

## "Wage War Like Jesus" Matthew 4:1-11

We are at war, whether we realize it or not. The enemy we face is supernaturally powerful, skilled in the art of deception, and more aware of our weaknesses than we are. But we can stand successfully against Satan's attacks if we follow the example of Jesus.

### **Spiritual Warfare in the Gospels**

- 110 verses mention demons or Satan
- Direct confrontations:
  - *Matthew: 7*
  - *Mark: 9*
  - *Luke: 10*

### **Temptation of Christ**

- Matthew 4:1-2 – Setting
  - *Purposeful: "led by Spirit"*
  - *Vulnerable: 40 days of fasting & attack*
- Appeals to legitimate need (v3)

Deuteronomy 8:3

He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.

- Appeals to doubt (v5-6)
- Appeals to avoidance of pain (v8-9)

### **Wage War like Jesus**

- Know your enemy
  - *He does exist!*

Ephesians 6:12

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

- *His primary weapon: deceit*

John 8:44

“You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

- *He knows your weaknesses*
- Know your vulnerabilities
  - *Hungry, angry, lonely, tired, stressed, discouraged, on vacation*
  - *Be ready! Anticipate attack.*
- Rely on the Word

Ephesians 6:17

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

- *Read it*
- *Study it*
- **Memorize it**