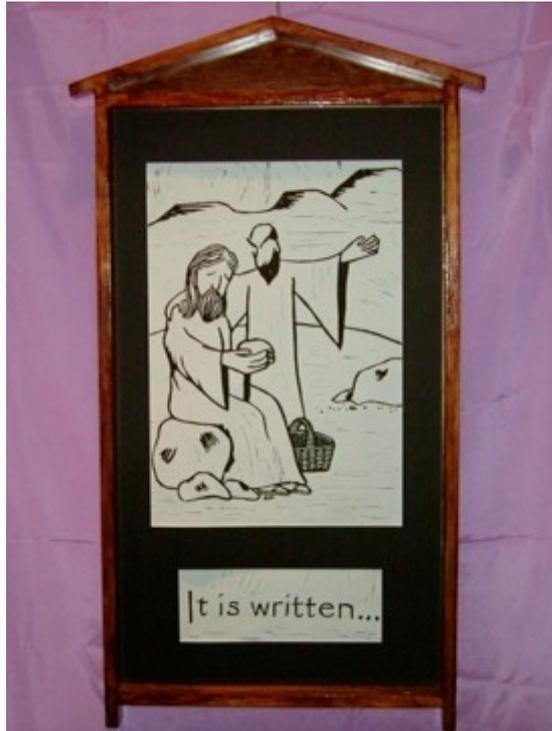


Lenten wall panel 2, Golden Grove, SA



Jesus' Ministry — Dealing with Temptation

References: Matt 4:1-11, Mark 1:12, 13, Luke 4:1-13

This piece is a lino print, and gives us a glimpse of the first temptation of Jesus by Satan as recorded in the Scriptures.

Some interesting things in this piece are

- **The Wilderness** — clearly a barren, empty, unhappy, joyless, desolate wasteland. Cleverly done so that nothing in it draws your attention.
- **Satan**
 - Given a body to emphasise the reality of his being. He is not a figment of imagination or a fairytale.
 - Featureless, can take on any persona
 - Coming in a deceitful way even as a friend offering advice or, as Jesus refers to him, 'a wolf in sheep's clothing'
 - Coming to us during vulnerable times, Jesus had fasted 40 days and was hungry!
- **Jesus**
 - Pensive, pondering. He is making the choice as to how he would act (not react)
 - No panic, peaceful. Recognises Satan has no power over him
 - His choice is made: to obey God and resist Satan. The stone remains a stone, Jesus remains hungry and holy, and Satan is foiled by the quotation of scripture, '*It is written ...*'
- **The Basket** — a very thought-provoking addition. Who brought it? Why? What does it say about the expectation of Satan or his confidence in Jesus' ability? Is it meant as subtle persuasion?
- **Black and White** — No grey or coloured areas. We cannot stay unstained by sin if we embrace a temptation. Jesus remained sinless even though he was tempted.

Heb 4:15: '*We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weakness, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. So then, let us approach the throne of grace with confidence so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*'

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Eph 6:17 calls the word of God, *'the sword of the Spirit'*.

Prov 3:5, 6 says *'Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding, but in all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your path'*.

Col 3:16 encourages us to, *'let the word of God dwell in you richly'*.

Ps 119:105 states, *'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path'*, and in verse 11, *'I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you'*.

In Matt 26:41, Jesus told his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, *'Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing but the body is weak.'*

Original Lino print, designed and worked by Sonya Flynn 2006