

Holy Week – Monday the 6th April 2020 – A meditation



The Testing of Christ – ‘The Scorpion’ Stanley Spencer 1939
State Art Collection, Western Australia

This painting is one of a series of paintings by Stanley Spencer called ‘Christ in the Wilderness’, of which this is one. We are reminded of the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness, tempted three times with the words, ‘*If you are the Son of God...*’. I wonder in this Holy Week as Jesus entered Jerusalem just how much and how often he was tempted to turn back away from his destiny. The scorpions in his hand and by his feet remind us that one sting can change everything. An ill-conceived action or word said in anger, can sting. Regardless of how often we might sting God, in this picture we are reminded of just how much God loves us, the patient, timeless sense of pity and peace oozes out of the painting. His love remains steadfast.

Jesus, friend and brother,
You were tested and found faithful.
When we are tested give us the insight to recognize what is right,
The will to do it
And the strength to continue that path. Amen.

Richard Harries

You can look at this meditation with accompanying music here: <https://youtu.be/dOeOYunrN5I>