

We mentioned last time that we'd like to continue talking about the use of clean language. Last time we sort of talked about the "thou shalt not swear" aspect. There's just one more item in that connection and then I'd like to proceed with the more positive aspect of the use of language and what it can do for us; not only to not use these bad words but the positive approach to the use of language.

You'll recall from church history that one time Joseph Smith was placed in jail. Parley P. Pratt in his autobiography described an event there that involved the use of foul language. I'd like to read it to you again ~~to make sure you've heard~~ though I'm sure you've heard it several times. This is Parley P. Pratt in his ~~autho~~ autobiography describing what went on. "In one of those tedious nights we had lain as
till
if in sleep, the hour of midnight had passed, and our ears and our hearts had been pained ~~by~~ while we had listened four hours to the obscene jests, the _____, and the dreadful blasphemies, and filthy language of our guards, _____ at their head as they recounted to each other deeds of rapine, murder, robbery and so forth which they had committed among the Mormons at Far West and ^{while} vicinity. _____ boasted the defiling by force wives, daughters, and virgins, and of shooting or dashing out the brains of men, women and children. I had listened till I had become

so disgusted, shocked, horrified and so filled with the spirit of
indignant justice that I could hardly refrain from rising upon my feet
and rebuking the guards, ~~but/had/ that~~ ^{but} had said nothing to Joseph or any-
one else although I lay next to him and knew he was awake. On a _____
_____, he, speaking of Josephy Smith arose to his feet and
spoke with a voice of thunder or as a roaring lion, uttering as nearly
as I can recollect the following words, "Silence ye fields of the infernal
pit. In the name of Jesus Christ I rebuke you and command you to be still.
I will not live another minute and hear such language. Cease such talk,
or ye or I die this instant." Joseph ceased to speak. He stood erect in
majesty. Chained and without weapon, calm, unruffled and dignified as
an angel he looked upon the quailing guards whose weapons were lowered
~~abruptly to the ground~~ or dropped to the ground, whose knees smote together,
and who shrinking into a corner, or crouching at his feet begged his
pardon and remained quiet until the change of guards. I have seen the
_____ (ministers?) of justice, clothed in majesterial robes and criminals
arraigned before them while life was suspended on a breath in the courts
of England. I have witnessed a congr3ss in solemn session to give laws
to nations. I have tried to conceive of kings, of royal courts, of thrones
and crowns, ^{and} of emporers assembled to decide the fate of kingdoms, but

_____ majesty have I seen but once, as it stood in chains at midnight in ~~an~~ a dungeon in an obscure village in Missouri."

We have often heard the expression "see ourselves as others see us," and that's hard to do, but it's a good thing to do at times, to see ourselves as others see us. But there's an expression that's just as important in analyzing????, "hear ourselves as others hear us. Let me turn and write that one on the board, as that's what we're sort of talking about today. HEAR OURSELVES AS OTHERS HEAR US.

~~XXXXX~~ Wouldn't you like to be a mind reader? ("No, cause you'd know everything that everybody was thinking about you and about other people -----" Rob, I think you have a point. You know, we can, in a sense, be a mind reader, at least we can have insights into the minds of ~~XXXXX~~ other people. Not by actually being able to read their mind, but by listening to what they say. The simplest way to read a person's mind is to listen to his speech. How do you spell speech? That's how you spell peach, isn't it? Now look, analyze the man's conversation like this, and it's good to analyze our own conversation this way. We want to read what's in his mind. What's the object of his conversation? What's his manner of expression? How's he doing it? What areas of interest do you see him display as he speaks? How

precise is he? Let's write that precision of his thoughts ~~XXX~~ ⁱⁿ what he expresses. How precise is he? Does he use a lot of words to beat around the bush, and can't seem to get to the point? What grasp does he seem to have of the ideas; that are ~~XXXX~~ coming out of his mouth? What do you think his store of knowledge is, from what he says? And finally, if you observe the person a lot, do his words agree or coincide with what he does? Let's go through those again: What's the object of his conversation? Why is he speaking? Is he just you know, lot's of people can just be loudmouths. Their minds are never in gear with their ~~mouths~~, mouths, it's just running. The mouth is running. What's the manner of the expression. Well, sloppy in speech, dignified? The manner might vary you know, depending on what you were trying to accomplish, but it can reflect certainly, something about the mind of the person who is speaking. What are his areas of interest? Is he always talking about sex? Is that the only thing on his mind? Or does he have something else you know. Are his interests wide, are they important, or are they just ^t trivial? How precise does he express himself? Does his mind seem to be working in a precise manner? How well does he grasp the ideas? What's his background in knowledge? What's he got up there to be talking with? And then finally, and you've heard this a million times, do his words

agree with ~~XXXXXX~~ what he's doing?

~~XXXXXX~~ Who is this brother up here? (L. Tom Perry, No---Gordon B Hinkley.) That's Gordon B. Hinkley. I just thrill, as I'm sure

you do at conference timewhen you hear some of these bretheren talk.

I just know in my heart when I hear such bretheren as Gordon B. Hinkley

and others, that they are truly prophets of the Lord. And these

bretheren not only avoid the use of ~~suchXXXXXXlanguage~~ coarse language,

vulgarity and such , but they meet the test on these questions. And not

only that, they're good men, they live the commandments, and the Spirit

of the Lord is with them in their speech, particularly at Conference time.

You just feel it. I think all of us have our favorites among speakers

when conference comes around, I have several, but this man is one of

them. When he speaks, I just thrill, because ;his speech seems so

precise, and he has such a grasp of the ideas and a store of knowledge--

all these t ings, they're just there--every one of them. And then the

spirit of the Lord is with him at the same time. And that's the thing

that we need to strive for in our lives, is to have the ~~XXXXXX~~ situation

where we have the background, we've removed all the unclean ideas, and

the foul speech from our^{lives} ~~minds~~ and we can have the Spirit of the Lord

with us as we speak. (Bfother Hall . . .) OK, Rob, (Are you kind of

saying in effect that we can have _____ J Golden??????????

You know, there's a little legend there. I have a conference speech of J. Golden Kimball's here, there's not a single swear word in there. Bishop. . . "I think there comes a time when a person grows up with some of these habits of swearing when they become ~~XXXX~~ automatic expressions with no significance to that person. Originally, I think we all use them for effect. We use words, inappropriate words to achieve a specific effect. there comes a time, when they no longer function like that for a person. It's simply habit. Now, it's a crude habit that offends, and Brother Kimball literally offended when he used this language. I have Brother Cheney's book on J. Golden Kimball, and there are places in there where he recognizes he gives offense with this speech. But he also recognizes that it has become such a part of him that it's very difficult for him to even be aware that he's using it. I think that perhaps when it comes to this point, for some, under certain circumstances, some of these expressions will not necessarily ~~XXXX~~ hamper their spirituality. At least, not to the point where they can't function as servants of the Lord. They will make them less effective as servants of the Lord, no matter what; but this swearing thing occurs on a variety of levels, I guess is what I'm

spirituality that they might have otherwise achieved. -----

Well, thank you bretheren, for your comments. Now, in the field of language and improving ourselves, we have already mentioned vocabulary, and we should have an interest in expanding our vocabulary. Back to Rob, I know some of you guys, in jest call him Webster, Well, I hope he's not offended by ~~it~~, he does have a good vocabulary, I recognize that, that's a good thing. It's a recognition really, when they ca ll you Webster

Well, all of us, when we speak have mannerisms and some of these are bad. Most ~~XX~~ university professors have them and the kids pick them out like that. We're not fully aware of them. We twiddle our chalk, and we do all kinds of things. That's ~~XX~~ just the way we speak. We have our mannerisms. Now when you're young is the time to try and get those out. When you're the age of some of the rest of us, it's too late. Sometimes the interesting things that are flattering about your mannerisms-- people have been telling me for over twenty-five years that I talk like Jimmy Stewart. Now I've never had any of you tell me that, but I hear that constantly. (They just don't know who Jimmy Stewart is.) -----

I guess that's it. He's as old as I am. But that's a mannerism that I have and I'm glad I have. It's interesting, sometime I'll just open my

