

## **10/3** Matthew 3:13-17

"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,[a] 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,[b] with whom I am well pleased."

"King Jesus, Beloved Son Jesus, we thank you for humbling yourself to come and move into our neighborhood, walking the same streets we walked under the same sun. You are not a distant, unfeeling God, but a close, intimate Savior. Thank you, for you. Amen." (Identity Series Reflective Prayer)

- Matthew 17:1-8. "And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. **2** And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. **3** And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. **4** And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." **5** He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son,[a] with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." **6** When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. **7** But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." **8** And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only."
  - "Father, twice in the book of Matthew you declared the identity of your Son from the heavens. May we still listen to Him, your beloved Son. Amen." (Identity Series Reflective Prayer)
- Mark 1:11 **11** And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son;[a] with you I am well pleased." "Lord, Mark records your statement from heaven as being directed to Jesus Himself. In your presence, we witness the intimate conversation between Father and Son. How beautiful your words, how unworthy our presence before them. Thank you, Father. Amen." (Identity Series Reflective Prayer)
- Luke 3:22 **22** and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son;[a] with you I am well pleased."[b]
  "Lord, we cannot imagine what this scene looked like or what your voice sounded like. In some special way, your Spirit descended from the heavens and your voice spoke as your Son was pulled from the water in baptism. Father, Son, Spirit, present and accounted for... Amen."
  (Identity Series Reflective Prayer)
- 2 Peter 1:17 **17** For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son,[a] with whom I am well pleased," "Father, Peter shares this as one who was a first-hand witness to your declaration from Heaven. At times we can feel like what we witness is far less significant, yet this is how you've chosen to work- through your modern disciples sharing how your Spirit continues to work in this world, overcoming sin and death. Give us boldness to share like our spiritual brother, Peter. Amen." (Identity Series Reflective Prayer)

- Genesis 22:2. **2** He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." "Lord, Isaac was Moses' beloved son and yet he obediently took him up willing to sacrifice him foreshadowing your willingness to give your own Son, your own Beloved Son, for the sake of the world. How deep your love for us that you would give Him for us, that you would give Him to us. Amen." (Identity Series Reflective Prayer)
- 9 Hosea 11:1 When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

"Father, Israel was your beloved, and yet disobedient, child and yet you sent your Son to die for her. More than for her, for all of those who would be grafted into Israel through the cross. May we never take lightly the cost of our adoption as your children. Amen."
(Identity Series Reflective Prayer)

John 1:29-34 29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' 31 I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." 32 And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son[a] of God."

"Lord, in the book of John, your baptism is recorded so differently. It's like it's third hand revelation from John the Baptist, to John the Apostle, to us (through a myriad of scribes and interpreters). Yet, your Word is true. John is a witness to what John the Baptist had seen and heard and we are witnesses to the truth of John's Gospel. May we be faithful witnesses like our brothers John. Amen." (Identity Series Reflective Prayer)

Genesis 1:26 26 Then God said, "Let us make man[a] in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

"Father, we are created in your image for a purpose. Help us not get sidetracked with the things of this world but focus on cultivating, maturing and even ruling over your good world, seeking to bring it in line with your desires. Amen."

(Identity Series Reflective Prayer)

**12** Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image,

in the image of God he created him;

male and female he created them.

"Lord, it appears there is something you want us to really grab hold of in these poetic verses- we are created in your image and we are created by you. May we constantly hold onto the reality of our original identity as created in your image. Remind us of this reality when we engage with others. Thank you, Father. Amen." (Identity Series Reflective Prayer)

Genesis 1:28 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

"Lord, you created us to bear fruit, to fill the earth and subdue it. To bring about peace, flourishing in your good world. Remind us of our calling and help enable us to be able to leave into this high calling. Amen." (Identity Series Reflective Prayer)

Genesis 1:29-30 29 And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.

"Lord, we exist blessed by you. So often we don't look at all you've given us, we focus our eyes on what we don't have instead of what we do. Reorient our eyes toward you and the blessings we receive. May we allow them to be appreciated by us and flow through us to others who are in need. Amen." (Identity Series Reflective Prayer)

- Genesis 2:7 7 then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

  "Lord, in you we live and breath and have our being. We live by your breath. Remind us that we do not exist without you, without your Spirit within us. Amen."

  (Identity Series Reflective Prayer)
- Genesis 2:18-20 18 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for[a] him." 19 Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed[b] every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam[c] there was not found a helper fit for him.

  "Father, we were made to reflect you in your world, and to be connected to and supported by one another. Help us, Father, to prioritize these connections as we navigate this world. Amen."

  (Identity Series Reflective Prayer)
- Genesis 2:21-25 **21** So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. **22** And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made[a] into a woman and brought her to the man. **23** Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones

and flesh of my flesh;

she shall be called Woman,

because she was taken out of Man."[b]

**24** Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. **25** And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed."

"Lord, in the beginning we were able to stand, naked figuratively and literally, before one another and before you without shame. How we long to be able to do that again (at least the figuratively part). Help us to embrace our forgiven-ness and learn to see ourselves and one another through your eyes. Amen."

(Identity Series Reflective Prayer)

- John 1:12 "Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."
  - "Father, through your Son, we are able to become your adopted children. I can think of no greater blessing. Thank you Lord Jesus! Amen." (Identity Series Reflective Prayer)
- Romans 8:14. "For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God."

  "Lord, we are adopted through your sacrifice and yet we demonstrate our sonship through our obedience to the Spirit. Enable us to be able to hear His voice and empower us to be able to follow His guidance. Amen."

  (Identity Series Reflective Prayer)
- Romans 8:16 "The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God."

  "Lord, so often I forget that you don't look at me like a sinful disappointment, but as a growing child. You love me like I love my own children, patiently, full of grace. I need not be ashamed in front of you. You are a proud Father rejoicing over progress rather than perfection. Thank you, Lord. Amen."

  (Identity Series Reflective Prayer)
- Galatians 3:26 "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus."

  "Lord, it is by faith that we are adopted into your family, a faith that is granted by your Spirit, through the sacrifice of your Son, and focused on you, the Father. Help us, Lord, to keep our eyes on you, always. Amen."

  (Identity Series Reflective Prayer)
- Galatians 4:6-7 "Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father! Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God." "Lord, your presence in our lives enables us to be walking Temples that are able to bring your truth to bear on the world around us. Help us, Father, to be faithful to where you would call us. Amen." (Identity Series Reflective Prayer)

23 2 Corinthians 6:18 "And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me," Says the Lord Almighty." "Father, Abba, I can think of no more beautiful name to be able to use in relationship to you. Thank you Father for our adoption through your Son. Amen." (Identity Series Reflective Prayer) Luke 6:35 "But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men." "Lord, as your children, you call us to live as you created us to live, selflessly in service to you. Remind us of our adoption in you and your selflessness with us that we might live that way with others. Amen." (Identity Series Reflective Prayer) 25 Revelation 21:7 "He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son." "Lord, I am moved by the "will" in these sentences. You will make us your sons if we would overcome in you. Yet you don't abandon us in the overcoming- your Spirit enables us to do the very work we need to do in order to live as your sons and daughters! Thank you, Father. Amen." (Identity Series Reflective Prayer) Romans 9:16 "And it shall be that in the place where it was said to the, 'You are not my people," There they shall be called sons of the living God." "Lord, for those of us who aren't Hebrew, the very fact that we are included in your chosen people should lead us to our knees in thankfulness every single day. Lord, thank you for your adoption. Amen." (Identity Series Reflective Prayer) 27 1 John 3:1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. "Jesus, in the affliction we face here, we can identify with you. Help it not to make us bitter or angry, but to soften our hearts as we recognize that there is still much work to be done. Amen." (Identity Series Reflective Prayer) 28 1 John 3:2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. "Lord, as your children we are called to reflect you. We do this so imperfectly, but we know that one day we will be perfected in your presence. Thank you Lord Jesus! Amen." (Identity Series Reflective Prayer) 1 John 3:10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother." "Father, through your Spirit, we are called to practice righteousness, to reflect your holiness. Help us to live as vou call us to live. Amen." (Identity Series Reflective Prayer) Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." "Lord, we are merely called to share that which we've seen and heard of you. Help us to be bold, empowered by your Spirit to share the good news of your Kingdom. In your holy name, amen."

(Identity Series Reflective Prayer)