

Episode 17

Music with a Message SERVICE

NARRATOR: During His ministry on the earth, Jesus Christ spent his time serving and helping others. True disciples of Jesus Christ do likewise. The Savior said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" [John 13:35].

SONG: The Utah Chamber Artists, "As I Have Loved You."

NARRATOR: The Savior used a parable to teach the importance of service. In the parable he told of his return to the earth in his glory and of separating the righteous from the wicked. To the righteous in this parable He says, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me" [Matthew 25:34-36].

SONG: The Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra at Temple Square sing, "A Poor Wayfaring Man of Grief."

NARRATOR: Opportunities for service to others are limitless. Kind words and deeds can lift burdens and gladden hearts. One true key to happiness is to labor for the happiness of others.

SONG: The Jenny Phillips Choir sings "Sisters Rejoice"

NARRATOR: Elder Russell C. Taylor, in his talk "The Joy of Service" said, "Elder Bruce R. McConkie has so eloquently taught us that service is essential to salvation. I have been impressed with the *urgency* of doing. Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Being willing is not enough; we must do. Progress is not created by contented people. It is up to us, you and me, to be uncomfortable in complacency, to refrain from being spectators, and to be players in the game of life. The Lord has chosen His people to perform a mighty work. Our home teaching, our visiting teaching should be more than *going*; it should be *doing* with Christian love" [*Ensign*, November 1984, 23].

SONG: Jenny Jordan Frogley "These Are the Days"

NARRATOR: Service to others deepens and sweetens this life while we are preparing to live in a better world. It is by serving that we learn to serve. When we are engaged in the service of our fellow man, not only do our deeds assist them, but we put our own problems in a fresher perspective. When we concern ourselves more with others, there is less time to be concerned with ourselves. In the midst of the miracle of serving there is the promise of Jesus, that by losing ourselves we find ourselves.

SONG: Rebecca Lopez "Not Too Far From Here"

NARRATOR: What is our greatest potential? Is it not to be Christlike ourselves? And what are the qualities we must develop to achieve such greatness? We might consider intelligence, light, knowledge, and leadership. But perhaps the most essential godlike quality is that of compassion and love. Compassion shown forth in service to others, unselfishness, that ultimate expression of concern for others we call love. Whenever our Father's children magnify their opportunities for loving service, they are learning to become more like Him. "[The Lord] does notice us, and he watches over us. But it is usually through another person that he meets our needs. Therefore, it is vital that we serve each other" [Spencer W. Kimball, "Small Acts of Service," *Ensign*, December 1974, 2].

SONG: Julie de Azevedo "The Hands of Heaven"

NARRATOR: In answer to the question, which is the great commandment in the law, the Savior set out a course, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" [Matthew 22:37-40]. Devoted service and discipleship are the same. Alma told prospective members at the waters of Mormon that those who are baptized are to be "willing to bear one another's burdens, ... to mourn with those that mourn; ... and comfort those that stand in need of comfort" [Mosiah 18:8-9]. King Benjamin asked how someone can know a master he has not served [Mosiah 5:13]? We come to know our Master through having faith hope, and charity. This combination is the doctrinal fountain from which flow service, discipleship, and eternal life.

SONG: Kenneth Cope, "Because I Have Been Given Much"

NARRATOR: Our baptism is a call to lifelong service to Christ. Like those at the waters of Mormon we are baptized in the name of the Lord as a witness before him that we have

entered into a covenant with him. That we will serve him and keep his commandments, that he may pour out his spirit more abundantly upon us [Mosiah 18:10].

SONG: Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra at Temple Square "Called to Serve"