

December 7, 2025 Session 1
Matthew 3:13-4:11 Affirmation
Jesus came to fulfill the Father's plan to save us

Intro: The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of each book of the Bible. The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. In the New Testament, the book of Matthew is placed first. One of the themes of this book was to demonstrate how Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecy, bridging the 400 year gap between the Old and New Testaments. Jesus faithfully did the works of His Father, fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah. Only Jesus, the God-Man, of all Abraham's descendants, and of all people on earth, could live a sinless life. Matthew revealed how Jesus Christ fulfilled Old Testament prophecy (1:22-23; 2:15,17-18,23; 3:3,15; 4:14-16; 5:17; 8:17; 12:17-21; 13:14-15,35; 21:4-5; 26:54-56; 27:9-10). The Greek word translated fulfillment carries ideas of completion, perfection, bringing to pass a prediction, and meeting the requirements. Fulfillment portrays the unity of events and time in history, directed by God—according to His timetable. God's message is always relevant for the present and has implications for the future.

Jesus's Birth is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophet **Isaiah 7:14** *"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call His name Immanuel."* Immanuel means "God with us." Matthew used the Greek word for "virgin" (meaning sexually pure) so that his readers would understand that Mary had no sexual relations prior to Jesus's birth.

Obeying God (Matthew 3:13-17) p. 12

Matthew chapter three opens with the ministry of John the Baptist, who preached repentance and baptized people in preparation for the coming of the Messiah. To repent, God requires people to stop doing the wrong things, make a 180-degree turn away from sin and toward God, and start doing the right things. Repentance should result in a changed life. Jesus came to John the Baptist at the Jordan River to be baptized. The Jordan was the largest and most important river in the Roman province of Judea. Jordan, translated means descender. Its origin is at the foot of Mount Hermon and it empties into the Sea of Galilee. From there it descends from over 1,000 feet above sea level and empties into the Dead Sea at 1,300 feet below sea level. Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River to be

baptized by John the B. Jesus was without sin. Why did He want to be baptized?

Jesus was following God the Father's plan for His life. Jesus wanted to identify with John the Baptist's ministry and focus on repentance. Jesus had no need to repent because He was sinless. Jesus's baptism revealed His identification with human beings who need to repent of their sins to begin a relationship with God. Jesus liked to refer to Himself as the Son of Man.

Vs. 14 Since Jesus never sinned and had no need for repentance, it is understandable that John the Baptist, who was focused on repentance, did not want to baptize Jesus at first. John had previously said that he was unworthy even to remove Jesus's sandals. Matthew recorded Jesus's first spoken words in **vs. 15** "...*Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.*" In John the Baptist's baptism of Jesus and Jesus' submission to baptism at the hands of John, they both had a part to play in the unfolding of God's purpose. Jesus's baptism also fulfills all righteousness. Baptism is outward evidence of our following God's plan of salvation after we repent and place our faith in Jesus. It is only through Jesus's righteousness that we can enter a relationship with God.

Righteousness comes when we die in Adam and become alive in Christ. God permanently removes our sins and gives us the perfect righteousness of Christ. Jesus's baptism demonstrates His commitment to fulfilling the mission for which He came into the world. It was an act of obedience to the Father and gives us an example to follow. Baptism is a picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

Vs. 16 Matthew records the response to Jesus's baptism rather than to describe the baptism itself. Matthew uses the term "Spirit of God" instead of Holy Spirit. After Jesus was baptized, something like a dove descended upon Him, which was the Spirit of God. What came down upon Jesus had not been seen before and could only be described by what was known. The voice from heaven could only be the Father who was well pleased with His Son. Although the word Trinity is not in the Bible, a Latin lawyer named Tertullian (from Carthage in northern Africa) first used the term about AD 200 in reference to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The baptism of Jesus is one of the places in the Bible where the three Persons of the Trinity are mentioned. God the Son (Jesus Himself) is the one who initiated the action of baptism, the Holy Spirit (Spirit of God) descends upon Jesus, and God the Father speaks. This is the first recorded instance of God speaking since the prophet Malachi some 400 years

earlier. The Jews believed that God would only speak when the Messiah appeared.

Hearing God (Matthew 4:1-4) p. 14

Immediately following His baptism, Jesus followed the Spirit's leadership into the wilderness. After forty days of fasting, He experienced Satan's temptation. Knowing Jesus's hunger, Satan challenged Him to prove He was the Son of God by turning stones into bread. Jesus rejected the temptation by quoting Scripture that affirmed loyalty to God above physical satisfaction.

The location of the temptations was the wilderness, the deserted places on both sides of the Jordan River. Jews believed this was home to demons. To be tempted is not a sin. It depends on if we allow the temptation to lead us toward God or away from Him. Since Jesus had no evil desires (He did not have a sinful nature), He could not be tempted by them. Jesus was tempted by Satan. Satan tempts; God tests. **James 1:13-15** *"Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death."* Jesus understands what it is like to be tempted and sympathizes with our weaknesses. Hunger often leads to physical, mental, and spiritual weakness. When Jesus was vulnerable, the devil sought to sidetrack God's plan of redemption. Satan knew Jesus is God. Satan's words to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God," implied that Jesus should use His powers for His own benefit rather than trust in the Father's provision. Jesus rejected the devil's temptation by quoting Scripture that affirmed loyalty to God above physical satisfaction, and used Scripture as a weapon to defeat Satan. **Hebrews 4:12** *"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."* The Word of God and the will of God as revealed in His Word are the most important things in life. Jesus would not be lured from His allegiance to God.

Trusting God (Matthew 4:5-7) p. 15

The devil urged Jesus to jump off the pinnacle of the temple. By twisting Scripture, Satan was encouraging Jesus to prove He was the Son of God by forcing the Father to perform a miracle. **Psalms 91:11-12** *"For He shall*

give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot upon a stone.”

In the first temptation, Jesus refused to use His power to benefit Himself. In this temptation, Satan is wanting Jesus to test the Father.

Satan misused Scripture, taking verses out of context. The psalm speaks of a life lived in God’s will. When our lives are lived in the will of God, He can be counted on to protect and provide for us.

Worshiping God (Matthew 4:8-11) p. 17

This final temptation dealt with who Jesus would worship: God or Satan. This temptation was meant to deter Jesus from following His mission of the cross. This temptation may have been a vision. No mountain is tall enough to allow seeing all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. **John 14:30**

“I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world [Satan] is coming, and he has nothing in Me [Jesus].” What Satan offered Jesus, Jesus already had. He is God! Jesus’s answer to Satan was simple. No! Get lost! God alone is worthy of worship and service. Worship and service go together. What we worship, we also serve, whether it is God the Creator, materialism, or other gods of this world. Satan only has power by God’s permission. When Jesus told Satan to go away, he did not have a choice and had to leave. There would be other times in Jesus’s ministry when Satan would try to get Jesus off mission but was always defeated. After Satan left, angels came and began to serve Jesus. Angels are spiritual beings who serve as God’s servants, warriors, and messengers. As Christians we face the temptation of who or what to worship each day. How we deal with this temptation reveals who is on the throne of our lives.