LOVING AND SERVING THOSE AROUND US

In Elder Robert C. Gay's message "Taking upon Ourselves the Name of Jesus Christ" (Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2018, 97-100) he recounts an experience in the life of Elder James E. Talmage's life:

"As a young professor, before he became an Apostle, in the height of the deadly diphtheria epidemic of 1892, Elder Talmage discovered a family of strangers, not members of the Church, who lived near him and who were stricken by the disease. No one wanted to put themselves at risk by going inside the infected home. Elder Talmage, however, immediately proceeded to the home. He found four children: a two-and-a-half-year-old dead on the bed, a five-year-old and ten-year-old in great pain, and a weakened thirteen-year-old. The parents were suffering with grief and fatigue.

"Elder Talmage dressed the dead and the living, swept the rooms, carried out the soiled clothing, and burned filthy rags covered with the disease. He worked all day and then returned the next morning. The ten-year-old died during the night. He lifted and held the five-year-old. She coughed bloody mucus all over his face and clothes. He wrote, "I could not put her from me," and he held her until she died in his arms. He helped bury all three children and arranged for food and clean clothing for the grieving family. Upon returning home, Brother Talmage disposed of his clothes, bathed in a zinc solution, quarantined himself from his family, and suffered through a mild attack of the disease.

"So many lives around us are at stake. Saints take the Savior's name upon themselves by becoming holy and ministering to all regardless of where or how they stand—lives are saved as we do so."

Pause and consider how you love and serve those around you. Record your feelings and thoughts: