.

During the year you have administered to others, and have carried the consolation of God to the people in far distant places. But now it is your blessed privilege to be administered to and to receive consolation from me. And I say unto you, Open your hearts that you may receive the Holy Ghost. Is there one among you who has aught of complaint to make concerning his ministry or the blessings that he has received ?

Is there one among you who has been homeless, that he could say, I have not where to lay my head ? Is there one who has been without food, or naked? Is there one who has been scourged or spit upon or crucified? Happily you have escaped many of these things, though in part you have tasted of the cup that I drank from and have been baptized with the baptism that I was baptized with. But the days will come when you will be required to walk in the midst of perils. And you will go upon many uncertain missions. And you will knock at many doors that will not be opened to you until they are opened by the power and demonstration of my Spirit. I have witnesses of my love for you, for I have the evidences in my hands and in my feet and in my side—for did I not give the very blood out of my heart for you? What evidences are you prepared to give in years to come that you love me?

I am not here to judge you or to condemn you. But I am here to warn you. You have been told in the past that in your public and private ministrations you should avoid sowing the seeds of distrust and division. That which a man sows he shall also reap. If any man shall sow discontent, he shall reap discontent and be unhappy. If any man shall sow doubt, he shall reap doubt in his own heart, and shall be fortunate if he shall not eventually deny the faith. But he who sows the seeds of faith shall reap faith and it shall cause his soul to enlarge and expand. He who gives forth love— love shall come back to him. And he who is tender and merciful, to him will I be very tender and merciful. But if any man shall betray my cause, him will I judge. And he who puts the trust of my people in jeopardy for a little thing, he himself shall be in jeopardy.

When you go forth to preach to the world, you are not to preach your own speculations or idle imaginings, and you are not to preach the philosophies of men. You are to preach the gospel, as it is in the books that have been given to the church, and you are to cry repentance to this generation. And when you stand to teach the Saints you shall say to them as Moses did of old, that they shall go forward. If you are to be called leading men you must become leaders of men— leaders and exemplars in all good works and Christian graces, and in showing forth all the fruits of the Spirit—that the Saints may observe you and be strengthened and comforted. If you will do this, and seek to work together in patience and love, and to obtain a common understanding of my law, I will be with you to bless and direct.