

January 30–February 5

Matthew 4; Luke 4–5

“The Spirit of the Lord Is Upon Me”



Jesus is Tempted by Satan

Matt 4:1-11

JST Matt 4:1

Then Jesus was led up of the Spirit, into the wilderness, to be with God.

What do we learn about overcoming temptation from Jesus' example?

Bernard P. Brockbank

"Jesus showed us the way to overpower and defeat the devil. He is the example.....

"Satan was rebuked and defeated by Jesus because Jesus knew and used the word of God—the commandments of God as recorded in his holy scriptures. Jesus hearkened unto the voice of the Lord.

"We can also overcome the buffetings and temptations of Satan with the word of God.

"The devil deceitfully and dishonestly continues to offer man the world and the power of the world if man will but fall down and worship him. The devil wants us to love the world more than we love God. He wants us to be so foolish that we will love the creations of this earth more than the Creator." (CR, April 1974)

Neal A. Maxwell

“Jesus noticed the tremendous temptations that came to Him, but He did not process and reprocess them. Instead, He rejected them promptly. If we entertain temptations, soon they begin entertaining us!” (CR, April 1987)

David O. McKay

“Nearly every temptation that comes to you and to me comes in one of those forms. Classify them, and you will find that under one of those three, nearly every given temptation that makes you and me "spotted" ever so little as it may be, comes to us as: (1) a temptation of the appetite; (2) a yielding to the pride and fashion and vanity of those alienated from the things of God; or (3) a gratifying of the passion or a desire for the riches of the world or power among men.” (The Instructor, Sept. 1962)

Jesus Begins His Ministry

Luke 4:16-23

What does this prophecy of Isaiah tell us about Jesus' mission?

Dallin H. Oaks

"In His early sermon in the synagogue, Jesus read aloud from this prophecy of Isaiah.... As Jesus declared that He was come to fulfill that prophecy, He expressly affirmed that He would heal those with physical ailments and He would also deliver the captive, liberate the bruised, and heal the brokenhearted.

"The Gospel of Luke contains many examples of that ministry. It tells of the time when 'great multitudes came together to hear [Jesus], and to be healed by him of their infirmities.' On other occasions it records that Jesus 'cured many of their infirmities' and that He 'healed them that had need of healing.' It also describes how a great multitude of people out of Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Sidon came down to the plain 'to hear him, and to be healed.'

"His Atonement reaches and is powerful enough not only to pay the price for sin but also to heal every mortal affliction..... He knows of our anguish, and He is there for us." (CR, Oct. 2006)

Jesus Begins His Ministry

Luke 4:24-30

Why do you think it is true that, "No prophet is accepted in his own country"?

Why do you think the people were so angry with Jesus that they wanted to kill Him?

Calling His Apostles

Luke 5:1-8

What lessons do we learn from this experience of Peter's?

David O. McKay

"Jesus had manifested His power, and in so doing had taught Peter the lesson that he and all the world, sooner or later, must learn; viz., that obedience to Christ's words brings blessings, temporal as well as spiritual. As the realization of this truth was pouring balm on his awe-struck feelings, Jesus said unto him, 'Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.'"
(Ancient Apostles, pg. 18-21)

Spencer J. Condie

"Despite all of the human frailties of the great Apostle Peter, it is well to remember the circumstances surrounding his calling to the holy apostleship...After catching a great multitude of fish, Peter, instead of boasting of his prowess as a fisherman, humbly acknowledged the Savior's power by falling to his knees and saying: 'Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.' But the Savior looked beyond the current sins of this humble sinner, proclaiming: 'Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.' (Luke 5:1-10.) A calling in the kingdom is not necessarily so much a confirmation of our personal worthiness as it is an invitation to improve our lives.

"The Savior called men like Peter and Paul and Alma, not because of what they had done, but because of what they would be able to do with His help, and they remembered the source of their spiritual guidance." (In Perfect Balance, pg. 190)

Jeffrey R. Holland

"'Launch out into the deep,' he counseled this fisherman one morning in Galilee, 'and let down your nets for a draught.' After an unsuccessful night of effort, Peter's judgment told him a final effort was useless. But this was a man of genuinely childlike faith, and he lowered the net.

"Launch out into the deep! Peter could not have known the ever-widening circles that single command would make in the stream of his plain and simple life. He was launching out into the expanse of godliness, into the eternal possibilities of redeemed and celestial life. He would be learning the mysteries of the kingdom. He would be hearing unspeakable things. To launch out into that limitless sea of the gospel of Jesus Christ, Peter brought his craft to shore, turned his back on the most spectacular single catch ever taken from Galilee, 'forsook all, and followed him.'" (However Long and Hard the Road, pg. 92)

Calling His Apostles

Matt 4:19-22

What lesson do we learn from the way these disciples responded to Jesus' call?

Dallin H. Oaks

"Follow' is the word the Savior used when he called his helpers to the ministry. As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two fishermen, Simon Peter and his brother Andrew, at work in their vocation. "And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" Matt. 4:19
"And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him"
Mark 1:18

"Here the Savior established a pattern for those he calls to do his work. Acting through his servants... he calls us to take time from our daily activities to follow him and serve our fellowmen. Even the greatest among us should be the servant of all. Those who always remember him will straightway assume and faithfully fulfill the responsibilities to which they are called by his servants." (CR, April 1988)

Henry B. Eyring

“He will make you a fisher of men, however inadequate you may feel now. It won’t be done by a mysterious process. It will be the natural result of your choosing to follow him. Just think about what you must do to be a fisher of men, to touch lives with faith for him. You will need to love the people you serve. You will need to be humble and full of hope. You will need to have the Holy Ghost as your companion to know when to speak and what to say and how to testify.

“But all of that will come naturally, in time, from the covenants you make and keep as you follow him.” (CR, Oct 1995)

Calling His Apostles

Luke 5:27:32

How did Jesus respond to those who thought He should not associate with people like Matthew?

Richard Lloyd Anderson

"One of the frequent criticisms the Pharisees aimed at Jesus was that he kept company with sinners. This accusation surfaced early in his ministry. Luke reports the call of Matthew the publican, then narrates Jesus' participation afterward at a feast in Matthew's house with other publicans and their 'irreligious' friends. Challenged for eating with this group, the Savior defended himself with a counter-challenge: 'I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.'

"That terse answer is, of course, ironic. In reality, the Son of God came to call all men to repentance—because all mankind has sinned. But some are so virtuous in their own eyes that they will not listen."
("Parables of Mercy," Ensign, Feb. 1987)

Unclean Spirits Recognize Jesus

Luke 4:31-37,40-41

What did the unclean spirits know and acknowledge about Jesus?

Why do you think Jesus rebuked them for what they said?

Jeffrey R. Holland

"Everywhere he went the forces of evil went before him and that they knew him from the beginning, even if mortals did not. At the same time that some people were saying, 'Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know?' (John 6:42), the devils were calling out, 'Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? [We] know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God'.

"We stand all amazed as these forces of evil were cast out and defeated, even as the lame were made to walk, the blind to see, the deaf to hear, the infirm to stand."
("I Stand All Amazed," Ensign, Aug. 1986)

The Gospel of Christ

Luke 5:36-39

What was Jesus telling the people in these parables?

Delbert L. Stapley

“Christ did not accept any of the churches of his day to supply the framework for his earthly kingdom. He taught, Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break... but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved.’ For the same reason the organization of his Church and the gospel of his kingdom could not fit into the framework of the existing churches. They were false and unsuited to Christ's needs and purpose. The identical condition was also true in this dispensation when God restored the gospel and his kingdom through his divinely called servant, Joseph Smith.” (CR, April 1967)

Hugh W. Pinnock

“Don’t begin again partially. Be complete! Otherwise, you may be patching up an old article of clothing with a little piece of new material. The old fabric will not hold. As Jesus said, ‘No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for... the rent is made worse.’ Don’t patch. Begin a whole new life. The wealthy young man was unwilling to give all, to follow the Master totally, and so ‘he went away sorrowful (Matt 19:22) and was never heard from again.’ (CR, April 1982)

Next Week:

February 6–12

John 2–4

“Ye Must Be Born Again”

