

What Good Men Do

The best way to describe Derek Cuthbert is to read the poem "If" by Rudyard Kipling. A man of great integrity and personal leadership Derek Cuthbert exemplified what King Benjamin meant when he spoke of putting off the natural man, in his address to the Nephite population, found in the Book of Mosiah. Disciplined to be ever obedient and do all that was in his power whenever he was called into action, Elder Cuthbert was humble, meek, submissive, patient and loving. These qualifications allowed him to accept any assignment or calling without hesitation as he also understood and lived by faith in following with exactness the instructions that he was given. Like Nephi who was commanded to return to Jerusalem to acquire the plates of brass from Laban and who at the time had no idea how to accomplish his mission, Derek Cuthbert knew that if God gave him an assignment a way would be prepared for him to accomplish it.

It was this total commitment to doing what was asked of him by the First presidency and leadership of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints that shaped the character of one of the great disciples of the Savior in these latter-days. When called upon for anything Derek would answer with a resounding, yes to the assignments that took him all across the globe. It was not in his nature to turn down any assignment no matter how difficult or strenuous it may have been.

Even after being diagnosed with and suffering from neuropathy in his legs that caused a dropped foot and prevented him from walking without the aid of a cane, Elder Cuthbert would stand for hours and kneel in fervent pray without every giving a thought to his physical discomfort. A man of infinite honor that reflected in his sense of duty and compassion to people throughout the world Derek served the Lord with all his might, mind and strength. Fueled by a desire to constantly be about his Father in Heaven's work Elder Cuthbert showed his love for the Savior and the gospel in everything that he did. It was his love of all people that was one of his greatest assets.

Traveling to Africa, South America and throughout the North America and Europe on assignment as a duly appointed representative of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Derek Cuthbert inspired others to action and supported the missionary work that has built the kingdom of heaven on earth. From his conversion and baptism in England in 1952 to his passing while serving as a General Authority in the First Quorum of the Seventy in 1991 Elder Derek Alfred Cuthbert followed the teachings of the Savior with exactness and honor. He never faltered and never wavered from his testimony which is where he drew strength even when he was dying of cancer.

A truly remarkable man who humbled himself to do all that was required of him in every office he held Derek Cuthbert continues to be an example to his family to this day. Service was his credo; on the walls of his home a small plaque still stands as a reminder that states plainly, "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15. This verse of scripture sums up the man who was and is my father. With great love and devotion to the work of the Lord, Derek Cuthbert led by example. He never spoke a harsh word against anyone, he was always quick to take up the challenges that were placed before him and he was ever anxiously engaged in a good work. He met life with a passion for service and stood firm in his convictions.

When the revelation was revealed to the church in the October General Conference of 1978, Derek stood and cheered because he knew that the gospel was spreading out to every nation, kindred tongue and people. He was referred to by then apostle, Gordon B. Hinckley as a yeoman of England because he was always working hard and made no excuses to slow down even after being diagnosed with lung and prostate cancer.

...If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with kings--nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the earth and everything that's in it
And--which is more--you'll be a man, my son!

This excerpt from "If" by Rudyard Kipling is how I remember my father, Elder Derek Alfred Cuthbert. He filled each and every moment in the service of the Lord and was diligent in doing all he could, no matter what his assignment was. Honest in all his dealings; faithful and obedient in putting the work of the Lord before his own desires; Honoring the priesthood by being constantly ready to serve in any situation and under any circumstance, the man I proudly call my father taught me the virtues of respect, integrity, commitment, honesty, excellence and responsibility. A man who gave everything he had for what he believed in and knew to be true and real Derek Cuthbert exemplified the characteristics of a patient, hardworking, humble servant of the Lord who loved everyone he came in contact with, with the same great love that the Savior of the world has for each of his children.

To know the characteristics of a great man all one has to do is look at the fruits of his labor. In reading the Fourth section of the Doctrine and Covenants the description of a missionary is mirrored in the character that Elder Cuthbert displayed; Faith, hope, charity, humility, diligence, patience, kindness, brotherly love, temperance, and virtue qualify an individual with a desire to serve God. Derek Cuthbert owned each of these characteristics and created a legacy of service that is continued today through his children, his grand children and his great grandchildren. This is how Derek Alfred Cuthbert is remembered as a yeoman of England who stood ready, ready, willing and worthy to do all that was required of him without fear or hesitation because in life he stood on the Lord's side and knew that whatsoever thing was asked of him he could accomplish. Derek's character is defined by who he is, what he stands for and how he shows up in life, there are a few people that are true to their convictions as Derek was to his and this is what makes him an example of what good men do.