

**Teaching with Boldness**  
**Cooper Mt Ward – Kevin Farewell**  
**8/11/02**

**Introduction**

- Nancy has talked about “Teaching with Kindness”
- My topic is also about Teaching but a different aspect – Boldness.
- Kevin will talk about Teaching with the Spirit.
  
- There are a number of references in the scriptures where prophets and others taught with boldness.
  
- For example one of my hero’s is Ammon who taught with boldness before King Lamoni
  - Ammon with King Lamoni after he had returned from saving his flocks of sheep and he was thought to be the great spirit. When King Lamoni allowed Ammon to teach him:

[Alma 18: 24.](#)

24 And Ammon began to speak unto him with <sup>a</sup>[boldness](#), and said unto him: Believest thou that there is a God?

- I will come back to Ammon a little later
- Another the scripture captures even better what I will base my thoughts on
  - It is found as a part of Alma the younger’s instruction to his son Shiblon
  - Alma was exhorting Shiblon to have certain traits:

Alma 38: 10-12

“10) And now, as ye have begun to teach the word even so I would that ye should continue to teach; and I would that ye would be diligent and temperate in all things.

11) See that ye are not lifted up unto pride; yea, see that ye do not boast in your own wisdom, nor of your much strength.

12) Use <sup>a</sup>boldness, but not overbearance;"

I like this because it describes the balance that is necessary for us to teach with boldness and still be teaching with Kindness as Nancy has talked about and teaching with the Spirit as Kevin will talk about.

### What does it mean? **Boldness but not overbearance?**

- **Boldness**

- Be not afraid of teaching the truth
- Speak up when it may be tough or you are unsure (Ammon)
  - Paul before Agrippa is an example
- Be willing to teach “hard things”
  - After Christ’s sermon on the Bread of Life:  
“From that *time* many of his <sup>a</sup>disciples went back, and <sup>b</sup>walked no more with him” (John 6:67)
  - Messages that might not be accepted warmly because it may not be what the listeners would like to hear
- The person from our day that I would like to use as an example to illustrate Boldness but not overbearance is President Kimball
  - Maybe your first thought is not of Boldness with President Kimball – yet it is true.
  - He “energized” the church during his Presidency
  - 1974 call to lengthen our stride with missionary work – this was bold and electrifying
  - Revelation on the Priesthood – This was bold step forward in our times.
  - He taught boldly doctrine which may not always sit right with us: “We do not go to Sabbath meetings to be entertained or even solely to be instructed. We go to worship the Lord. If the service is a failure to you, you have failed. No one can worship for you; you must do your own waiting upon the Lord.” (*Ensign*, Jan. 1978, pp. 4-5.)

## Overbearance

- What does it mean to be bold but not overbearing?
  - To avoid this we need meekness, humility, love
  - Elder Maxwell gave a talk in 1985 about humility
    - He was describing President Kimball as an example of meekness yet someone who taught with boldness and used the phrase “Sweet Boldness”
    - Doesn’t that turn of phrase sound like Elder Maxwell?
    - Think of what that implies – “Sweet Boldness”
      - You certainly don’t think “overbearing”
      - Instead it implies humility, meekness and love in boldly proclaiming God’s truth.
      - I read a quote from President Kimball regarding Sabbath meetings
      - Let me read something from Elder Maxwell’s memorial for President Kimball.
        - Elder Maxwell: We were all touched by his personalized observations at the end of the many sermons at general conferences. Having listened carefully to all that was said, he genuinely assumed all the counsel applied to him, Spencer W. Kimball, and he openly promised to try to do better. Naturally, he hoped the rest of us would do likewise. At the end of one conference, he said, “Let us assume the counsel given applies to *us*, to me. Let us hearken ... as if our eternal life depended upon it, because it does! (*Ensign*, May 1978, p. 77.) (Neal A. Maxwell, “Spencer, the Beloved: Leader-Servant,” *Ensign*, Dec. 1985, 8)
        - This to me is the meekness that goes with his possibly hard statement about our responsibility for Sabbath meetings.

## Other examples

- President Hinckley – 6 B’s

### **The third B—be clean.**

“We live in a world that is filled with filth and sleaze, a world that reeks of evil. It is all around us. It is on the television screen. It is at the movies. It is in the popular literature. It is on the Internet. You can’t afford to watch it, my dear friends. You cannot afford to let that filthy poison touch you. Stay away from it. Avoid it. You can’t rent videos and watch them as they portray degrading

things. You young men who hold the priesthood of God cannot mix this filth with the holy priesthood.

May I mention earrings and rings placed in other parts of the body. These are not manly. They are not attractive. You young men look better without them, and I believe you will feel better without them. As for the young women, you do not need to drape rings up and down your ears. One modest pair of earrings is sufficient.”

- He also discusses profanity, choosing friends carefully, illicit drugs, tattoos, pornography again, dating, and immorality
- He says all this boldly and doesn't "pull any punches"
- Yet, He does this without being "overbearing"
  - There are none of us I would say who doubt his love for the youth of the church. It comes through in his words throughout his talk. These words are also in the 3<sup>rd</sup> B

“How truly beautiful is a well-groomed young woman who is clean in body and mind. She is a daughter of God in whom her Eternal Father can take pride. How handsome is a young man who is well groomed. He is a son of God, deemed worthy of holding the holy priesthood of God. He does not need tattoos or earrings on or in his body.”

- We have other examples here in our Ward – our current Bishop and our previous Bishop
- Bishop Gale
  - The large and spacious building talk
  - Out with our Priests on the river this week
- Bishop Dalton
  - Counsel bluntly and boldly with our youth at Firesides and other settings
  - None of them doubt for a minute that he doesn't know them and love them.
- In these examples of men we know, arrogance, pride, overbearance are not there
- Kevin my son
  - Has meekness

- Has boldness
  - Telling friends when things aren't right
  - Called neighbor last night to invite to his farwell

### Where does Boldness, but not overbearance apply?

- Where do I apply Teaching with boldness?
  - Parents teaching our children
    - It is a hard thing to balance
    - On one hand is our responsibility to our children is to
      - “Teach what is right without compromise”
    - You have heard statements that are corollary to this like:
      - Parenting is not a popularity contest
      - Our children need us to be a Parents more than a friend
    - On the other hand we need to teach our children with love unfeigned
      - Section 121
        - 41) No <sup>a</sup>power or influence can or ought to be maintained by virtue of the <sup>b</sup>priesthood, only by <sup>c</sup>persuasion, by <sup>d</sup>long-suffering, by gentleness and meekness, and by love unfeigned;
        - 42) By <sup>a</sup>kindness, and pure <sup>b</sup>knowledge, which shall greatly enlarge the <sup>c</sup>soul without <sup>d</sup>hypocrisy, and without <sup>e</sup>guile—
  - Missionary work
    - The Apostle Paul in the letter to the Romans said:
      - [Rom. 1: 16](#)

**For I am not <sup>a</sup>ashamed of the <sup>b</sup>gospel of Christ: **for** it is the <sup>c</sup>power of God unto <sup>d</sup>salvation to every one that believeth;**
- Friends
  - Teaching each other
    - Sister Carr

### How is it we can come to teach boldly?

- When we know the doctrines of Christ

- Lord tells us to seek first to know his word, then preach it
- When we have authority from God
  - Mormon about those who would preach that little children needed baptism:

Moro. 8: 16

Wo be unto them that shall pervert the ways of the Lord after this manner, for they shall perish except they repent. Behold, I speak with **boldness**, having <sup>a</sup>authority from God; and I fear not what man can do; for <sup>b</sup>perfect <sup>c</sup>love <sup>d</sup>casteth out all fear.

Moro 8:21: Wo unto such, for they are in danger of death, <sup>a</sup>hell, and an <sup>b</sup>endless torment. I speak it **boldly**; God hath commanded me. Listen unto them and give heed, or they stand against you at the <sup>c</sup>judgment-seat of Christ.

- When do we have authority?
  - Parents
  - Missionaries
  - Teachers
  - Presidencies, Bishoprics etc.
- When we have his Spirit with us
  - Peter
    - Acts 4: 31
    - And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were <sup>a</sup>assembled together; and they were all filled with the <sup>b</sup>Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with **boldness**.
  - When we are led by the Spirit we can go boldly like Nephi did when he followed the Spirit in getting the Brass Plates
- Returning to Ammon who spoke with boldness to King Lamoni.
  - He had the spirit so he knew the thoughts of King Lamoni
  - He was surely prompted by the Spirit as to what to say

**Closing**

I used President Kimball as illustration for us

- President Kimball was following the Savior's example
  - The Savior taught with boldness to the people
  - Yet the Savior was meek and had infinite mercy and love for those whom he taught as he has for us

My hope and prayer is this:

- I am of the sort who usually doesn't have a problem speaking boldly
- My hope is that I can learn to do so without arrogance or pride.
- That I can teach with the Spirit and so teach more like President Kimball or the Savior.
- My hope is that each of us can teach each other in our Ward with kindness, boldness and with the Spirit
- My hope is that each of us as Parents may teach with kindness, boldness and with the Spirit
- My hope is that my son Kevin along with the other missionaries may teach with kindness, boldness and with the Spirit.
- My testimony is that we can teach with Boldness and yet without overbearance with the help