

# LDSBC Forum Presentation

President and Sister Woodhouse

Thursday, September 24

## *“Become a Workman of Integrity”*

Sytske—

Good morning students. As the President and I were seeking inspiration on what would most benefit our discussion today, we were reading on September 11 (Patriot’s Day) from President Gordon B. Hinckley his counsel and inspiration from “Stand a Little Taller.”

“Commit to Your Education”

*“Teach ye diligently . . .that you may be instructed more perfectly in theory, in principle, in doctrine, in the law of the gospel, in all things that pertain unto the kingdom of God, . . . Of things both in heaven and in the earth, and under the earth; things which have been, things which are, things which must shortly come to pass; things which are at home, things which are abroad; the wars and the perplexities of the nations, and the judgments which are on the land; and a knowledge also of countries and of kingdoms.*

-DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 88:78-79

“This is a competitive world. You need all the education you can get. The Lord wants you to educate your mind and your heart. It does not matter what field you choose, but become a workman of integrity, prepared to contribute to the world.”

And then two days later on September 13, President Hinckley talks about preparing for a career. It seems he really is wanting us to understand.

“Prepare for a Career”

*“Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.*

-PROVERBS 23:12

“I don’t care what you plan to do as your life’s vocation, but prepare yourselves. Get the best education you can. Qualify yourselves in the best way you know how. It’s part of a mandate from the Lord that you train yourselves.”

Do we realize and appreciate how blessed we are to have been inspired to come here in a loving environment where the Spirit can be felt so strongly if we will just let it? So President Hinckley urges us to be “workmen of integrity.” What does this mean? Let’s read together an excerpt from the 13<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith as written in the application for admission.

“We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men . . . if there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things.”

Trying is Not Sufficient

An army officer called a soldier to him and ordered him to take a message to another officer. The soldier saluted and said, "I'll try sir! I'll try!" To this the officer responded: "I don't want you to *try*, I want you to deliver this message." The soldier, somewhat embarrassed, now replied: "I'll do the best I can, sir." At this the officer, now disgusted, rejoined with some vigor: "I don't want you to *try* and I don't want you to 'do the best that you can.' I want you to deliver this message." Now the young soldier, straightening to his full height, approached the matter magnificently, as he thought, when he saluted again and said: "I'll do it or die, sir." To this the now irate officer responded: "I don't want you to die, and I don't want you merely to do the best you can, and I don't want you to try. Now, the request is a reasonable one; the message is important; the distance is not far; you are able-bodied; you can do what I have ordered. Now get out of here and accomplish your mission.

Sytske—talk about honor and dress code and academic honesty; close with testimony

Show 4 minute recruiting video

- a. They come from around the world
- b. They are planning on changing the world
- c. They are planning on changing the way you see things
- d. They are planning on going right to the top.

Stephen—

Take a close look at yourselves. What do you stand for? What do you want to accomplish with your lives? Let me tell you a story of a gentleman I just met.

A week ago Craig Nelson, our Dean of College Affairs, and I attended a Chamber of Commerce breakfast. This was the first in the series that they call "Breakfast of Champions." They introduced us to Chris Stewart-world record setting pilot and best-selling author. The title of his presentation was very provocative. And that is: "You Have to Be Willing to Die: (that is) Developing the Courage it Takes to Succeed." He taught us that regardless of our station in life, each of us has the spark of excellence within. We are born with the capacity to achieve far more than we realize. Unfortunately, most of us are not willing to take enough risk to achieve our goals. And then he challenged us, "what price are you willing to pay to succeed?"

He told us something about his accomplishments. From the time he was a small boy he wanted to be a pilot. After serving a mission and graduating from BYU, he went on to flight training. He could see early on that he wasn't the smartest or quickest kid in the class. But he knew one thing, and that was that he could work **harder** than anyone else in his class. He did graduate first in his class. After he had proven himself adequately in the military, he was given a task that had never been accomplished before and that was to assemble a crew of men and train them to fly a bomber nonstop around the world; thereby proving that the United States had the resources to launch an attack anywhere in the world from United States soil if necessary.

After many months of preparation, the flight was to begin. They had made arrangements to meet refueling aircraft about every ten hours of flight. While they were over the South Pacific, they

encountered great thunderheads and lightening storms. In fact, the thunderheads were so large they couldn't fly over them, and therefore had to fly around them. Because of the weather and the lightening, their radio system had become unusable and they were not able to contact their refueling aircraft. They had to make a decision when they had about two hours of fuel left whether they would abort the mission and land on one of the islands in the South Pacific where they knew they would be safe, or proceed onward with the faith that when they got through the thunderstorms on the other side the refueling aircraft would be waiting. This for them was a life or death decision. He asked us, are you willing to die for your convictions?

They made the decision to press onward. Their preparations had been very specific. Everybody knew where they were supposed to be and when they were supposed to be there, so they decided that the refueling planes would do exactly as they were doing and would proceed onward and meet at the specified place in the air. You can imagine their jubilation as they came out of the clouds into a clearing to see the refueling aircraft exactly where they were supposed to be at exactly the right time. They did successfully complete their mission. They were the first bomber crew to ever successfully fly all the way around the world without ever landing.

He went on to tell another story that happened during the Second World War that I had never heard before. It was at the time that Germany was invading Russia during the cold of winter and actually had the city of Leningrad completely surrounded. The people there were starving to death, as there was no way to get food or supplies into the city. The Russian generals realized that if Leningrad were lost to the Germans then next would come Moscow, and the country would come under the command of the Nazi Third Reich. They decided at that time that there was no alternative, but to save Leningrad. For if they did not save Leningrad, they would not save their country from capture.

They planned an airdrop of many soldiers and supplies. They examined all of their inventories and found to their dismay that they had no parachutes. All the parachutes had been used in other combats. By the time they could get new parachutes from the other side of the country, the invasion would be over. So they made a live or die decision. The snowdrifts were very high in that part of the world and they decided that they would drop soldiers and supplies without parachutes into the snowdrifts by flying as low and as slow as they possibly could. They calculated that they would send enough troops so that even if fifty percent of them died or were injured, they would still be successful. They asked for 10 volunteers to test out their theory. Now, how would you like to volunteer for this test even if you knew that it was to save your country? They got volunteers and found that their calculations were correct. Half of the soldiers were ready and able for combat. The drop went forward and in fact a little more than forty percent were either killed or injured, but those who survived turned back the German invasion and secured the Russian front, and the country was saved.

Stephen—Patrick Henry

Sir, we have done everything that could be done to avert the storm which is now coming on. We have petitioned; we have remonstrated; we have supplicated; we have prostrated ourselves before the throne, and have implored its interposition to arrest the tyrannical hands of the ministry and Parliament. Our petitions have been slighted; our remonstrances have produced

additional violence and insult; our supplications have been disregarded; and we have been spurned, with contempt, from the foot of the throne! In vain, after these things, may we indulge the fond hope of peace and reconciliation. There is no longer any room for hope. If we wish to be free—if we mean to preserve inviolate those inestimable privileges for which we have been so long contending—if we mean not basely to abandon the noble struggle in which we have been so long engaged, and which we have pledged ourselves never to abandon until the glorious object of our contest shall be obtained—we must fight! I repeat it, sir, we must fight! An appeal to arms and to the God of hosts is all that is left us!

They tell us, sir, that we are weak; unable to cope with so formidable an adversary. But when shall we be stronger? Will it be the next week, or the next year? Will it be when we are totally disarmed, and when a British guard shall be stationed in every house? Shall we gather strength but irresolution and inaction? Shall we acquire the means of effectual resistance by lying supinely on our backs and hugging the delusive phantom of hope, until our enemies shall have bound us hand and foot? Sir, we are not weak if we make a proper use of those means which the God of nature hath placed in our power. The millions of people, armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that which we possess, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us. Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations, and who will raise up friends to fight our battles for us. The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave. Besides, sir, we have no election. If we were base enough to desire it, it is now too late to retire from the contest. There is no retreat but in submission and slavery! Our chains are forged! Their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston! The war is inevitable—and let it come! I repeat it, sir, let it come.

It is in vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace—but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!

- Prayer in Schools
- Pledge of Allegiance “Under God”
- The few are dictating to the majority
- Corporate Scandals

Close with testimony