

**Saturday, October 14, 2023 ▫ Read Matthew 3:13–4:11**

*Questions from the Scripture text: Who came from where (v13)? For what purpose? How did John respond (v14)? What does John need? Why does Jesus say John should baptize Him instead (v15)? Where does Jesus go, when He had been baptized (v16)? What open to Him at this place? Whom does He see? Doing what? Like what? Where does He rest? What suddenly comes now (v17)? From where? Identifying Jesus as Whom? And expressing what about Him? Where does the Spirit take Him now (v1)? For what purpose? What did He do there (v2)? How long? With what result? What does v3 call the devil? Where does he go? What does he ask? What does he say to do in answer? How does Jesus answer (v4)? By what does man live? Who takes Him where in v5? Upon what does he set Him? What does he ask (v6)? What does he say to do in answer? How does the devil rationalize this test? How does Jesus answer (v7)? Where does the devil take him in v8? What does he show Him? What does the devil promise (v9)? In exchange for what? What does Jesus command him now (v10)? With what justification? What does the devil do (v11)? Who now come and do what?*

**Who is Jesus?** Matthew 3:13–4:11 looks forward to the morning sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In these sixteen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us **Jesus is God the Son, Who is also the human Son that Adam, Israel, and all of us ought to have been.**

**Jesus, the mighty God Who baptizes with the Spirit,** v13–15. Jesus comes to John to receive the baptism that declares need for a new heart (v13)—but Jesus *doesn't need a new heart*. John does (v14)! What John doesn't realize is that John needs Jesus to fulfill righteousness for John and all others (v15). For you, too, dear reader. You need not only to get a new heart from Jesus, but for Him to be identified with you and to be your Righteousness.

**Jesus, the Son, Who is perfectly righteous,** v16–17. Jesus comes up from the water, and the first thing He sees is heaven opened. So, when the appearance of the dove descends, we and He both know that this is a physical manifestation of God the Holy Spirit. The Spirit with Whom Jesus baptizes is the Spirit Who is His from heaven. Next, Jesus hears a voice from heaven. We learn the identity of the Speaker by what He calls Jesus: "My Son." He is the Father. And He loves the Son. Jesus is the beloved Son, and the Father is the Father to Whom He is beloved." What is amazing is that the Son is a man! Not merely in the form of a man, as the Spirit was in the form of a dove, but a true man. A man, the first man(!), whose behavior is well-pleasing to God.

**Jesus, the Son, Who Adam should have been in the garden,** v1–4. God had provided richly for Adam in the garden, but the devil tempted him to prefer the one food that he didn't have over the knowledge of God that he did have. Now Jesus is not in a garden but a wilderness. The Spirit prepares Him for His temptation by leading Him to fast for forty days. (We know there was food in the wilderness because John ate locusts and wild honey there!). Jesus enjoyed fellowship with God as His food, so that when the temptation came, He was more than ready to answer from Deut 8:3. We all should view the Lord this way, love the Lord this way, enjoy the Lord this way. We don't. But if we trust in Christ, He is counted as our righteousness. What's more, the Spirit with Whom He baptizes us will ultimately make us to be like this too.

**Jesus, the Son, Who Israel should have been in the wilderness,** v5–7. God had promised Israel to take them into the promised land, but they put Him to test in the wilderness. Now the devil takes the promise from Psalm 91 and invites Jesus to put God to the test. But Jesus trusts the promise without the test. Israel was the firstborn son (Ex 4:22) with whom God was grieved (cf. Ps 95:9–10). But Jesus has succeeded where Israel failed. He continues to be the Beloved Son, with Whom God is well-pleased. And so also shall He be with us, if we are united to Jesus through faith and adopted in Him, indwelt by the Spirit of adoption.

**Jesus, the Son, Who accomplishes His own unique mission,** v8–11. This time, Satan actually offers Jesus what Jesus came for: to be glorified as King of all nations (cf. Mt 28:18). But Satan offers it without any further suffering, any further humiliation. All Jesus has to do is give one moment to the devil, and it would all be over. How often temptation comes to us in this way: "Just one moment of sin with a great big payoff." Israel, as a kingdom, was offered to reign, but traded it for the worship of false gods. But, praise God, Jesus refuses to worship another for even a moment. Jesus refuses to be unrighteous even for a moment. He will continue to suffer until the suffering of the cross. He will continue to be humiliated until the humiliation of the cross and death. He will continue to obey and never stop. Not even for a moment.

How should you enjoy, trust, and obey God? Who has done so already? How can that come to be yours?

*Sample prayer: Father, thank You that Your Son, our Lord Jesus, was well-pleasing even in His human nature. Consider us in Him, we pray, that He might be our worthiness, and our sin might have been put away by His cross. Grant the ministry of Your Spirit to conform us to Him, we ask, in His Name, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP78D "Yet in the Desert Still They Sinned" or TPH391 "Come, O Come, Thou Quickening Spirit"**

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**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))**

Matthew 3 verse 13 through 4 verse 11, these are God's words. Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent him. Saying, I need to be baptized by you. And are you coming to me? Oh, Jesus answered and said to him permitted to be.

So now for thus, it is fitting to us for us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he allowed him.

When he had been baptized Jesus came up immediately. From the water. And behold the heavens were opened to him. And he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove. And the lighting upon him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven saying, This is my beloved son. And whom I am.

Well pleased. Then Jesus was led up by the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when he had fasted 40 days and 40 nights afterward, he was hungry. Now, when the temperature came to him, he said, If you are the son of God, command that these stones become bread. But he answered and said it is written man, shall not live by bread alone.

But by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Then the devil took him up into the holy city, set him on the high pinnacle of the temple and said to him. If you are the son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written. He shall give his angels charge over you.

And in their hands, they shall bear. You up. Lest you dash your foot against the stone. Jesus said to him, it is written again. You shall not tempt. You know, where your God? Again, the devil took him up on an exceedingly high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

And he said to him, all these things, I will give you if you will fall down and worship me. And Jesus said to him away with you Satan, For it is written. You shall worship the Lord, your God and him. Only you shall serve. Then the devil left him and behold, angels came and ministered.

To him.

And then nothing's just reading of gods inspired and And there and twerk.

So, Jesus, here is being introduced and inaugurated for His public ministry. And the first thing that we learn about Jesus is that Jesus is the mighty God of Genesis 31 and is equal. Uh, 36 who gives The new heart. Who pours out his spirit. To give men new hearts.

Um, John didn't want to baptize Jesus because John's baptism was for people who need new hearts. And Jesus does not need a new heart. In fact, John is the one who needs a new heart and he recognizes Jesus. As the mightier one than he, who sandals, he was not worthy to carry.

And he says, I need to be baptized by you. I need you to pour out The Holy Spirit upon me. I Um, and you Uh, do not need to have water applied to you. In. And demonstration of your need for a new heart. You don't need a new heart.

So, Jesus is the mighty God who Baptizes with. The Holy Spirit.

But he is also the only way that any of us. Can be righteous. It's marvelous when he says, Not for thus, it is fitting for me. To fulfill all righteousness because Jesus is the one who's fulfilling all righteousness. But he says it is. Thus, it is fitting for us to fulfill.

All righteousness. John's only hope. To be counted righteous. Is for Jesus to be his righteousness. Is to be united, to a Jesus who has obeyed righteously in both of their places. And this. Is true for us as well. Are only hope to be right with God is not. Um, Is not that we would do it as right?

But that Jesus would do it as right? And that we would be joined to him. In his doing what is right. So he identifies himself with us that's why he takes A baptism. That belongs to us. In fact. Uh, later when James and John. Uh, have the request. To be at his right and left hand in the kingdom.

And he asks, are you prepared to be baptized to the baptism with which I'm baptized? And he's talking about the cross. And, So there too, he has identified with us in what we call his passive, obedience has receiving What our sins deserve? But here, he's identified with us. For all of his obedience, especially his active, obedience is Obeying God's commands.

And so, Jesus gets baptized in order to be identified with us. And, He is later. Going to give a water baptism. Uh, that is a sign and seal on earth of that spirit baptism that he gives from heaven in which he will identify us with himself. He is the mighty God, who baptizes with the spirit he is.

Our only hope for righteousness, and he is in the third place, perfectly righteous versus 16 and 17. When he had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water. And this is, From as in. Um, Directionally from geographically, from not out of there's two different prepositions. Um, the critical text says out of So, Uh, there's that but the scripture preserved throughout the ages.

Pure an entire as we confess. In Westminster chapter 1 says, Um, he came up immediately from the water. And we read elsewhere that he and John it. They're not that hands on, but That. A baptizer and a baptizing, go down into the water, and then they come up out of the water.

Um, It was just the location. Where John applied the water to him. So he comes out. Away from that. Uh, Hmm, so he comes away from That location and behold. And this is the trivia question. I asked you guys the other day.

And behold. And this is the trivia question. I asked you guys the other day, was the first thing Jesus saw when he came away from his baptism. And it's not. The spirit of God, the first thing he saw is The heavens opened. The spirit of God descending upon him like a dove.

And the lighting upon him. And so, the This appearance of a dove does not come from. The earth comes from what we would call the third heaven, the heavens are opened. And, And this appearance comes from, Glory. So, this is Very much and appearance. Of God, the Holy Spirit to him.

And then with the heavens opened and the spirit who has come out from the opening, And delighted upon him. We have a voice suddenly a voice from heaven. Saying. This is my beloved son. And so the spirit is presented as A person. Who comes from glory, who is God and then we have the father.

Uh, represented. Or present. And declaring about his son. This is my beloved son and the voice also comes from the opening. And the spirit who came from the opening lines upon the sun and the, the voice that came from the opening owns the sun. And so, What is implied here is that the sun has come from the opening.

That. Yes, according to the flash, the Uh, according to the flesh, he came Uh, from the womb of The virgin Mary. But, He also is of this Godhead. Who manifests himself from heaven opened. And so heaven has opened and The spirit and the father. And this by the spirit.

And the father, the son Has made known as the one true God. And of course not now. Just in his divine nature. But in his human nature, the spirit owning, Jesus, even in the human nature is still the divine son. The father owning. Jesus, in his human nature. I still the divine son.

And now the father declaring, Of the divine sun, even in his human nature that he is the beloved And especially that with him, he is well, Pleased to praise God. That God, the father's son and the Holy Spirit. Acknowledge our righteousness. When we are joined to Jesus Christ. When we are joined to Jesus Christ, we are adopted with him and in him like we've been nearing and Romans chapter 8, and of us.

The father says, This is my. Beloved son. With whom I am. Well pleased. Because we are joined to Jesus Christ and that's what he was. Accomplishing. In his baptism. Now, Jesus is also. Now going to immediately fulfill that righteousness. That is required of us but that we have failed to render unto God.

Beginning with and ever since our first father, Adam Notice that the spirit drives him in the wilderness and into the wilderness and the spirit. Is the one by him. He fasts. He does as the spirit of God teaches and leads him to do. We know that there was food in the wilderness, how do we know?

Well, because the one who just baptized him lives in the wilderness. And he's got food there. He eats locusts and honey. And so, this was A spirit-led choice. Not a A circumstance. Or circumstantial constraint. Upon the Lord Jesus, he was fasting. And so, he was Preparing spiritually. For what he was about.

To face just as he prepared spiritually for the cross by praying. In the garden. So he prepares spiritually for the temptation by fasting and prayer. In the wilderness. The Lord Jesus even. Of course, rendering unto unto God that spiritual mindedness and proper use of the means. Um, That God has afforded men.

As Jesus himself was and is still what he was a Uh humiliated man. Now he's a glorified man. He no longer gets hungry, but he's hungry at the end of this. And, The devil comes to him. With basically the same temptation. As. To add them. Adam had. Every every tree in the garden, he had even more than that.

The fellowship with God. In the garden. God, who speaks to him? And so, And so it was a great wickedness. When Adam, who first came with the two tells us was not deceived. Desired. If he could choose to not have the Fruit of the tree is an urge of good and evil.

Along with Um, having god Or he could choose. To. Being able to eat of the tree or taking from the tree. And having himself as god, he wanted to have himself. Has got. But here Jesus has just practiced 40 days. Of counting fellowship with god better than eating. So he is well prepared.

When the devil comes and suggests that. God has not been so generous with Jesus as he As he ought to be with a son, if you are The son of god, tell these stones. Command that these stones become bread. And Jesus's answer. Is basically that. He has just spent 40 days enjoying. His sonship enjoying every word that proceeds from the mouth of god.

He quotes. From the scripture man. So i'm not live by bread alone. He was In the sun him, Adam should have been in the garden. And whom Israel should have been in the wilderness who also failed on the same account, didn't they? But they also failed. In light of the fact that god had given them promises of where he was taking them.

He was taking them into the land. And he had made the great part of the promise. Not just that, he would multiply them. And here they are already multiplied. Not just that he would bring them into the land. And that's kind of part of the problem because they're very multiplied as they come to the land.

And so they need food. But the great part of the promise is that he would be their god and they would be his people. And so he has made these promises, he's keeping there, these promises. And what do they do? They put the lord their god to the test.

They say. Can he give us bread and meat? In the wilderness. And so not only in the first temptation here, but in the second temptation, You have Jesus being not just the son that Adam should have been. But the sun that Israel should have been especially after god. Calls them, his firstborn son.

In Exodus 4, 22 and 23. In the devil comes with some of god's promises. He shall give his angels charge over you in their hands. They shall bear you up. Bless you dash your foot against the stone. It's as if you're saying. Don't you remember psalm 91? Excuse me.

And Jesus. Jesus's answer is basically, of course, then I trust all 91. And I don't need to test god. To know that psalm 91 is true, in fact, It would be wicked of me. To put the lord. Um, To the test. And so of course, Jesus. Course the scripture and he is the son that Israel should have been but wasn't as we learned Psalm 95 9 through 10, especially that the lord was grieved was wrathful that generation because they put him to the test.

It's all 95 says, when you hear your voice, hear his voice, You know, do not go astray in your hearts as the people within He was grieved, they tested him. And so, Jesus is the son. Whom Adam should have been in the garden and we see that he is a new humanity.

And Jesus is the son who Israel should have been in the wilderness. And we see that he is the one in whom sinful, man can be brought into covenant with god. He is the light to the nation's. He is. Himself, the fulfillment. Of Israel. He is What Israel always ought to have been and the one in whom every Israeli to is actually saved has ever been saved.

Power pious persons saved before the coming of Christ. By believing in the savior to come. That's even our catechized children. No. And then Jesus is also the one. Who accomplishes his mission? He Um, He doesn't disobey even. For a moment. Jesus had, come that all authority and heaven and earth would be Given unto him.

He had come that he would be glorified. In his people. And so, when the devil takes him up to this, seemingly high mountain shows them all the kingdoms. Of the world and their lorry. He is Um, offering to Christ setting before Christ. That which Jesus came for that, which rightfully belongs.

To Christ. But he offers him the crown without the cross. He says, all these things, I will give you if you will fall down and worship me. Yeah, he offers Jesus. The ability to. Immediately. Obtain. Just with One moment. Of. Of. Outward, sin doesn't even have to be from the heart.

Just fall down on your face and do it. Will he? Uh, will he give in? And just commit one. One moment of sin with a great big. Pay off. And Jesus. Of course, refuses. Away with you. Satan for it is written, you shall worship the Lord, your god and him only Away with you, Satan, you shall worship the lord, your god and him only You shall serve how often we Would rationalize just one moment of sin.

By how big the payoff? Would be for us, but the lord Jesus does not do that. He does not rationalize. One moment of sin. In fact. He says here that he never in his life. Considered. Or committed. Even the slightest sin. For any reason. He was here was just one moment.

With the biggest payoff possible and he refused. And so what god sets before us? About his son here in these last four verses. Well, in verses 8 through 10. In particular. Is that our lord Jesus, every intention of the thoughts of his heart. Were only righteous and that continually.

Here's the opposite of of us. He has the opposite of what God saw about every other. Man. In Genesis chapter 6 and this is the righteousness. The discounted for us, when we believe, in the lord, Jesus Christ. The devil. Leaves him. And angels come. And tend to him. Affirming.

That he continues to be the beloved son. With whom god is, well pleased. And these same angels now. Serve us who are inheriting salvation? Affirming that we are. In Jesus. The beloved children with whom god is? Well pleased. And so, we actually have angels serving us. As belongs rightfully to Christ.

Because in union with Christ, His righteousness has become ours. He himself has become. Our righteousness, he who is god, the son? And this is what is, wondrously amazingly. Offered to us in the gospel. And so, Pray that each of you? My dear family would know the lord Jesus as the Ever blessed god.

The second person. Of the triune god and that you would know him. As your Redeemer who identified himself with you. In his baptism at the cross. And all of his obedience. That you would know him. As the one who has identified you with him. Both by putting upon you.

The name father, son and holy spirit. But especially by giving you his spirit to bring you to the space. So that, you know, that as the angels that you can't see Continuously minister to you. We actually have holy angels continuously serving us. According to the book of Hebrews. You know that, the reason for that is, Because the one to whom those angels belong has united, you To himself.

Man, let's pray. Her father in heaven. We thank you for this passage. I pray that you would help me in particular, To preach. Quickly and concisely. Lord's day, so that We can get the whole thing all together. But more than that, oh lord. Grant that Each of us in our household.

And in your congregation in this place. Would have a right and blessed view. Of your son. Our lord Jesus. And would know ourselves to be united to him. And has active obedience in his. The passive obedience of his atonement. Even in his adoption. And we pray that you would do all these things for us by the work of your spirit.

Who is for us, the spirit of sonship to spirit of adoption. By his help. We pray in Jesus's name, Amen.