

# UNEXPECTED // Message

## #4 // Unexpected Behavior // Matthew 3:13–4:9

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Today is going to end in an incredible moment here at the Summit... At the end of today's message, I'm going to offer a chance for many of you to be baptized... that's why I'm here in my swimming trunks... Some of you saw me and thought this was the start of a commercial where Roy Williams and coach K would come sliding out... no...

Maybe you're like, "It's not appropriate for a pastor to dress like that." I'm just doing it to make a point... I know that for many of you the idea of getting wet in front of others seems humiliating, so my idea is if I can humiliate myself in front of you it will make it easier for you... It's all for you, baby... And if *this* attire offends you I've got two words for you, "Speed-O." Just be thankful I didn't show up in one of those... (Standing O) (Immediately some of you say, "I can't get baptized today... I don't have any clothes." We have those for you...) And any other objection you come up with I'm going to knock out, so... I'm going to set up all the objections you're going to give and knock them down one by one... like that whack a mole game at the fair. But first, I want to help you understand baptism from Jesus' life.

We are in a series called Unexpected where we look at some of the most unexpected things that Jesus said or did in His encounters with people. He often said things people were completely not expecting and which shattered the mold they had for Him. My kids say some unexpected things... When Kharis was 4 we were in the backyard laying on the slip and slide and Kharis comes up, out of the blue, and says, "I need more sunscreen for my luscious bod." One of the things that's been fun has been watching my kids learn about God... I was tucking her into bed and could see she was a little scared, Sweetheart, there's no reason to be scared." She fills in. "Because

God is always watching us." "Where is He right now?" (Now, keep in mind whenever I'd talk about God it's usually at bedtime and I'd poir up..." So she says, "He's in the vent..." But what I love about my kids is that they can accept things they don't have categories for. Kharis was like, "Well, nobody else lives in the vent, but God does..." That's partially what Jesus meant when He said "You've got to come to me like a little child" ... sometimes you've got to put down your categories for God and just learn from God. I'm not saying to check your brains and the door and accept outrageous stuff, I'm just saying that sometimes Jesus is going to shatter your categories, and you've got to determine whether or not you're going to reject Him and hold onto your categories or hold on to Him and let Him bust up some of your categories. It's kind of like when you walk out into the light... eyes hurt. But after a while your eyes adjust! You can do that with Jesus... hide your eyes and reject the light, or you can stay in His presence and change. Jesus said, "Abide in Me. And then you'll know the truth know God." Stepford WIVES?

Today we're going to look at some of Jesus' Unexpected Behavior. In Matthew 3, Jesus does something that surprises everyone...

**3:13** Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. **14** John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" **15** But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he consented. **16** And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; **17** and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (somehow people never got that they weren't supposed to correct Jesus... people were forever telling Him: "You can't do that." Fulfill all righteousness: Key phrase.

**Here's the unexpected thing... WHY is Jesus being baptized? John's baptism was specifically called a baptism of repentance...when you got baptized you were saying that you were repenting of your old**

**fe and wanting to begin a new one... What did Jesus have to repent f...?** (Yesterday my oldest daughter, Kharis, said... if Ryah is a good nough girl, she'll get to go to heaven." K... has there ever been nyone good enough to get to heaven? Jesus... she looked at me like he knew she's said something wrong and said... "You meant anyone n earth..."

esus is perfect. Why is He being baptized? Great question... so glad ou asked. *Something has been happening in the book of Matthew hat is very important...* in the first chapters of Matthew it appears hat Jesus has been retracing the steps of Israel.

- Matthew 1–2... Mary, Joseph and Jesus had fled to Israel to escape a genocide. After 2 years, it is safe to come back. So God appears to Joseph in a dream and tells Him to come back. What is significant about that is He's coming out of Egypt, *just like Israel* had come up of Egypt...
- In Matthew 4, the next chapter... He's going to go into the wilderness for 40 days to wander... *just like Israel* wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. While there, Jesus will undergo, basically the same 3 tests that Israel went through. But, unlike Israel, He will pass them. (Interesting: every time Jesus quotes a verse from that time of wandering).
- In Matthew 5... Jesus will go up to the mountain to give the law, just like Israel received God's law from the mountain... *but, unlike Israel, He'll keep it perfectly.*

he whole point is... Jesus is taking their place. He is walking the steps ey had walked, but living the way they were supposed to live. So ow, Matthew 3... Jesus is being baptized in their place, repenting, ot for his own sin, but for theirs—for ours. He is going to save us by ubstituting for us. He will live the life we were supposed to have ved, and then die the death we were condemned to die (in our lace). In so doing He will (v. 14) "**fulfill all righteousness**"—not for himself, because He was already righteous, but for us, because we ere unrighteous.

And when Jesus comes up out of the water, He hears these words: "**You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**" Now, because we had traded places... because He was baptized for sins he had not committed, a baptism He did not need or deserve, I can hear from God, in His place, "J.D., you are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased," a description I do not deserve.

The key word in Jesus' Gospel is "substitution." ***It's what separates Jesus' Gospel from every other religion.*** Every other religion teaches you what you must DO to please God. Go here. Say this. Rub this. Touch that. Don't' do that. Pray this, chant that. The Gospel, on the other hand, is about what Jesus has DONE for you. In every other religion, the prophet is a teacher that teaches you what you must do to earn God's favor, in Christianity, Jesus is a Savior who does for you what you cannot do for yourself and gives it to you as a gift!

- **2 Cor 5:21** says that "**God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for me so that we could become the righteousness of God in Him.**" That's what was going on at the cross. My sin was shameful, He was mocked in my place. My sin was wicked... He was beaten... lacerated with a whip until His intestines hung down to the ground. 9 inch nails put in His hands and feet... a crown of thorns thrust upon His head so that His face was horribly disfigured... in fact, the Bible says His face was sc beaten in that He didn't even look like a man. You're like, that's disgusting. That's the point! Your sin is disgusting, and Jesus became your sin. And because He did that, you could become His righteousness... His perfect record could be given to you, His position as Son, His future, His power.
- **In the 2007 shooting tragedy at VT, there was a story that came out later that was pretty incredible.** One of the favorite professors was a 77 year old Jewish Romanian refugee named Liviu Librescu... he was a survivor of the Holocaust/had then lived through the brutal Communist takeover of Romania and eventually escaped to America/that morning, when the gunman came in and started shooting into classrooms and thi frail, 77 year old man stood at the door of his classroom and

blocked it with his body, shouting at his students, telling them to escape through a window. 20 did and this old man was shot to death forming, literally, a shield for them. *I think about all that professor went through in his life...* all the experiences he had gone through which his students were able to learn from without going through themselves... he let them share in his experiences, and then he gave the ultimate sacrifice, letting his body shield the bullets so that his students could live. The professor died so that the students could live. This is what God has done for you. In His body He shielded us from the punishment we deserved so that we could live through Him.

substitution: This is hard for a lot of people to get because the whole principle of substitution attacks our pride. When someone pays for us at lunch, we usually say, "OK, I'll get you next time." Or, "I'll pay you back." Our pride demands it! We don't like the feeling that others have to take care of us; we like to show we can take care of ourselves. **Have you ever done something like offer to take someone out to eat with every intention to pay for them and then the check comes and you reach inside for your wallet and...oh, oh... even worse when it's on a date... big night, expensive dinner... you know how humiliating you feel? We don't like the feeling of helplessness. But the only way to receive the Gospel is admitting total helplessness. Christ did not give you a way to save yourself; He did the work to save you. All of it. You owe a debt you can never, ever pay... so Christ, in His love, paid a debt He did not owe.**

Now, watch this... <sup>1</sup> **Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.**

- "Then" should be circled, starred in your Bible... if you don't have a pen, pull out a tube of lipstick and smear it... if you don't have that then just prick your finger and dab it in blood... "Then the devil." Spiritual highs are usually, at least for me, followed by intense lows. Satan hates what God is doing in you and so attacks it with all his fury. Whenever God does

something great, or wants to do something great, you can count on it, "Then, the devil." New levels = new devils.

<sup>2</sup> **And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.** This is one of those verses I love... After fasting forty days and forty nights... (pause) *he was hungry.* I believe the HS wrote the Bible, but did that need to be there?

<sup>3</sup> **And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God..."**

- I want you to notice how Satan attacks Him... He's going to do it twice. Once here in vs. 3, and again in vs. 6. He says, "If you are the Son of God." **What is significant about that?** The Father had just said to Jesus, "You are my Beloved Son," and Satan is saying, "Well, yeah... I know God said that, but if it's really true, you should be able to <sup>3</sup> **...command these stones to become loaves of bread...**" you should <sup>6</sup> **"...throw yourself down..."** off the temple to see if God will catch you. See what Satan is doing? He's trying to get Jesus to doubt the identity His Father has declared of Him.

Now, vs. 8, watch what Satan does for the 3<sup>rd</sup> temptation... this is a little subtle, but stay with me, as this is key to understanding this whole deal): <sup>8</sup> **Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup> And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."**

- He is offering Jesus the rule of the world... Isn't that what Jesus was destined for? Yes, but Satan is offering it to Him without having to go through the cross. He's trying to do away with the centrality of the cross in Jesus' life.

**There's your two things Satan is doing:** He's trying to get Jesus to doubt his identity, and to downplay the centrality of the cross. Here is what you should learn from that: **Satan's central mode of attack** is those same two things: **to make us doubt the identity given to us by the Father,** and **to remove the centrality of the cross from our lives.** (You should be busy scribbling that down). In fact, let me say it like

his... such an important statement! **Our enemy tries to make you doubt the identity given to you by declaration of the Father through the work of the Son.**

- When we talk about spiritual warfare... people talk about all kinds of strange phenomena... you levitate, hover 6 feet above the bed, froth at the mouth, chant REDRUM. Does Satan do stuff like that? I suppose, but that's not his "main battle-front."
- Or a lot of times people will see Satan in other temptations, like sex... In college some girl would walk by and it would look like her clothes had been shrunk-wrapped on her and one of my friends would be like, "The devil, 3:00, and she's hot." Does Satan tempt like that? Sure. I've had times where certain physical temptations were so acute and seemed so targeted at some area of my weakness that I knew there had to be something behind it. But, again, sexual temptation is not his main battle-front. Satan doesn't have Jesus out in the wilderness showing him pictures of naked women...
- **Satan's main front in our lives is attacking our identity in the Gospel.** Satan tries to get us to see ourselves apart from what God declares over us through Christ's work on the cross... He wants us evaluate how successful we are, how morally good we are, how we compare to everyone else, and then to determine our self-worth based on that. He's always whispering in your ear saying, "How many people like you, and approve of you? That's how much you're worth." "How does your success compare to other people your age? How successful are you? Your success determines how valuable you are." "How are you doing, morally, compared to everyone else? That determines whether or not God approves of you." When you do that, He has you. Forget sex and levitation, that's all little stuff...

low, just as important... *what does Jesus do when attacked?* He goes back to the statement declared over Him in the baptism, and, with the power of the Spirit... says "No! God's word says He is well

pleased with Me."

"I don't need these stones to become bread to prove I am the Son of God. I don't need God to catch me falling off a tower to prove He is well pleased with Me. God has declared it and I believe Him!"

**So, what are you supposed to do when you face the onslaught of depression, worry, and guilt?** You are to go back to the words declared over you at your baptism, your union with Jesus.

You see, I know what is happening to many of you... you look at your life and you've got some failure... maybe it's a moral failure of some kind. And that failure is slowly seeping into your soul. There's a voice whispering in your soul, "You are a failure. You are no good." NO! There has been a declaration spoken over you that declares a greater reality than your sin... It says "Christ has taken your place and given you His righteousness. You are a new creation in Him. He has washed away your guilt. He has a purpose for you in His Kingdom. He has filled you with power and a hope and a future. You are My Beloved son. I am well pleased in you."

- **Right now Satan is whispering to some of you...** morally, you are a failure! You're no good.
  - I love how the old hymn says it... *Long may the accuser roar, of sins that I have done; I know them all and THOUSANDS more, Jehovah knoweth none!*
  - Here's something most people don't realize: Both Satan and God will speak to you about your guilt, but they do it in two totally different ways. Satan takes what you did, and tears down who you are; Jesus starts with what He's made you, and calls you upward, away from your guilt. Satan pushes you down in despair, Jesus calls you upward in hope. If you are here this morning, feeling the weight of condemnation, set yourself free hearing the voice of the Father speaking of you in Christ.

- **Right now some of you are dealing with depression...** other people are not pleased with you... coworkers, friends, your spouse... they are starting to tell you... “you’re no good.” Maybe they’re not saying it, you’re just getting the vibe—in little ways that say, ‘you’re not good enough. You’re a disappointment.’ Maybe it is your parents. And you are starting to believe it. No! You need to hear, **“You are my Son, in whom I am well pleased! In that statement,”** you have the absolute approval of the only one who really matters.
  - If you are depressed, it is for one of two reasons... you either doubt God’s approval, or don’t give it enough weight. God’s opinion of you doesn’t matter as much to you as the opinions of other people. You depend more on their approval than you do God’s. The word for glory is “kabod” which literally means “weight.”
  - I am often startled at how recurring this theme is in movies and stuff...
    - Chariots of Fire: 100 yards to prove the worth of my existence;
    - Rocky 1...
    - Norm: I’ve got one shot to prove that my whole life has not been a waste!
  - Hear the voice of God! And live out of victory!
- **Some of you are worried about the future...** You look at your circumstances and say, “Am I all alone? Am I going to be taken care of? Does God love me and remember me?” In your baptism, God has declared over you, “You are My Son. I will not leave you to wander.”

**Ultimately, this is how you are going to deal with all your sin...** start with who you are in Christ... and you’ll find that bodily cravings don’t exercise as much control over you... irrational fears will dissipate... silly jealousies will lose their control over your heart. Believing the gospel, on a day by day basis, is how you live a victorious Christian life.

**This is given in symbol at your baptism that you fall back on. Jesus was baptized for you, so you are going to be baptized showing you identify with Him.** Is baptism necessary to save you? No... salvation happens when you accept what God has done for you in Christ.

**Some of you say, Well, if I’ve done that, what is the importance of the symbol?** The symbol is supposed to serve as a marker in your life... I often think back... when you get baptized you get put in the water... about what it was like when I came through the water... It’s like a seal that puts a marker down in my life. On the other side of that baptism is my old life, my shame, my guilt, my fear and worry... dead, gone and buried!

*“I believe all that, but just haven’t gone through the symbol.”*

- Yes, but at the end of the day... it is a command. You’re going to tell me that you believe that Jesus took your place and underwent a brutal death in your place and you won’t even be baptized to show your identity with Him? He was baptized to identify with you, and died in your place, and you won’t take this step *to identify with Him?*
- Furthermore, 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?
- And do you ever think about this... Maybe it’s not for you, maybe it’s for others to see.

*“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.”*

- As I’ve tried to explain, your baptism is to mark your identity in Christ. It is something that is supposed to be a catalyst for you to grow, to overcome temptation. When your enemy comes at you, like He did Jesus, you are to fall back on this. **Baptism is something we are to fall back on, not strive forward to.** It’s been awesome to see all the people baptized

last fall who are now active in ministry and growing. A lot more of you are going to make it official today...

*But I have no clothes..."*

- We've got them for you! Now, unfortunately, you won't get this attractive pastoral fashion-line swimmingwear, but we have black shirts and shorts for everyone.

*I was baptized as a baby"*

- I understand, I do... and I'm not trying to rip on your tradition... For many of you, you were baptized as a kid, and that was a special moment, it was part of your tradition... I'm not trying to say, "You did something wrong. Shame on you. Or, hey, your baptism didn't take." No, it was a beautiful and meaningful ceremony! **But baptism is supposed to be evidence of your decision.**
  - 96 times the NT talks about baptism... Let me read to you every one of those times where it talks about a baby being baptized... OK, all the rest it is after the decision...
  - I've been to some infant baptisms... question I always have is, "Is that baby really aware he or she is a sinner and putting faith in Christ? Is this a public declaration of their love for Jesus? What are the other babies thinking about their friend's commitment? What does this public identification mean to Jesus... what kind of statement is it to him?" Obviously, no. This ceremony is more about their parents' faith.
- So, if you were baptized as a baby, should you get baptized again? I would say yes, as an indication of your own faith. Thank God for your parents' faith, but it's time to celebrate your own!
  - And, listen, it's not like you're rejecting your old baptism or your parents' traditions. **Their hope for you in baptizing you was that one day you would grow up to choose to put faith in Christ.** So, look getting baptized again of your own choosing as a fulfillment of what your parents intended for you. they were hoping... now you do! Look at this as fulfillment as ratification.
- Listen... I've baptized lots of people again who were baptized as babies. I've never had someone come up out of the water, "Well, that was a total waste." That was overrated. I have baptized lots of

people, on the other hand, who said, "I'm really glad I made that affirmation."

**You're like... well, I believe in Christ, and I'm ready to declare that publicly but I'm not really sure I want to become a Baptist. I'm ready to follow Jesus, I don't want to become a Baptist and start taking on all the stereotypes that go with that.** Call everyone brother, boycott Disney, can't celebrate Halloween... not reading Harry Potter books.

- **Baptism is primarily identification with Christ; not a denomination**  
I know that some of you aren't ready to become part of a particular denomination. Not what we're asking, just asking you to identify with Christ.

*"But my family... it would surprise them"*

- Think of Jesus: His was unexpected. "Jesus, He never does anything wrong."
- Matt Allison. Some things are just that important.
- You should have courage. Lots of people did this in the fall...

*"But I still have questions"... we have counselors who will talk with you for a few minutes before you do anything..*

*"But it's earth week and I don't want to waste water..."*

- Now you're just making stuff up... but, if you must know, we haven't even emptied the waters out since last fall and we're going to use the same water.

Let me summarize, make sure you've got this:

- Have you, at some point in your life, trusted Christ as Lord and Savior?
- Have you been baptized since becoming a follower of Jesus? If not, today is your day...

You've been hovering right at that line for a while, it's your time to take the step. We're going to do a song... Right now at all of our campuses, you'll have a chance to respond... We're going to sing, and you you're going to get up and respond.

s our worship teams get in place...

**ow your heads for prayer:**

- The important decision behind baptism is receiving Christ. Have you done that? The Gospel is an announcement that Jesus is Lord and that Christ has paid all your sins. Response: Repent and believe. It's in your mouth and in your heart. Like a wedding vow. Say "I do" to Jesus Christ. I do surrender to you as my Lord. I do believe that you have done it all as my Savior.
- Never been baptized? Raise your hand.

**PRAYER OF COMMITMENT: CUT VIDEO HERE**

*ive at each campus:* OK, today's your day. We'll sing a song, you slip out and come down and follow Pastor Danny. Everyone stand. Your family will wait. They will be thrilled! Go and follow the person down front!

As they are coming...) have worship leader say, "This is why we do what we do! This is why we love being a part of this church... I love thinking about my money going toward this!"

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command these stones to become loaves of bread.”<sup>4</sup> But he answered, “It is written, “ ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

- <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “ ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’ ”<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

o, let me put these three things together and show you something really important... Satan says, “Jesus, doubt the identity given to you by declaration of the Father. Instead, interpret your identity based on your circumstances. Prove you are the Son of God based on the fact that the stones become bread. Base it on the fact that when you fall off a building, God catches you.” Second, “Jesus, do away with the cross as part of your program.”

**Obscures the principle of substitution...** To Jesus He says, “Don’t be their substitute.” Don’t let Jesus be your substitute.

- He challenges us to retreat into religion
- He tries to get us to switch from the identity given to us in penal substitution and base it on our own performance of good works or our success.
- What does Jesus go back to? His baptism...

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple<sup>6</sup> and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, “ ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and “ ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’ ”

- How we deal with fear and worry... Two things bad circumstances do for us... affect our identity (God loves me, I

am worth something) or our hope for the future (things will be bad!)

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup> And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”<sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “ ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’ ”<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Our baptism seals that... Jesus took our place. it is the place where we are reminded that we are, indeed, a new creation.

- When guilt calls out to us: **Long may the accuser roar of sins that I have done\I know them all and thousands more\Jehovah knoweth none**
- When our need for the approval of others...

I am aware that many of you are being faced with a choice. So what are you going to do? Walk away because God doesn’t fit your pre-conceived expectations, or stay and let the living God really change your life?

- It’s like that old show “Trading Spaces.” God takes your room, filthy, condemned and barren and gives you His room of abundance, beauty, and righteousness.