

I MUST DO WHAT?
Next Steps Devotional Guide — Matthew 3:13-4:11
Sermon Series: God In Unexpected Places
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1. Read Matthew 18:3 from your sermon notes. Why do you think Jesus tells us to come to Him as if we were a little child?
2. Read John 15:4 from your sermon notes as well as the explanation for the Greek New Testament word translated as “remain” or “abide.” How does this describe you and your walk with Christ?
3. Take your Bible and read Matthew 3:13-17 from your sermon notes. Here is what is so unexpected at the Jordan River: Why is Jesus needing to be baptized? John is shocked and surprised because he had announced the truth about Jesus in Matthew 3:1-12. Take your Bible and read this. So, why do you think John is so shocked that Jesus asked him to baptize Him since Jesus had nothing sinful to repent from in His life?
4. The first 7 chapters of Matthew mirrors the steps the Hebrews/Jews took in the Old Testament but failed to honor God with those steps. Jesus did. Read Matthew 3:15 from your sermon notes — specifically the phrase “fulfill all righteousness.” What does that mean to you and how do you think Jesus did this?
5. The Gospel of Jesus is totally different from other religions.
 - a. Do you ever feel as if accomplishments or achievements for God is what pleases God? Why or why not?
 - b. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 from your sermon notes under point #2 under the heading, “*The Gospel of Jesus Is Different From Other Religions.*” Our wicked sin took an innocent “Lamb” and slaughter Him on the cross. It should have been us. What visible evidence in your life shows you understand what Jesus did for you on the cross when He substituted Himself in your place?
 - c. Read Isaiah 52:14 from your sermon notes under point #2 under the heading, “*The Gospel of Jesus Is Different From Other Religions.*” Christ was so horrible beaten that He was not even recognizable as being human. Had you looked upon Him, you would have thought, “That is disgusting” and it is Your sin is disgusting to God, but He did it all to fulfill Matthew 3:15. How often do you view your sins as being disgusting to God? What impact does this or should it have on your life?
5. Read 1 Timothy 2:5-6a and 1 Peter 2:24 from your sermon notes under point #3 under the heading, “*The Gospel of Jesus Is Different From Other Religions.*” Jesus was our substitute. He took what should have been our place on the cross. Yet, many times our pride gets in the way. We want to feel or act as if we helped or we are “good” or “better” than the next person. How does pride interfere with our acceptance and gratitude to Jesus for being our Substitution on the cross?
6. Read Ephesians 2:8 from your sermon notes under point #4 under the heading, “*The Gospel of Jesus Is Different From Other Religions.*” Most people do not like to be dependent on someone else or to feel they are in debt to someone or
 - a. Many if not most people do not like to be dependent on someone else or to feel they are in debt to someone or to feel they are obligated to someone. We like our independence. When have you felt dependent or in debt or obligated to someone? Why did you feel resistance to that?
 - b. Yet Scripture is clear — we cannot depend on ourselves or anyone or any accomplishments or our now goodness as a means to get into heaven. Salvation is a love gift to us from God’s grace. You owed a debt to Christ you could never pay back. So, Christ, in His love, paid a debt — yours — that He did not owe. What is the hardest part for you in accepting this truth? Why?
 - c. Read Matthew 4:1 from your sermon notes under point #4 under the heading, “*The Main Way the Devil Tempted Jesus Is The Main Way He Tempts Us Today.*” Jesus went from a big high (His baptism) to a deep low (being tempted by the devil in the wilderness). It is common for spiritual highs to be followed by spiritual lows. When God is doing something great, especially in your life, the devil hates it. When have you seen yourself go from a mountaintop high to a deep, low valley spiritually or emotionally or relationally? Why do you think this happened and how did you respond?
 - d. Read Matthew 4:2 from your sermon notes under point #4 under the heading, “*The Main Way the Devil Tempted Jesus Is The Main Way He Tempts Us Today.*” Jesus had to be extremely hungry after fasting for 40 days. Fasting is more than just going without food or cutting out bad food or learning to eat the right kind of food or giving up something else for a period of time. It is a discipline we do to create a hunger for God and the things of God. If you have ever fasted, did you use it for this reason? Explain. What did you learn?
7. Read Matthew 4:3-4 from your sermon notes under point #1 under the heading, “*The way the devil tempted Jesus is the main way he tempts us.*”
 - a. New Testament scholars say that the stones the devil showed Jesus were not just random stones. The stones were the same shape and size of the bread Jews made in Jesus’ day, maybe even the way His own mother made bread. Now read John 6:35 and John 6:48 for your Bible. What is the connection here in how the devil is trying to tempt Jesus in John 6:35, 48 and in the devil’s statement in Matthew 4:3, “*If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become bread?*”
 - b. Now read Galatians 3:24-26 and Ephesians 1:5 under point #1 under the heading, “*The way the devil tempted Jesus is the main way he tempts us.*” Knowing and accepting your identity in Christ from your

- heavenly Father is crucial in overcoming temptation. What hunger does the devil tempt you to turn into “bread” and how does this impact your identity from God?
8. Read Matthew 4:5-7 from your sermon notes under point #2 under the heading, *“The way the devil tempted Jesus is the main way he tempts us.”*
 - a. People are attracted and enamored by the sensational. In the second temptation, the devil quotes Scripture to tempt Jesus to do the sensational. Read John 4:48 from your Bible. People wanting Jesus to do the sensational was a constant irritation to Him. Why?
 - b. A Gospel and a faith founded on sensationalism is doomed to fail because it requires even greater sensational acts to sustain it. There is no good in putting yourself deliberately into a threatening situation, and doing it quite recklessly and needlessly, and then expecting God to rescue you from it. God expects a us to take risks in order to be true to Him, but He does not expect us to take risks to enhance own own prestige. The very faith which is dependent on signs and wonder is not faith. If faith cannot believe without sensationalism, it is not really faith — it is doubt looking for proof and looking in the wrong place. Have you ever been guilty of doing this? If so, why? If not, have you seen others want this? Why do you think is the real reason people want God to do something sensational?
 - c. Read Matthew 6:1-4 from your sermon notes under point #2 under the heading, *“The way the devil tempted Jesus is the main way he tempts us.”* Not only are people attracted to the sensational, they want recognition for doing the right and godly thing. Why? Have you ever did something for God or the church to get some recognition or praise or honor or reward? Why? What did you learn?
 9. Read Matthew 4:8-10 from your sermon notes under point #3 under the heading, *“The way the devil tempted Jesus is the main way he tempts us.”* Now read Deuteronomy 34:1-4 from your Bible. What is similar in these two passages and what is different?
 - a. The devil offers Jesus the rule of the world. Jesus was destined to do this. Read Psalm 24:1-3 from your sermon notes under point #4 under the heading, *“The way the devil tempted Jesus is the main way he tempts us.”* Why does the devil offer Jesus something which isn’t his to offer?
 - b. The Bible refers to the devil as “the prince of this world” (Eph. 2:2); the ruler of this world (John 14:30) and even the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4). But it is all temporary because he doesn’t own it. Satan wants Jesus to rule without having to go to the cross. In this third temptation, the devil attempts to get Jesus to do away with what was essential and of the greatest importance — going to the Cross. Why?
 - c. Read Luke 9:23 from your sermon notes under point #3 under the heading, *The way the devil tempted Jesus is the main way he tempts us.”* Three things you are to do: Deny yourself? Take up your cross daily? Follow Jesus? How do you personally do each of these? If you don’t, why not and what does it say about your relationship to Christ?
 - d. Many people think that sexual temptations or some other temptation is the devil’s main battle-front against us, but it is not. Satan’s main front in our lives is attacking our identity in the Gospel. Satan tries to get us to enhance our prestige and see ourselves apart from what God declares over us based on Christ’s work on the cross. He wants us to evaluate how successful we are, how morally good we are, how we compare to everyone else, and then to determine our identity and self-worth based on that. He whispers in our ear, “How many people like you, approve of you and accept you? How does your success compare to other people’s success?”
 - e. To refute these 3 temptations, Jesus went back to the words God the Father over Him. *“This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased”* (Matt. 3:17, ESV). How do these words make any difference for you in your own life?
 10. For example, if you are depressed, it is because you either you question God’s approval of you or you do not give much consideration to it. Read the explanation of the Hebrew word translated as “glory” under point #3 under the heading, *The way the devil tempted Jesus is the main way he tempts us.”* How could you do this?
 11. Read the explanation for the Greek New Testament word translated as “baptism.” How is baptism connected to your identity? If you have never been immersed, just do it.
 - a. Are you going to really say that you believe Jesus took your place, underwent a brutal death in your place and you won’t even be baptized by immersion like Him to show your identity with Him? He was baptized by immersion to identify with you, and died in your place, and you won’t take this step to identify with Him? Also, what does it say to Jesus when you won’t obey the simplest of His commands? How can you possibly persuade others that Jesus is Lord of all of your life when you won’t even follow Him here?
 - b. If you have never been immersed, what excuse are you using not to do it and why?
 - i. “I don’t think I’m ready to be baptized: I know I’ve accepted Jesus, but I’ve got a lot of growing to do.”
 - ii. “I was baptized as a baby.”
 - iii. “Well, I’m not sure I want to become a Baptist.”
 - iv. “If I got baptized, it would surprise my family.”
 - v. “But I still have questions.”
 - vi. “Well, we just celebrated Earth Day. I don’t want to waste water.”
 12. Look at the title — I Must Do What? As you look back over your whole sermon outline, what is the “what” you hear God telling you — you must do?