

Sketch: The Temptation

Written by Warren Sager

CAST OF CHARACTERS: JESUS AND SATAN

(Jesus enters and walks on slowly, then sits on a 'rock' and seems to be thinking or praying. Satan's voice comes from off stage, via radio mic.)

SATAN: Jesus! **(With sarcasm)** My, aren't we the holy one? Fasting and praying here in this wilderness for 40 days? That's a long time to go without any food. A very long time. **(Chuckling evilly)** Have you got that feeling in the pit of your stomach... that longing for something really tasty? You know what I'm talking about. You're feeling it right now, aren't you? **(Jesus still doesn't acknowledged Satan)**

Of course you are. But, if you are the Son of God...then you can take care of this little hunger problem, can't you? I know you're hungry. You haven't eaten for such a long time! No one expects any more of you! It is time to eat now. So...if you ARE the Son of God... then command that these stones become bread. **(Pause)**

Hmmm! Just think... Warm, fresh baked bread. Can't you smell it? Just tell it to become bread! IF you are the Son of God... then won't it obey you? Because then you can EAT!

JESUS: **(Rising, he starts to walk away)** God's word, the Bible, says, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'

SATAN: **(Sounding disturbed at the quoting of scripture.)** Here, Jesus! I don't think you are taking me seriously!! **(Jesus moves quickly to the front of stage and stands on a box)** See what I can do! I have taken you to the very top of the temple! It's a bit frightening up here, isn't it?

(Pause)

Although... I suppose nothing frightens you. After all, you're the Son of God...aren't you?

So... Jesus... if you are the Son of God...IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD!! Then, then...throw yourself down from here. Because I'm sure God's angels will catch you...
(Mocking Him) For it is written in God's word...'He will give His angels charge concerning you to guard you' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'

JESUS: **(Calmly and firmly)** On the other hand...it is also written in God's word, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'

SATAN: **(Aggressively)** Come with me! **(Jesus jumps off the box and immediately steps onto a chair.)** Look! From this mountain top you can see it all! All the kingdoms of the world! Majestic, aren't they? All the lands and kingdoms in all their splendor! And it's all mine! It has been handed over to me! **(Pause)**

But Jesus, you know what? I will give you all of this... ALL of this, **(Pause)** if you bow down and worship me! Yes! **(Over the top)** If you worship me, all of these lands and kingdoms will be yours!!!

JESUS: Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only!'

SATAN: I'll go. But you have not seen the last of me!

THE END