

## Week 1: Dedication During Distraction

**Matthew 4:1-11**

*“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.” (Matthew 4:1 (NIV))*

### A. Jesus was tempted for three reasons:

1. To learn obedience

*“Son though He was, He learned obedience from what He suffered.” Hebrews 5:8 (NIV)*

2. To secure righteousness

*“Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.” Hebrews 2:18 (NIV)*

3. To relate to humanity

*“For we do not have a high priest Who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have One Who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet He did not sin.” Hebrews 4:15 (NIV)*

*“After fasting 40 days and forty nights, He was hungry. The tempter came to Him and said...” Matthew 4:2-3a (NIV)*

### B. Satan knows how and when to tempt.

1. In the physical: Doubt the Truth.

*“If You are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” Matthew 4:3b-c (NIV)*

2. In the intellectual: Test the Truth.

*“Then the devil took Him to the holy city and had Him stand on the highest point of the temple. ‘If You are the Son of God,’ he said, ‘throw yourself down. For it is written...’” Matthew 4:5-6a (NIV)*

*“If faith cannot believe without sensations it is not really faith, it is doubt looking for proof and looking in the wrong place.” William Barclay*

3. In the spiritual: Snatch the Truth.

*“Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ‘All this I will give You,’ he said, ‘if you will bow down and worship me.’” Matthew 4:8-9 (NIV)*

The Holy Spirit will lead you into the wilderness, but it is what we do in the wilderness that prepares us for Satan’s attacks while we are there.

*“Then the devil left Him, and angels came and attended Him.” Matthew 4:11 (NIV)*

### C. The ministering angels showed us:

1. Satan is a conquered enemy.

*“And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.” Colossians 2:15 (NIV)*

2. There is always an escape.

*“It is also written...” Matthew 4:7b (NIV)*

3. Victory causes the devil to flee.

*“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” James 4:7 (NIV)*

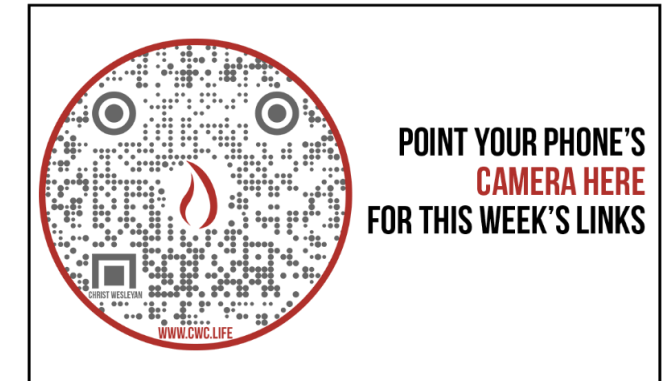
### D. Set on knowing and serving God more? A few facts:

1. More serving equals more tempting.
2. More serving equals more communion.
3. No one is exempt from temptation.
4. Prayer and fasting prepares us for success.
5. How do I pray and fast effectively?
  - a. Choose a daily habit to go without
  - b. Spend alone time with God everyday
  - c. Make sure you are being led by the Spirit (Pray)
  - d. Rely on and know Scripture

*To begin a relationship with Jesus...*

*Text: I Choose Jesus to 88202*

**Next Sunday: Week 2: The Power of 40: Dedication after Defeat.**



### Giving & Attendance Update

**Giving last Sunday: 88% of giving goal**

**Giving year to date: 89.6% of giving goal**

**Attendance last Sunday: 1,730**

