

February 6–12

John 2–4

“Ye Must Be Born Again”



Water to Wine

John 2:1-11

JST John 2:4

Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what wilt thou have me to do for thee? That will I do; for mine hour is not yet come.

What do we learn about the faith of Mary from this experience?

L. Whitney Clayton

“The Savior performed His first recorded miracle at a wedding feast in Cana of Galilee..... A problem arose—the wedding hosts ran out of wine. Mary was concerned and went to Jesus. They spoke briefly; then Mary turned to the servants and said: ‘Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it’....

“Mary was ‘a precious and chosen vessel’ (Alma 7:10) called by God to give birth to, nurture, and raise the very Son of God. She knew more about Him than anyone else on earth....

“Mary knew of His extraordinary capacity to solve problems, including one as personal as providing wine for a wedding feast. She had unshakable confidence in Him and in His divine power. Her simple, straightforward instruction to the servants had no caveats, no qualifications, no limitations: ‘Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.’” (CR, April 2017)

Brigham Young

“At the wedding in Cana of Galilee... the Savior converted the water into wine. He knew how to call the necessary elements together in order to fill the water with the properties of wine. The elements are all around us; we eat, drink and breathe them, and Jesus, understanding the process of calling them together, performed no miracle except to those who were ignorant of that process.” (JD, 13:139)

Cleansing the Temple

John 2:13-17

What was it about this event that caused Jesus to act untraditionally hostile toward the money changers?

Howard W. Hunter

“Love of money had warped the hearts of many of Jesus’ countrymen. They cared more for gain than they did for God. Caring nothing for God, why should they care for his temple? They converted the temple courts into a marketplace and drowned out the prayers and psalms of the faithful with their greedy exchange of money and the bleating of innocent sheep. Never did Jesus show a greater tempest of emotion than in the cleansing of the temple. Instantly he became avenging fury, and before the miscreants knew what was happening, their coins were rolling over the temple floor and their flocks and herds were in the street.

“The reason for the tempest lies in just three words: “My Father’s house.” It was not an ordinary house; it was the house of God. It was erected for God’s worship. It was a home for the reverent heart. It was intended to be a place of solace for men’s woes and troubles, the very gate of heaven.... His devotion to the Most High kindled a fire in his soul and gave his words the force that pierced the offenders like a dagger.” (CR, Oct. 1977)

Born Again

John 3:1-5

What ordinances are necessarily before we can be born again?

What are some characteristics of being born again?

Joseph Smith

“Baptism is a holy ordinance preparatory to the reception of the Holy Ghost; it is the channel and key by which the Holy Ghost will be administered.” (TPJS, pr. 95–96)

“You might as well baptize a bag of sand as a man, if not done in view of the remission of sins and getting of the Holy Ghost. Baptism by water is but half a baptism, and is good for nothing without the other half—that is, the baptism of the Holy Ghost.” (TPJS pg. 95)

“The baptism of water, without the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost attending it, is of no use. They are necessarily and inseparably connected.” (TPJS, pg. 90)

- Experiencing “a mighty change in... our hearts, that we have no more disposition to do evil, but to do good continually” (Mosiah 5:2)
- Becoming “[God’s] sons and daughters” (Mosiah 5:7; 27:25).
- Being “changed from [a] carnal and fallen state, to a state of righteousness” (Mosiah 27:25).
- Becoming “new creatures” (Mosiah 27:26).
- Having “the image of God engraven upon [our] countenances” (Alma 5:19).
- Repenting so our “garments [are] purified until they are cleansed from all stain, through the blood of [Christ]” (Alma 5:19,21)

Born Again

John 3:14-21

What did the Israelites need to do to be saved from the serpents?

How is this a metaphor for what we must do to “not perish, but have everlasting life”?

Num. 21:6,8-9

6 And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.

8 And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.

9 And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

Carlos E. Asay

“The type raised up in the wilderness, the serpent on the pole, symbolized Christ upon the cross. Jesus himself taught this truth....

“We, like Israel of old, must rivet our eyes and minds upon the cross of Christ if we hope to gain eternal life, because through his resurrection we will gain the victory over physical death. And his atonement opens up to us a way to overcome our sins, a way to spiritual rebirth, and a way back to the presence of God.

“Oh, how we must look to Christ and live.” (CR, Oct. 1978)

The Woman at the Well

John 4:5-9

Why was this woman so surprised that Jesus was making this request of her?

Robert C. Gay

"The Jews of His day despised the Samaritans and traveled a road around Samaria. But Jesus chose to go there to declare before all the world for the first time that He was the promised Messiah. For this message, He chose not only an outcast group but also a woman—and not just any woman but a woman living in sin—someone considered at that time to be the least of the least. I believe Jesus did this so that each of us may always understand that His love is greater than our fears, our wounds, our addictions, our doubts, our temptations, our sins, our broken families, our depression and anxieties, our chronic illness, our poverty, our abuse, our despair, and our loneliness. He wants all to know there is nothing and no one He is unable to heal and deliver to enduring joy.

"His grace is sufficient. He alone descended below all things. The power of His Atonement is the power to overcome any burden in our life. The message of the woman at the well is that He knows our life situations and that we can always walk with Him no matter where we stand." (CR, Oct. 2018)

The Woman at the Well

John 4:10-14

What does the water that Jesus is offering her represent?

How can we partake of the “living water” that the Savior offers?

Loren C. Dunn

“What greater way to demonstrate the saving, healing principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ than to relate them to life-sustaining water—water that is essential for every human being in order to live.

“The Savior was telling the woman that if she drank from her well she would thirst again, but if she drank from his well and partook of the principles that he taught, she would never thirst again, but her soul would be nourished and she would have eternal life.” (CR, April 1971)

Marion G. Romney

“There is another reason why we should [study the scriptures]: By doing so we will fill and refresh our minds with a constant flow of that ‘water’ which Jesus said would be in us ‘a well of water springing up into everlasting life.’ We must obtain a continuing supply of this water if we are to resist evil and retain the blessings of being born again.” (CR, April 1980)

The Woman at the Well

John 4:15-24

JST John 4:26

For unto such hath God promised his Spirit. And they who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.

What do we learn hear about who, where, and how to worship?

Bruce R. McConkie

“Worship is implicit in existence itself. The issue is not whether men shall worship, but who or what is to be the object of their devotions and how they shall go about paying their devotions to their chosen Most High.

“And so, at Jacob’s well, [Jesus answered] the Samaritan woman...

“And the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

“For unto such hath God promised his Spirit. And they who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.’ (JST John 4:25-26)

“Thus our purpose is to worship the true and living God and to do it by the power of the Spirit and in the way he has ordained. The approved worship of the true God leads to salvation; devotions rendered to false gods and which are not founded on eternal truth carry no such assurance.” (CR, Oct. 1971)

The Woman at the Well

John 4:25-30

Susan H. Porter

“Consider the woman at the well. What was her life like? Jesus perceived that she had had five husbands and was currently not married to the man she was living with. And yet, despite her life’s difficulties, one of the Savior’s first public declarations that He was the Messiah was to her. He said, ‘I that speak unto thee am he.’

“She became a powerful witness, declaring to those in her city that Jesus was the Christ....

“Her past and present circumstances did not determine her future. Like her, we can choose to turn to the Savior today for the strength and healing that will enable us to fulfill all that we were sent here to do.” (CR, April 2022)

The Woman at the Well

John 4:39-42

How can we apply this lesson to our own responsibility to declare that Jesus is the Christ?

Joseph B. Wirthlin

“These latter days are a time of great spiritual thirst. Many in the world are searching, often intensely, for a source of refreshment that will quench their yearning for meaning and direction in their lives. They crave a cool, satisfying drink of insight and knowledge that will soothe their parched souls. Their spirits cry out for life-sustaining experiences of peace and calm to nourish and enliven their withering hearts....

“The Lord provides the living water that can quench the burning thirst of those whose lives are parched by a drought of truth.... When they drink from the cup of gospel knowledge, their thirst is satisfied as they come to understand our Heavenly Father’s great plan of happiness.” (CR, April 1995)

Next Week:

February 13–19

Matthew 5: Luke 6

“Blessed Are Ye”

