

# A Parent's Counsel

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**A**t the close of Sunday School class on December 11, 1983, our teacher Seth Lott, volunteered me for the following assignment:

## **A Parent's Counsel:**

**At least one week before the lesson ask a member of the class to prepare to share the wise counsel he would give to his children under the following imaginary circumstances:**

- 1. It's his last chance to ever communicate with his children;**
- 2. He will have no longer than three minutes.**

During the week your mother and I gave it some very serious thought. Then Friday morning she left for Salt Lake to see Tammy in the hospital, take care of some matters for Marnie, and visit with others of our family before Christmas. So about 2:00am Sunday morning I really started worrying about my assignment. For about two hours I worried and thought - and then fell asleep.

At 7:15 I awakened - got up - sat down with paper and pencil and started to write. Many tears fell on my paper as I wrote, but in 30 minutes I had finished. This truly came from my heart.

## **My Dear Family:**

This being the last chance I will have to talk to you, I wish first of all to tell you all how very much I love each one of you and how proud I am of each of you in how you are living your lives and teaching our grandchildren those principles necessary to their salvation.

Each of you as you came into our home was wanted very much and were all considered a great blessing. You have each taken your place and done your part to make our family special. Your mother and I have talked many times about how blessed we are to have all obedient spirits sent to us and have given thanks for that blessing many times.

Even though we have come this far together as an eternal family, with love I wish to warn you that there are perilous times ahead and Satan is real and there is nothing that he would rather do than disrupt the plans of God and the progress of an eternal family.

As the Scriptures tell us - "Pray often" with your families, have your home evenings with them and teach the great gospel truths and the love of our Father in Heaven for us - that He would send His Son, Jesus Christ, to show us His Supreme love for us. Consequently, it behooves each one of you to also give the greatest possible love to each of your children, reproofing them when moved upon by the Holy Ghost, and then showing forth an increase of love to them afterwards.

Each of you are descendants of early Church Pioneers who sacrificed immensely for this great Church. Tell your children of these stories and help build within each of them a strong faith in the mission of Joseph Smith and his part in the restoration of this great Church that they are blessed to be a part of. Help them gain an abiding faith in it's divinity.

Your mother and I love each one of you very dearly. No one of you more than another, and it would break our hearts to lose anyone of you from our

eternal family, or make a mistake ourselves that we would be the broken link of that greater family of ancestors of which we all belong.

At this time of our lives it is crystal clear to us that the few earthly things we have put together means nothing in comparison to our family. It is only you, our family, and our grandchildren that is really important. Love one another, look after one another, and look after each other's needs. We will surely be judged if 'we let any member of our family want while another could have helped. Learn more about charity and practice it within the family and with those with whom you associate. Remember "Charity Never Faileth ".

I would now like to bear my testimony to all of you for the last time. I know for a surety that God is our Father, Jesus Christ is our Savior, and that Joseph smith saw and heard what he bore witness to and gave his life as a testament for. He was indeed chosen to be the one to help restore this great church in this last dispensation. We are led by a prophet today and will continue to be in the trying days that lie ahead.

I bless each one of you that you will be strong enough to keep the faith and remain true to those principles of the gospel you have been taught.

Remember this: Your mother and I will eternally love you.

Rodney W Tew