

January 30–February 5. Matthew 4; Luke 4–5: “The Spirit of the Lord Is Upon Me”

Jesus is Tempted by Satan

After He was baptized Jesus went into the wilderness and fasted for 40 days and commune with His Father

Matt 4:1-11

- 1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.
- 2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.
- 3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.
- 4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.
- 5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,
- 6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.
- 7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.
- 8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;
- 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.
- 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.
- 11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

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?

Know and use the scriptures

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)

Reject temptation promptly

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)

Jesus suffered the same kinds of temptations that we do

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 next records the account of His teaching in Galilee

Luke 4:16-23

16 ¶ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

22 And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?

What does the prophecy of Isaiah, which Jesus used to announce His ministry,

tell us about His mission?

(he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted...)

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)

The people of His hometown reject His declaration.

Luke 4:24-30

22 And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?

23 And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country.

24 And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.

25 But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land;

26 But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow.

27 And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.

28 And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,

29 And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong.

30 But he passing through the midst of them went his way,

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?

He had inferred Israel was wicked and unworthy by sitting two examples of how prophets needed to go outside of Israel to find righteousness.

Calling His Apostles

In John 1:35-42 we learned that Andrew and John followed Jesus because of the testimony of John the Baptist. Andrew brought his brother Peter.

After their first meeting with Jesus it seems that Andrew, Peter, and John went back to their job as fishermen. They see Jesus again when he is in Galilee and this time Jesus asks them to follow Him.

Luke 5:1-8

1 And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret,

2 And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets.

3 And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

7 And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

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

Obedience

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)

God can forgive our unworthiness

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)

Thru the Lord we can accomplish great things

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)

Matt 4:19-22

19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

20 And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

21 And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.

22 And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.

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

(they straightway left their nets, and followed him
they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him)

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)

Jesus calls Matthew the Publican to follow Him

Luke 5:27:32

27 ¶ And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me.

28 And he left all, rose up, and followed him.

29 And Levi made him a great feast in his own house: and there was a great company of publicans and of others that sat down with them.

30 But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners?

31 And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick.

32 I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

How did Jesus respond to those who thought He should not associate with

people like Matthew?

(They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick.
32 I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance)

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

31 And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the sabbath days.

32 And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power.

33 ¶ And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice,

34 Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God.

35 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not.

36 And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.

37 And the fame of him went out into every place of the country round about.

40 ¶ Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.

41 And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ.

What did the unclean spirits know and acknowledge about Jesus?

(what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth... I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God
Thou art Christ the Son of God)

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)

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

The Gospel of Christ

New Wine in Old Bottles and putting new cloth on an old garment

Luke 5:36-39

36 ¶ And he spake also a parable unto them; No man putteth a piece of a new garment upon an old; if otherwise, then both the new maketh a rent, and the piece that was taken out of the new agreeth not with the old.

37 And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish.

38 But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved.

39 No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better.

What was Jesus telling the people in these parables?

Build His church anew

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)

Become a new person in Christ

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)