

“Next, the Devil took Him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed Him the nations of the world and all their glory. ‘I will give it all to you,’ he said, ‘if you will only kneel down and worship me.’ ‘Get out of here, Satan,’ Jesus told him. For the Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the Lord your God; serve only Him.’ Then the Devil went away, and angels came and cared for Jesus.”

Matthew 4:8-11

God instructs us to serve only Him, and put no other God before Him. Excellent instruction! Notice that once Jesus had overcome the Devil, angels came and took care of Him. We must have the faith to believe this. But, how many times have we stood at the summit of that mountain of temptation ourselves? How did we react; like Jesus and turn away from the Devil, or as our sinful selves and take the bait? Satan is sly, and the only way to catch him is to shine the light of the Scripture on each situation and make sure your decision passes the test of serving God.

Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus’ withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days. This in turn helps to strengthen our ability to resist the Devil and his temptations. By drawing nearer to God, reflecting on our relationship with Him and the choices we have made and priorities we have set, we prepare ourselves for those temptations ahead.

Finding the strength to turn away means focusing on God at the moment of temptation. Hit the Devil in the mouth with Scripture! Don’t let him win. Use the Lenten season to build your resolve to serve the One Lord and Master, who sacrificed everything for us and showed us how to turn ourselves away from Satan.

Lord, I pray during this season of Lent that You will strengthen my ability to make the right choices in the face of my moments of temptation. Help me know that Your Kingdom awaits those who turn away from Satan. Help me glorify Your name, provide witness to others, and teach the next generation to look to You as well. Amen.

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(Submitted in 2008)

