

(Luke 4:1~13, part 2)

Beloved, we live in a *fallen world*... a world in which, according to the scripture, is under the influence and control of god's chiefest enemy... the devil himself. Throughout scripture, he is referred to as "the *prince of the power of the air*"... "the *ruler of this world*," the *god of this age*."

The world in which we live is commonly described using the metaphor of "Darkness." Darkness rules the land, and people everywhere are walking in darkness. A darkness that has been dispelled by the Light of the gospel of Jesus Christ! Jesus came into the world, as a light unto the world. Speaking of Jesus, Isaiah referred to him as a "light unto the Gentiles." Meaning that Jesus would come into the world, and reveal the truth about God and the truth about Satan... That's why Satan hates the church and the message of Christ, because it reveals the truth, thus resulting in rescuing people out of the bonds of darkness!

Last week, we looked at the first of three attempts, that Luke records, to entice Jesus to sin. As is his manner, he attacks at what has to be Jesus' most vulnerable area, given he hasn't eaten in 40 days... Thus it only stands to reason, he tempts him with food. The devil came to him and said... "If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread." Again, given that he hadn't eaten in 40 days, this was a very tempting offer. The temptation was to get Jesus to sin the sin of Pride... **The exaltation of SELF**... That's always been Satan's chiefest goal, is to get people to be their own Gods! (Example Ge. 3)

But Jesus refuses the temptation, declaring "total dependence" on God the Father... Declaring that there is more to life than food for the body, that "sustaining life" comes from the words of God's mouth. They are like bread to the soul!

Next, Satan tempts Him with the kingdoms of this world...

(Vs 5~8) ⁵And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, showed unto him **all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time**. ⁶And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. ⁷If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

Here, the devil offers Jesus the world... Notice that Luke says, "showed unto him **all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time**..." It suggests that by a supernatural means, the devil showed Jesus the glories of Egypt, the pyramids, the temples, the vast treasures. He showed him the power and splendor of Rome, with it's mighty empire spread all over the known world. He showed great Athens, magnificent Corinth, the city of David, all the great kingdoms of the world... And from where he was standing, Jesus could see them all. Overlooking the vast empires of all the world, Satan offers Jesus the position of King over them.

Given that, I want to point out something that we learn here that's very important to understand. That being, Satan's attacks are custom designed for each individual... you might say he personalizes them. Given the temptation, it's obvious that he was aware that God's plan was to send a Messiah, a deliverer, one that would take the throne of David, and reign as *King of the Jews*. Here, Satan tempts Jesus in that he promises not only to make him "King over Israel," but "King over all the nations of the world."

Now granted, that may not be tempting in the least for some of us here, but for someone seeking political office, for someone who desires prestige, power and notoriety; this would be a very tempting offer.

Which serves to emphasize the point I'm trying to make... Satan's temptations are customized for each individual, he personalizes them according to the desires of our heart. That's what makes his offers so *tempting*; they *cater* to the natural desires of the flesh. He offers you your hearts desires, all neatly packaged, and presented to you on a *silver platter*. All you have to do is take it, and it's yours...

(Vs 6~7) But as it is with ALL of his offers...there's a "Catch"...⁶*All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.* ⁷**If** thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

Listen, without exception, with Satan's offers, there's ALWAYS a catch...

(Vs 7) ⁷**If** thou therefore wilt worship me.....all shall be thine.

All of his offers require you give him something in return... **your heart!**

Satan's chiefest goal in life is to draw men's hearts away from God, which he achieves by drawing their hearts to something else!

What **THAT** is... is *irrelevant*...it doesn't matter... It doesn't matter if it's a good thing or a bad thing, as long as your heart is not given to God, that's all he's concerned with.

Read E-Mail... (**Barren Busyness...**)

Now listen very closely, Luke reveals a truth here that we need to lay to heart...

Satan gives men what they want...to get what he wants...their heart.

Remember, no man can serve two masters, **but he must serve one**...

All the devil has to do, is make sure that it's not God...

Very few men *own their possessions*...**they own them.**

America has got to be one of the most "*Idolatress Nations*" in the world... Many associate "*Idol worship*" with little statues', carved out of wood or stone... But idol worship is any THING that takes the place of God in the heart! As materialistic as our society is, leaves no doubt that men's hearts belong to Mammon! And as Jesus said, "*You cannot serve God and Mammon...*"

To lure men's hearts away from God...he offers them the THINGS of HIS WORLD...

The TRUTH that we learn here from Jesus' face-to-face encounter with the devil, is one that we had better lay to heart, because Satan will not tell us, as he did Jesus, the catch to his offer. With us, he simply offers us our hearts desires, all neatly packaged and presented on a silver platter. He will say nothing of the requirement to worship him. But that is exactly what happens, by yielding to his offer, people are unknowingly yielding their lives in worship of "*the God of this world!*"

I say that based on another truth revealed here, that being that Satan is the "*God of this world.*"

⁶*And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.*

Here Satan claims to have all authority in the world... (Now we know that ultimately, God the Father has ultimately authority) But for now, according to God's word, Satan rules over this world. Darkness rules the land. Since his fall, and being cast out of heaven, Satan has waged war with God. We entered this battle, in the garden, when he deceived Adam and Eve. Satan gained a foothold, and has usurped the authority of God, in that he reigns over this world, and the people therein... That's the whole purpose behind the gospel of Christ, He was to come into the world, overthrow the "*King of this world*" and take back what belongs to God. Much of God's plan is already complete, the only thing left is for Christ to

return to wage one final battle with Satan, one that will end in victory for God, and the total annihilation of Satan and everything that has to do with his kingdom...(including the servants of that kingdom...)

How many people are there today, *entangled* in the *snares* of the “*Kingdom of this world?*” How many have *fallen prey* to the allures of this world, only to find themselves *caught up* in materialism, all *caught up* in the here and now, living their lives unto this world and the things of this world... All around us we see men sacrificing their health, their families, everything for this world...not to mention the most important thing of all, their soul.

Now don't miss this... here, Satan shows Jesus all the empires of the world, offering him the position of King over them, and says, “*All of this can be yours...if you will worship me...*” Notice the offer has one condition, and that is, it requires Jesus to give his allegiance to Satan.

If we understand this passage correctly, we'll understand that the offer to Jesus of being “*King...ruler over this world?*” is not the real issue here. That was simply the avenue in which Satan tried to bring about his real goal, that of *His position of being Lord over Jesus...* The offer given to Jesus was not for his benefit at all...but rather bring about what Satan desired...*to rein over Him!*

Point is...he'll offer you *anything and everything* to get that.

(Vs 8) Jesus scoffs at even the thought of doing so...⁸ *Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*

Jesus rebukes Satan, and scoffs that the thought of offering his allegiance to him, making it clear that he will worship of God and God alone.

Most people have the idea, have the notion that as long as you don't cuss, don't drink, try to live right...go to church on occasion, you'll be ok. But that's simply not true. Satan has deceived many into believing that lie. The truth of the gospel is, that there is two kingdoms'. One, the kingdom of this world, which is under the control and power of the “*god of this world, Satan himself.*” The other kingdom that exists is the “*Kingdom of God,*” which is the invisible kingdom, the kingdom that cannot be seen with human eyes. A kingdom that is under the control and power of the Lord Jesus, one that requires us to walk by faith and not by sight...

The important thing to understand about this is, every single person is living to one of those two kingdoms. You are either walking in the flesh, meaning you live unto this world and the things of this world, living our lives for the here and now, which makes us the servants of Satan simply for the fact that he is the King of this kingdom.

The other option is to have been saved from this world, by the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ, having our eyes opened to this reality, resulting in repenting and yielding our lives under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Listen, *we are all in this world...but thank God we are not of this world!* As Christians, we no longer set our affections on this world nor the things of this world, but we set our heart on the things of heaven, the things of God, and live our lives by yielding our lives to the King Jesus...

Beloved, as I look out on our society today, I am deeply grieved over the multitude of people who have been taken captive by Satan. There are people all around us, walking in darkness, living according to the course of this world, according to the prince and power of this world. Beloved, they need Jesus...

Here we read of Satan's offer to make him king over all the world, which Jesus refused... But given what transpired on the cross, Jesus has become King of the world. All around the world he has those of every nation who bow down to him as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords...

I'll ask you one more question, a question that Jesus asked...

What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world...and lose his soul?