



OCTOBER 2026 GENERAL CONFERENCE · SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Divine Appointments

President Timothy L. Farnes · Young Men General President

Words to remember

- *“It means that when someone encounters us, they should experience something of Jesus Christ—His kindness, His patience, His hope, His love, His compassion.”*
- *“Brothers and sisters, let us pray every day for eyes to see the divine appointments God places before us!”*

In President Timothy L. Farnes's own words, from the talk.

President Timothy L. Farnes, Young Men General President, remembered a Saturday almost 20 years earlier. He had just been called into a stake presidency but hadn't yet been released as bishop. He and his wife had five young children and a business to run, and that day had church meetings from 8:00 a.m. until a ward temple night. He said, “It was a busy time, and I wanted to give my all to the Lord, but I was never sure if I had enough to give.”

At a leadership meeting, he gathered his courage to ask a question that troubled him, and felt like it was dismissed. Discouraged, he wondered why he was sacrificing so much. He called his wife, Lindsay, and said, “Let's go to dinner instead of the temple.” She wisely answered, “No, I think you need to be in the temple. We'll talk after.”

He went, grumbling. In the dressing room someone said, “How are you, brother?” It was Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Twelve. Not wanting to tell an Apostle how he felt, Brother Farnes forced a smile: “Everything's great!” But when he came out, Elder Oaks was waiting. “Brother, tell me how you are really doing.” The compassion in his voice helped him open up. Elder Oaks listened, thanked him, encouraged him, answered his question, and gave him a big hug. “In an instant I went from feeling like giving up to feeling like I could give my whole soul in service to the Lord.”

Five years later, the Farneses met with Elder Oaks. Excited, Brother Farnes asked, “Do you remember the conversation we had in the temple?” Elder Oaks said, “I'm sorry, brother. I don't remember that.” Then, sensing his disappointment, he added, “But it's what we do. Isn't it?” Those words stayed with President Farnes. That is what covenant followers of Jesus do: we minister with compassion to whomever God places in our path.

Each Sabbath, when we take the sacrament, we witness our willingness to take upon us the name of Jesus Christ. President Farnes said that means “That means we choose to see as He sees, feel as He

feels, and do as He would do.” When someone meets us, they should experience something of Jesus Christ, his kindness, his patience, his hope, his love. We make the covenant on Sunday, and we keep it by ministering every day.

Often this happens when God places someone in our path and we have eyes to see them. He calls these divine appointments. When Jesus was asked how to inherit eternal life, He told of a traveler wounded on the road to Jericho. Others saw an interruption. One man saw a chance to minister. Seeing awakened compassion, and compassion moved him to act. To Jesus, the people He met were not interrupting his mission. They were His mission.

A few years ago, President Farnes and Lindsay were at the airport, early for a vacation. He had his earbuds in and a book. He glanced up and saw a young missionary across from him, eyes closed, rocking back and forth, tears streaming down his face, clutching a boarding pass and a digital alarm clock. President Farnes went back to his book, but the Spirit prompted him to look again. The missionary’s eyes were pleading for help. “Are you OK?” he asked. In broken English, the elder explained it was his first time flying alone, far from home, and he was terrified. The alarm clock was so he wouldn’t miss the plane.

Embarrassed at how slow he’d been to help, President Farnes promised they would get him on the plane. They showed him the gate, but then had to board without him. As the plane filled, there was no sign of him, until finally, the last to board, he came down the aisle to the only empty seat: the one next to President Farnes. The missionary relaxed and fell asleep. After landing, they walked him arm in arm to baggage claim, where his mission leaders waited. Instead of running to them, the elder dropped his bags and hugged the Farneses.

“What we did for that elder didn’t require much of us, but this ordinary encounter became a divine appointment we will always treasure.” he said. “All we had to do was see the person God had placed in our path, look with compassion rather than judgment, and then act.” He invited, “Brothers and sisters, let us pray every day for eyes to see the divine appointments God places before us! Let us put compassion into action and minister to the person in front of us.” “It’s what Jesus did. And it’s what we do.”

Scripture to look up: Luke 10:33–34. The good Samaritan saw the man in need, had compassion, and acted, just as we can with the people God puts in our path.

Let’s talk about it

What did this talk teach us about the Savior? What is one small thing our family can do this week?

Kid-friendly summary in our own words · Read or watch the full talk: [churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2026/10/22farnes](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2026/10/22farnes)