

Matthew 3:17–4:11  
A Perfect Man, Church, & King

**Saturday, October 21, 2023 • Read Matthew 3:17–4:11**

*Questions from the Scripture text: 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?*

**What sort of Son is Jesus?** Matthew 3:17–4:11 looks forward to the morning sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In these twelve verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us **that Jesus is the last Adam (the firstborn Son of a new humanity), the firstborn who Israel was meant to be, and the eternally blessed and perfect Son Who has redeemed us to conform us to Himself.**

**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.

Jesus is the beloved Son from all eternity, in Whom God was pleased to choose and love us. And even in His humanity, Jesus is still the well-pleasing Son, Who perfectly obeys in our place. Not only is His righteousness counted for us, but He is both the standard of how we must live and the promise of what we must be like when He is done with us. He has accomplished His mission, and redeeming us for this was the mission, praise God!

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 TPH261 "O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High!"**

**For more Hopewell @Home devotionals, please visit [hpwl.org/hah](http://hpwl.org/hah)**

(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 17 through 4 verse 11, these are God's words. 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 and to the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when he had fasted 40 days and 14 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. The tempter said, it is written. Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. And then the devil took him up into the holy city, it's that I'm on the 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 he dash your foot against the stone.

Jesus said to him, it is written again. You shall not tempt the Lord 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.

Then Jesus said to him, away with you Satan, for it is written. You shall worship the Lord your God and him only. Then the devil left him and behold, angels came and ministered to him. Amen. This reading of God's inspired word. And there aren't worked. We rejoice that Jesus is the one.

In whom we fulfill, all righteousness. That is he does everything righteous and we in order. Uh, to be righteous before God. Must be joined to him, united to him, through faith. And so, we believe in him that we may belong to him, as he has been offered to us in the gospel that we might belong to him.

By believing in him. And thus in his obedience, we fulfill all righteousness. And so we rejoice greatly when we hear the voice from heaven. In verse 17. This is my beloved son. And whom I am. Well pleased. Because it is in the beloved Jesus that we are beloved from before the foundations of the world and it is in the well-pleasing Jesus that we are made well-pleasing.

By faith in him and union with him and we rejoice at the end of the passage, when he is still the beloved and well-pleasing son having come through his trial and the angels, the messengers from God, the holy ones, that instantly respond to do, the will of God, come and attend to him.

And we know, of course, from the end of Hebrews chapter 1, they do the same for us even though we cannot see them that they are ministering spirits. Sent out to the airs of salvation to those who are united to Christ and adopted in the Lord. Um, adopted in the Lord.

Jesus. And so we have in this passage in the middle, then A. Um, historical account of how the beloved son was well-pleasing on our behalf. And we have a perfect example. Of the manner in which beloved children may act well-pleasing to God. And therefore, we also have the promise.

Of what we who are beloved children in christ, will be like When God is, Done with his work. When god completes the work that he has begun in us in the lord jesus christ. And so when we see the lord jesus, And this way, the first thing that we see is that he is a son of perfect and consistent piety, That is in his.

Heart life before god and his habits unto God. We know from luke, what he's doing after he's come. From the water when the heavens open. Uh, to him. And first, the spirit comes. Makes an appearance and this. Pneumatophony. Um, Descending upon him like a dove. And the father makes himself known from the opened heaven by the voice that comes from the heaven.

Luke tells us that he was praying. When this happens jesus, as a man of prayer. And he's a man of spirit-led prayer note in verse 1, where it says, then jesus was led up by the spirit into the wilderness. To be tempted by the devil. No, we don't know if the spirit here communicates to him, that he's about to be tempted by the devil.

But we do know what the spirit led him to do until the time that he was tempted or until the time that the the great temptation came at the end. When he had fasted 40 days, And forty nights afterward, he was hungry. And so jesus here is presented to us as a man of prayer.

And a man of fasting. The great thing in his life is his life before god his heart interaction with the lord. Is enjoying the lord as his portion. All of those things that we long that we would be able to do more fully Um, And more devotedly, the lord jesus.

Was perfectly and we can even see. In the way that he responds. To the devil's temptations. That he wasn't just praying and fasting. But that he was also meditating upon scripture. And meditating upon scripture that was appropriate to his circumstances. Here he is in the wilderness between Um, With a jordan and jerusalem just across the river to the west side from where Moses on the east, side of the river.

Had given the book of Deuteronomy to israel in the wilderness israel who When they were sometimes hungry. Send greatly against god. And so, what's the lord jesus doing in the same place and under some other circumstances, he's meditating upon scripture that specifically applies to his circumstances. Something that we all again know from the lord that we ought to do and which by the spirits work in our heart that we would do that rather than Then go by our impulses or whatever other.

Whatever other manner are inner thought life. Would just kind of go by itself. But that we would recognize the situation we're in and a portion of scripture that is appropriate to it and meditate on the bible, meditate on god's fatherly word to us like children, like beloved and well pleasing children.

Whose daddy whose father has told us about a time like this. And so we come into the season that the that are particular part of our father's word to us addresses. And we remember what father has said well it's that to Um, The infinite power is what we have in the scripture.

And so jesus is the beloved and well, pleasing son with this life of piety, this praying, Fasting self-denying. God treasuring scripture considering and meditating upon piety. And, This is part of how the spirit sustains, our lord jesus in his human nature to be the last atom. Uh, so that when the tempter does come to him and And here, he's At great disadvantage compared to the first atom.

The first item was in a garden. The last atom's in a wilderness. The first atom has Was surrounded by beasts that serve him. The last item is Is in the realm of wild beasts. The first Adam is richly provided with food, the last atom is hungry. And he's hungry, because Uh, he has been Living in self-denial.

At the leading of the spirit. It's not that there wasn't food in the wilderness. John his cousin had steady diet of locusts and honey. In the wilderness, there was food there Uh, but he's, he's hungry. And the devil says, if you are the son of god, Command the these stones.

Become bread. And it's the same sort of idea. As, as god really said you may not eat. Of any of the trees of the garden. That is not very generous. There's Temptation here. Uh, to deny the generosity and goodness. Of the provision of god to, which Adam should have stepped in.

When the temperature said that, Uh, to his wife. And he should have said. No, we have all of the trees in the garden and what's more? We have god himself and we have god's word and god's word is what says not to eat of the one tree. How precious it is to be made in his image and to know him and to have him speak to us.

The, the very thing that that you are trying to describe as begrudging, and stingy is the great generosity. We have the word of god. This is how Adam, of course should have in intervened, helped his his wife to think led his wife and thinking, but this is how our last atom is thinking, isn't it?

He hasn't he hasn't been food less. It's just that his food has been the word of god for 40 days. And so, The the flesh was hungry but the spirit, the soul was full. And, And the last atoms succeeds were the first Adam failed and praised god. Because we know We know.

Uh, Quote. A. A commercial. Recently, you're not you and you're hungry. Well, actually, the problem is, we are precisely ourselves. When we are hungry, we're not able to overcome what we were outside of christ when we're hungry. Uh, but Uh, praise god. The one who has counted for us was himself when he was hungry.

And that is he was full. Of the fellowship of god and the word of god, and we want to be like that. And not only has that been counted for us by jesus doing this in our place. But he is giving us an example. Of how to do this live, that life.

Of self-denial and of prayer and of meditation upon god's word. So, that in the moment when it comes, We are full. Of the fellowship of god and the kindness of god to us. And we refuse to left any of that remaining fleshiness grumble against god as if he's been stingy with us, how dreadful that would be.

And not only do we have the example of how the lord jesus did it to answering from scripture? Um, as he did. But we have the promise, the certainty that the spirit By whom he and his divine nature, sustained himself in his human nature, to do this. Is the same spirit that he has poured out on us.

The same spirit. By whom we he has baptized us To make us. To give us life from him and to give us faith to be united to him and to apply him to us. So that we would be made more and more like him until it lasts. We are conformed to the image of the sun.

Well, he's not just Uh, the sun who is as the last Adam, what the first Adam ought to have been? He is. Uh, he is also the son who succeeds in the wilderness in the place of israel. We we mentioned A little bit of go. Uh, one of the reasons why it was so appropriate for him to have been meditating upon the book of Deuteronomy, Well, the great sin of israel in the wilderness was that they put the lord, their god to the test.

The lord says, They tested me. Or they tested him. In psalm 78 and they tested me in psalm 95 and in these warning psalms of what not to be like that we would not perish. But every one of us have had some promise of god's word like israel had the promise that they would be carried into the land.

And in their hearts they went to stray and in their hearts they went back to egypt, they went everywhere but the land because they didn't trust god, they tested god. And so satan of course is he always does when he is opposing. God. Marshalls. Or. Accomplices, his own defeat.

He quotes from psalm 91 these wonderful true words? About god preserving the lord jesus. But jesus isn't like israel in the wilderness. Feeling like he or demand. Sorry. Jesus isn't like israel in the wilderness demanding to see the proof. For jesus, the word of god is the proof. The things that that satan quotes from psalm 91.

Aren't sure if jesus tests to see if they're sure, they're sure. Because god said that they were true. And so, Rather than jesus being like israel in the wilderness. Who tested god? Here, jesus is. Uh, tempted offered to test, god and refuses. He knows the certainty of the word.

And he trusts and he yields unto the lord and his providence. And praise god. That this is counted for us. Because don't we often doubt. God's promises. Don't we often live. As if those promises that, we know very well, many of them, Uh, in doubt or in question. As if all these things aren't working together for our good as if in all these things, we aren't Uh, super conquering.

As if the worst things that happen to us aren't for, Uh, for our good and for his sake for his glory. As if we might. Use all the means that he has provided and dependence upon him and still we be lost. Or we might use. Those means with our children.

Independence upon him and And they and he's still not saved them. And so, we often live, Doubting god. With a Sort of show me. Attitude. I'll believe god when i see some of this stuff come true. Put the lord. Jesus refused to live that way. He refused to put the lord to the test.

He trusted God. And even his trust is counted in our behalf as Hebrews, two wonderfully reminds us. Um, Immediately before he says, behold i and the children whom you have given me He says, i will put my trust in him. It is jesus. Who is the eye? In that sentence.

And when we believe in jesus, it is not that our faith. It's good enough to be counted for righteousness. But that our faith joins us to jesus. Whose faith is good enough. And whose obedience is good enough. And who is love? It's good enough. That he It becomes our.

Righteousness. So jesus says the lot, the son, who is the last Adam that the first is, Adam should have been jesus, is the son, who is the true israel? That ethnic israel ought to have been and that The israel of promise. Elect israel always was in him by faith in him.

He is the True israel. Then the last place we see that. Jesus is. The. Perfect king. Of the everlasting kingdom. Whose subjects are subjects of righteousness. And of the knowledge of god. Verse 8. Again, the devil took him up. To on an exceedingly, high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world.

And their glory. Now, we know where this mountainous. And it's not. On a map. It's in the book of daniel. You remember? The stone that was Cut out without hands and it grew into an exceedingly, great mountain, and it replaces takes over overcomes, all of the kingdoms of the world.

And so, in this, Vision, as it were that Uh, the devil. Presents to christ. Where there's the succeedingly high mountain and all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. Jesus is presented that, which is his right, that which is his jew that, which is prophesied about him that which he came to obtain.

In his mission. But that's the key, isn't it? That jesus is only going to obtain this crown. Through a cross. Israel was also supposed to be A mountain, a city on a hill. A household. Into which all of the nations would be gathered unto God. That special people. From whom the families of the earth that the lord into which the lord had divided humanity at babble, would be gathered back again through the seed of Abraham, the offspring of abraham and in whom all of the families of the earth, who would be blessed And there would be again, be a one kingdom world.

Now, not in rebellion against god. But an enjoyment of god and obedience to god, and the worship. Unto God. But israel. When their kingdom seemed to be. Um, Under threat. When it was in danger. What did they do? And even at times when it wasn't in danger, They worshiped, other gods.

Play. They entered into alliances with other people that the lord had warned them. That if they do that, those people will turn their hearts away after their gods. And israel had turned their hearts away after many gods to worship them for hundreds of years. As they tried to obtain for themselves, something that had been promised but had been promised By means of and through the path of worshiping, the lord their god and him only Well, jesus here is offered for just one moment of sin.

For just one moment of sin. To come into the Fullness of his kingdom. But the lord. And, His word and His worship and his obedience. These are the essential. Elements of christ's kingdom. And he refuses. For the greatest possible payoff. He refuses. To commit, even a moment of sin.

Once we see that, The lord is the true king. Of the everlasting kingdom. With the perfect righteousness. That belongs to that kingdom. And as particularly this last temptation, where he refuses, even a moment of even Plausibly possibly hypothetically superficial workshop, even But he refuses even a moment of it.

Well, even if it were to have the greatest possible payoff. And so it is in this last temptation that we see especially how complete and continual and perfect. The obedience of jesus Christ. The obedience then that is counted for us. Who believe in him? Who is our righteousness? And so, indeed, he is.

Not only the beloved son, but the loving son of a beloved father. When he is the well-pleasing son. Because he is perfectly obeyed. His father. And what has offered to us presented in his baptism and his willingness to identify with sinners and present it to us. Also, now in christian baptism where the name of the father and the son and the spirit, the single name of god is put upon the members of christ's church.

Assuring. Of the success of the lord, jesus, and the authority. Of the lord jesus, and the help of the lord jesus, that we would be united to him. And in him, be Those well, beloved children who have been loved from before the world began. And those well pleasing children.

Who are counted perfectly righteous in him? And then, conformed. To his perfect righteousness. Also, may the Lord help us to trust in him. And may the lord help us to? Observe is example. Since this is what the lord is making us to be like, And we too then ought to Resist temptation.

As our lord jesus did. And as he is working in us. That we may also do.

Her father in heaven. We thank you and praise you.

Your word and For the help of your spirit. And Just now, especially forgiving us your son. We praise you for the gospel of your son, we praise you. For your goodness and your power and your salvation. And his Obedience and his perfect humanity. Because the last atom and the true israel and the true end everlasting king.

And we pray O Lord that you would make us to be members of his new humanity and his perfect church. And subjects who reflect? The character and of king and kingdom. So help us by your spirit. Oh lord. Because Even as we have read and heard, we have recognized many things.

That do not have yet their proper reflection in our hearts and our lives. And we long, we long. That your work, which you have begun would be completed. And so we ask for it to even also, in his name, the name of jesus. Amen.