



## Week 4: Passionate

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## **Sermon Notes: Week 4: Total Devotion — Passionate**

### **1. Attractive**

*“Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the **kingdoms** of the **world** and their splendor.” Matthew 4:8*

*“I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain.” I will proclaim the LORD’s decree: He said to me, “You are my son; today I have become your father. Ask me, and I will make the nations your **inheritance**, the ends of the earth your **possession**.” Psalm 2:6-8*

### **2. Expensive**

*“All this I will give you,’ he said, ‘if you will bow down and **worship** me.”  
Matthew 4:9*

*The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to **destroy** the devil’s work. 1 John 3:8*

### **3. Decisive**

*“Jesus said to him, ‘Away from me, Satan! For it is written: “**Worship** the Lord your God, and serve him only.”” Matthew 4:10*

*“When the LORD your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.*

*Fear the LORD your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name.”  
Deuteronomy 6:10-13*

## Two Perspectives on Worship

*“These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. Hear, Israel, and be careful to **obey** so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.” Deuteronomy 6:1-3*

*“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. **Love** the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” Deuteronomy 6:4-5*

## NEXT STEPS: A Fasting Challenge – Part 4

*Remember:* Fasting is a spiritual exercise in which we voluntarily **control** our physical desires in order to **strengthen** our Godly passions and commitments.

- Pick 1 day this week
- If medically able, try to go without food for 24 hours (check with your doctor)
- Drink plenty of water
- When the hunger pains come, worship and reflect on Psalm 103, and memorize the first five verses of that Psalm (below)
- Share the journey with someone

*“Praise the LORD, my soul;  
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.  
Praise the LORD, my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits—  
who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the pit  
and crowns you with love and compassion,  
who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.”  
Psalm 103:1-5*

## ***Connect Group Discussion Guide: Week 4 —Passionate***

### **OPENING**

- Define the word, “passion”. What are you passionate about?

### **GOING DEEPER**

- Read Matthew 4:8. Describe what this view might have looked like to Jesus.

*Leader’s Note: you may wish to compare the parallel account in Luke 4:5, where the phrase “in an instant” is used.*

- Read Matthew 4:9. Could the devil really have given Jesus the kingdoms of the world? Why or why not?

*Leader’s Note: You may wish to compare a few other passages that deal with the devil’s power in this world: Genesis 3:1-4; 14-15; Job 1:6-12; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Hebrews 2:15; 1 Peter 5:8; 1 John 3:8*

- Why might the devil’s offer have been attractive to Jesus?

*Leader’s Note: Pastor Dirk suggested that the devil was appealing to Jesus’ role as a Messiah. Do you agree or disagree. Here a few other scriptures to consider: Psalm 2; Isaiah 14:1-2; 54:1-3; 60-4-11; Daniel 7:14; Revelation 2:26; 11:15*

- Read Matthew 4:10. How did Jesus respond to the devil’s attack? Why do you think that He responded in this way?

*Leader’s Note: You may wish to review the original text to which Jesus is referring, in Deuteronomy 6:1-13*

- How can worship, rightly understood, help us to control our passions for dangerous, attractive things?

*Leader’s Note: In addition to the Deuteronomy passage cited above, you may wish to consult the following passages which help us to define worship: 1 Samuel 15:22; Psalm 40:6-8; Isaiah 11; Micah 6:6-8; John 4:19-24; Romans 12:1-2*

### **CHALLENGE**

- Were you able to participate in the Fasting Challenge, Part 4? If so, describe your experience to the group.
- How can we encourage one another to obey and love God on a more consistent basis?