

Ir-nt-06  
February 4-10  
“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me”  
Mathew 4; Luke 4-5  
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(Here is inspirational background about Christ’s Temptation and His miracles)

- I. Christ’s going into the wilderness to face temptations had many purposes:
  - A. He went into the wilderness, first, “to be with God” (JST-Matthew 4:1).
  - B. He was confirming that Moses had foreshadowed Him, for Moses went into **the wilderness for 40 years before delivering Israel.**
  - C. Furthermore, Moses had led the children of Israel into the wilderness to be tempted for 40 years, to then inherit the Promised Land.
  - D. He thus witnessed that He would face all the temptations in life we would. And **He was showing how we could overcome our temptations. We should seek God’s Spirit to help us as He did. “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.”**
  
- II. His witness that He faced and overcame all temptations does help to face our own.
  - A. C.S. Lewis explained how good people, especially Christ, overcome temptation. “A silly idea is current that good people do not know what temptations means. This is an obvious lie. Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is; after all, you find out the strength of the German army by fighting against it, not by giving in. You find out the strength of a wind by trying to walk against it, not by lying down. A man who gives into temptation after five minutes simply does not know what it would have been like an hour later.  
“That is why bad people in one sense know very little about badness. They’ve always lived a sheltered life by always giving in. We never find out the strength of the evil impulse inside us until we try to fight it: **and Christ, because he was the only man who never yielded to temptation, is also the only man who knows to the full what temptation means --- the only complete realist**” (*Mere Christianity*, p. 126). (Emphasis added).
  - B. Jesus would face His greatest temptation in Gethsemane. He struggled with the temptation to turn away from the “bitter cup” which He was being asked to drink.
  - C. But, thankfully for all of us, He yielded to the will of the Father, and drank that bitter cup so that we might all be saved!
  
- III. Christ immediately began to show that He was the Messiah by the miracles He wrought. Many were deliberate repetitions of miracles performed by ancient prophets which bore witness of Him, His miracles showed **He had come to fulfill their witness.**
  - A. Thus Moses' and other Old Testament miracles were purposely meant to teach of the Messiah *to come*.
  - B. **The Miracles of Jesus Christ were purposely used to teach the Messiah *had come*.**
  - C. As Moses performed miracles, so did **the greater than Moses**. Many of Jesus’ miracles had a relationship to Moses’ miracles.

1. In Moses' time, **with the help of God**, he controlled the winds and waters as Israel crossed the seas.
  2. When Jesus came, **He** controlled the winds and waters, **manifesting He was God** (Mark 4:35-41)!
  3. As those waters signified Death, Jesus' witness was also that **He had power to overcome Death**.
- D. As Elijah and Elisha had raised the dead sons of widows (Luke 7:11-17), Jesus did as well. This act **certified He had come to raise up the spiritually and physically dead children of "widowed" Israel**.
1. For He was Israel's Bridegroom (Mark 2:19-20). And He had formerly cut them off, leaving them as widows.

IV. Christ's miracles were far more than just compassion on individuals.

- A. Jesus healed individuals that were blind, lame, deaf, and leprous.
- B. Those miracles of healing, done to specific individuals, were also witnesses of **His greater compassion for all: the *spiritually* blind; the *spiritually* deaf; the lame who stumble from spiritual weakness; those *spiritually* leprous, unclean and cast out, who are cleansed and welcomed back**.
- C. **His spiritual healings are His greatest miracles**. His physical healings only witnessed of them.
  1. Matthew testified that Jesus did His miracles, "That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Easias the prophet, saying, [He] Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses (Matthew 8:17)."
  2. And this is the most incredible miracle. For this teaches He did not just heal us of these ailments. **But we took them upon Himself, that we might be healed!**

V. "Oh ye of little faith" was a phrase stressed repeatedly by the Savior.

- A. **It is lack of faith which is the stumbling block for almost everyone who rejects God, Jesus Christ, His Church in the last days, and His miracles**.
- B. Having an understanding of our pre-mortal existence helps us have greater faith.
  1. If He created all things **He has the power to control all things He created**.
  2. We realize **the workings of the awesome universe, including the workings of our amazing bodies, are miracles too, but miracles set in motion by Him from the beginning**.

VI. Knowing we came here to be tested helps us understand why the Lord does not heal or save everyone! That would thwart life's purpose!

- A. **The Lord tests some to see if they will exercise faith to receive miracles**.
- B. Those who receive miracles without exercising faith are tested as to whether they will then develop faith in God, return gratitude, and maintain faith.
- C. Those who have faith, but see no healing, are tested as to their continued faith.

VII. Many of Christ's miracles had other deep levels of meaning.

- A. When Christ cast out devils, He did so having compassion upon the individuals thus afflicted. **But these miracles testified of far greater realities**.
  1. He had previously with the Father cast out Satan, and all his hosts from Heaven.
  2. **His casting out of devils in His mortality verified He had this power**.

- B. That gives us sure knowledge that at the end of earth's time, He will bind, then fully cast out Lucifer and his followers, leaving them powerless.
- C. Lazarus, who was deliberately left by Christ to die, sealed in a tomb for over three days, then raised up from mortal death to mortal life, bore witness of Christ.
  - 1. He Himself would soon die, be sealed in a tomb for a similar three days. But He too would come out from *His* stone tomb. But from mortal death to *Eternal Life*.

VIII. Christ's miracles demonstrate His great love and tender concern for the individual. Thus, **His miracles did not cease when He left the earth.**

- A. He clearly showed that He passed His priesthood on to His apostles, giving them power to continue these miracles of healing.
  - 1. "And he ordained twelve...to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils (Mark 3:14-15).
- B. He continues to bless His people with miracles through His priesthood in these last days through the restoration of priesthood keys.

IX. The Lord deliberately used different types of miracles in different dispensation.

- A. Old Testament miracles were shown to many, often involving nature.
  - 1. **The miracles were on a grand scale, foreshadowing what Christ would fulfill.**
  - 2. The miraculous crossing the Seas thus pointed to Christ's overcoming Death so His followers could inherit the True Promised Land, Eternal Life.
- B. Jesus's early miracles were generally private and usually not seen by multitudes (with some notable exceptions such as feeding the multitudes in the wilderness).
- C. His greatest miracles, the Atonement and Resurrection, were seen by few and not generally understood at first. But through His servants, the good news spread. And in time, all will come to understand the great significance of these most powerful of all miracles!
- D. **The truth is, there are likely far more miracles, though they are less grand, which occur today in the lives of the saints than in past dispensations.**
  - 1. **This is true partly because the number of priesthood bearers is greater. Thus they occur everywhere.**
  - 2. **And they regularly occur in the lives of the simplest members of the Church.**
  - 3. In our dispensation, miracles occur to help the latter-day work move forward: Thus they occur in the lives of individual saints to help them do missionary work, to do family history work, to do temple work, and to serve and bless one's neighbors.
  - 4. These miracles are still Christ's miracles, for they are done in the name of Jesus Christ and under the priesthood of Jesus the Christ.

In doing these works, we can receive more miracle and do far more to serve Jesus Christ if we will follow His example and see that "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me."