

EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR

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“SCOUTMASTER MOMENT”

Prepared by

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As I rounded the corner, I heard Jacob exclaim rather triumphantly, “I’ve got something! I’ve got something!” You might have thought Jacob was on a fishing trip. Instead, he was standing at the copy machine in the church office holding, rather excitedly, a piece of paper upon which he had successfully made a copy.

Perhaps five years of age at the time, Jacob had gone to the office to get some scrap paper to color on during the Sunday evening class. Finding none in the recycle box, Jacob thought of a plan. He would simply copy something he and the other children could color for a quiet activity. So Jacob went about trying to figure out the copier. And when he made his first print, Jacob was elated.

From the earliest days of his life, Jacob has evidenced a single-minded curiosity and a self-assuring approach to life. “I know how this works!” his actions, if not his words, seemed to say. And so he has appeared to be on an ongoing journey of finding things to figure out, a mission that evidences a drive to “get something” – to obtain an objective, to achieve a goal – as a result of his pursuits.

While studying the many things that catch his eye, you can see his analyzing mind engaged in thoughtful processes. Things like computers have proved no match for his inquisitiveness. He doesn’t just study things, however. Jacob acts on his insights and theories. And not just with respect to mechanical or electrical things, mind you. He enjoys analyzing human relations and composing masterful orchestrations of music in expression of his creative interests.

It is in this context that Scouting has served him very well. The many rank advancement requirements, merit badges, and patrol activities he has participated in have given him opportunity to test his intuition and hone his problem solving skills. And this brings us to today.

Yes, Jacob, you have really got something now. You have arrived at the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank offered by the Boy Scouts of America.

Your scouting adventures have involved much more than just the campouts, float trips, and hikes that you’ve participated in. Over the last four and a half years of being a Scout, you have gained experience while being challenged by the many elements and aspects of the Scouting program, including paying your own way through popcorn sales. From summer camps in Missouri and Colorado, to different camporees and merit badge colleges within Kansas, and a high adventure trek in Texas, you have been afforded the opportunity to explore and expand your horizons, and to mature and grow into manhood.

You have participated in many service projects, such as clearing brush away from a Chisholm Creek Park fence along K-96 to preparing cookie dough for the Ronald McDonald House. These early activities helped you prepare for your Eagle Scout

Leadership Service Project, which you planned and led for the benefit of your home congregation.

Is this the end of Scouting for you? Is this all you can get out of the Scout program? No, definitely not. What you have accomplished to date is just a beginning to the adventure and service that lies ahead of you in life. While your experiences from your Scouting past are valuable in and of themselves, they are also very valuable in providing you with a solid foundation of preparation and perspective for your future endeavors.

Jacob, as you press forward in your life, continue building your life on a sure foundation. I'm speaking of course on the most important foundation of all, Jesus Christ, and the words He has spoken.

So that you may build your life upon the Lord, a life that will endure the trials and challenges of life, be careful not to form opinions too quickly. Rather than formulate and act simply upon your theories, be careful to follow the admonition to "*prove all things; hold fast that which is good*" (I Thessalonians 5:21). The importance of this counsel is emphasized by the words, "*the same that judgeth rashly, shall be judged rashly again*" (Mormon 4:24).

I would like to direct your attention now to the words penned by the writer of the Hebrew letter, "*let us go on to perfection*" (Hebrews 6:2). How can anyone of us *go on unto perfection*? Does God really expect perfection from us? Apparently He does, since Jesus Christ has commanded us to be perfect "*even as your Father in heaven is perfect*" (Matthew 5:50). But how can we be perfect? What exactly do these words, "*let us go on unto perfection,*" mean? John, the apostle of Jesus Christ, provided us with the necessary understanding when he penned these words:

*And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; **and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as he is, so are we in this world.** There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment. **He that feareth is not made perfect in love.** (I John 4:16-18)*

Briefly stated, being perfect in God's eyes means being *made perfect in love* (cf. I Corinthians 13 with Ephesians 4:8-16). It means allowing God's perfect love to dwell within us through the gift and ministry of His Holy Ghost (Romans 5:5 & Romans 13:8-10 with II Timothy 3:15-17). It involves allowing His Spirit to drive fear from our lives through faith in the love that Jesus Christ has for us (Romans 8:35-39).

The Greek word for *perfect* also means *complete* (cf. Colossians 2:10). Thus, the command to *be perfect* like God can be understood to mean to *be complete* like God. How can we be complete like God? Recall how it is written that God does not give us any commandments except He prepares a way for us to accomplish them (I Nephi 1:65 with Philippians 4:13). God sent His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to *complete* us by baptizing us with the Holy Ghost.

As you seek to be perfect, to *be complete*, in Jesus Christ, also remember these additional words about perfection from the writer of the Hebrew letter: "*and we will go on unto perfection if God permit*" (Hebrews 6:3). It is perhaps tempting to ask why the Lord would give us a command to be perfect but then not permit us to do so.

The answer was reaffirmed by James, the apostle of the Lord. He wrote that God resists the proud but He gives more grace to the humble. We have been warned that God will even send some deceptions because they received not the love of the truth (II Thessalonians 2:9-12). Therefore, be careful that you humble yourself before the Lord. In the words of Peter, the Lord's apostle, "Humble yourself therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time" (I Peter 5:6).

Jacob, take care to not rely upon the world's definition of perfection as you live your life. Seek Jesus Christ and go on unto *completion* in Him. Don't worry about the claim, "No one is perfect." Jesus Christ IS perfect! and everyone that is rooted and grounded in Him is also *complete* or *perfect* in Him. Therefore, go on in God's wisdom and guidance by feasting upon the words of the Word made flesh (II Nephi 14:4). And remember, the *Lord* is our strength and our song, and He has become our salvation (Psalm 118:14 & Isaiah 12:2). Then you will really have something. You will have a life that is everlasting, and a love and a light that you can take with you on into eternal life.

Congratulations, Jacob! And may God bless you all the days of your life through faith in Jesus Christ.