

# Matthew 3:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

## Analysis

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John's austere lifestyle demonstrated prophetic separation from worldly comforts and identification with the wilderness prophets like Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). His camel's hair garment and locust diet symbolized repentance from luxury and conformity to the world. This prophetic symbolism called Israel to remember the wilderness wanderings and return to covenant faithfulness. John embodied his message of radical repentance.

## Historical Context

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Camel's hair clothing and a leather belt marked John as a prophet in Elijah's tradition. Locusts were permitted under Mosaic law (Leviticus 11:22) and wild honey provided sweetness. This diet was available in the wilderness without depending on settled agriculture.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does John's lifestyle demonstrate that the messenger must embody the message he proclaims?
2. What does John's separation from worldly comfort challenge about contemporary Christian materialism?

## Interlinear Text

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αὐτοῦ	δὲ	ὁ	Ἰωάννης	εἶχεν	τὸ	ἔνδυμα	αὐτοῦ	ἀπὸ
his	And	G3588	John	had	G3588	raiment	his	of
G846	G1161		G2491	G2192		G1742	G846	G575
τριχῶν	καμήλου	καὶ	ζώνην	δερματίνην	περὶ	τὴν	ὀσφὺν	
hair	camel's	and	girdle	a leathern	about	G3588	loins	
G2359	G2574	G2532	G2223	G1193	G4012		G3751	
αὐτοῦ	ἡ	δὲ	τροφὴ	αὐτοῦ	ἦν	ἀκρίδες	καὶ	μέλι
his	G3588	And	meat	his	was	locusts	and	honey
G846		G1161	G5160	G846	G2258	G200	G2532	G3192
ἄγριον								
wild								
G66								

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Kings 1:8** (Parallel theme): And they answered him, He was an hairy man, and girt with a girdle of leather about his loins. And he said, It is Elijah the Tishbite.

**Leviticus 11:22** (Parallel theme): Even these of them ye may eat; the locust after his kind, and the bald locust after his kind, and the beetle after his kind, and the grasshopper after his kind.

**Mark 1:6** (References John): And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey;

**Zechariah 13:4** (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass in that day, that the prophets shall be ashamed every one of his vision, when he hath prophesied; neither shall they wear a rough garment to deceive:

**Matthew 11:8** (Parallel theme): But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

**Luke 1:17** (Parallel theme): And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

**Malachi 4:5** (Parallel theme): Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

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