

Gospel Doctrine Sunday School Lesson

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Slippery Rock Branch

Volume 3, Issue 4

Today's Word: repent

January 28, 2007

Are You:

- Keeping Your Baptismal Covenants?
- Withstanding Temptation?

Today's Scriptures

Matthew 3-4

John 1: 35-51

Next Week:

Lesson 5:

"Born Again"

John 3-4

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Lesson 4:

"Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord"



Questions to Ponder

- How does repentance help us prepare to dwell with Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ?
- How can it help us to know that Jesus, the Son of God, faced temptations similar to those we face?

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin:

"The Lord is well aware of our mortality. He knows our weaknesses. He understands the challenges of our everyday lives. He has great empathy for the temptations of earthly appetites and passions (*Ensign*, May 1996, 34).

President Howard W. Hunter:

It is important to remember that Jesus was capable of sinning, that he could have succumbed, that the plan of life and salvation could have been foiled, but that he remained true. Had there been no possibility of his yielding to the enticement of Satan, there would have been no real test, no genuine victory in the result. If he had been stripped of the faculty to sin, he would have been stripped of his very agency. It was he who had come to safeguard and ensure the agency of man. He had to retain the capacity and ability to sin had he willed so to do. As Paul wrote, "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered" (Heb. 5:8); and he "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:15). He was perfect and sinless, not because he had to be, but rather because he clearly and determinedly wanted to be. As the Doctrine and Covenants records, "He suffered temptations but gave no heed unto them." (D&C 20:22.)

What about us? We live in a world of temptation—temptation that seems more real and oppressively rampant than any since the days of Noah. Are we remaining faithful in such a world? Every individual in this church should ask himself, "Am I living so that I am keeping unspotted from the evils of the world?"

In speaking of the three temptations that came to Jesus, a former President of the Church made this statement concerning them: "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 maybe, 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." And then he said: "Now, when do temptations come? Why, they come to us in our social gatherings, they come to us at our weddings, they come to us in our politics, they come to us in our business relations, on the farm, in the mercantile establishment, in our dealings in all the affairs of life, we find these insidious influences working, and it is when they manifest themselves to the consciousness of each individual that the defense of truth ought to exert itself." (David O. McKay, *Conference Report*, Oct. 1911, p. 59.) ("The Temptations of Christ," *Ensign*, Nov. 1976, 17).