

## Teach Doctrines & Principles Outline – Mike Baird

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### Teaching the word from the scriptures has a "more powerful effect"

- Alma 31:5  
"now, as the preaching of the word had a great tendency to lead the people to do that which was just—yea, *it had had more powerful effect upon the minds of the people than the sword*, or anything else, which had happened unto them—therefore Alma thought it was expedient that they should try the virtue of the word of God"
- Mike Baird's personal experience
  - Teaching from the scriptures has greater and "more powerful effect" than my own words
    - Teach Doctrines & Principles from scriptures
    - Scripture examples and experiences to teach & illustrate

### Examples

- Isaiah 1:18
  - Read then testify that a person can be clean if they repent
- Alma 7:11-13
  - Read then testify that the Savior understands our problems

## **True doctrine, understood, changes attitudes and behavior**

- Boyd K Packer  
"The study of the doctrines of the gospel will improve behavior quicker than a study of behavior will improve behavior. Preoccupation with unworthy behavior can lead to unworthy behavior. That is why we stress so forcefully the study of the doctrines of the gospel." ("Little Children," Ensign, Nov. 1986, 16)
- The focus for changing others should be on teaching doctrines and principles not on their behaviors

### ***Examples***

- Sabbath Day observance
  - D&C 59:9-15
  - Versus a list of to do and not to do
- Fast Offerings
  - Isaiah 58:3-12
  - Versus a list of to do and not to do with regards to fasting

## **Application**

### ***Teaching***

- Teachers should focus on teaching doctrines and principles not behaviors in lessons
  - Each lesson has certain doctrines and principles to be taught
  - We should not stray outside the "box" drawn up by the lesson materials
  - Leaders should ensure that teachers are teaching these doctrines and principles

### ***Changing behaviors***

- Decide what behavior it is you want changed *then*:
  - Decide what doctrines and principles to teach to effect the change

### ***Answering Questions***

- "What is *your* interpretation of the (scripture, handbook, prophet's saying) as it applies to the issue?
- How do you feel this doctrine or principle applies to your problem?

## The Holy Ghost guides

- Each one of us has the gift of the Holy Ghost to guide us in *each* situation as to *how* the doctrines and principles apply if we do not already know

- 2 Nephi 32:1-5 (Nephi)

"And now, behold, my beloved brethren, I suppose that ye ponder somewhat in your hearts concerning that which ye should do after ye have entered in by the way. But, behold, why do ye ponder these things in your hearts?

Do ye not remember that I said unto you that after ye had received the Holy Ghost ye could speak with the tongue of angels? And now, how could ye speak with the tongue of angels save it were by the Holy Ghost?

Angels speak by the power of the Holy Ghost; wherefore, they speak the words of Christ. Wherefore, I said unto you, *feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do.*

Wherefore, now after I have spoken these words, if ye cannot understand them it will be because ye ask not, neither do ye knock; wherefore, ye are not brought into the light, but must perish in the dark.

For behold, again I say unto you that if ye will enter in by the way, and receive *the Holy Ghost, it will show unto you all things what ye should do.*"