



JOHN TAYLOR

JOHN TAYLOR STANDS AGAINST THE MOB

Near Columbus, the capital of Ohio, they [John Taylor and his companions] stayed at a town where a number of brethren resided, and all were anxious to hear Elder Taylor preach. As they had no hall, it was arranged that he should speak in the open air.

A little before meeting time a number of the brethren came running to the house where he was stopping with the information that the whole town was gathering and that a number of men had proposed tar and feathers, and boasted they would dress him with them if he undertook to preach. The brethren advised him not to attempt it as they were not strong enough to protect him. After a moment's reflection, however, he decided to go and preach. The brethren remonstrated; they knew the tar and feathers were prepared and that he could not escape. He replied that he had made up his mind to go; they could go with him if they chose, if not, he would go alone.

A very large concourse of people had assembled to listen to him. He began his remarks by informing them that he had lately come from Canada—a land under monarchical rule; that standing as he then did on free soil, among free men, he experienced peculiar sensations.

“Gentlemen, I now stand among men whose fathers fought for and obtained one of the greatest blessings ever conferred upon the human family—the right to think, to speak, to write; the right to say who shall govern them, and the right to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences—all of them sacred, human rights, and now guaranteed by the American Constitution. I see around me the sons of those noble sires, who, rather than bow to the behests of a tyrant, pledged their lives, fortunes and sacred honors to burst those fetters, enjoy freedom themselves, bequeath it to their posterity, or die in the attempt.

“They nobly fought and nobly conquered; and now the cap of liberty is elevated on the tops of your liberty poles throughout the land, and the flag of freedom waves from Wisconsin to Louisiana—from Maine to Missouri. Not only so, but your vessels—foremost in the world—sail over oceans, seas and bays, visiting every nation; and wherever those vessels go your flag flutters in the breeze, a hope is inspired among the down-trodden millions, that they, perchance, if they cannot find liberty in their own land, may find it with you.... Gentlemen, with you liberty is more than a name; it is incorporated in your system; it is proclaimed by your senators, thundered by your cannon, lisped by your infants, taught to your school-boys; it echoes from mountain to mountain, reverberates through your valleys, and is whispered by every breeze. Is it any wonder, gentlemen, under these circumstances—having lately emerged from a monarchical government—that I should experience peculiar sensations in rising to address you?

“But, by the by, I have been informed that you purpose to tar and feather me, for my religious opinions. Is this the boon you have inherited from your fathers? Is this the blessing they purchased with their dearest hearts' blood—this your liberty? If so, you now have a victim, and we will have an offering to the god-

CONTENTS

The power of this book is its unusual index. For a specific topic indexed by paragraph please refer to it. Normally President Taylor treated multiple topics in each address. The contents would have been too detailed and cluttered for all to have been noted. Preference has been given to the most relevant and interesting topics.

ADDRESS	PAGE
JOHN TAYLOR STANDS AGAINST THE MOB	v
PREFACE	viii
1 Oct. 6, 1877	Saints Assenting to the Voice of God—Death of President Young . . . 1
2 Oct. 7, 1877	The Priesthood, its Position and Duties—Building Temples and Tabernacles 3
3 Apr. 8, 1878	The Gospel did not Originate with Smith or Young—Saints Operate with God and Angels—Accepting Priesthood Callings . . . 9
4 Apr. 8, 1879	Opening the Last Dispensation—Contribution of the Sisters 17
5 Apr. 9, 1879	Temporal Concerns—Prepare for Evils Coming Upon the Earth . . 22
6 Oct. 6, 1879	The Work of God Cannot be Hindered—The United States to be Afflicted by Judgment 29
7 Oct. 7, 1879	Opposition to the Work of God—Sending Missionaries— Saints Succumbing to Social Evils 33
8 Oct. 8, 1879	Leaders to See That Church is Purged from Iniquity 38
9 Apr. 7, 1880	Forgiveness of Debt to Worthy Poor 39
10 Apr. 7, 1880	Sustaining Missionaries Means Taking Care of Their Families . . 42
11 Apr. 7, 1880	Take Care of Missionary Families—Develop Character— Bishops to Correct Iniquities or Assume the Sins Themselves . . . 43
12 Apr. 8, 1880	Auxiliaries Responsible to Youth—Three Temples Under Construction—The Church a True Friend of Government 47
13 Oct. 10, 1880	Taylor Becomes President of the Newly Organized First Presidency 51
14 Apr. 3, 1881	Appreciation for God’s Protective Care Amidst Persecution 54
15 Apr. 4, 1881	Ponder Well Our Relationship to God—Why Men Apostatize— Lucifers’ Plan in the Grand Council 55
16 Apr. 5, 1881	Tribute to the Sisters—Protect the Youth from Contaminating Influences 58
17 Oct. 6, 1881	Funeral Services of Orson Pratt and of a Deceased Missionary . . . 60
18 Oct. 7, 1881	War in Heaven Transferred to Earth—Groups Lucifer Not Able to Destroy 61
19 Oct. 9, 1881	The Priesthood—God’s Love for the Human Family 64
20 Apr. 6, 1882	Church Growth Despite Tremendous Persecution 69
21 Apr. 7, 1882	Advice on Enduring Persecution 70
22 Apr. 9, 1882	Support Cooperative Stores 71
23 Apr. 9, 1882	The Restoration—The Saints Misrepresented—Warning to Oppressors—Practice of Plural Marriage Explained 72
24 Oct. 8, 1882	God’s Dealings With the World in Ancient and Modern Times— Religious Intolerance and Political Injustice—Saints to be

Future Saviors of America88

25 Apr. 8, 1883 Gospel Like Leaven—Promises to Abraham—Religious Liberty and Franchise Insisted Upon 98

26 Oct. 6, 1883 All, Even Christ, Here to do our Father’s Will—Many Destined to Hold Certain Positions—Honor Priesthood Callings of Others ..103

27 Oct. 7, 1883 Everyone Possesses a Portion of God’s Spirit—Necessity of the Flood—Saints Unfairly Treated by Federal Government109

28 Apr. 4, 1884 This Dispensation Contemplated Before the World Was116

29 Apr. 6, 1884 People Will Beg to Enter United Order—Financial Report Not Disclosed as Enemies Would Use it Against the Church117

30 Oct. 4, 1884 Principles in This Dispensation More Clearly Taught Than in any Other—God Has Greatly Blessed Us119

31 Oct. 6, 1884 Power of Satan—The Two Zions, Enoch and Latter-day, Compared—Priesthood in the Heavens—Distinction Between Polygamy and Prostitution121

32 Apr. 4, 1885 Wicked Allowed to Afflict—First Presidency Forced into Hiding—Polygamy Justified by Ancient Prophets—Polygamy is the Answer to Many Social Evils132

33 Oct. 7, 1885 No Cessation of Persecution—Persecution Lifts Humanity—Church Remains Friend of the Constitution—Gods’ Command of Polygamy 40 Years Old—Leaders to Serve as Shepherds to Protect the Flock137

34 Apr. 6, 1886 Nature, Purpose and Effect of Persecution—The Lord Strengthens the Saints in Their Trials—Injustice of Laws and Their Enforcement—Women Treated as Criminals—Miscellaneous Short Notes on Education, Beautification, Avoiding Immorality, Temple Attendance, and Building Zion149

35 Oct. 8, 1886 Persecution Purifies Zion and Fulfills Prophecy—Judicial Perversion—Sabbath-Breaking and Recreation Mania—Sacredness of the Family165

36 Apr. 8, 1887 Legislative and Judicial Tyranny—Constitutional Guarantees Trampled Upon—Unjustifiable Conduct of Officials—Appropriate Amusements177

SOURCES189

INDEX190

ADDRESS 1

Remarks made by John Taylor, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, at the Saturday afternoon session of the 47th Semiannual General Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints convened October 6, 1877, in the New Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah.

1. I am very happy to find so great an unanimity of feeling in the voting, as has been manifested at this Conference. There is a very common axiom in the world, "Vox populi, vox dei," or, "The voice of the people is the voice of God." Although the voice of the people is very important, we do not believe in that action separate and alone. It was usual among ancient Israel for the Lord to speak, presenting his laws, ordinances, and commandments to the people, then they were presented to the people, and then all the people said "Amen." Then it was the voice of God and the voice of the people; or, in other words, the voice of the people assenting to the voice of God.

2. In relation to the duties devolving upon the Twelve, in consequence of the changes that have recently taken place, I can say, in behalf of myself and my brethren, that their full weight and responsibility are felt by us. Unless we had the sanction of the people we would be unwilling to assume them, and were it not that these things are plainly laid down in the law of God, we would not have accepted the situation that we find ourselves placed in today. We feel now that unless God is with us we can accomplish nothing that can in anywise be for the welfare of Zion, or the building up of his kingdom on the earth. Those are my feelings, and those are the feelings of my brethren. It is not with us as viewed by the world generally, that there is something so very honorable in office, for we have learned that in order that any office in the government of the Church and kingdom might be made honorable, the office itself must be honored, and that, too, by faithfully complying with the laws of God governing it. Then it is a high honor conferred upon man from the Lord, and the Twelve so appreciate it. Whilst they thank you for the confidence which you have manifested in them, at the same time they feel to

rely upon God, and to ask that you will remember them before the throne of our heavenly Father in your prayers and daily supplications, that we may be guided by that wisdom and intelligence that flows from above, for without the aid, guidance, and direction of the Almighty, we can do nothing acceptably to him.

3. I have said very little, very little indeed, since the death of our esteemed President, Brigham Young. I have had various reasons for that. One is, my heart has felt sorrowful and pained, for we have lost a man who stood prominent in Israel for the last thirty-three years, yes, for upwards of forty or forty-five years. He is taken away, and all Israel felt to mourn the event. This is one reason why I have been so silent. Another is, a great many questions have had to be decided, arrangements made and investigations had, in regard to the proper course to pursue pertaining to these very important matters. Still another reason is, I did not wish to put myself forward, nor have I, as the Twelve here can bear me witness. [The Twelve unanimously gave their assent.] I have not had any more hand in these affairs than any of the members of my Quorum; but I am happy to say that in all matters upon which we have deliberated, we have been of one heart and one mind.

4. When brothers Pratt and Smith returned from England, as you will have learned from their published letter, their sentiments were precisely the same as ours, and also the Counselors of President Young, whom we esteem and honor in their place, are also united with us. We are glad to have them with us, as our friends and associates, and Counselors to the Twelve. I pray that the blessing of God may rest upon them, and lead them in the paths of life, and that they with the Twelve may unite together as a grand phalanx, not in our own individual interests, but in the interests of the Church and kingdom of God, and

INDEX

- AARONIC PRIESTHOOD**, the descendants of Aaron have a right to preside above that of a bishopric, even without counselors, Taylor 5:29; to preside more especially over the temporal affairs of the Church, Taylor 5:29.
- ABORTION**, becoming the slayers of our own offspring, Taylor 23:71; tenfold woe to the murderers of helpless innocents, other thoughts regarding the practice of, Taylor 23:88; a major problem in the U. S. in the 1880s, Taylor 31:70-75; infanticide and foeticide again condemned, Taylor 32:17.
- ABRAHAM**, promised that his seed would serve as agents through whom God would communicate truth, intelligence, and salvation to the world, Taylor 25:10.
- ADAM**, a great war yet to be fought between A. and Satan before the latter is cast out, Taylor 18:9; came to realize that the fall would give greater exaltation than without, Taylor 26:3; before his death assembled and blessed those who held the Holy Priesthood, Taylor 26:4.
- ADVERTISEMENTS**, Saints counseled to shun companies sponsoring false or misleading a., Taylor 5:22.
- AMUSEMENT**, argument against those establishing places which lead men to Hell, Taylor 7:13; proper conduct for the youth at places of, Taylor 36:36-39.
- ANTI-POLYGAMY LEGISLATION**, Saints never dreamed that a Christian world would ask them to violate a law of God, Taylor 33:37; six specific violations of the Constitution noted in the enforcement of, Taylor 34:67; tribute to the sisters undergoing persecution as a result of, Taylor 35:15.
- APOSTATIZE**, reason given for why men a. from the Church, Taylor 15:3-5.
- APOSTLES**, can be instructed by their home teachers, Taylor 26:14; the importance of the calling of summarized, Taylor 33:58.
- ATTITUDE**, the proper a. in the gospel described, Taylor 4:14.
- AUTHORITY**, each calling in the Church has its place, Taylor 26:15.
- BIRTH CONTROL**, already becoming the slayers of our own offspring, Taylor 23:71.
- BISHOPS**, to be consulted in temporal matters, Taylor 5:31; those who cover up the iniquities of men under their charge will bear that iniquity in the next life, Taylor 11:18; those who preside over General authorities in ward callings have the right to give instruction to, for example, a bishop or home teacher, Taylor 26:13; to see that drunkenness, Sabbath breaking, covetousness and other sins be not among Saints over whom they preside, Taylor 26:19-20.
- CAIN AND ABEL**, of the children of Adam these two became representative men—the one becoming the father of lies, Taylor 15:12.
- CALLINGS**, if any accept to aggrandize himself, the spirit of God will be withdrawn from that individual, Taylor 15:7.
- CELESTIAL CITY**, described, Taylor 34:57.
- CELESTIAL KINGDOM**, few will find the path leading to the, Taylor 31:10; many Saints will not gain entrance into the, Taylor 31:14-15; if man expects to inhabit the c. k., he must be tested to the uttermost, Taylor 33:12.
- CEMETERIES**, advice in the care of, Taylor 34:44.
- CHASTITY**, no prominence of position, no ties of family, no influence of wealth can save us from the penalty for the violation of, Taylor 34:47, 49.
- CHILDREN**, Lucifer has no power over them under the age of eight, automatically redeemed, Taylor 18:5; those who die in infancy redeemed, Taylor 18:6; should be made familiar with the contents of the scriptures at an early age, Taylor 35:43.
- CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**, mission of to prepare a people for the time when the bursting heavens will reveal the Son of God, Taylor 3:20; when organized, there were a mere six members, Taylor 4:3; thoughts on the role played by Joseph Smith in the organization of, Taylor 4:3-6; not of man, thus man cannot dispense with any part thereof, Taylor 4:7; if leadership of, winks at iniquity of any kind, God will require it at their hands, Taylor 8:3; no man-made organization could have withstood the concentrated hate and violent assaults directed against,