NARRATOR: Welcome to Mormon Identity, a 30-minute talk radio program that addresses Church topics important to the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Our host is Robert L. Millet professor of Religious Education at Brigham Young University.

ROBERT MILLET: We welcome you to this edition of Mormon Identity, I’m Bob Millet from Brigham Young University and I’m joined today by my friend and colleague Dan Judd of the Ancient Scripture faculty. Welcome Dan.

DANIEL JUDD: Great being with you, Bob.

ROBERT MILLET: Dan, our task today is to discuss something that I know you feel strongly about, having worked as, in the General Sunday School Presidency, the whole matter of gospel instruction. Our topic really is “Inspired Gospel Teaching”, and I, and I think that’s something that is really worthy of our time today. Do you feel OK about that?

DANIEL JUDD: That’s one of the most important topics, I think we could discuss here.

ROBERT MILLET: OK. Well, let’s begin by suggesting some principles and I’ll suggest a principle and you do the same as we come along and let’s talk about it. As far as, I want to become, I’ve been called as a teacher, let’s say, or I’ve been called to teach the Primary, or I’ve been called to teach in the Relief Society, or I’ve been called to teach in the Priesthood or in the Gospel Doctrine class in Sunday School, what are some things that I…

DANIEL JUDD: …or, or even at home
ROBERT MILLET: ...or I’ve been called to be a Mom or Dad!

DANIEL JUDD: ...yeah, that’s probably the…

ROBERT MILLET: ...greatest of all teaching…

DANIEL JUDD: Right, and not just to teach our children but to teach them to understand, is the challenge we have.

ROBERT MILLET: Teach them to understand.

DANIEL JUDD: Right, right.

ROBERT MILLET: Let me begin, Dan. Why don’t you comment on this principle? I’ve heard the brethren more than once say that maybe above and beyond everything else we just need, first of all, to love our students. Why don’t you talk about that?

DANIEL JUDD: Well, you know, you mentioned earlier, that I worked in the Sunday School General Presidency and we tried to arrive, while I was working there with some very basic principles of gospel teaching that anyone could grasp, whether it be at home or in the Church or in whatever setting and over and over again the “love those that you teach” came out to be number one. With all the brethren, and everything that we wrote, that became the most important. And I think of all the teachers that you had in your life, as I do in mine and those that have really been able to, to bless me and teach me the gospel have been those that love the Lord, number one, but then love me.

ROBERT MILLET: You know I had an experience when I first came to Brigham Young University, but let me back up, even before coming to BYU. I was at Louisiana State University, LSU, and I was back from my mission and very excited to get back into school and finally to do something, I think I figured out how to study....

DANIEL JUDD: [LAUGHTER]

ROBERT MILLET: ...and so I began with earnest, and I was in a biology class and the teacher got into
genetics and I just loved our study of genetics. I was fascinated by it. Went out and read two outside books and everything just to make sure I was understanding and I remember one day after class going up and asking if he had a moment, and he said, “what do you mean?”, and I said, “do you have a moment you could talk to me?” and he said, “do I look like Santa Claus?”

DANIEL JUDD: [A SMALL SNIFF AND A SORT OF STUNNED SILENCE]

ROBERT MILLET: I said, “what?” and he said, “do I look like Santa Claus?” I said, “no”, he said, “Is this my office hour?” “Uh, no sir, it’s not?” “Well, don’t waste my time”, he said. So I walked away. He had looked at his watch, as he did that he looked at his watch at a certain point as he was making those comments. And I walked away heartbroken. I mean I suddenly lost interest in biology and I think my grade shows it...

DANIEL JUDD: [RUEFUL LAUGHTER]

ROBERT MILLET: ...but, you know, I came to BYU in the fall, and I had a philosophy class and it was a philosophy three-eighty, and it was a wonderful class but it was challenging and I can still remember going up to see the professor about three weeks into the semester and asking if he had a moment. It was after class. And he looked at his watch, the first thing that he did, and I thought, “oh my”, and he said, “what are you doing now?”, and I said, “what do you mean?”, and he said, “do you have a class now?”, I said, “no, I’m free now.”, and he said, “come on, I’ll walk with you and we’ll go to the Wilkinson Center, and I’ll buy you something to eat for breakfast and we can talk about it.”

DANIEL JUDD: Hm! That’s a remarkable story.

ROBERT MILLET: Well, that made all the difference in the world for me.

DANIEL JUDD: Right.

ROBERT MILLET: I had been a lonely, homesick, Louisiana boy that was, loved being at BYU but didn’t know a soul. And suddenly I had a teacher take a great interest in me, and I loved him for that, and what he had to teach was even more appealing to me now.

DANIEL JUDD: Right exactly! You know think of, think of 3 Nephi, the Savior’s visit in Bountiful
there and think of all those people gathered, at least 2700 people and what does the Savior do? He greets them, as the phrase says “one by one” and that’s a remarkable example I think, also, that characterizes our President Monson as well. That’s the kind of man he is. He has time, he takes time for people. He loves them.

ROBERT MILLET: You know, I know there may be among our listeners those who might ask the very practical question, “well, what if I don’t happen to love the class?”

DANIEL JUDD: [HEARTY LAUGHTER]

ROBERT MILLET: What if they’re enough of a challenge to me, this group of young people or this group of teenagers or even this group of adults? What if, what if I don’t love them as I should? What, what then?

DANIEL JUDD: You know I’ve had a class or two like that, and how about you?

ROBERT MILLET: Yeah, I’ve had more than I should have.

DANIEL JUDD: [LAUGHTER] And I think that probably says, probably more about me than it does about the class...

ROBERT MILLET: ...OK

DANIEL JUDD: ...you know because I think all too often, you know we have an agenda that we want to accomplish in a class. And all too often that agenda is imparting information, you know, we have our way that we want to do it.

ROBERT MILLET: I’ve got to get through these items.

DANIEL JUDD: That’s right! And sometimes our students get in the way of that. But if we can turn that around, you know, really be able to understand that we are agents of the Lord, and that we are there to represent Him, and by loving those students, and of course very practically that means probably showing up to class a bit early. So you can be there and not be so consumed with getting your chalkboard ready, and your chairs ready, but you’re there to greet the students as they come. And to know, learn to know the students, their lives, their concerns, their challenges...
ROBERT MILLET: ...their name...

DANIEL JUDD: ...oh boy! To be able to address them by name.

ROBERT MILLET: I know I’ve had the experience, too, Dan of walking to class and finding myself not only praying that the Spirit will be with me but I find myself praying, “Heavenly Father, help me, at least to a small extent to love them as you love them.”

DANIEL JUDD: “Pray unto the Father with all of the energy of thine heart, and thou shall be filled with this love.”

ROBERT MILLET: Yeah, yeah.

DANIEL JUDD: Right? It’s a divine gift.

ROBERT MILLET: A pure love of Christ.

DANIEL JUDD: That’s what we’re after.

ROBERT MILLET: Well, that’s a good principle, it’s very good one to start on. A powerful one. We’ve got to love those we serve, or you know, you’ve heard the phrase, “I don’t care how much you know until I first know how much you care.”

DANIEL JUDD: It’s a true principle.

ROBERT MILLET: Let’s, the next one, let me suggest this one and maybe we can just get started before we take a break, but, I think there’s a strong need for the gospel teacher to use his or her time wisely. What do you think of when you hear that?

DANIEL JUDD: You know, I’ve just recently been called as a Gospel Doctrine teacher, and I have less time in that Gospel Doctrine class than I have at BYU.
ROBERT MILLET: Mm-hm. At least ten minutes.

DANIEL JUDD: [LAUGHTER]... and that has been a real challenge.

ROBERT MILLET: Because you think in 50 minutes.

DANIEL JUDD: Oh boy, I do. And now I’ve got to think in 30 minutes, or 40 minutes at the best. And I’ve really got to be discerning, by the power of the Holy Ghost and, and put first things first.

ROBERT MILLET: Yeah, I think one of the sad things is to watch a teacher spend 15 minutes introducing things and then at the end say, “oh! we didn’t get to the most important part, but, I’m out of time.”

DANIEL JUDD: Yeah.

ROBERT MILLET: That’s sad.

DANIEL JUDD: Or we spend so much time on historical detail and context, which is certainly important, but we miss the saving doctrines of the gospel.

ROBERT MILLET: Good point. We’ll be right back.

[PAUSE]

ROBERT MILLET: Welcome back to Mormon Identity. I’m Bob Millet and I’m joined by Dan Judd today and we’re discussing the whole matter of “inspired gospel teaching”. Dan, we just mentioned the principle of loving our students and we talked about that and now we’ve moved to a second principle of using our time wisely. Do you have a comment on that?

DANIEL JUDD: There’s a wonderful statement by Elder Scott, given in General Conference in October of 1993, and he said, “As you seek spiritual knowledge, search for principles, carefully separate them from the detail used to explain them.” And so some of that
time really can be wasted in things that aren’t as important as others. The historical
detail, that’s important, the context is, but if we use that to the exclusion of talking
about the saving doctrinal truths we’ve missed a great opportunity.

ROBERT MILLET: It would be to spend an entire period on the historical background of a section of the
*Doctrine and Covenants* and leave the doctrine uncovered.

DANIEL JUDD: Exactly.

ROBERT MILLET: In that same light, Dan, back in October of ’99, Elder Russell Nelson of the Quorum
of the Twelve made this comment in Conference, he said, he bears his testimony of
the divinity of the Book of Mormon, talks about how he’s read it many times and he
said he’s read many things written about it and he said some authors, he said, have
focused on its stories, its people, its vignettes of history...

DANIEL JUDD: Mm-hm.

ROBERT MILLET: Others have been intrigued by its language, structure, its weapons, geography, its
animal life, buildings, system of weights and measures and then he says this,
“interesting as these matters may be, study of the Book of Mormon is *most* rewarding
when one focuses on its primary purpose, to testify of Jesus Christ. By comparison,”
Elder Nelson says, “all other issues are *incidental*. When Mormon abridged these
records he noted that he could not write a hundredth part of their proceedings thus
historical aspects of the book assume *secondary significance*.” Not unimportant, but
not as important as the principles, the precepts, the doctrine.

DANIEL JUDD: Listen to how Jacob describes that same principle in Jacob Chapter 1. He’s talking
about Nephi’s directions to him in writing the book and he says, “and he gave me,
Jacob, a commandment that I should write upon these things a few of the things which
I consider to be most precious.” Think of our gospel class...

ROBERT MILLET: Yeah, yeah...

DANIEL JUDD: ...in that setting. That I should not touch, save it were *lightly* concerning the history of
the people which are called the people of Nephi. Then he goes on and talks about the
importance of teaching the saving doctrines.
ROBERT MILLET: Another principle, Dan, that comes to my mind is this one, and I’d be open to your comment on this. I think there’s real value in the gospel teacher or speaker using the Scriptures and reading the Scriptures aloud.

DANIEL JUDD: You know, one of my favorite verses in the Doctrine and Covenants about that very principle is from Section 18 of the Doctrine and Covenants verses 34, 35, 36.

ROBERT MILLET: Do you have it?

DANIEL JUDD: I do, I’ve got it right here in front of me. He says, “These words are not of men nor of man but of me.” Of course the Savior speaking.

ROBERT MILLET: Mm-hm

DANIEL JUDD: “Wherefore ye shall testify they are of me and not of man, verily it is my voice which speaketh them unto you. For they are given by my Spirit unto you and by my power you can read them one to another and save it were by my power, you could not have them. Wherefore you can testify that you have heard my voice and know my words.”

ROBERT MILLET: That’s powerful.

DANIEL JUDD: And all too often we try and do the abridging ourselves and use our own words and there’s a time for that, but we must, it’s not even an option, we must teach the words of the Scripture.

ROBERT MILLET: It seems to me that sometimes maybe we don’t trust enough the power of the Word.

DANIEL JUDD: Oh, I’ve been guilty of that.

ROBERT MILLET: Power of the Word. I’ll just act this out. I’ll just role-play this or I’ll just summarize or paraphrase. And like you said, there are occasions where that’s the best way to go.

DANIEL JUDD: Or in Sacrament Meeting even, “forgive me for reading a Scripture”...
ROBERT MILLET: Yeah!

DANIEL JUDD: Oh! [LAUGHTER]

ROBERT MILLET: Yeah...there’s power in the Word to be sure. I’m reminded of this wonderful verse from Section 88 of the Doctrine and Covenants verse 66. “Behold that which you hear is as the voice of one crying in the wilderness. In the wilderness because you cannot see him. My voice, because my voice is spirit.”

DANIEL JUDD: Hm!

ROBERT MILLET: Isn’t that powerful?

DANIEL JUDD: That is powerful.

ROBERT MILLET: So when we hear the Scriptures read we will feel the Spirit of the Lord as these two wonderful passages indicate, and when we feel the Spirit of the Lord, we have essentially heard the voice of the Lord.

DANIEL JUDD: You know I find that so true. If I am teaching a class and I’m just don’t really feel good afterward. You’ve maybe had that feeling before, Bob, maybe not, but I have [RUEFUL LAUGHTER]

ROBERT MILLET: Mm-hm

DANIEL JUDD: And oftentimes it’s because I have been deviating too far away from the Scriptures...

ROBERT MILLET: ...I wasn’t in the Scriptures enough...

DANIEL JUDD: That’s right, that’s it, that’s it. That’s almost always the problem. For me anyway.
ROBERT MILLET: Very important point. Third, or fourth principle actually. I’m, let me suggest this, Dan, that we talk about for a second, that is we really need to draw where possible of the power of modern revelation to unveil, to expand, to elucidate that which we’re teaching. And we’re going to teach the Old Testament we’re going to teach the New Testament we’re going to teach the Book of Mormon. What do you think of when I say we need to use modern revelation?

DANIEL JUDD: [SHORT LAUGH] Hm! You know Bob, I have deep respect for a man like Billy Graham.

ROBERT MILLET: Mm-hm.

DANIEL JUDD: Or Pope Benedict the XVI. Wonderful, wonderful men. But I have what I call the “Billy Graham principle”. Whenever I teach or compose a talk or whatever it is, I ask myself the question “could Billy Graham do the very same thing?” And if the answer is “yes”, I haven’t done my job. [LAUGHTER]

ROBERT MILLET: Then the value added of your teaching it didn’t come, did it?

DANIEL JUDD: [LAUGHTER] That’s right. I need to, really, part of my responsibility as a gospel teacher is to teach the Restoration.

ROBERT MILLET: Mm-hm.

DANIEL JUDD: And we can, we have a lot of doctrines we share and principles we share...

ROBERT MILLET: Sure, sure.

DANIEL JUDD: ...there’s no question, but really my major commission as a teacher is to teach the gospel of the Restoration by the power of the Spirit.

ROBERT MILLET: I had one experience as a bishop many years ago. I sat in on a Gospel Doctrine class taught by a wonderful teacher and she was speaking that day, discussing the life of Abraham and when the period was over, she’d given a fine lesson, I went up to compliment her and I said, “just one other thing, Carol, let me just say this, that you’re lesson was wonderful but you know there were a lot of issues that came up that
you could have answered by referring the class to the Book of Abraham in the Pearl of Great Price.” And she said, “Well, why would I do that?”, and I said, “Well the answers to their questions would have been found there.” She said, “but Bishop, I’m teaching the Old Testament!” [PAUSE FOR EFFECT]

DANIEL JUDD: [SILENCE]

ROBERT MILLET: I said, “Carol, you’re teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, wherever it’s found.”

DANIEL JUDD: Right.

ROBERT MILLET: “And if the Doctrine and Covenants can give you an insight into Abraham or the Pearl of Great Price, especially the Book of Abraham can give you insight; obviously we need to go there.” And so, yeah, there’s a power. We love the Bible. We love the Book of Mormon but there’s power in modern revelation to bring forth the truth. We’ll be right back.

[PAUSE]

ROBERT MILLET: Welcome back to Mormon Identity, I’m Bob Millet joined by my friend Dan Judd of the Department of Ancient Scripture at Brigham Young University. Dan, we’ve been talking about “inspired gospel teaching,” “inspired gospel instruction,” and one of the things we were just discussing was this matter of drawing upon modern revelation. And let me say in that regard, that is not to reflect adversely or improperly upon the Bible because I’m reminded of the Savior’s commission to the Nephites, essentially, when He did the very thing He wanted them to do. “He expounded all the Scriptures in one,” Mormon said. When you hear that phrase, “Jesus did expound all the Scriptures in one,” what do you think of?

DANIEL JUDD: You know the Savior wasn’t shy to quote from the writings of Isaiah and his teachings.

ROBERT MILLET: Mm-hm, mm-hm.

DANIEL JUDD: And, you know, we’re teaching the Doctrine and Covenants right now, we’ll be teaching the Old Testament soon, but to expound all Scriptures at one, as one, it means that we use all of the standard works and we also use the teachings of Latter-
day prophets as we focus on teaching the doctrinal truths that we’re commissioned to teach.

ROBERT MILLET: Yeah, you know that’s a good way of putting it. I’ve often thought that “expounding all the Scriptures in one” is a way of demonstrating to our students how all of the standard works bear a united witness of Christ and His plan of salvation.

DANIEL JUDD: Yeah, the Book of Mormon, Another Testament of Christ.

ROBERT MILLET: Yeah.

DANIEL JUDD: Well, that means there’s another one. The first one. The New Testament.

ROBERT MILLET: That’s right, that’s right. You know, I had finished a class in the New Testament at BYU one day, our reading for that day was simply John 1:1-18. It was only 19 verses...

DANIEL JUDD: [LAUGHS]

ROBERT MILLET: ...that’s all they had to read.

DANIEL JUDD: Rich.

ROBERT MILLET: So we went there with those wonderful verses and as I was leaving and walking back to the Joseph Smith Building, I thought to myself, “what have we just done?” And I realized that during that time, it was a really good class, and I realized that during that time we had read and discussed the King James Version of John 1:1-18, we had read and discussed the Joseph Smith Translation of those 19 verses, we had read the 93rd Section of the Doctrine and Covenants

DANIEL JUDD: [SIMULTANEuously] Doctrine and Covenants, right.
ROBERT MILLET: ...verses 12 through 20, and discussed those...

DANIEL JUDD: [LAUGHING]

ROBERT MILLET: ...and we had read statements from John Taylor and Orson Pratt and Bruce R. McConkie, suggesting things about the gospel of John and the gospel of John the Baptist and it occurred to me that maybe we hadn´t done it like the Savior would do it but to an extent what we had done, is we´d allowed the Spirit to help us bring all things into one. Used many standard works.

DANIEL JUDD: That´s an important story.

ROBERT MILLET: Yeah.

DANIEL JUDD: You know there seems to be an ascending power, you know, that you can teach ethical principles. That´s a good thing.

ROBERT MILLET: Mm-hm. Do´s and don´t.

DANIEL JUDD: Yeah! That´s right. And those are good things. But then you can teach the doctrines that we share with our Jewish friends, our traditional Christian friends, our Muslim friends...

ROBERT MILLET: Mm-hm, mm-hm.

DANIEL JUDD: And that´s, I think, even one more step. But then there´s even a higher step. And that is to teach the doctrines of the Restoration. But we do all of those in the time that we have in teaching.

ROBERT MILLET: You know it occurs to me, Dan, we do that not just to shed light and give doctrinal insight but also to be loyal to the prophet Joseph Smith and loyal to what we´ve received because the Lord in the 84th Section, President Bensen was fond of quoting this, the Lord in the 84th Section says that, “the way we pull ourselves out from under that condemnation that rests upon us from treating lightly the Book of Mormon is to teach and to emphasize those things which have been delivered to us.”
ROBERT MILLET: You know, and not just the Bible, to teach and to emphasize the things that are, that are specifically Restoration Scriptures. Restoration doctrines.

DANIEL JUDD: What was the Prophet Joseph taught, “this generation shall receive my word through you.”

ROBERT MILLET: Yeah.

DANIEL JUDD: That’s true, not just for Joseph, but also for you and for me.

ROBERT MILLET: Yep. [DEEP BREATH] Let’s try a new principle, a new concept about teaching effectively, “inspired gospel teaching.” What if we suggested this, I can remember President Howard W. Hunter, years ago talking about, help the students to see the relevance of Scripture. Help them to see the value of Scripture and then he used this phrase, “help the students gain confidence in the Scriptures.” What do you think he had in mind?

DANIEL JUDD: You know there’s an interesting statement from President Monson that he gave a few years ago.

ROBERT MILLET: Mm-hm.

DANIEL JUDD: He says, “the goal of gospel teaching is not to show how much the teacher knows, nor is it merely to increase knowledge about the Church. The specific goal of teaching in the Church is to help bring about worthwhile changes in the lives of the members. The aim is to ensure the individual to think about, to feel about, and then do something about living gospel principles.” And we need to help them with that. You know, we need to help them learn to apply the Scriptures to themselves, to liken the Scriptures unto themselves as we are taught in 1 Nephi.

ROBERT MILLET: You know, in one of our segments sometime ago my colleague Brent Hoppe, our colleague Brent Hoppe, happened to mention that in the studies that he and Bruce Chadwick had done with young people in the Church that what they learned was this
very important lesson that what mattered *most* was not just peers, and not just Mom and Dad, but individual, personal religious experience with the Scriptures. With prayer. And, yeah, you’re right, we’ve got to help the members to know that they can find answers to their questions, they can find peace in times of peril, they can find solace in times of difficulty, if they’ll just trust the word of the Lord.

DANIEL JUDD: Yeah, what did Alma teach us, in Alma 31 and 5 as he’s teaching the Zoramites who had been taught the gospel once, but they became inactive, less active. [LAUGHS]

ROBERT MILLET: They needed to try the virtue of the Word of God.

DANIEL JUDD: That’s right, and Alma did, and his associates did and two years later there was great peace in the land.

ROBERT MILLET: Dramatic. All right. Let’s try another. We’ll consider this. We’ll mention this one and come back to it. Because it’s so significant. “Seek for and obey the promptings of the Holy Ghost.” I suppose there’s nothing more we could talk about, more significant that is, than this one. We’ll be right back.

[PAUSE]

ROBERT MILLET: Welcome back to Mormon Identity, I’m Bob Millet. I’m joined with, by my friend Daniel Judd, from the Department of Ancient Scripture at BYU. Dan, we’ve been talking this segment about “inspired gospel teaching.” We’ve talked about a number of principles, we’ve just come upon what may be the, “granddaddy” of them all. That is to seek for, and listen to, and *obey* the promptings of the Holy Ghost. What comes to your mind when you, when you hear “teach by the Spirit”?

DANIEL JUDD: One of the most important things that I have learned the last few years I think is from Elder Bednar of the Twelve. One time we were in a training meeting and we had just two or three members of the Seventy speak to us and gave wonderful, wonderful messages to us. Elder Bednar, who’s presiding stood and he said, “now brothers and sisters let’s now discuss what we have learned that has *not* been said.”

ROBERT MILLET: Hm.

DANIEL JUDD: In other words, and he was very complimentary of what the brethren had said before
him, but then what he wanted to discuss was what the Holy Ghost had taught us. That on occasion is even oftentimes unrelated to what’s being said. [LAUGHS A LITTLE]

ROBERT MILLET: Yeah, that’s good. I can remember, and I’ve taken this seriously and had wonderful experience with it, the counsel that a group of us as Stake Presidents received from Elder Richard G. Scott of the Twelve. He suggested that when we take notes at conference or any important meeting that we, yes, on the left-hand side of the page write down what we heard, what they said, but then on the right-hand side of the page we write down what we felt. Or what we felt impressed to do. And it’s very interesting I think if you went back and looked at my notes for the last several conferences on the left I’ll have notes on what they talked about, but on the right I’ll, I won’t have as many, but I’ll have a note like this, “take David to lunch.”

DANIEL JUDD: Exactly.

ROBERT MILLET: Or, show Shawna that she’s more appreciated than you have in the past. Or, I mean those kinds of things that just came to me or, occasionally an insight into a Scripture that didn’t seem to have a lot to do with what Elder Holland was talking about, but it came to me while he was talking.

DANIEL JUDD: And that’s the God of Heaven speaking to us, by the power of His Spirit.

ROBERT MILLET: Through His servants.

DANIEL JUDD: Through His servants. Yeah. That’s right. That’s right.

ROBERT MILLET: I love that. This concept of, you know, the Lord gives to us of, “the Spirit shall be given you by the prayer of faith” the revelation says, “and if you receive not the Spirit, ye shall not teach.” How do you, how do you make sense of that, Dan? “Ye shall not teach.”

DANIEL JUDD: What you’re saying isn’t going to have the impact that you would want it to have. You’re not going to be communicating the way the Lord would have you. Your teaching is less effective or even ineffective.

ROBERT MILLET: So it won’t be effective gospel teaching. You say the words....
DANIEL JUDD: That’s right.

ROBERT MILLET: ...it’s not like the Lord is going to close your mouth or sew your lips. It’s that what comes out is not going to have the impact it could have if the Spirit of the Lord was there.

DANIEL JUDD: Exactly right. You know that there’s a little bit of a sidelight to that, too, is we must be sure that what we teach is true. You know that’s why correlation is so important in Church materials and so forth because they’re, you know you can hear a story or read a story somewhere and frankly, you don’t always know if that’s true. It may really draw upon your emotions or stimulate you intellectually. It may not be true. And the Holy Ghost will not bear witness of that being true.

ROBERT MILLET: That’s good.

DANIEL JUDD: We must teach what’s true.

ROBERT MILLET: You know it occurs to me that, teaching by the Spirit involves much more than standing up and speaking by the Holy Ghost. It also entails, prior to giving the lesson, the preparation of the materials. I mean, the one thing I pray for as I, for example, sit down to teach a lesson from the Priesthood/Relief Society Manuals or Presidents of the Church is, I know we can’t cover all of those statements from Joseph Smith or Brigham Young or John Taylor.

DANIEL JUDD: Some try.

ROBERT MILLET: Some people try [LAUGHTER] Some don’t try hard enough.

DANIEL JUDD: [LAUGHTER] That’s probably the worst. That’s right.

ROBERT MILLET: But the fact is I know we can only cover so many and so I’m prayerfully reading, trying to get a sense for which ones would be the ones that would serve us best this Sunday. You know and so it may come in the preparation of your materials, it may come on organizing your presentation, your lesson, your sermon, but I think it’s so critical. That idea is a sobering idea, that when we have the Holy Ghost with us and
when we speak by the power of the Holy Ghost as the Book of Mormon teaches us, we speak the words of Christ. We speak with the tongue of angels from 2 Nephi 32. Let me just take the last one, Dan, and let’s discuss it in just the time we have. Bear testimony, bear testimony of the things which you have spoken. Bear testimony that they’re true. What comes to your mind?

DANIEL JUDD: Hm. You know, as you said that, that the image of my mother canning fruit, this may seem like a strange comment to make, but I’d be sitting there doing my homework at night and I’d hear those cans of fruit, bottles of fruit seal. And you’d hear a “pop!” [SNAPS FINGERS] You’ve had that experience before?

ROBERT MILLET: Mm-hm, mm-hm.

DANIEL JUDD: And then that means that that fruit is sealed and will last for, you know, for years, right? But really, we must with our lessons, we must seal what we teach, or invite the Holy Spirit to seal what we teach and that’s when we know that the Holy Ghost is there and people’s lives are being changed.

ROBERT MILLET: And we can’t really do that if what we’ve said isn’t true!

DANIEL JUDD: That’s right! [LAUGHS] That’s right!

ROBERT MILLET: Well, let me draw us to a close with this thought that teaching is such a sacred commission. Isn’t it interesting that the Apostle Paul in speaking of the great gifts that are given to us he said, “God hath given, has set in the Church, first Apostles, secondarily Prophets, third teachers.” Now think of that. Just behind those charged to guide the destiny of this Church the Apostles and Prophets, God has called teachers. Surely there is no greater call.

[NARRATOR] You’ve been listening to Mormon Identity. Thanks for tuning in, we hope you’ll join us next time.

[END MUSIC]