

Thought for the day – Thursday 24th March 2022
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Power to serve

Bible Reading: Luke 4:5-8

The devil led Jesus up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'

This is the 2nd of Jesus' temptations according to Luke.

I wonder what it would have meant for Jesus to worship the devil?

If we get away from the idea that the devil appeared to Jesus like some sort of red creature with horns, as often depicted, but rather I think, put thoughts into Jesus head. What might it had meant for him to worship the devil? It would have been great deal more subtle than bowing down physically.

Perhaps, it meant to gain followers, even nations, with great demonstrations of power, spectacular feats, powerful rhetoric? How might this be worshipping the devil? Because it would have deviated Jesus from the path of worshipping and serving God. Colossians 1:16-17 **speaks about all the kingdoms of the earth belonging to Jesus, and we wait for that fulfilment.** But God's path for that to come about was not through great acts of power, as the world sees it, but through the cross and resurrection. This is the fulfilment of what Jesus said earlier, that Greatness in the kingdom of God comes from serving others, greatness is taking the form of a servant. This kind of exercising of power, brings people, nations, kingdoms together in peace. It destroys the dominion of superiority and discrimination because it values and raises the dignity of each human being. It seeks the prospering of **all**.

Do we have power? Influence? Even a little bit?

Do we use it to gain followers, praise, attention to our selves?

How can we use it to serve others, specially the 'least' amongst us?

Each time we do this, we worship God and serve Him.