

# 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

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,' μόνω λατρεύω) demands undivided allegiance.

## Historical Context

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 Ὑπαγε ὥπισω  
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.