

Jesus Christ and the Everlasting Gospel

Lesson 9 & 10

The Savior's Profound Influence & Come Follow Me

Saturday, September 19, 2020

His Influence

“We offer our testimony of the reality of [the Savior’s] matchless life and the infinite virtue of His great atoning sacrifice. None other has had so profound an influence upon all who have lived and will yet live upon the earth”

(Ensign or Liahona, Apr. 2000, 2).



Let him into your life

Why is it that he is qualified to have a profound influence in your life?

And he shall go forth, suffering **pains** and **afflictions** and **temptations** of **every kind**; and this that the word might be fulfilled which saith he will take upon him the **pains and the sicknesses** of his people.

And he will take upon him **death**, that he may loose the bands of death which bind his people; and he will take upon him **their infirmities**, that his bowels may be filled with mercy, according to the flesh, **that he may know** according to the flesh how to succor his people according to their infirmities (Alma 7.11-12).

“Well, my dear sisters, the gospel is the good news that can free us from guilt. We know that Jesus experienced the totality of mortal existence in Gethsemane. It's our faith that he experienced everything- absolutely everything. Sometimes we don't think through the implications of that belief. We talk in great generalities about the sins of all humankind, about the suffering of the entire human family. But we don't experience pain in generalities. We experience it individually. That means he knows what it felt like when your mother died of cancer- how it was for your mother, how it still is for you. He knows what it felt like to lose the student body election. He knows that moment when the brakes locked and the car started to skid. He experienced the slave ship sailing from Ghana toward Virginia. He experienced the gas chambers at Dachau. He experienced Napalm in Vietnam. He knows about drug addiction and alcoholism.

Let me go further. There is nothing you have experienced as a woman that he does not also know and recognize. On a profound level, he understands the hunger to hold your baby that sustains you through pregnancy. He understands both the physical pain of giving birth and the immense joy. He knows about PMS and cramps and menopause. He understands about rape and infertility and abortion. His last recorded words to his disciples were, "And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matthew 28:20) He understands your mother-pain when your five-year-old leaves for kindergarten, when a bully picks on your fifth-grader, when your daughter calls to say that the new baby has Down syndrome.

He knows your mother-rage when a trusted babysitter sexually abuses your two-year-old, when someone gives your thirteen-year-old drugs, when someone seduces your seventeen-year-old. He knows the pain you live with when you come home to a quiet apartment where the only children are visitors, when you hear that your former husband and his new wife were sealed in the temple last week, when your fiftieth wedding anniversary rolls around and your husband has been dead for two years. He knows all that. He's been there. He's been lower than all that. He's not waiting for us to be perfect. Perfect people don't need a Savior. He came to save his people in their imperfections. He is the Lord of the living, and the living make mistakes. He's not embarrassed by us, angry at us, or shocked. He wants us in our brokenness, in our unhappiness, in our guilt and our grief.

You know that people who live above a certain latitude and experience very long winter nights can become depressed and even suicidal, because something in our bodies requires whole spectrum light for a certain number of hours a day. Our spiritual requirement for light is just as desperate and as deep as our physical need for light. Jesus is the light of the world. We know that this world is a dark place sometimes, but we need not walk in darkness. The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, and the people who walk in darkness can have a bright companion. We need him, and He is ready to come to us, if we'll open the door and let him." (Chieko Okazaki, "Opening the Door to Christ," *Lighten Up!* 1993, p. 174-176)





Jesus lived a sinless life

Matthew 4:1–11

2 Corinthians 5:21

Hebrews 2:17–18; 4:15–16

Doctrine and Covenants 20:22

Matthew 4.1-11

What did you notice about how the Savior responded to Satan's temptations?

What do you learn from the Savior's example in these verses?

How are temptations the Savior faced similar to ones we face in our lives?



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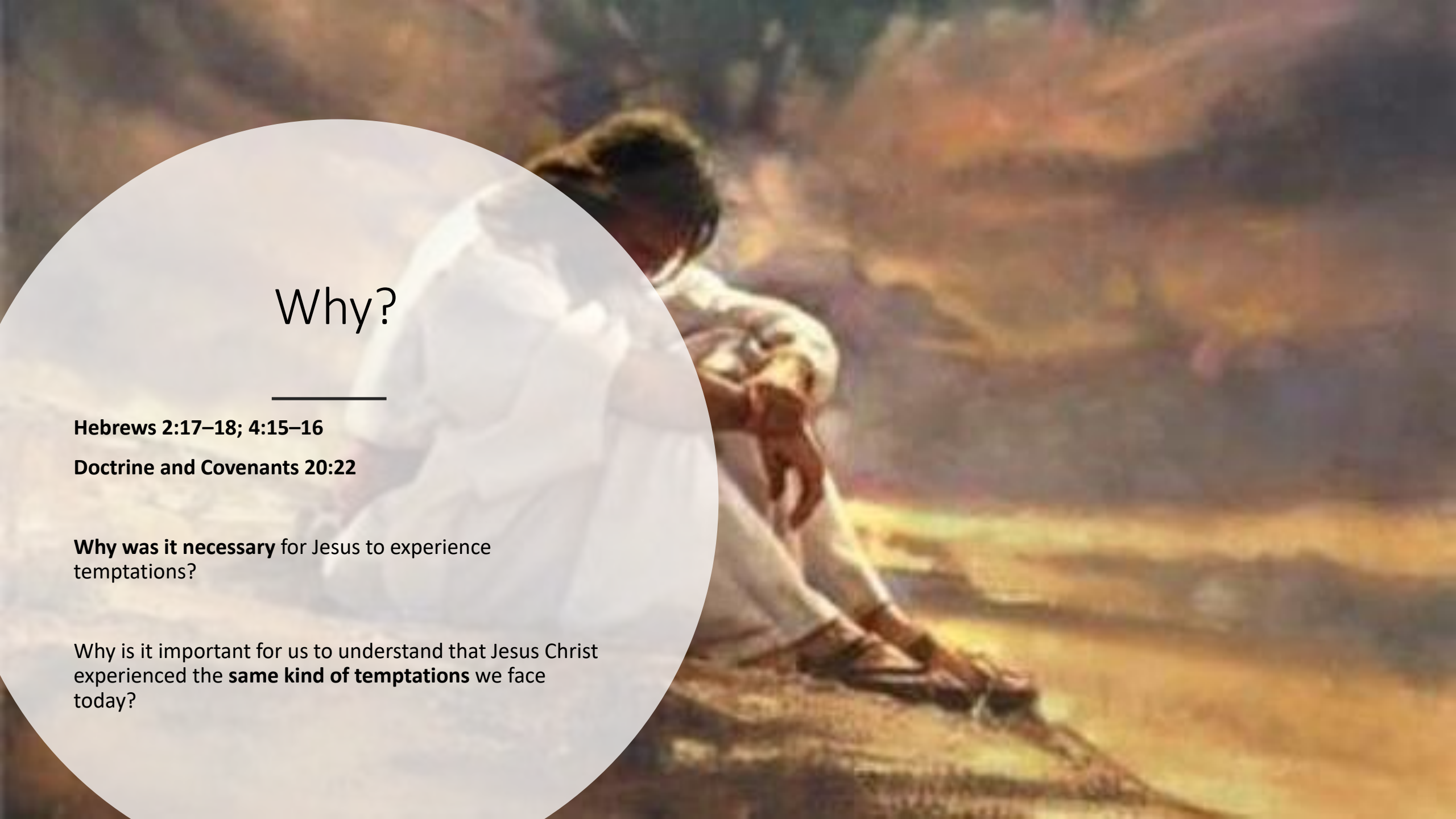


Every Temptation

“Nearly every temptation that comes to you and 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 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”

(David O. McKay, “Unspotted from the World,” *Ensign*, Aug. 2009, 27).





Why?

Hebrews 2:17–18; 4:15–16

Doctrine and Covenants 20:22

Why was it necessary for Jesus to experience temptations?

Why is it important for us to understand that Jesus Christ experienced the **same kind of temptations** we face today?

He was determined

“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. ... He was perfect and sinless, not because he had to be, but rather because he clearly and determinedly wanted to be”

(Howard W. Hunter, “The Temptations of Christ,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1976, 19).

Jesus' Submission to the Father

“He suffered the pains of all men in Gethsemane so they would not have to suffer if they would repent... “He submitted Himself to humiliation and insults from His enemies without complaint or retaliation... “And, finally, He endured the flogging and brutal shame of the cross. Only then did He voluntarily submit to death. ...“He was perfectly obedient to our Heavenly Father”

(President Ezra Taft Benson, “Jesus Christ: Our Savior and Redeemer,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1983, 7, 8).

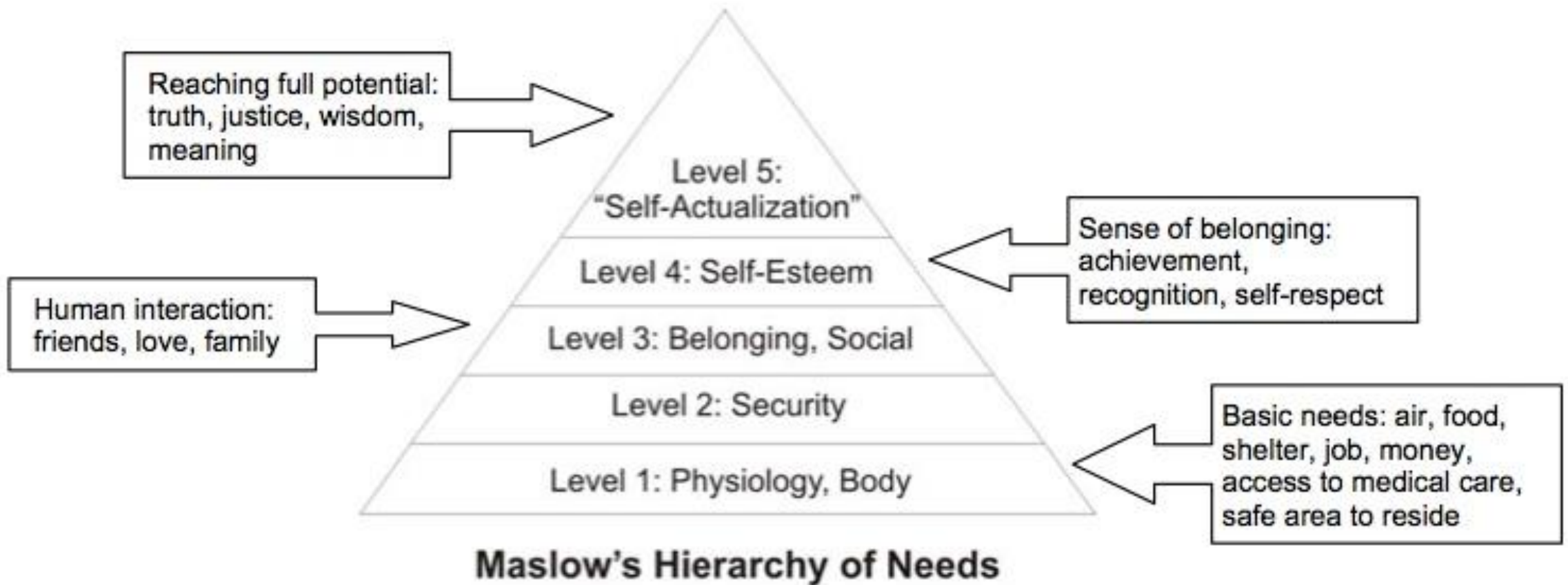
3 Nephi 11.11; Luke 22.42,44



John 4

“None other has had so profound an influence upon all who have lived and will yet live upon the earth.”

(The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles.
(*Ensign* or *Liahona*, Apr. 2000, 2)



Our Highest needs

“Prayer is good, but when baked potatoes and milk are needed, prayer will not supply their place.” (Brigham Young, *Deseret News*, 10 Dec. 1856, cited in Eugene England, *Brother Brigham*, Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1980, p. 175.)

In other words, to reach our higher needs, to eventually make the changes in the world we are capable of making, our most basic needs must first be met. What Jesus is offering the Samaritan woman and all of us is this: through him, all of our innermost needs can be fulfilled. We can live, love, and leave a legacy as we live the teachings of Jesus. We can change the world through good in positive ways more effectively by following in the path he has designated than in any other way.

(Mike Day, <https://ldsscriptureteachings.org/2012/11/30/john-4-the-woman-at-the-well/>)

Thirst

“Are you not thirsty?” said the Lion. “I’m dying of thirst,” said Jill. “Then drink,” said the Lion. “May I—could I—would you mind going away while I do?” said Jill. The Lion answered this only by a look and a very low growl. And as Jill gazed at its motionless bulk, she realized that she might as well have asked the whole mountain to move aside for her convenience. The delicious rippling noise of the stream was driving her nearly frantic. “Will you promise not to—do anything to me, if I do come?” said Jill. “I make no promise,” said the Lion. Jill was so thirsty now that, without noticing it, she had come a step nearer. “Do you eat girls?”

Thirst

“I have swallowed up girls and boys, women and men, kings and emperors, cities and realms,” said the Lion. It didn’t say this as if it were boasting, nor as if it were sorry, nor as if it were angry. It just said it. “I daren’t come and drink,” said Jill. “Then you will die of thirst,” said the Lion. “Oh, dear!” said Jill, coming another step nearer. “I suppose I must go and look for another stream then.”

“There is no other stream,” said the Lion. It was the hardest thing she had ever had to do, but she went forward to the stream, knelt down, and began scooping up water in her hand. It was the coldest, most refreshing water she had ever tasted. You didn’t need to drink much of it, for it quenched your thirst at once. (C. S. Lewis, *The Silver Chair*, 20-21.)

You must choose

I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him [Jesus]: “I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be a God.” That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic-on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg-or else he would be the Devil of Hell. **You must make your choice.**

Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that choice open to us. He did not intend to. (C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, pp. 55-56.)

Come Follow Me

Jesus Christ declared: “I am the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). “[Jesus’s] way is the path that leads to happiness in this life and eternal life in the world to come” (“The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Apr. 2000, 3.)





Come and see

John 1:35–47

2 Nephi 26:33

Alma 5:33–34

Discipleship

D&C 6.32-37

Matthew 14.27

Luke 14.16-35

Matthew 16.24-26

Jacob 5.65-66

2 Nephi 28.30

D&C 78.17-18

I will lead you along

Be of good cheer, be not afraid

A parable on this idea

Take up your cross

Notice how he does it

Another way of saying this

Trust him



Μαθητής - Disciple

“The word for disciple and the word for discipline both come from the same Latin root—discipulus, which means pupil. It emphasizes practice or exercise. Self-discipline and self-control are consistent and permanent characteristics of the followers of Jesus. ...

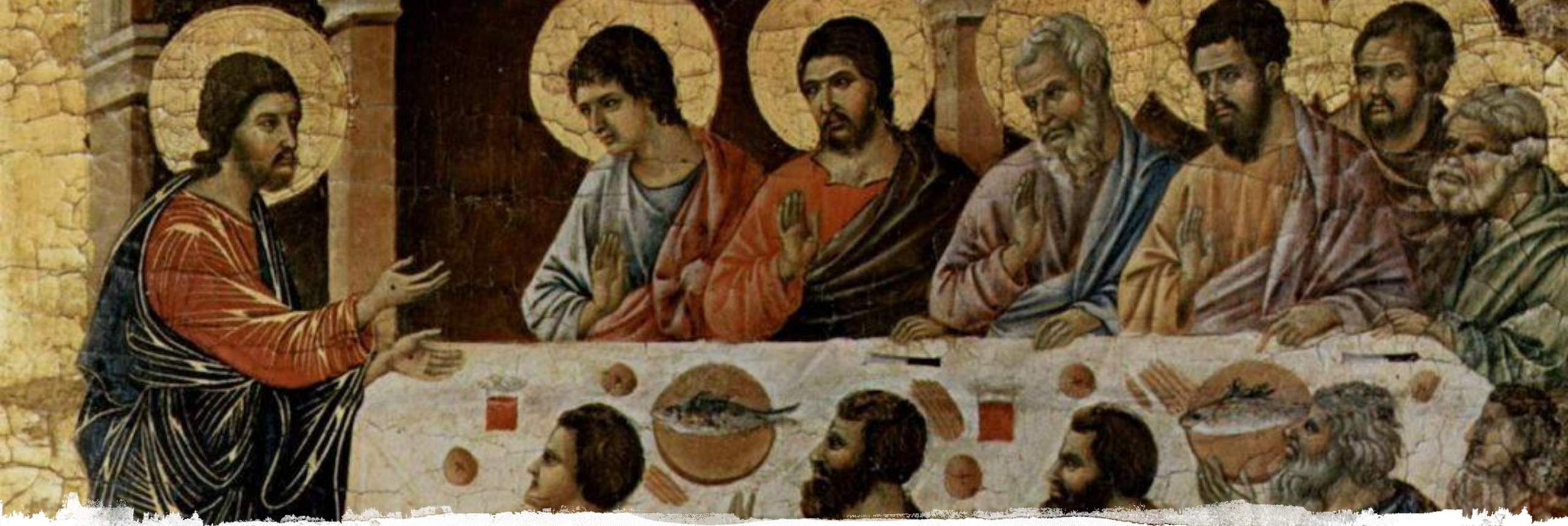
“What is discipleship? It is primarily obedience to the Savior”

(President James E. Faust, “Discipleship,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2006, 20).

Alma 5.33-34

2 Nephi 26.33





What was required of them?

Matthew 4:18–22

Luke 5:11; 9:57–62

Luke 14:25–33

Luke 9:57–62—What can hinder us from following the Savior?

Luke 14:25–27, 33—What does the Savior require of His disciples?

Luke 14:28–32—How does the word *finish* relate to the requirements for being a disciple?

“The first step on the path of discipleship begins, luckily enough, in the exact place where we stand! We do not have to prequalify to take that first step. It doesn’t matter if we are rich or poor. There is no requirement to be educated, eloquent, or intellectual. We do not have to be perfect or well-spoken or even well-mannered.

“You and I can walk in the path of discipleship today. Let us be humble; let us pray to our Father in Heaven with all our heart and express our desire to draw close to Him and learn of Him...

“Have faith. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened [see Matthew 7:7]. Serve the Lord by serving others. Become an active participant in your ward or branch. Strengthen your family by committing to live the principles of the gospel. Be of one heart and of one mind in your marriage and in your family.

“Now is the time to adjust your lives to be able to have a temple recommend and use it. Now is the time to have meaningful family home evenings, to read the word of God, and to speak to our Heavenly Father in earnest prayer. Now is the time to fill our hearts with gratitude for the Restoration of His Church, for living prophets, the Book of Mormon, and the priesthood power that blesses our lives. Now is the time to embrace the gospel of Jesus Christ, become His disciples, and walk in His way”

(Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “The Way of the Disciple,” Ensign or Liahona, May 2009, 77).



Now is the time for me to...