

All These Will I Give Thee

...All these will I give thee if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

Matthew 4:9

In the great temptation of our Lord, the devil's purpose and power are revealed in his offer to give Jesus the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would bow down to him. Though Satan's power is temporarily allowed by God, it is still power nonetheless. In this permitted position of power and influence he is referred to as the "god of this world" and the "prince of the power of the air". Through his power to tempt by offering temporary promises he hoped to cause the Lamb of God to sin and worship him; but *Praise God!* our Savior was victorious.

This scenario also plays out every day in the lives of all of mankind. The tempter and god of this world still roams about, and through temptation coupled with false promises he seeks for us to bow down to him. When we yield to his temptations, we start straying from God's will and falling into step with the devil's plan and soon the gratification we thought we would find quickly disappears, and conviction, disappointment, and disillusionment begin to settle in. To prevent this from happening in our own lives, we need look no further than some biblical accounts that warn us of the empty promises of the devil. Was David satisfied after his affair with Bathsheba? Did Amnon feel content after he completed his evil plan with his sister Tamar? Though he sought to satisfy his physical hunger, was Esau satisfied when he sold his birthright? Was King Saul the better for intruding into the realm reserved only for the priesthood to offer a sacrifice? Was it easier for Jonah when he chose to follow his own plan and not God's? Did Judas feel richer when he obtained thirty pieces of silver only to lose his own soul?

And so, when we are tempted and Satan says *all these will I give thee*, may we hear the Holy Spirit's voice reminding us that *the pleasures of sin are for a season*.

JDE