

The Artwork of the 4th Annual Upper Arlington Lutheran Church



All artwork based on Scripture
Commentary by the Artist

Organized by



Jurors for 2020:
Artist Charles Rowland
Pastor Reuben Mellum



About the 7 Day Bible Art Challenge

The 7 Day Bible Art Challenge competition was conceived by members of the UALC Visual Arts Ministry to offer artists and viewers an “artistic encounter with the Word of God.” The rules are fairly simple:

1. Art must be original
2. Art must be produced in the 7-day time frame starting with Verse Assignment
3. Art will be based on a passage of Scripture that is assigned to the artist.

Beyond that, artists are free to express their vision in any medium or style they wish, so long as it fits in our gallery space.

In the four years of its existence, more than 125 art pieces have been produced by artists from UALC, the surrounding community, and even other states. This year, 2020, we showcase 40 artists who all were challenged by the following scriptures:

Scriptures for the 4th Annual UALC 7 Day Bible Art Challenge:

ADULTS:

Matthew 26:41 (NIV)

⁴¹“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

YOUTH:

Matthew 4:1-11 (NIV)

Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness

⁴ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted (tested) by the devil. ²After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

⁴Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶“If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

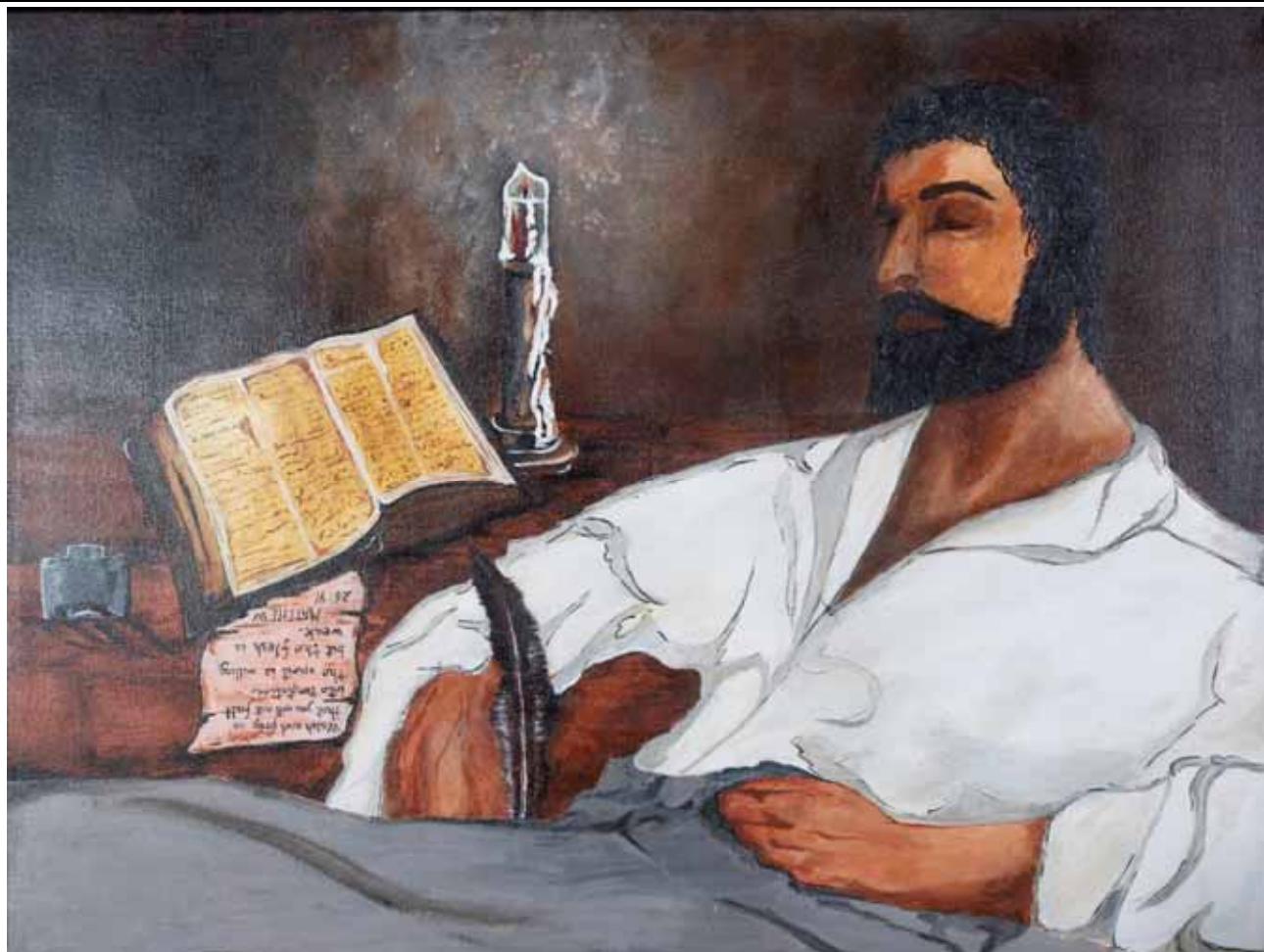
“‘He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”

⁷Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹“All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

¹¹Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.



FIRST PLACE

A16 | ***Sleeping Temptation***

Carlos Lemos

clemos1961@yahoo.es

Acrylic Paint

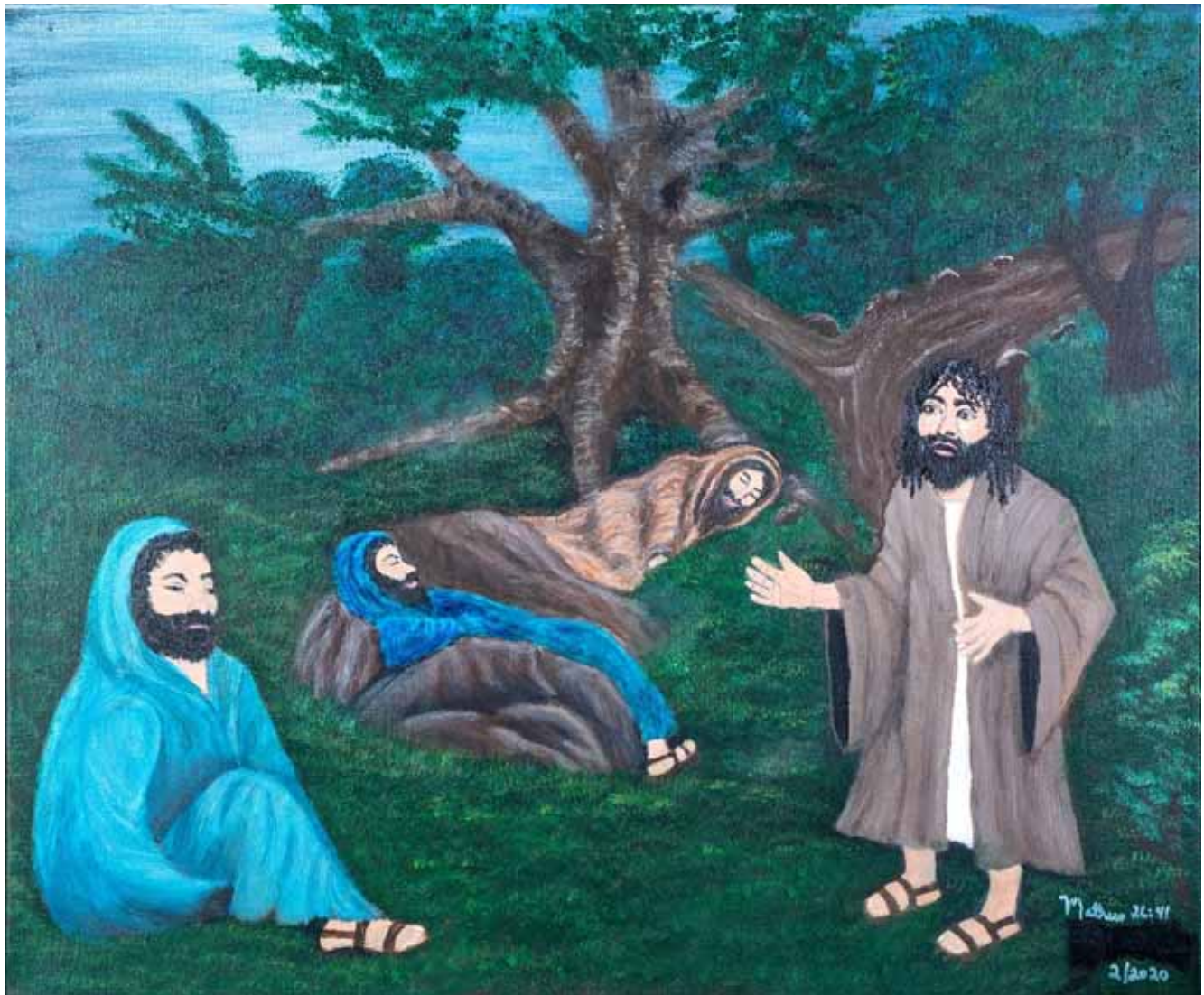
Matthew 26:41

INSPIRATION:

This chapter of Matthew shows Jesus sad but willing to do the will of God. Our salvation is in the hands of someone who does not sleep. Verse 41 urges us to watch and pray. It says that the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak, being this the daily struggle of the Christian.

EXPERIENCE:

Creating a work of art in seven days was very difficult. Verse 41 is in the work. It will be complicated to read it, but when you read it, for sure, you will get the same message that I received: the importance of mastering the flesh for the Christian.



SECOND PLACE
A21 | *Anguish in the Garden*
Ellen Miller
20x24 Canvas Acrylic
Matthew 26;41

INSPIRATION:

Peter, James, and John knew that JESUS was the MESSIAH but didn't realize the importance of what was about to happen. They didn't understand what HE was about to go thru and the meaning of it all. Full from a meal and walking to the Garden they were content just being with JESUS and became uncontrollably sleepy. So, they fell asleep even though JESUS wanted them to pray for HIM while HE went to pray. JESUS (being human) was in such anguish knowing what HE was about to endure but was willing to do GOD's WILL for HIS GLORY and our SALVATION. He was hurt and disappointed that HIS friends couldn't stay awake to pray with and for HIM.

EXPERIENCE:

Knowing that the verse for the Challenge was coming from the book of Mathew, I read the whole book during the week before the release of the verse. I had just read this verse earlier in the day when they released it to us. That verse stood out as I was reading it. I could see the disciples sleeping under the tree and JESUS walking up to find them asleep. As I was getting close to finishing the painting it came to me how important this BIG OLIVE tree was in my painting and why I made it so big. I feel that it represents JESUS as the TREE OF LIFE



THIRD PLACE (2D)

A15 | **Keep Watch and Pray**

Mike Bright

614-816-0293

Acrylic on Wood Panel

Matthew 26:

INSPIRATION:

The text warned me to pray, keep awake, and watch for the underhanded snares set by the devil, world, and my flesh. My prayers typically ask for something or give thanks. Few are for protection because that which I need protection from are often hidden. Spiritual enemies usually set snares not flairs. This text says watch and pray for protection from both the unseen and the seen alike. Your enemies are constantly trying to crush you and steal your faith. I was inspired to show God's constant protective power and grace in both realms.

EXPERIENCE:

I prepare Christian art like a pastor does a sermon. It's a mix of prayer, Bible study, life observation, and subconscious breaks until ideas are born. I quickly write out my ideas as mini stories before sketching for better clarity. God is entwined in every step of the process. I aim to communicating my visually homilies somewhere between the narrow gap of cheesy clichés and obscurity. God weighs in by occasionally helping me see law and gospel in life and touching my gut, saying "This does or doesn't work."



THIRD PLACE (3D)

A19 | **Watch and Pray Around the World**

Phillip Martin

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Acrylic Paint on Emu Egg

Matthew 26:41

INSPIRATION:

When Jesus told his disciples to “watch and pray”, He wanted to prepare them for what was about to happen to Him, them, and teach them to pray for strength. Those words were excellent advice. But, like the rest of those “red letter” words in the Bible, they are also good words for everyone who reads them today as well. So, with this art, I wanted to show how Jesus wants everyone, everywhere, to “watch and pray.” The words are for all people, of all nations, no matter what language is spoken. God hears and understands them all. If you look at the Art Deco scallops on the design, you’ll see that there is a map of the world painted into the background. Above Alaska, “watch and pray” is written in Arabic, Maori, Japanese and Spanish. Below North America the text is in Braille, Hebrew and Swahili.

EXPERIENCE:

Painting eggs is a very personal experience for me. This emu egg is not my first. I’ve painted eggs as Christmas ornaments my entire adult life. Currently I have close to 700 ornaments ranging from cockatiel, duck, peacock, rhea and even alligator and crocodile. As I have traveled the world, the themes on the ornaments depict places I’ve lived and traveled. So, when I look at my egg collection, I see how God has watched over me throughout the course of my life. This particular egg has an Art Deco design reminding me that Belgium was home for nine years.



HONORABLE MENTION

A18 | **Watch & Pray**

Pam Mann

Quilt

Matthew 26:41

INSPIRATION:

Jesus exhorts his disciples to watch and pray. So, I sewed New York Beauty (NYB) quilt blocks. Their thorny design honors the crown of the Statue of Liberty who watches over incoming ships. Four NYB blocks unite to form an "eye." Wide-open, the watchful eyes tilt in prayerful attention. Somber colors depict the darkness of the night while the leaf-like border quilting lines show the Gethsemane Garden context. The brocade and satin fabrics are repurposed from retired clerical stoles. The

center of each eye is white Easter stole satin, reminding us that in darkness we watch for resurrection hope.

EXPERIENCE:

I began with solid fabrics and batiks and possibly vintage stole fabric. As I pieced the quilt, I felt my original layout tilted the "eyes" too much. But repositioning the blocks created a gap between the quilt body and its borders. I despaired. So much time would be lost if I sewed new borders! Then I saw that the Lenten stole was just the size and shape to fill the gap. Perfect! These shining fabrics went from a nice add-in to a key design element. Working 10-12 hours daily on this project was a rich spiritual retreat for me.



HONORABLE MENTION A28

Hold On & Pray

Melissa Ward

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Ink on Textured Canvas

Matthew 26:41

INSPIRATION:

The purpose I wanted to convey when making this piece off Matthew 26:41 was prayer and the battle that exists here in this life, the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. The hands are where the battle between these two juxtapositions is shown. One hand clutches a cross and is meant to represent the spirit's willingness to follow and hope in God. The second hand is to represent the flesh, and this hand is crushing roses as she struggles with temptation. The roses have small text decorating the petals which identify common sins.

EXPERIENCE:

Personally, I feel this pull a lot, simultaneously wanting to obey the Lord and being tempted with my own selfish desires. I wanted to somehow show this internal conflict but was at first very unsure

how to do so. It was actually while struggling a little at work that God started to give me the idea through the words Hold On and Pray. With this came the idea of a figure praying and the two hands holding symbols of the battle.



A1 | Watch & Pray

Bob Apel

godshygieneED@gmail.com

Pencil on mylar, Enlarged and

Printed

INSPIRATION:

God only desires a relationship with His creation. Our only part is to believe, trust, and receive. Our nature is to reject Him because we want control. Jesus came to offer a way to reconnect with God. Jesus lights the narrow path of life with redemption, love, grace, and His glory. Sin is simply the rejection of God. Temptation places us in a position to reject Him. Therefore, Watch, so that our next steps do not propel us into a

bottomless pit. Pray, that we are not led into temptation that dims our ability to see the illuminated path.

EXPERIENCE:

Projects like this always yield more than you put into it. The concept was simple to express watching your step and staying out of temptation. It moved beyond that to expressing the Gospel in 99 words. We not only get His promises, but protection from miss steps, if we will accept it. This project became more personal as the full-sized footprints in the final print, are actually my own.

Sale of prints will benefit God's Hygiene Health Center.



A2 | You Will Not Fall

Tony Auseon

Paper & Pen

Matthew 28:41

INSPIRATION:

The verse and story say it's easy for us to fall, but the promise says we can still be saved.



A3 | **The Spirit is Willing**

Aaron Bahe

aaron_bahe@yahoo.com

Paint on Canvas, Mixed

Matthew 28:41

INSPIRATION:

The Spirit is always willing. Like a waterfall that's always flowing. Anyone wanting to get wet can step underneath the perpetually flowing water. Maybe we are satisfied with just a sprinkling. He doesn't judge us, but he continues to invite us in, and we are given a choice to make. The people in this painting, just like us, make the choice. God's word encourages us to move into the water; to drink from his glass. The images may remind you of a sweet or sour scroll, or the freedom and lightness of experiencing the Spirit at work in your life. They may voice the distractions of the games that can consume us or the prophetic voice of a nurturing family member. Jesus says our work is to seek Him and the Spirit will overcome our flesh. The Spirit is always willing.



A4 | **He Knew**

Christy Beard

Fabric, Thread, Paint

Matthew 26:41

INSPIRATION:

Christ's prayer in gethsemane becomes more potent when it is understood the Christ knew why He came into this world. He knew what his next days would bring. Psalm 22 foretells Christ's crucifixion. As our Savior met God in the garden, He knew what was coming next. He knew He would become the last Passover Lamb. The link between the Old Testament and the New Testament is clear; the first Passover sacrifice in Exodus is depicted by the walls, door and blood. Christ was, and always will be the last sacrifice.



A5 | Dear Lord, Save Me, My Flesh is Weak

Derrick L. Coles, Jr.

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Latex Paint

Matthew 26:41

INSPIRATION:

The inspiration for this piece comes from my inner self. I then read the Book of Matthew, listened to the Book of Matthew (being read) and watched the Book of Matthew being acted out on video. Here you see a praying skeleton, its flesh already consumed by the fire of temptation, as a crown of ravens circle overhead. All that is left is a willing spirit to seek forgiveness kneeling to the will of God, which descends like a dove. A dove that has not come to deliver peace, but a sword.

EXPERIENCE:

My experience in creating this work has been about understanding Jesus and his words through the Book of Matthew. Seeking to understand Jesus and his meaning as he walked and talked to the people, and to reflect upon my fleshly sins that make me weak within

my life. At the start I did not know what to paint, but my wife said, "then let the spirit paint instead." And so I did.



A6 | Rock that Transcends Weakness

Cara Crippen

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Acrylic

Matthew 26:41

INSPIRATION:

One translation reads, "Jesus went a stone's throw away..." So, this idea of our stone/Rock emerged, but also how we are called "living stones" (1 Peter 2:5). Here, Jesus, Peter, James and John are all represented within the shape of a stone. But while Jesus' stone pours out like the cup, He is in anguish over, the apostles stones are like heavy eyelids cast downward to signify their limitations. Yet beneath each closing eyelid,

is the spark of the Spirit shining through the net that tries to keep them ensnared.

EXPERIENCE:

I was amazed how much I found "Scripture interpreting Scripture" at play in the planning phase for this piece. The command to 'watch' requires intentional action/continual preparation:

- Peter's stone: renewal of the mind (understanding the enemy's schemes and where our Strength really comes from and how it isn't with swords)
- James' stone: iron sharpening iron (Proverbs 27:17) one can't become sharper without the other, we are a Body with many parts
- John's stone: hiking up the tunic and getting ready for action (1 Peter 1:13) being available and listening for His command to move

A7 | **One Choice, Two Paths**

Anne Dukat

Fabric on

Canvas

Matthew 26:41



INSPIRATION:

Unlike Jesus, we can't see the overreaching results and consequences of our choices and actions. My artwork attempts to show what would have happened if Jesus had given into temptation – and to serve as a reminder for us when we face our temptations.

EXPERIENCE:

Thanks be to God who consistently answered my prayers for inspiration and skills. Thanks to my family as they modeled for me ("turn-no-stop," giggled a lot, "Mama, it needs an arm." "Well who asked you anyway?" "You did.") and helped as I searched for "evil green" fabric which was sadly lacking at the fabric store; and more giggles as I muttered "now it looks like an elephant seal." I was so blessed in this whole process with peace, grace and God's presence.



A8 | **Watch and Pray, Peter**

Alex Ferree

mstudioartwork@gmail.com

Watercolor

Mt. 26:41

INSPIRATION:

Jesus was reminding Peter to "Watch and pray", not because He was trying to judge or condemn him, but because Jesus had foresight of what was to come for him. The theme goes back to John 3:16, "God so loved the world..." If Jesus came to save you and me, certainly in the time of His greatest suffering, He was still looking out for his main apostle.

EXPERIENCE:

This piece required that I use a model for Jesus and Peter. I wanted to indicate the potential danger Peter might fall into without giving away the story. I most enjoy illustration and watercolor. Details are always fun.



A9 | “Hey Look, I Can Code Trees”

Jon Gerckins

Computer/Photo Collage

gerckens3@osu.edu

Matthew 26:41

INSPIRATION:

Jesus admonition to Peter and John in the garden is for us as well: “Wake up, be alert and present to what is going on, and stay in tune with God’s will and the work He has for you to do.” Our human nature has every tendency toward complacency, but the stakes are higher than we know, and if we can just grab hold of the Sprit God gives us, it is eager and up to the task. Get out your decoder ring (Isaiah 6:8)



A10 | **STAY ALERT**

Jennifer Gerckens

Photo Collage

Matthew 26:41

INSPIRATION:

As I was considering these verses, I looked to different Bible translations to get different perspectives. When I read these verses in The Message translation, the image of my older dog lazily snoozing on the couch juxtaposed with the boundless energy of my younger dog immediately came to mind. My photo collage aims to convey this contrast. “There is part of you that is eager, ready for anything in God. But there is another part that’s as lazy as an old dog sleeping by the fire. (Matt 26:41 MSG)

EXPERIENCE:

My husband has participated in this challenge for the last several years and I have enjoyed talking to him about the verses and what he was creating. Since I have been playing around with photography and different photo apps, I thought I would try this year. Over the weekend we sat at McD’s and discussed the verses over coffee; Jesus, coffee and my sweet husband – it doesn’t get much better than that!



A11 | **Watch and Pray**
Kim L. Graham
 614-851-0608
 Photography
 Matthew 26:41

INSPIRATION:

To me, Matthew 26:41, like most Scriptures, has so many facets and layers. It is both simple and complex at the same time. It was spoken/written for a very specific moment in time, to Jesus' disciples, and yet it holds eternal wisdom and guidance for every believer since that night so long ago. We are to be watchful and we are to be prayerful. Our flesh battles with the Spirit, but we are to stand fast, always keeping our eyes and minds focused on things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. He alone is our

rock, our sure foundation. He is the water and the Word, and He alone is the light of the world. Let us be thankful!

EXPERIENCE:

Because His Word has so many layers and because all the Truths of the Bible are so interwoven with each other, I was initially at a loss for how to photographically illustrate this verse and the other Truths it put me in mind of. I struggled with the idea of what one image could convey all that I saw not only in this verse but also other verses that I felt were so closely tied to this one. No solution really spoke to me. So I decided I would just wait patiently on the Lord. And it wasn't until Sunday morning that the Lord led me to look at multiple images I had taken in Israel and combine them in a complex collage type image. So, over the next three days he would show me 8 different images, six of them actually taken in Israel, to combine together to help depict the depth and layers of His Word.



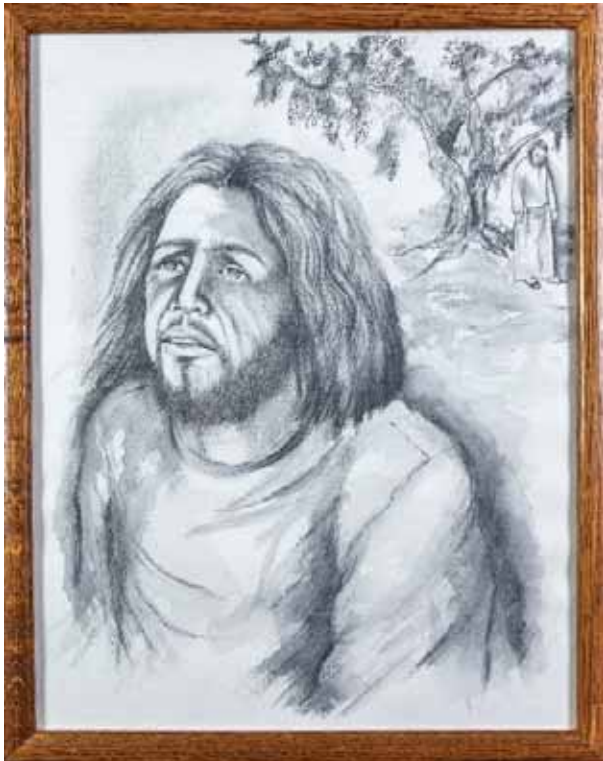
A17 | **Light Shines Through**
Nichole Long
 nicholelong614@gmail.com
 Canvas & acrylic
 Matthew 16:41

INSPIRATION:

Someone praying and having a hard time keeping evil (darkness) out, but they see/hear and feel God (the light).

EXPERIENCE:

This was fun and I have enjoyed thinking and reading about the passage and what it means to me.



A20 | **Gethsemane**
Maura McCormick
 maurarts@yahoo.com
 Graphite with Wash
 Matthew 26:36,40

INSPIRATION:

Knowing the agonizing events which lay ahead, Jesus has come to Gethsemane with his disciples to pray (vs.36). I was particularly interested in expressing His agony. After praying, he finds his disciples asleep (vs.40). I decided to illustrate this with one figure (Peter) nearby, beneath an olive tree. Jesus has just begun to pray (he hasn't yet fallen down in prayer), but already Peter's hands have dropped, his head is drooping, he is dozing, literally falling asleep on his feet.

EXPERIENCE:

My drawing is a fairly literal depiction of the assigned verses, of Jesus in Gethsemane. I was mainly interested in showing the expression of agony in His facial features. For me, His agony made the "sleeping disciple" even more of a contrast. It

reminded me that if Jesus' own disciples had to be admonished, even at such a crucial time, we must also "be watchful and pray," because like the disciples, our spirits are willing, but our flesh too, is weak.



A23 | **Gethsemane**
Donna Nesbitt
 Alcohol Markers and Ink
 Matt 26:41b

INSPIRATION:

I began thinking about the way the heart is open to grace and is assaulted by temptation. There is a tension between our "better angels" and our human frailties. The warm colors depict the heat of the positive and negative influences, lightness and dark in a pitched battle for the soul. Without prayer and the grace it brings, the heart can be overwhelmed; thus the importance of watching and praying to strengthen the spirit.

EXPERIENCE:

I always see God in the creative process. An initial concept will evolve through the work in ways I never would have imagined.

I have been interested in the geometry of circles and mandalas. I knew I wanted to work in the round so I purchased a square frame even before the verse was announced. As usual the work went through about five drafts.



A24

Through the Thick

Abigail Pidock

Colored Pencil, Paint

Matthew 26:1

INSPIRATION:

Jesus is urging that watching & praying will help recognize & refuse temptation, and that humans are broken even with good intentions in heart. The devil tries twisting even good things- rest, relationships, etc.- to tempt us. It's like a thick jungle, and it's hard to see everything. But Jesus came for the purpose of going through this same dark jungle to bear our sin & it's cost, so we can travel through it and be restored, in relationship with our creator. When we pray & think of Jesus, the Holy Spirit helps us resist temptation and continue through the thick of it, like Jesus did, thinking of us.

EXPERIENCE:

I found this challenging to visually depict. But that deepened the need to really engage with the passage and Jesus' words, that were for his disciples, but for me, too. I had to consider what it means to

watch & pray, and what I see & experience Satan using for temptation. The first few days brought no concrete ideas- I felt like reacting stressed & rushed, but knowing the core is not the art but God's word, I had to resist and just sit with it and with God, putting aside art a bit to just engage. I remembered that'd be worth it even if no ideas came. I'm thankful they did though!



ARTISTIC MERIT AWARD

A25 |Matthew 26:41

Alyssa Ritchie

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Oil on Hardboard

Matthew 26:41

INSPIRATION:

While my initial instinct was to focus on the internal battle between flesh and spirit, my husband suggested focusing on the antidote – to watch, or be vigilant, and to pray. It is so difficult for me to humble myself to accept my own incapability to “lay down my arms” and ask God. Surrounded by her own snares, limp in her arms, the figure is looking up at the only source of strength left to her after her own efforts. The Source is hard to see, but all the light in the painting flows from Him.



A26 | **Broken to Whole**

Jen Serra

Wood & Resin

Matthew 26:41

INSPIRATION:

Color was utilized to represent the poignant words of the passage (red- temptation, multi-colored skin tones - flesh, Spirit - white/gold). Yellow was used as the light of Jesus in conjunction with cross leaning toward the light. The cracks in the piece represent

the weakness of the flesh and how easily we can fall into temptation. The cross pulls us from the weak flesh and temptation and toward the Spirit and the light of God.



A27 | **The Watchman Hour**

Beth Stackhouse

614-584-3737

Acrylic & Mixed Media

Matthew 26:41

INSPIRATION:

My inspiration came from the, Garden of Gethsemane, the backdrop for this Bible verse. Jesus was praying in the late-night hour and that is the time when I find myself broken, torn apart and crying out to God for His help. This time is usually when life settles down and there is only Him to speak to.

EXPERIENCE:

I thought that I would like to create a shadow box, or some sort

mixed of media for the art challenge. After hearing the verse and praying over it I believe the Holy Spirit lead me to paint this pretty backdrop of trees. I so enjoy trees and their many shapes and sizes. He then reminded me that prayer is the forefront (beginning) for everything in my life in order to stand firm on what he has for me to do in this world. The silhouette was the last piece to come together. It allows people to envision their broken selves coming to God.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH (Grades 9-12)



FIRST PLACE
(Senior Youth)
Y5 | *The Devil
Tempts Jesus*
**Matthew
Johnson,**
Grade 11
Oil
Matthew 4:8-9

INSPIRATION:

God planted the idea for this painting in my head the night of the verse assignment and immediately I knew it's what I was going to paint. Although this style of painting where only a thin flexible knife is used to apply the

paint to the canvas was new to me, this prompt, and my idea for the painting, urged me to try the technique and I am very pleased with how the painting turned out. In my painting, the Devil tempts Jesus with reign over the kingdom below and does this in the painting by gesturing with his hand over the city, offering it to Jesus. Obviously, Jesus is strong-willed and turns down the Devil's offer, but I like to think that in order for the Devil to tempt Jesus with something, it must have been pretty fantastic, hence the bright array of colors I used in my painting and the one-point perspective which shows off the vastness and beauty of the city.

EXPERIENCE:

My experience creating this artwork was incredible. It was exciting and new for me to use oil paints and apply them only using a palette knife. Although it was a huge jump outside my comfort zone, I knew it was worth it for our Lord, Jesus Christ. God was with me through the whole process in many ways. First, I was sick during the entire 7-day Art Challenge period which made it hard to focus and get inspired. Second, I started the painting out with doubt and fear that I wouldn't pull through because I had never attempted a painting like this one. Third, I did this entire painting without my contacts in. I found that putting contacts in with sinus pressure from the flu was a bit uncomfortable but I started to paint and I learned that this way of painting let me focus simply on the colors, values, and the illusion of detail which I now understand is a very important aspect of painting. This kept me from getting hung up on the little things because I couldn't see them.



HONORABLE MENTION (Senior Youth)
Y3 | ***Man Does Not Live by Bread Alone***
Olivia Hahm, Grade 12
Painting

INSPIRATION:

I was inspired by the Bible passage to show that Jesus was tempted by the devil and overcame him with scripture. The serpent represents the devil who is holding a loaf of bread to tempt Jesus, and the dagger cross represents the Word of God overtaking the devil and his temptations.



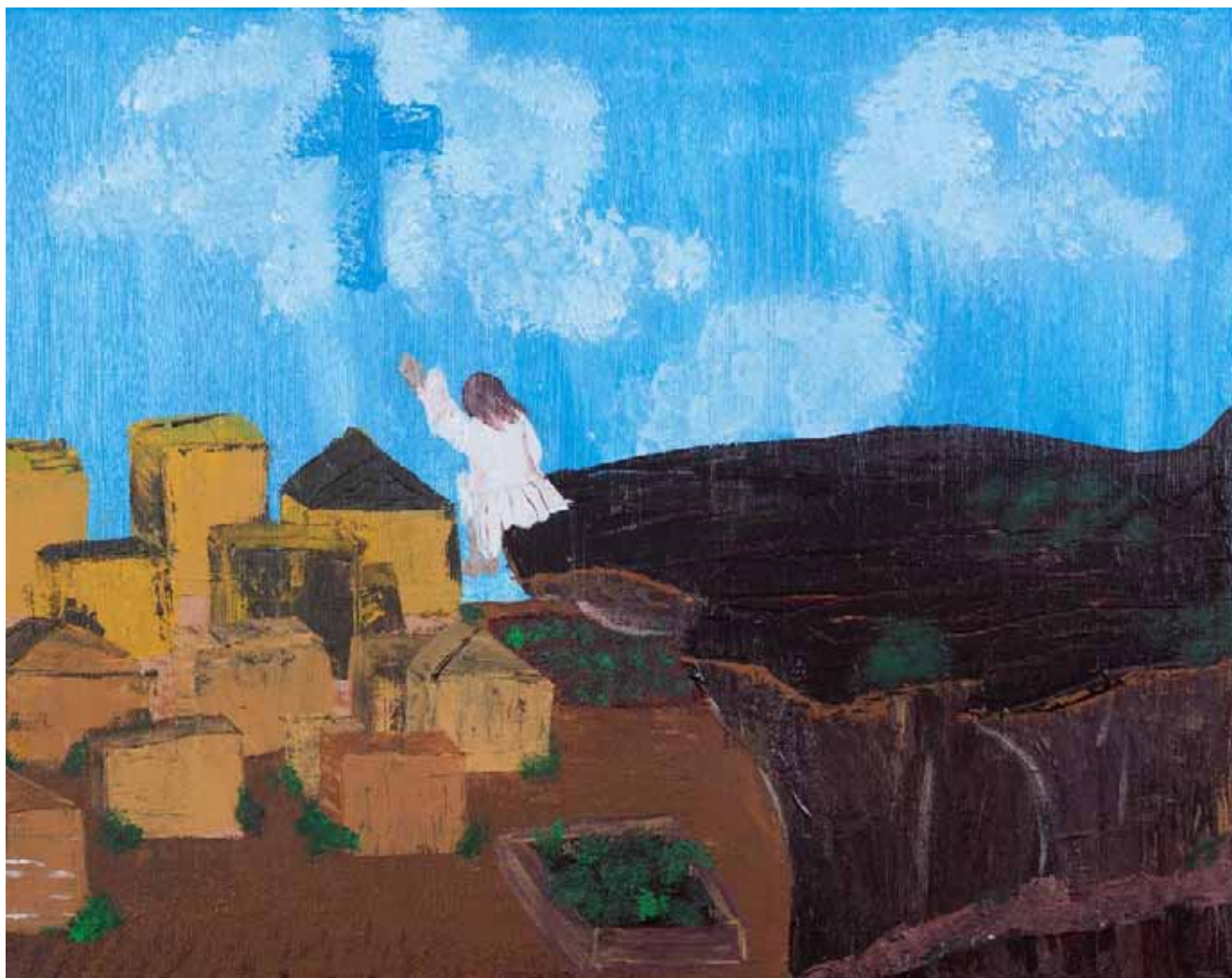
Y10 | ***Don't Listen to the Shadow***
Anna Grace Schererle, Grade 12
Acrylic Paint on Canvas
Matthew 4:10

INSPIRATION:

My painting interprets the meaning of the assigned verse because it depicts Jesus, as he is being tempted by the devil on top of the mountain. The devil tells Jesus he will give him all of the kingdoms of the world if Jesus were to bow down and worship him. However, Jesus declines this offer and explains to the devil how he only worships God. The black shadows in the painting represent the devil, while the bright clouds and sun represent God. Jesus is looking toward the clouds and sun rather than back at the

shadows in order to represent his faithfulness to God.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ARTISTS (Grade 6-8)



2nd PLACE (Middle Youth)

Y6 | *Jesus is Tested from the Highest Peak*

Leah Johnson, Grade 8

Acrylic Paint, Canvas

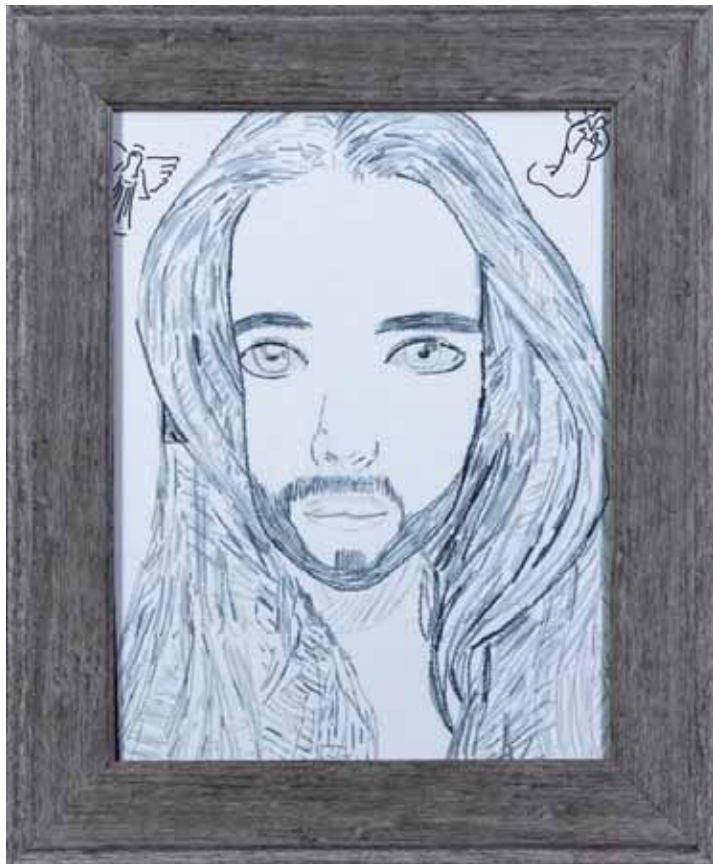
Matthew 4:8-10

INSPIRATION:

I picked this part of the verse specifically because of the power that Jesus shows. By denying being given the entire city and not bowing down to the devil, Jesus shows great power and true belief. “Worship the Lord God and serve Him only.” God overpowers all evil and is the only one to be worshipped. The night that I received this assignment, I was immediately given this picture in my head of Jesus looking over the city, because He is the Son of God, the creator of all things.

EXPERIENCE:

As I started this piece, God planted little ideas inside my head on how I can represent this first even more in my artwork. For example, the cross hidden in the clouds was something that I was given the inspiration of. When things weren’t working out, He helped remind me that this is about finding and becoming closer to God, not just winning a contest.



HONORABLE MENTION (Middle Youth)

Y17 | **Jesus and the Angels**

Kiersten Watts, Grade 6

Computer Art

Matthew 4:11

INSPIRATION:

My inspiration for my artwork came from my imagination when I imagined how Jesus would look in life today. My artwork displays the assigned verse because the angels in the background represent when the verse says that the angels attended Jesus, and Jesus himself is there being attended by the angels after the devil left him.



Y2 | **Desert Storms**

Shani Dukat, Grade 7

Legos

Matthew 4:4

INSPIRATION:

My artwork shows Jesus being tempted in the desert by the Evil one. This is my interpretation of the verse, so I made the Evil one holding a loaf of bread and a stone to show that he is telling Jesus to turn the stones into bread.



Y4 | *On Top of the Temple*

Titus Huber, Grade 6

Pencil

Matthew 4:5-7

INSPIRATION:

I prayed about the project and this part of the verse kept jumping out at me. I looked into what the temple and clothing would have looked like at the time and modeled the highest point of the temple and Jesus clothing after that. I made Jesus glow because He is the Son of God and He is holy. Satan is just dark because he is evil. I think that Jesus would not have even thought about jumping so He is turned away from the edge.

EXPERIENCE:

Before I started, I prayed and read the verses a couple of times. I just started sketching what I had in my mind, and then I did a little research on what things would have been like and redid it. I added shading and a little coloring. It was harder than I thought it would be to think of what to draw. It was difficult to think in terms of representations - my mind could only think in terms of what it might actually look like.



Y7 | *Jesus Encountering Angels*

Daphne Lanctot, Grade 6

Watercolor on Canvas

Matthew 4:6,11

INSPIRATION:

While I was reading the verse, I came across the point where Jesus told the Devil to go and encountered an angel. I imagined the whole situation more than I think I had with any other Bible verse I have read. I felt like I was in the situation and while I was visualizing, I came across a vision in my mind of Jesus encountering an angel.

EXPERIENCE:

I feel like God was moving my hand in the process of making this piece. I feel like when I visualized this in my head, I felt happy. When I painted this, I was with my grandma. It felt really good to be with someone then.



Y14 | **Three Tempting Offers**
Bronwyn Snare, Grade 6
 Colored Pencil
 Matthew 4:1-11

INSPIRATION:

When I read this passage, with each temptation scene I saw a different image. So, I decided that the best way to depict them was to combine all of them into a collage of temptations. I incorporated every temptation that Satan offered Jesus into my artwork. This piece focuses on Jesus, having rejected all three temptations, looking toward heaven and remembering the words of his Father.



Y16 | **Temptation at its Finest**
Jillian Studley, Grade 8
 Acrylic Paint, Paper
 Matthew 4:5

INSPIRATION:

My inspiration came from the original painting "Temptation of Christ." I decided to take my own twist on it with no faces and the paper as the hill. I had back forth with my ideas on what to do and decided on this one.

EXPERIENCE:

I struggled with the challenge given because I couldn't think of just one idea. I struggled, but when I finally decided, I knew it was the right thing. I think this competition was a big step in my art life and that God has a purpose for me.

YOUNG ARTISTS (Grade 1-3)



THIRD PLACE (Young Artists)
Y9 | *Jesus Holding the Rock*
Lucas Rough,
Grade 1
Watercolor/Acrylic
Matthew 4:4

INSPIRATION:

After reading the passage, I liked what the key verse, Matthew 4:4, said and tried to paint it as best I could.



HONORABLE MENTION
(Young Artists)

Y8 | ***Don't Test the Lord***

Vivian Rough, Grade 3

Watercolor/Acrylic

Matthew 4:5-7

INSPIRATION:

I was inspired to show some of the ways Jesus was tested in the wilderness. I included myself in the painting to show my reaction if I were witness to this event



Y1 | ***The Temptation***

Frances Auseon, Grade 2

Watercolor with Wax Resist



Y11

Jesus and the Devil

Alex Serra, Grade 2

Acrylic, Wood, Clay

Matthew 4: 5-6

INSPIRATION:

Jesus meets the Devil and the Devil takes him to the top of the tower and says, "if you obey me, I'll give you all the cities in the world." So, that's basically what's going on in this artwork.



Y13 | **Wide Roads Lead to Sin and**

Narrow Roads Lead to Jesus

Tabitha Shore, grade 1

Paint

Matthew 4:1-11

INSPIRATION:

The three wide roads are what Jesus could have done, the sin roads. Each road leads to the temptation. The green lights represent saying "yes" to sin, which Jesus did not do. The red light is saying no to sin. That is Jesus' narrow road.

EXPERIENCE:

I prayed and God gave me a vision of the traffic lights.



Y15 | ***The Tempting Kingdom***

Waverly Snare, Grade 2

Acrylic Paint

Matthew 4:8-11

INSPIRATION:

My artwork shows Jesus looking out at the temples and kingdoms that Satan promised Jesus if he would bow down to him. Jesus rejects Satan by looking to God, who is looking at them from a yellow cloud.

Comments by Artist Charles Rowland, Juror



One of my mentors once told me “Remember, your painting should feel like something rather than look like something.” That is the essence of the Seven-Day Bible Art Challenge. It was my pleasure to view the efforts of 40 artists of all ages in expressing their interpretation of a selected piece of Scripture. Thank you to the staff and members of UALC for allowing me to participate in this project, and especially to co-juror Pastor Ruben Mellum.

My role was to assess the artistic qualities of the entries. In doing so I looked for three things. First was the artist’s technical ability or how well he or she was able to apply the chosen medium. Second was design and composition including placement of shapes and interrelationship of values and colors. Third, and by far most importantly, how well did the work tell a story, communicate an idea and create an emotional response?

In the final analysis award winners were selected based on the above artistic characteristics combined with effective expression of the prescribed Scripture. The following are comments on the award winners from an artists’ perspective.

Adult

- **First Place:** This painting was a standout for the forceful use of color and value. The composition is very effective and the calligraphic line work in the shirt adds interest and movement. Strong diagonals add to the energy and movement of the viewers’ eye. A very nicely balanced and well executed painting.
- **Second Place:** This painting is characterized by strong values and textures. It has a storybook quality about it and the figures give a wonderful personality to the work.
- **Third Place:** 3-dimensional: Exquisite is the word that comes to mind for this unique piece. A high level of craftsmanship is obvious, and the selection of colors provides a harmonious pleasant feeling. The script around the top band adds an air of mystery. 2nd Third Place (2-dimensional) was well crafted and told a story to create an emotional response.

Youth

- **First Place (Senior High Youth):** Strong color and texture are the hallmark of this exciting painting. The extended hand draws the viewer into the painting and the texture and color variation keeps the viewer entertained and moving through the painting.
- **Second Place (Middle School Youth):** Strong values and powerful shapes characterize this painting. The lone figure in white provides a strong focal point and the gestures of the figure are well done.
- **Third Place (Young Artists):** A wonderfully expressive work by one so young. Elegant in its simplicity and directness.

Comments by Pastor Reuben Mellum, Juror

Thank you to all the artists who participated in this event and to all who come to view the art. Thank you to the UALC Visual Arts Ministry members who spent time preparing this Bible Art Challenge, planning all the details and continuing to work until all is put away. And finally, thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this event.

My job was to select the Scriptures, one for the Youth Division and one for the Adult. Artist Charles Rowland and I juried the art we considered top in quality and in capturing the theme of the assigned Scripture. There were so many excellent works, it was difficult choosing the winners.

Congratulations to each one who won an award. We are proud of you and urge you to continue in your artistic pursuits. If you did not win a prize, you are still a winner if you completed your art and are now displaying it. You are a winner and an evangelist when others view your work depicting Jesus’ struggle with and overcoming Satan in the wilderness. Jesus used Scripture to defeat His foe and thus showed us how we can say NO when we are tempted by Satan. When they see your work based on Jesus praying in agony to His Father in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before He was crucified, they may think of the price Jesus was willing to pay to redeem us.

Your artwork may also remind the viewer that Jesus warned us to be vigilant at all times, because Satan is always trying to lead us astray. Jesus alone can give us the victory.

May God use this Seven-Day Bible Art Challenge to touch the heart and soul of some seeking person.

7day Bible Art Challenge™

TENTATIVE DATES for the 5TH Annual UALC 7 Day Bible Art Challenge:
Entry Deadline: Feb 17, 2021; Verse Assignment Feb 24, 2021; Turn-In March 3, 2021
Awards Reception March 14, 2021
Entries open August 2020 at www.ualc.org/7dayart

If you would like an alert when the Call for Entries is issued, email visualarts@ualc.org
(Participating artists are already on the mailing list.)

To learn about organizing a 7 Day Bible Art Challenge in another community
or to support spreading this concept nationwide, visit
www.7dayart.com

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Artist Charles Rowland
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We welcome new members to the Visual Arts Ministry. You need not be an artist to participate. Email visualarts@ualc.org for more information.

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