

Lenten wall panel 5, Golden Grove, SA



Jesus' Ministry — Humility of Servant King

'Humility of the Servant King' is a piece that invites lengthy, personal meditation, and any who take the time to do so will surely find a deep enrichment of faith and worship. Here we have images that can be appreciated on two levels, and yet combine to give us a powerful illustration of Christ's humility. The two mediums used are mosaic using ceramic tiles and charcoal drawn on silk.

The mosaic conveys the opulence, power and majesty of heaven, and of Jesus' rightful place there, ruling with his Father, wearing his crown as King of creation, along with the words, 'He laid aside'.

Philippians 2:6 tells us, that Jesus, 'did not consider equality with God something to be grasped but made himself nothing, taking on the very nature of a servant being made in human likeness and being found in the appearance of a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross'.

Then we come to the floating, wispy, silken front. The face of Jesus is drawn wearing the crown he chose — the crown of thorns. He was willing to debase himself in obedience to his Father and in love for us. He accepted the very worst of human conditions and all our limitations to win us for the Father.

Jesus is powerfully portrayed with a profound sadness and sorrow in his eyes that is almost tangible. There is disappointment and grief evident, yet there is also a knowing, a foreseeing and as he looks directly into our eyes, an appeal — that his death won't be in vain. There is also a peace about his face, an acceptance of what was happening to him, almost as if he is oblivious to it because his thoughts are on others, those he cares about ... you.

The black and white of the mosaic showing through reminds us of the struggle that Jesus undertook. He fought all the powers of sin and death and the devil for us so that we might have the purity and holiness of himself and share his home.

The black mosaic is angular and sharp and dangerous, giving the feeling of foreboding. The white is ordered and calm and inviting.

The grouting shows through Jesus' face as a brokenness, a picture of how eyes without faith see the King of the universe. If you focus on the lines you cannot see the strength of the love or the sadness in the eyes.

The fragility of the silk reminds us of our mortality. Though we know no other life, yet this human life is not our final reality. Our lives are as temporary as a wafting mist (James 4:14) and will eventually be torn away and heaven and eternity will be the reality, where crowns await all who have relied upon the Servant King (Rev 2:10).

Worked by Chris Thiele 2006