

**Daily Readings from the Life of Christ, Vol. 1 (1-21-2017)**

**January 21 - Satan's Promises—Corrupt Strings Attached**

**“The devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory”(Matthew 4:8).**

Satan offered the world's kingdoms to Jesus on his own corrupt terms. God allowed this test to prove that Christ was and is a worthy Son, fit to one day inherit the world and rule from His throne. The devil, on the other hand, wanted to prove the Son's unworthiness by getting Him to prematurely grab the kingdoms God had already promised Him.

The enemy approaches Christians also with corrupt bargaining chips. Whatever they might want in the realm of business, politics, fame, or anything else, he claims it can be theirs for a “reasonable” price or trade-off. He says we can be or have whatever we want, just so long as we pursue it according to the world's way—which is also Satan's way. In effect, it's like saying to ourselves, “Why wait for a heavenly reward when you can cut corners, shade the truth, run ahead of God's schedule, and have what you want now?”

But when we grab hold of Satan's corrupt strings, we put self first and God last. Instead of seeking God's kingdom first (Matt. 6:33), we act more like Abraham, who sought God's promise of an heir through his own impatient, selfish act with Hagar (Gen. 16:1–6). The result of that sin was tragic and heart-breaking, and has been to this day.

***Ask Yourself***

“The world” doesn't really know what “glory” is. And if we had a keener, more realistic sense of God's awesome splendor, we'd see the world's flimsy reflections for what they really are. What seems glorious and glamorous about the world to you? Ask God to help you see it truthfully.

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