

Second Speaker, Sylvester Q. Cannon

I should like to read to you a few words expressed by the wise man Solomon. "You go find a virtuous woman for her price is far above everything else." The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her. She works with her hands; she bringeth him food from afar. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor, she reacheth out her hand to the needy; strength and honor are her glory; she openeth her mouth for wisdom and her tongue is the law of kindness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also and he praiseth her. A woman that cheereth the lot she shall be blessed. Give her of the fruits of her hands and let her own works praise her in the last."

I think that is tribute enough to Sister Parkinson. These she possessed--these qualities that are here expressed. I didn't have the pleasure of knowing her for many years as Brother Cain did, but in the few years I did know her, I found she had some very important qualities and I am told that we are judged by our qualities. I wish to express some characteristic qualities relative to her life. We are met here to testify to the loyalty of this great cause, character.

Theodore Roosevelt says on character: "A sound body is a first class thing, a sound mind is an even better thing, but the thing that counts for most in the individual as in the nation is character--the quality that makes a man a good man and a woman a good woman."

Quote: "No man is worth his salt who is not ready at all times to risk his body, to risk his being, to risk his very life in this great cause."

She was loyal in this great cause and she was willing to give her life.

A Senator once said, "Loyalty is the greatest quality in a human heart. Let everyone fasten himself or herself to some great idea, some life cause, some noble cause." This cause Sister Parkinson has followed. The Gospel of Jesus Christ has blessed her and caused her to go forth with strength and energy to reach not only the things of the present but the things of eternity. She has a fine heritage, the daughter of George T. Benson and Louisa Barrett. She came of sturdy stock. In the lives of these families you find qualities which are necessary for the building of communities. She had a good name. These families produced a good name because of their lives.

Solomon says that a good name is better than precious ointment.

Shakespeare says the biggest treasure that mortals are assured is a spotless reputation.

These families from whom she came had good reputations and good names and that inheritance was a great blessing to her and to her children. Her grandfather was one of the original pioneers, a community builder and a missionary. He traveled abroad and at one time went to Hawaii. He was drowned in a channel but was revived and brought back to life. The children are blessed because of their ancestors' fine qualities; because of their mother and because of their father, William T. Parkinson. He was a just man, just with the same continuous desire to render that which is due.

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Fairness, a desire to do right, to be considerate, justice for truth in action--what finer qualities could man possess than that. In dealing with our wives and children, we should be just and considerate, fine and true. He was honorable, loyal; he was successful in being able to get the trust and faith of his entire family. He was a bishop for several years and it was said of him that he was a most benevolent bishop.

Sister Parkinson had what has been referred to as an outstanding quality--that of motherhood. She was an ideal mother and won the love and confidence of all her children and her mother.

God thought to give the sweetest knowledge of power to her. He moved the gates of Heaven above and gave the world a mother. Women represent man's only motherhood. All life begins and ends there.

Sister Parkinson bore a splendid family, one son and seven fine daughters bear her name and the name of her husband. If they live up to the heritage which they possess, they will have a fine life and character. Sister Parkinson was a home maker. Hubbard has said that home is where the heart is. All of her children yearn for that home and they are very anxious to come to that home and be with their mother.

If every home in this community and every home in the community of this nation were the type of Sister Parkinson's, if love and consideration and kindness prevailed in the community, then this nation would be a much more pleasant nation than it is today. She was not in public life. She gave her entire time to her family and the way that she lived is evident by the fine qualities possessed by her children. She made her home happy and that is the reason that everyone went to her home. She was kind as expressed by Solomon; she stretched out her hand to the needy and she was considerate. While her circle of friends was not so large, the ones that knew her were won over by her love and consideration.

The sanctity and elevation of the family and family life are the ultimate ends of all trial. We realize that the family is a divine institution. When properly bound together in accordance with the plan and revelation given by the Lord, it promises greater joy in larger measure than it does in this mortal life.

Another quality she possessed was her devotion to her husband. She was implicitly devoted to him. She trained her children in loyalty and love for their father; there, therefore, resulted love and unity. The family is the unit of society. Unless the family is maintained in righteousness this nation cannot endure nor can any other nation endure. It is very vital that we should take a lesson from her life, that we should live up to the standards that are entailed upon us to raise a family.

She was trustworthy. She was worthy of every consideration. She had a wonderful philosophy as do all those who have faith in the Gospel. She had faith that there is a divine purpose in all things.

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What our nature craves is not mere inspiration but some supreme service that will guide all our powers and give unity to life. We are not here as cattle or as beings who have no further extensions. This is just a step in our eternal lives. If we realize the divine purpose that placed us here, we shall grow each hour. Strive for bigger and better things that will enable us to live not only here in bigger and better ways but in the hereafter. That was her philosophy.

I have faith that this principle is true and that it is divine; that she and all who pass from this life are living and enjoying all the powers of their minds that they possessed here and are awaiting the time when they shall be resurrected from the dead. And those that are faithful and have lived up to the truths of righteousness, they shall come forth in the first resurrection and be clothed upon with glory and with eternal life.

She had faith in the Eternal Marriage Covenant that she and her husband and her children were bound together and that it cannot be broken only through unrighteousness. It is a wonderful opportunity and privilege to live and to strive to live that doctrine.

She believed in the Lord, Jesus Christ. She believed the words of the Savior when He said "I am the resurrection and the life." She acknowledged the Prophet Joseph Smith as a true Prophet of the Lord who has restored the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the earth. It was her hope that everyone of her children should live up to the Gospel and I think her desires are being realized.

I pray that the power of the Lord will be with you in this hour of trial and suffering and these blessings I pray for in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.