

# Luke 4:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

## Analysis

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Jesus responds to Satan's offer of earthly kingdoms: 'Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.' This quotes Deuteronomy 6:13, the first commandment's essence—exclusive worship and service belong to God alone. Satan offered kingdoms without the cross, tempting Jesus to gain His rightful rule through compromise rather than suffering. Jesus' rebuke shows absolute commitment to God's way, refusing shortcuts that bypass the Father's will. 'Him only shalt thou serve' (Greek 'monō latreuō,' μόνῳ λατρεύω) demands undivided allegiance.

## Historical Context

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The temptation offered Jesus what He already possessed—dominion over all kingdoms (Psalm 2:8, Daniel 7:13-14). Satan presented a false shortcut: gain the kingdoms immediately through worship (compromise) rather than through the cross (suffering). This echoed Peter's later temptation in Matthew 16:22-23 when he rejected Jesus' prediction of suffering. Jesus' absolute refusal demonstrated commitment to God's redemptive plan, even when it meant agony. His quotation from Deuteronomy 6:13 applied the Shema's central truth—God alone deserves worship and service, no compromise permitted.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does Satan's offer of kingdoms without the cross represent a temptation to gain rightful blessings through wrong means?
2. What does Jesus' absolute refusal to compromise worship teach about the non-negotiable nature of exclusive allegiance to God?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	ἀποκριθεὶς	αὐτῷ	εἶπεν	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	Ὑπάγε	ὀπίσω
And	answered	him	and said	G3588	Jesus	Get thee	behind
G2532	G611	G846	G2036		G2424	G5217	G3694
μου,	Σατανᾶ·	Γέγραπται	γὰρ	προσκυνήσεις	Κύριον	τὸν	
me	Satan	it is written	for	Thou shalt worship	the Lord	G3588	
G3450	G4567	G1125	G1063	G4352	G2962		
θεόν	σου	καὶ	αὐτῷ	μόνῳ	λατρεύσεις		
God	thy	And	him	only	shalt thou serve		
G2316	G4675	G2532	G846	G3441	G3000		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 6:13** (References God): Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.

**Deuteronomy 10:20** (References God): Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name.

**Matthew 4:10** (Worship): Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

**Revelation 19:10** (Worship): And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

**Psalms 83:18** (Parallel theme): That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth.

**Revelation 22:9** (Worship): Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

**James 4:7** (References God): Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

**Isaiah 2:11** (References Lord): The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.

**1 Samuel 7:3** (References God): And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.

**Matthew 16:23** (References God): But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.