

"Choosing the better part"

BOWS Standards Night – March 16, 2008

Mike Baird

"still small voice"

- 1 Kings 19:11-13

"And, behold, *the LORD passed by*, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake:

And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire *a still small voice*.

And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?"

- These are awesome things that get our attention and yet the Lord uses the still small voice
- Ye are swift to do iniquity but slow to remember the Lord your God. Ye have seen an angel, and he spake unto you; yea, ye have heard his voice from time to time; and he hath spoken unto you in *a still small voice, but ye were past feeling, that ye could not feel his words*; wherefore, he has spoken unto you like unto the voice of thunder, which did cause the earth to shake as if it were to divide asunder.
 - Almost all revelation comes as a feeling
 - Boyd K Packer
"We do not have the words (even the scriptures do not have words) which perfectly describe the Spirit. The scriptures usually use the word voice, which does not exactly fit. These delicate, refined spiritual communications are not seen with our eyes nor heard Thatwith our ears.... It is a voice that one feels more than one hears.... *I have come to know that inspiration comes more as a feeling than as a sound.*" (A Watchman on the Tower , pg 279)

"Drowning and Distractions"

- **Danielle Brownell** – “We thank thee oh God for a Prophet”
 - Chosen because I felt the Spirit witness to me at Conference
 - Listen to your feelings
 - That feeling you have is the voice of the Spirit witnessing there is a prophet on earth
- **Matt** – Distract and then drown it out
- If we are too distracted by other things we may not hear or pay attention to the still small voice
- The still small voice may be drowned out so we can not hear it

"Why and how does this happen?"

- In what ways are we distracted when we shouldn't be or is the voice drowned out so we cannot “hear/feel” it?
 - Sin
 - Mormon to Moroni – "Past feeling"
 - The things we choose to do are not conducive to the Spirit

"What things can drown out or distract?"

- What are the things in your life that drown out or distract?
 - Pause and think
- Suggest: Media - Internet, TV, Movies, books, music, video games
 - Pornography

"You choose"

- Another Principle: We each have our agency
- We each have the power to choose good from evil
- We always have a choice and we can choose
 - Even when we are in a situation where we must be, you still choose how you think, speak etc. (like school)
- There are times every day when we are faced with choices which determine if we will be able to hear the Spirit

"What to choose"

- If we choose then what should we choose?
- No list - No one can give you a list – will always be incomplete or inadequate
- Rather let me give you several Principles that you can use a guide

"If the Savior stood beside me, would I do the things I do?"

- 3 Nephi 27:27
"Therefore, what manner of men ought ye to be? Verily I say unto you, even as I am."
 - Two things
 - Learn of him so we know how to do what he would do
 - Act as if he were there
- ***Stickers – Elder Stewart @ Priest/Laurel Fireside***

"Let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly"

- D&C 121:45-46
"Let thy bowels also be full of charity towards all men, and to the household of faith, and ***let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly***; then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God; and the doctrine of the priesthood shall distil upon thy soul as the dews from heaven.
The Holy Ghost shall be thy constant companion"
 - WHAT: Virtue (Christ-like Attributes, Preach My Gospel):
 1. Virtue originates in your innermost thoughts and desires. It is a pattern of thought and behavior based on high moral standards.
 2. What you choose to think and do when you are alone and you believe no one is watching is a strong measure of your virtue
 - WHY: Virtue (Christ-like Attributes, Preach My Gospel):
 3. Virtue is a prerequisite to receiving the Spirit's guidance.

"HOW: Good, Better, Best"

- Oct 07 Conference
 - Clearly choosing good over evil is having virtue
 - Taught that just because something was good, does not mean it is sufficient reason to do it
 - There are things that are better than good (Best) and this is what we should spend our time on
- Dallin H Oaks

"Consider how we use our time in the choices we make in viewing television, playing video games, surfing the Internet, or reading books or magazines. Of course it is good to view wholesome entertainment or to obtain interesting information. But not everything of that sort is worth the portion of our life we give to obtain it. Some things are better, and others are best. When the Lord told us to seek learning, He said, "Seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom" (D&C 88:118; emphasis added)." (A Watchman on the Tower , pg 279)
- ***Warn against bad, worse, worst***
 - Pornography
 - idly spending time at any of these:
 - Surfing the internet
 - Video games
 - text messaging
 - emailing
- Dallin H Oaks

"Some uses of individual and family time are better, and others are best. We have to forego some good things in order to choose others that are better or best because they develop faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and strengthen our families." (A Watchman on the Tower , pg 279)

"How do I know what is 'best'?" "

- Articles of Faith: 13
"If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things."
- Do as the Savior would do
- Listen to the still small voice

Challenge:

- You have the power to choose
- My Challenge:
 - Choose to let virtue garnish your thoughts
 - Choose to choose that which is Best, not the other alternatives
 - Choose to do as the savior would do

TESTIFY