

BYU Women's Conference
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Sharing Station Exhibitors: Marilyn Allred Jenkins and Leslie Shumway Jenkins

"The Kingdom of God or Nothing"
--President John Taylor

The wondrous Plan of Salvation is, in fact, an eternal journey. We have record of our being in a pre-mortal existence, a memory of our earthly experiences, and a faith in our lives beyond the veil of death.

In quoting Jenkins Lloyd Jones, President Gordon B. Hinckley shares

"Anyone who imagines that bliss is normal is going to waste a lot of time running around shouting that he's been robbed. The fact is that most putts don't drop, most beef is tough, most children grow up to be just people, most successful marriages require a high degree of mutual toleration, and most jobs are more often dull than otherwise. Life is like an old time journey. . .delays, sidetracks, smoke, dust, cinders and jolts, interspersed only occasionally by beautiful vistas and thrilling bursts of speed. The trick is to thank the Lord for letting you have the ride" (*Ensign*, Mar. 1997, 58).

As with any journey, we should have a destination in mind. Certainly, President John Taylor expressed joy in the journey and a goal as a guide when he declared, "The Kingdom of God or Nothing."

It is with that same determination that we must press forward, or the challenges that inevitably lie in our paths are likely to lead us off course.

Less than four months after the Church had been organized, the persecution intensified, and several leaders had to go into seclusion for their safety. Joseph Smith records the following revelation he received during this time to strengthen, encourage, and instruct the Church leaders:

"For thou shalt devote all thy service in Zion; and in this thou shalt have strength. "Be patient in afflictions, for thou shalt have many; but endure them, for 10, I am with thee, even unto the end of they days" (D & C 24:7-8).

The wording in this passage is critical to understand: "thou shalt have many [afflictions]." Clearly our afflictions are of varying degrees and severity, but the truth is, we will ALL have them-the righteous and the unrighteous. The blessing of the righteous lies in the ability to work through these afflictions.

While serving in the Quorum of the Twelve, Elder Harold B. Lee said that "living the gospel of Jesus Christ is no guarantee that adversity will not come into our lives; but living the gospel does give us the strength and faith and power to rise above that adversity and look beyond the present trouble to the brighter day" (quoted by A. Theodore Tuttle, in Conference Report, Oct. 1967, 15; or *Improvement Era*, Dec. 1967, 47).

It is our hope and prayer that as our individual journeys wind through the dust and cinders and jolts, we will stay focused with faith on "The Kingdom of God or Nothing."