

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

Matthew 3–4 marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Before He ever preached a sermon, performed a miracle, or called a disciple, **Jesus passed through two major moments:**

1. **Affirmation**, His baptism (Matt. 3:13–17)
2. **Temptation**, His battle with Satan in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1–11)

These chapters show us something vital:
Identity comes before activity.

Before Jesus does anything, the Father declares who He is. Then Satan immediately attacks that identity.

This is the pattern of the Christian life, God speaks truth, and the enemy whispers lies.

Jesus' baptism shows His humility and obedience. His temptation shows His victory and loyalty to the Father's plan. Together they reveal Jesus as the perfect Savior who fulfills righteousness and conquers sin on our behalf.

EXPLORE THE TEXT:

“Fulfill all righteousness” (3:15)

Means *to complete, carry out fully, accomplish everything God requires*. Jesus doesn’t get baptized because He sinned , but to identify with sinners and obey the Father perfectly.

“Beloved Son” (3:17)

“Beloved” = deeply loved, prized, treasured. God publicly affirms Jesus’ identity.

“Tempted” (4:1)

Means *tested, proven*. Not to make Jesus fall, but to reveal His strength.

“If you are the Son of God...” (4:3, 6)

Satan attacks **identity**. He tries to make Jesus doubt what the Father just said.

“It is written” (4:4, 7, 10)

Jesus uses Scripture as His strongest weapon. He doesn’t argue, complain, or negotiate, He speaks God’s Word.

DAY 1 , Matthew 3:13–15

Daily Reading

Matthew 3:13–15

Devotional Thought

Jesus traveled nearly 60 miles to be baptized by John, a baptism meant for *repentance of sin*. But Jesus had **no sin**. So why do it?

Jesus wasn't being baptized because *He* needed cleansing.
He was being baptized because *we* do.

He steps into the water to identify with sinners. Jesus is saying:
"I came to stand where they stand. I came to take their place."

When Jesus says, "*Let it be so... to fulfill all righteousness,*" He's declaring His commitment to God's salvation plan, even when it's uncomfortable, misunderstood, or costly.

Before Jesus ever went to the cross, He chose the path of obedience.

He didn't come to make life easier... He came to save you.

Application:

Jesus obeyed even when people didn't understand Him. You are going to face moments where obedience feels awkward, difficult, or unpopular.

Obedience is not about comfort , it's about trust.

Challenge:

Ask this:

"Where is God asking me to obey Him today , even if no one else gets it?"

Then take ONE step of obedience today.

DAY 2 , Matthew 3:16–17

Daily Reading

Matthew 3:16–17

Devotional Thought

Heaven **literally splits open**, the Spirit descends, and the Father speaks:

“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Before Jesus preached His first sermon...Before He did a miracle...Before He gathered His disciples...

The Father affirmed Him.

Identity comes *before* activity.

Jesus wasn't loved because of what He *did*.

He was loved because of who He *was*.

And here's the good news:

Through Jesus, the Father speaks the same truth over you (Galatians 4:6–7). You're not fighting *for* God's approval, you are fighting *from* it.

Application:

You live in a world addicted to likes, followers, accomplishments, and performance. But God's love isn't based on your GPA, your popularity, or how “spiritual” you feel. You are loved because God calls you His child.

Challenge

Write this in your notes app:

“My identity is received, not achieved.”

Read it every time you feel insecure, anxious, or pressured.

DAY 3 , Matthew 4:1–4

Daily Reading: Matthew 4:1–4

Devotional Thought

Right after Jesus is affirmed, Satan attacks. Jesus is hungry, lonely, tired , and that's exactly when the enemy whispers:

“If you are the Son of God...”

He tries to make Jesus doubt what the Father said just one chapter earlier. But Jesus doesn't panic. He doesn't negotiate. He doesn't explain Himself.

He simply says:

“It is written...”

Jesus shows us the power of knowing Scripture deeply enough to use it in spiritual battles.

You can't fight spiritual lies with physical strength. You fight them with truth.

Application:

Satan uses lies like:

- “You aren't enough.”
- “God doesn't care.”
- “Your past defines you.”
- “You're too messed up for God to use.”

You beat lies with truth , the Word of God. Not vibes, not emotions.

Challenge Memorize this verse today:

Matthew 4:4 , “Man shall not live by bread alone...” Say it every time temptation hits.

DAY 4 , Matthew 4:5–7

Daily Reading: Matthew 4:5–7

Devotional Thought

Satan now quotes Scripture , but he twists it.
This shows something scary:

Satan knows the Bible... he just doesn't love it.

He tries to get Jesus to test God.

But Jesus responds again:

“It is written...”

Jesus refuses to treat God like a vending machine.
He reminds us that faith is trust, not manipulation.

God doesn't need to prove Himself.

He already has, through Jesus.

Application:

Many people treat God like:

- “If You love me, You'll fix this.”
- “If You're real, show me a sign.”
- “If You're good, life shouldn't be this hard.”

Faith isn't bargaining with God.

Faith is trusting His Word even when life is confusing.

Challenge

Pray this honestly:

“God, I trust You even when I don't understand You.”

DAY 5 , Matthew 4:8–11

Daily Reading: Matthew 4:8–11

Devotional Thought

The devil offers Jesus “all the kingdoms of the world.” But Jesus already owns them. Satan tempts Jesus with a shortcut, a crown without a cross.

But Jesus came to fulfill the Father’s plan, not Satan’s suggestions.

Jesus says,

“Be gone, Satan!”

He refuses compromise.

Then angels come and minister to Him. This moment is a preview of the cross. Jesus resisted sin on our behalf. He won where Adam failed. He stayed obedient all the way to the end , so you could be saved.

Application for Teens

Satan still offers shortcuts:

- Popularity without purity
- Success without sacrifice
- Comfort without obedience
- Influence without integrity

But shortcuts always lead to destruction.

Challenge

Ask yourself today:

“What shortcut is Satan offering me right now?” Reject it.

Choose obedience instead.

