

Gamecock Devotion

#5 THE GREATEST CHAMPION AVOIDED DISTRACTIONS



Question: What could be, already is, a typical distraction within the bond of our team or teams you have been on in the past?

We pick up the greatest champion today during his first showdown with His archrival the Devil. He is lead into the wilderness by the spirit (which He always followed) so that He might fulfill all of the temptations necessary for Him to defeat the enemy. The scripture says that Jesus was indeed tempted in every way so that He might be an all-sufficient savior for His teammates who we now call Christians. However, today I do not want to focus on the enemy at all because He should not get any credit in the whole interchange anyway, but rather on Jesus' phenomenal ability to not get distracted. You see, Jesus knew why He was here and He knew that sin was the reason He would later die and that in order to be a perfect sacrifice He could have no part in it. He knew the devil's scouting report and He had listened to His coach (God) so that the distractions that might come His way would not interest Him in even the slightest fashion.

In all actuality both in Jesus' case here in His temptation, and in our lives, eliminating distractions actually happens before the distraction is offered to you. Eliminating distractions truly begins with being dedicated to your purpose. After all when the "apple of sin" is offered to you, and you have not made up your mind as to what you will do with it, it is rare that sin can be avoided. The most mentally tough Champion ever to live was Christ because He made up His mind before battle that He would not give into distractions, but instead would stay the course. For all of us, and especially within a team, we must know where we are headed before any distraction comes so that when it does it will not be appetizing because of our focus on the ultimate goal. Spiritually speaking, it comes from loving and following God so intently that the world's cheap shortcuts do not even interest us.

Matthew 4: 1Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. 2After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." 4Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'^[a]" 5Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6"If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:" 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'^[b]" 7Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'^[c]" 8Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9"All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." 10Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'^[d]" 11Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.