

Power In His Touch

Music and Lyrics by

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Book by

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

In order of appearance

CHOIR DIRECTOR

KENDRA/SARAH (*singer/follower of Jesus*)

JASON/NATHANIEL (*singer/disciple of Jesus*)

CHOIR DIRECTOR'S WIFE

NALEA (*Kendra's daughter*)

THREE WISE MEN

YOUNG SARAH

SARAH'S MOTHER

ELI (*Sarah's father*)

SIMON (*Judas Iscariot's father*)

YOUNG JUDAS ISCARIOT

HEROD (*King of the Jews*)

MARY (*Jesus' mother*)

JOSEPH (*Jesus' father*)

TYRAS (*a wealthy and corrupt politician*)

JUDAS ISCARIOT (*disciple of Jesus*)

ROMAN SOLDIER

MORDECAI (*Tyras' accountant*)

HANNAH (*Sarah's friend*)

AARON (*Nathaniel's father*)

FOUR CHILD SOLOISTS

HIGH PRIEST

JESUS OF NAZARETH

SARAH/KENDRA DOUBLE

CLEOPAS (*disciple of Jesus*)

ENSEMBLE *includes* MODERN-DAY CHOIR, ROMAN SOLDIERS, ZEALOTS,
DISCIPLES, PHARISEES, JEWISH MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

THE TIME:

Modern day Christmas and New Testament times

THE PLACE:

A modern-day church and ancient Israel

THE STORY:

Kendra, a modern-day single mother, is struggling to overcome a life filled with challenges and regrets. At a rehearsal for a church Christmas concert, she is overcome by feelings of guilt. When she questions her worthiness to perform, her friend and co-soloist Jason tells her the story of “Sarah,” a woman who lived during the time of Jesus.

The story transitions to ancient Palestine where biblical characters interact with fictional characters including Tyras, a wealthy and arrogant politician who marries Sarah, and Mordecai, his duplicitous accountant. Sarah’s biblical identity as the woman caught in adultery and forgiven by Jesus is revealed at the conclusion of Act 1.

How did Jesus’ life and death affect those around him and what was expected of the prophesied “King of the Jews?” Those questions and others are explored as the story unfolds. As Kendra and Sarah learn of Jesus’ message of love and his sacrifice, their lives are forever transformed.

ACT I

Scene 1: Modern-day church/Jerusalem at the birth of Jesus

Scene 2: Eli’s house, the temple, Aaron’s house (Jerusalem, 12 years later)

Scene 3: Eli’s house (later that day)

Scene 4: Eli’s house (the next morning)

Scene 5: Tyras’ house (Jerusalem, 18 years later)

Scene 6: Galilee (a few days later)

Scene 7: Eli’s house (a few weeks later)

Scene 8: Tyras’ house (a few days later)

Scene 9: Jerusalem, near temple (two years later)

ACT II

Scene 1: Modern-day church/ancient Jerusalem

Scene 2: Jerusalem (a few days later)

Scene 3: Jerusalem (a few days before Passover)

Scene 4: A home in Jerusalem (for the Last Supper)

Scene 5: Tyras’ house (later that night)

Scene 6: Gethsemane/Jerusalem (midnight that night)

Scene 7: Jerusalem (three days later) and modern-day church

Scene 8: Modern-day church (the next evening)

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

“Good Tidings”	Kendra, Jason and Ensemble
“If You Believe in Love”	Kendra and Jason
“King of the Jews”	Wise Men, Young Sarah, Sarah’s mother, Herod, Simon, Young Judas, Ensemble
“Mary Lullaby, Sleep My Child”	Mary
“My Whole World”	Eli and Sarah
“A Politician’s World”	Tyras
“Something Her Eyes Do to Me”	Nathaniel, Aaron, Sarah and Hannah
“I Will Promise to Love Her”	Tyras, Eli and Nathaniel
“A Politician’s World” (reprise)	Tyras
“A Better World”	Judas
“Will I Ever Be Enough?”	Sarah
“Through The Eyes of a Child”	Child soloists and children’s ensemble
“My Whole World” (reprise)	Eli and Sarah
“Lose Yourself in the Moment”	Mordecai
“Where is That Love?”	Sarah
“Better World Finale”	Nathaniel, Judas, Tyras, Sarah, Mordecai, Pharisees, High Priest, Jesus and Ensemble

ACT II

“Who is This Man?”	Kendra and Sarah double
“Power in His Touch”	Mary and Nathaniel
“The Wrong Man to Challenge”	Tyras
“Money Makes a King”	Tyras, Mordecai and Zealots
“If You Believe in Love” (reprise)	Nathaniel and Sarah
“On the Other Hand”	Judas
“My Peace”	Jesus
“Imagine the Moment”	Tyras and Judas
“Second in Command”	Mordecai
“Thy Will Be Done”	Jesus
Mary’s Lullaby, Sleep My Son”	Mary
“Betrayed With a Kiss”	Judas
“He is Risen”	Mary, Sarah, Angels, Nathaniel, Cleopas, Disciples and Ensemble
“Kendra’s Prayer”	Kendra
“He is the Light”	Jason, Kendra and Ensemble

ACT I: SCENE ONE

(MUSIC UP for "Better World Instrumental." LIGHTS UP on a modern-day church. It's the dress rehearsal for a Christmas concert, which will be held the following night. The DIRECTOR is standing in front of a CHOIR. They're in place, but chatting with each other while he makes notes in his score. Some children are sitting off to the side, quietly waiting for their parents. NALEA is there, playing with a doll. The CHOIR takes their pitch from the last chord of musical introduction or from a pitch pipe.)

DIRECTOR

(Motioning to the CHOIR to settle down.)

All right, quiet please. I know it's been a long rehearsal, but let's just run this song one last time.

KENDRA

BRIGHTER THAN THE SUN,
IT IS THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM!
THE KING OF KINGS HAS COME,
FIND THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM.
BETHLEHEM, BETHLEHEM,
THAT HOLY LAND,
EVERY EYE
IN EVERY DARKENED SKY
WILL SEE THE LIGHT
IN BETHLEHEM
ANGELS DID APPEAR
TO TELL THE NEWS
IN BETHLEHEM.
THE HOLY CHILD IS HERE,
HE IS BORN IN BETHLEHEM!
BETHLEHEM, BETHLEHEM,
THAT HOLY LAND
EVERY EYE
IN EVERY DARKENED SKY
WILL SEE THE LIGHT
IN BETHLEHEM

CHOIR

GOOD TIDINGS (12 times)
IT IS THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM!
GOOD TIDINGS (4 times)
FIND THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM.
BETHLEHEM, BETHLEHEM
HOLY LAND, BETHLEHEM,
EVERY EYE
IN EVERY DARKENED SKY
WILL SEE THE LIGHT
IN BETHLEHEM
GOOD TIDINGS (8 times)
TO TELL THE NEWS
IN BETHLEHEM.
GOOD TIDINGS (4 times)
HE IS BORN IN BETHLEHEM!
BETHLEHEM, BETHLEHEM,
THAT HOLY LAND, BETHLEHEM,
EVERY EYE
IN EVERY DARKENED SKY
WILL SEE THE LIGHT
IN BETHLEHEM

JASON

HE WILL GIVE US HOPE,
 HE'LL TEACH US LOVE
 HE IS THE SON OF GOD ABOVE.
 HE WILL BRING PEACE TO ALL THE WORLD,
 THIS CHILD IN BETHLEHEM.

JASON & CHOIR

HE WILL GIVE US HOPE,
 HE'LL TEACH US LOVE
 HE IS THE SON OF GOD ABOVE.
 HE WILL BRING PEACE TO ALL THE WORLD,
 THIS CHILD IN BETHLEHEM
 THIS CHILD IN BETHLEHEM

KENDRA & JASON

WISE MEN TRAVELED FAR,
 TO SEE THE LORD
 IN BETHLEHEM,
 FOLLOWING THAT STAR,
 HE IS BORN IN BETHLEHEM!
 BETHLEHEM, BETHLEHEM,
 THAT HOLY LAND
 EVERY EYE
 IN EVERY DARKENED SKY
 WILL SEE THE LIGHT
 IN BETHLEHEM
 EVERY EYE
 IN EVERY DARKENED SKY

WILL SEE THE LIGHT
 IN BETHLEHEM
 GOOD TIDINGS!

CHOIR

GOOD TIDINGS (8 times)
 TO SEE THE LORD
 IN BETHLEHEM,
 GOOD TIDINGS (3 times) HE IS BORN!
 BORN IN BETHLEHEM!
 BETHLEHEM, BETHLEHEM,
 THAT HOLY LAND, BETHLEHEM
 EVERY EYE
 IN EVERY DARKENED SKY
 WILL SEE THE LIGHT
 IN BETHLEHEM
 EVERY EYE
 IN EVERY DARKENED SKY
 WILL SEE THE LIGHT
 WILL SEE THE LIGHT
 WILL SEE THE LIGHT
 WILL SEE THE LIGHT
 IN BETHLEHEM
 GOOD TIDINGS!

DIRECTOR

Excellent! We'll put on a great show tomorrow. Now remember, be back here in your concert robes at 6:00 P.M. sharp! Let's call it a night.

(DIRECTOR and CHOIR gather music/belongings, put coats on CHILDREN. A group of GIRLS approach JASON, talk to him flirtatiously. CHOIR DIRECTOR'S WIFE approaches KENDRA.)

CHOIR DIRECTOR'S WIFE

Kendra, you are incredible!

KENDRA

Thank you.

NALEA

(Running to KENDRA, interrupting)

Mommy, are you done yet?

KENDRA

Yes, we're finished.

CHOIR DIRECTOR'S WIFE

Oh, I didn't know you have a daughter!

KENDRA

Yes. This is Nalea.

CHOIR DIRECTOR'S WIFE

She's adorable! Is your husband coming to the show tomorrow night?

KENDRA

No. I'm not married.

CHOIR DIRECTOR'S WIFE

Oh. I imagine divorce must be so difficult.

KENDRA

(Self-consciously)

Actually I've never been married.

CHOIR DIRECTOR'S WIFE

(Awkwardly)

Oh. I'm sorry, that was thoughtless of me.

KENDRA

It's OK.

DIRECTOR

(Approaching KENDRA and CHOIR DIRECTOR'S WIFE. HE has two CHILDREN with him.)

Honey, we'd better get going.

(to KENDRA)

Kendra, you were wonderful tonight! We'll see you tomorrow.

KENDRA

Have a good night.

CHOIR DIRECTOR'S WIFE

(Whispering to CHOIR DIRECTOR as they exit, tactlessly loud. KENDRA can hear them.)

That was so embarrassing. Did you hear what I said?

DIRECTOR

No.

(CHOIR DIRECTOR'S and his family exit.)

KENDRA

(Upset)

Come on Nalea, let's go.

NALEA

But I didn't get to see Jason.

KENDRA

(Noticing JASON is still surrounded by girls.)

He looks busy, honey. We'll talk to him tomorrow.

(Taking NALEA'S hand and walking toward the exit.)

NALEA

Mommy wait! I need to go to the bathroom!

KENDRA

Well hurry up.

(NALEA exits. JASON approaches KENDRA, other GIRLS exit leaving KENDRA and JASON alone on stage.)

JASON

Kendra! You aren't leaving, are you?

(KENDRA doesn't respond. JASON can see she is upset.)

Hey, are you all right?

KENDRA

I'm fine.

JASON

I know you better than that. What's wrong?

(MUSIC UP for "If You Believe in Love")

KENDRA

Look Jason, I don't fit in here. I'm sure I'm the only one in this church who has a child without ever being married. I don't belong here.

JASON

That's not true.

KENDRA

But that's how I feel...

KENDRA

I DON'T KNOW WHY I AGREED TO SING THIS PART
HERE IT'S CHRISTMAS AND THERE'S NOTHING IN MY HEART
DON'T YOU THINK I SEE HOW THEY LOOK AT ME?
I WILL ALWAYS BE THE ONE WHO STANDS APART.

JASON

KENDRA, EVERYBODY HERE HAS MADE MISTAKES

KENDRA

But do they have a child to show for it?

JASON

I KNOW YOU'VE HAD YOUR SHARE OF TOUGH BREAKS

KENDRA

NO HOME, NO FATHER AROUND

JASON

THINGS CAN CHANGE YOU'LL SEE,
IT'S NOT OVER YET, GOD FORGIVES...

KENDRA

BUT CAN HIS FOLLOWERS FORGET?
MAYBE IT'S TOO LATE TO SAVE A SOUL LIKE MINE.
EVEN GOD CAN'T UNDO THIS MESS I'VE MADE WITH MY LIFE.

JASON

CAN YOU BELIEVE IN A LOVE SO STRONG
IT CARRIES YOU THROUGH EVERY PAIN?
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT ONE NIGHT SO LONG AGO
A CHILD WAS BORN, THE SAVIOR CAME!
NOTHING CAN TAKE THAT LIGHT, YOU WILL BE STRONG ENOUGH,
IF YOU BELIEVE IN LOVE.
CAN YOU BELIEVE IN A HOPE SO BRIGHT
IT TAKES YOUR FEARS, TAKES THEM AWAY?
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT ONE PERFECT LIFE

JASON (cont.)

CAN MAKE THE NIGHT AS BRIGHT AS DAY?
 NOTHING CAN TAKE THAT LIGHT, YOU WILL BE STRONG ENOUGH,
 IF YOU BELIEVE IN LOVE.

KENDRA

YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M FEELING,
 I WANT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING TO BE TRUE.
 IF I COULD FIND PEACE
 I WOULD SPEND ALL MY LIFE SEARCHING, PRAYING ...

JASON

CAN YOU BELIEVE
 IN A LOVE SO STRONG
 IT CARRIES YOU
 THROUGH EVERY PAIN?
 CAN YOU BELIEVE
 THAT ONE NIGHT SO LONG AGO
 A CHILD WAS BORN,
 THE SAVIOR CAME!
 NOTHING CAN TAKE THAT LIGHT
 YOU WILL BE STRONG ENOUGH
 IF YOU BELIEVE IN LOVE.
 DON'T GIVE UP ON THAT LIGHT
 YOU WILL BE STRONG ENOUGH
 IF YOU BELIEVE
 CAN YOU BELIEVE?

KENDRA

GOD IN HEAVEN,
 ARE YOU THERE?
 I CAN'T WALK THIS ROAD
 ALONE, NO NOT ALONE.
 CAN YOU HEAR ONE
 WHISPERED PRAYER
 FROM A CHILD
 LOST LONG AGO?
 I CANNOT SEE THAT LIGHT
 AND AM I STRONG ENOUGH
 JUST TO BELIEVE IN LOVE?
 HELP ME TO FIND THAT LIGHT
 AND TO BE STRONG ENOUGH
 JUST TO BELIEVE IN LOVE.

*(JASON touches KENDRA'S cheek, she smiles half-
 heartedly. NALEA enters and interrupts the moment.)*

NALEA

(Running to JASON)

Jason!

JASON

Hi little bug!

(Picking up NALEA and motioning to a bench)

Kendra, come sit down for a minute, there's something I want to tell you.

(MUSIC UP for "King of the Jews." JASON picks up a Bible as they sit down, NALEA sits on JASON'S lap.)

There's a woman in the Bible I've always wondered about. She's only mentioned one time.

NALEA

What was her name?

JASON

Actually, we don't know her name. Why don't we call her ...

NALEA

(Holding up her doll)

Sarah!

JASON

(Amused)

Sure ... Sarah. I imagine Sarah might have been about your age when Christ was born.

(Scene transitions on stage to ancient Jerusalem, with the nativity star shining in the sky. YOUNG SARAH is looking at the star in wonder.)

JASON

THERE'S A STORY YOU SHOULD KNOW FAR AWAY, LONG AGO
OF ONE WHO MUST HAVE FELT THE SAME WAY
WE KNOW LITTLE OF HER HISTORY, WHO SHE WAS IS A MYSTERY
BUT I WONDER IF SHE KNEW THE WISE MEN CAME...
SEARCHING FOR A KING, SEARCHING FOR A KING

(Focus shifts from the modern scene to ancient Jerusalem. Citizens of Jerusalem enter including: THREE WISE MEN, SIMON with YOUNG JUDAS, a group of ZEALOTS including TYRAS and MORDECAI. SIMON and YOUNG JUDAS join the group of zealots, HEROD sits on his throne with ROMAN SOLDIERS nearby, ELI and SARAH'S MOTHER are in their house with an infant. ENSEMBLE MEMBERS are grouped in families. Some of the MOTHERS have young infants in their arms. YOUNG SARAH and others are watching the WISE MEN and the new star and are excited at the news that the Messiah has been born.)

WISE MAN SOLOIST

SEARCHING FOR A KING TO LEAD HIS PEOPLE
WHAT CHANGE WILL HE BRING?
THIS PROMISED ONE, KING OF THE JEWS.

ALL JEWISH PEOPLE

HE'S COME TO RULE ISRAEL,
 DELIVER HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE
 HE'LL REIGN IN POWER AND GLORY
 THEY'LL SEE HIS WRATH AND HIS FURY
 HE'S COME TO CRUSH OUR ENEMIES,
 HE'LL BRING THE ROMANS TO THEIR KNEES
 THE PROPHESED MESSIAH IS HERE,
 KING OF THE JEWS.

(YOUNG SARAH runs to her house.)

YOUNG SARAH

(To her parents)

THERE WERE WISE MEN FOLLOWING A STAR
 MOTHER CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT IT MEANS?

SARAH'S MOTHER

SARAH IN YOUR LIFETIME
 YOU WILL SEE
 THERE IS ONE
 WHO BRINGS US GREATER THINGS
 HE WILL TEACH US PEACE,
 HE WILL BRING US JOY,
 HE'S THE KING OF KINGS!

(Focus shifts to a group of zealots including TYRAS, MORDECAI, SIMON and his son YOUNG JUDAS. Most of the young men on stage move away from their homes and wives and toward this zealots' meeting. JUDAS listens enthusiastically as they discuss the revolutionary Messiah they expect.)

SIMON

HE'LL RAGE LIKE A LION!

ZEALOTS & JEWISH MEN

HE'S COME TO FIGHT FOR ZION!

SIMON

HIS SWORD WILL BE BLOODY WITH JUSTICE,
 AS MIGHTY AS CAESAR AUGUSTUS!

(WISE MEN begin making their way toward HEROD and bow before him.)

ZEALOTS & JEWISH MEN

HE'S COME TO CRUSH OUR ENEMIES,
 HE'LL BRING THE ROMANS TO THEIR KNEES
 THE PROPHESED MESSIAH IS HERE,
 KING OF THE JEWS!

(WISE MEN leave Herod's throne room. HEROD is angry.)

WISE MEN

SEARCHING FOR A KING,
 SEARCHING FOR A KING

HEROD

(To SOLDIERS)
 THIS CHILD CANNOT LIVE!

SOLDIERS

CANNOT LIVE!

HEROD

HE STIRS UP TALK OF REVOLUTION.
 I AM HEROD
 AND I AM YOUR KING,
 I WILL FIND
 AND KILL THIS KING OF THE JEWS!

(Focus shifts to SIMON and YOUNG JUDAS.)

YOUNG JUDAS

FATHER IS IT TRUE ALL THAT THEY SAY
 WILL THIS CHILD BECOME RULER OF THE LAND?

SIMON

JUDAS, IN YOUR LIFETIME YOU WILL SEE
 HE WILL RISE UP IN JERUSALEM!
 YOU MUST *FIGHT* FOR HIM,
 SEE THAT HE IS CROWNED
 AS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

WISE MAN SOLO

HE IS THE CHOSEN PRINCE OF PEACE

SIMON

HE'S COME TO CRUSH OUR ENEMIES!

SARAH'S MOTHER

HE'LL SHOW COMPASSION AND MERCY

HEROD

THEY'LL SEE MY WRATH AND MY FURY!

ALL JEWISH PEOPLE

HE WILL UNITE ISRAEL,
DELIVER HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE
THE PROPHESED MESSIAH IS HERE,
KING OF THE JEWS.

WISE MEN

SEARCHING FOR A KING!
SEARCHING FOR A KING!

SOLDIERS

SEARCHING FOR A KING!

*(SOLDIERS march toward the group of JEWISH WOMEN near
Eli's house. The soldiers corral the women together.)*

SEARCHING FOR A KING!

ALL JEWISH WOMEN

NOW HEROD'S SOLDIERS FILL THE LAND

JEWISH WOMAN

(Screaming)

They've come to kill the children!

JEWISH WOMEN WITH INFANTS

(Pleading with the SOLDIERS)

PLEASE DON'T HURT MY SON SHOW MERCY!

SOLDIERS

YOU'LL SEE OUR WRATH AND OUR FURY!
THE ROMANS RULE ISRAEL,
THERE IS NO CHOSEN PEOPLE
THIS PROPHESED MESSIAH WILL DIE
KING OF THE JEWS.

*(WOMEN flee as SOLDIERS move into crowd and Eli's
house. ELI struggles with one of the soldiers as
SARAH'S MOTHER flees offstage, taking YOUNG SARAH and
the infant with her. The SOLDIER stabs ELI in his leg
and knocks him out, then chases after SARAH'S MOTHER.
HEROD overlooks the crowd as the WISE MAN SOLOIST
looks toward heaven. The ZEALOTS and JEWISH MEN are
unaware of the attack on their families.)*

WISE MEN	HEROD	ZEALOTS/JEWISH MEN
SEARCHING	THIS CHILD	HE'S COME TO RULE ISRAEL,
FOR A KING	CANNOT LIVE!	DELIVER HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE
TO LEAD	HE STIRS UP	HE'LL REIGN IN POWER AND GLORY
HIS	TALK OF	THEY'LL SEE HIS WRATH
PEOPLE	REVOLUTION.	AND HIS FURY!
WHAT CHANGE	I AM HEROD	HE'S COME TO CRUSH OUR ENEMIES
WILL HE BRING?	AND I	HE'LL BRING THE ROMANS
THIS PROMISED	AM YOUR KING,	TO THEIR KNEES
ONE,	I WILL FIND AND	THE PROPHESED MESSIAH
KING OF	KILL THIS KING	IS HERE,
THE JEWS.	OF THE JEWS!	KING OF THE JEWS!

WISE MEN

SEARCHING FOR A KING!

(SARAH'S MOTHER enters, still holding the infant and leading YOUNG SARAH, runs to center stage. SHE motions toward a hiding place.)

SARAH'S MOTHER

Sarah, hide!

WISE MEN

SEARCHING FOR A KING!

(SOLDIER enters and catches SARAH'S MOTHER.)

SARAH'S MOTHER

Please, I beg you!

(SOLDIER kills SARAH'S MOTHER as she fights to protect her son, then kills the infant. SOLDIER exits. YOUNG SARAH witnesses her mother's death, runs to her mother's body as the SOLDIER exits.)

WISE MEN

SEARCHING FOR A KING!

YOUNG SARAH

Mama!

(SARAH collapses across her MOTHER'S body. An infant is heard crying in the distance as focus shifts from the chaotic scene in Jerusalem to MARY and JOSEPH with the baby JESUS in Egypt. The WISE MEN are now bowing before the child. MUSIC UP for "Mary's Lullaby, Sleep My Child.")

MARY

SLEEP MY CHILD,
YOUR MOTHER'S ARMS WILL HOLD YOU.
CLOSE YOUR EYES
NOW THAT THE DAY IS GONE.
LET MY WORDS COMFORT AND CONSOLE YOU,
BE AT PEACE
AND SLEEP UNTIL THE DAWN.
'THOUGH THE LIGHT
HAS GIVEN WAY TO DARKNESS,
YOU ARE SAFE,
OF THAT YOU CAN BE SURE.
THROUGH THE NIGHT
I'LL WATCH YOU AND PROTECT YOU,
DO NOT FEAR,
THE SUN WILL RISE ONCE MORE.
FOR YOU HAVE A FATHER IN THE HEAVENS,
SMILING UPON YOU AS YOU GROW.
YOU ARE A TREASURE SENT TO THIS WORLD,
YOUR LOVE GIVES ME
THE GREATEST JOY
I COULD EVER KNOW.
SLEEP MY CHILD,
YOUR MOTHER'S ARMS WILL HOLD YOU.
CLOSE YOUR EYES,
THE SUN WILL SOON APPEAR.
THROUGH THE NIGHT,
I'LL WATCH YOU AND PROTECT YOU,
WHEN YOU WAKE,
I PROMISE I'LL BE HERE.
WHEN YOU WAKE,
I PROMISE I'LL BE HERE.

(Blackout)

ACT I: SCENE TWO

(Screen projection or gobo shows 12 years later. LIGHTS UP on Jerusalem, Eli's house. It is a spring morning. SARAH is now a young woman of the age to marry. She is humming, arranging flowers for a table. ELI enters, walking with a cane.)

ELI

Good morning Sarah.

SARAH

Good morning Papa! I didn't see you there.

ELI

(Picking up and smelling a flower)

Your mother always filled the house with jasmine.

SARAH

Maybe *that's* why I love their fragrance. Tell me more about her.

ELI

(Tenderly)

You never do tire of hearing the stories.

(MUSIC UP for "My Whole World")

SARAH

I wish I could remember her, or know what she looked like.

ELI

(Smiling, ELI touches SARAH'S chin)

All you have to do is look in a mirror.

ELI

THE WOMAN THAT I LOVED WAS SO LIKE YOU
 YOU HAVE YOUR MOTHER'S EYES, YOU HAVE HER SPIRIT TOO
 SHE COULD BRIGHTEN THE DARKEST DAY BY WALKING IN THE ROOM
 YOUR MOTHER WAS SO LIKE YOU
 FOR SHE FILLED MY DAYS WITH LAUGHTER,
 SHE COULD WIPE AWAY MY TEARS
 SHE WAS SUNLIGHT IN A COLD WORLD.
 IN HER EYES, I SAW MY WHOLE WORLD.

ELI

(Spoken over musical interlude)

It's your time to marry now, Sarah. Mark my words, I'll have a match arranged before the end of the festival.

SARAH

I HOPE THE MAN I MARRY WILL BE LIKE YOU
HE'LL BE KIND AND GENTLE. HE'LL BE HANDSOME TOO
I WILL KNOW THAT I AM SAFE WHENEVER HE WALKS IN THE ROOM
I HOPE THAT HE WILL BE LIKE YOU
YOU HAVE FILLED MY DAYS WITH LAUGHTER,
YOU HAVE WIPED AWAY MY TEARS
YOU PROTECT ME FROM THIS COLD WORLD.
IN YOUR EYES, I SEE MY WHOLE WORLD.

ELI

MY HEART FILLS WITH PRIDE AS I WATCH YOU GROW
INTO A WOMAN FROM A CHILD

SARAH

I CANNOT BEAR THE THOUGHT OF EVER LETTING GO
YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN BY MY SIDE

ELI & SARAH

YOU HAVE FILLED MY DAYS WITH LAUGHTER,
YOU HAVE WIPED AWAY MY TEARS
YOU ARE SUNLIGHT IN A COLD WORLD,
IN YOUR EYES I SEE MY WHOLE WORLD
IN YOUR EYES I SEE MY WHOLE WORLD

(ELI sits down, puts hand to his head as if he has a headache.)

SARAH

Papa, are you all right?

ELI

Yes, just a little tired.

SARAH

Maybe I should stay here today.

(HANNAH enters, walks toward Eli's house.)

ELI

Nonsense! It's Passover, you should be at the Temple. I'd be there too if it weren't for this leg.

(ELI sees HANNAH.)

ELI (cont.)

Besides, Hannah's here to meet you. Now don't forget, Simon and Judas will be here tonight to share the Paschal lamb. Don't be late!

SARAH

I won't, Father. Gut Yomtov!¹

ELI

Yes, Happy Holiday.

(ELI exits. TYRAS enters on his way to Eli's house. SIMON and JUDAS enter walking the other direction, on their way to the Temple. They cross paths.)

TYRAS

Simon!

(Shaking hands warmly)

It's been a long time, old friend.

SIMON

You look good, Tyras! Judas, this is the man I've told you about. He's a powerful leader in Jerusalem, and a vital ally to our cause.

JUDAS

I've heard so much about you. It's an honor to meet you *sir*.

TYRAS

Please, call me Tyras. Your father gives me far too much credit.

(Hushed)

So, you know of our plans to drive the Romans out of our land. You've heard of the "dagger-men"?

JUDAS

(Revealing a concealed dagger)

I've not only heard of them, I *am* a Sicarii.²

¹ Robinson, George. Essential Judaism: A Complete Guide to Beliefs, Customs and Rituals. New York, Pocket Books,

1953. 'Gut Yomtov' is the common greeting used in Jewish culture for Happy Holiday!

² Wikipedia Encyclopedia online. (www.wikipedia.org.) The term 'Sicarii' means 'dagger-men'. According to Jewish tradition, Judas would actually have been called Judas ben Simon, or Judas, son of Simon. It is probable that Judas Iscariot was a zealot. The word Iscariot (Greek *Iskariyotes*) can be interpreted to be a transformation of the Latin *Sicarius*, or dagger-man, one of a cadre of assassins among Jewish rebels intent on driving the Romans out of Judea.

TYRAS

Like father, like son. The zealots will be happy to hear you've joined our ranks.

(ROMAN SOLDIER enters in the background. TYRAS sees him first and motions for JUDAS to hide the dagger whispering to Judas.)

But be careful, the Romans have spies everywhere.

SIMON

(Motioning toward temple)

Are you coming to the temple?

TYRAS

Shortly. I have some business to take care of first.

SIMON

Then we'll see you tonight at Eli's dinner.

TYRAS

Yes, until then.

(SIMON and JUDAS exit. ROMAN SOLDIER steps forward. TYRAS' demeanor changes to a cynical scowl)

TYRAS

You're late. Did you bring the money?

SOLDIER

(SOLDIER shows TYRAS a bag of gold.)

This had better be good.

TYRAS

Have I ever misled you?

(SOLDIER gives money to TYRAS, who gestures to Eli's house.)

Pay a visit to this man. He hasn't paid tribute to Caesar in years. But remember, if you mention my name, we'll never do business again.

SOLDIER

No, I wouldn't think of it.

(SOLDIER exits, TYRAS walks toward temple, MORDECAI enters and they cross paths.)

TYRAS

Mordecai!

(Giving MORDECAI the bag of gold)

I assume you know what to do with this.

MORDECAI

(Amused)

Hide it with the rest, I imagine. I probably shouldn't ask where this came from?

TYRAS

Mordecai, you are just what every successful merchant needs. An accountant who *doesn't* ask questions.

(MORDECAI laughs. TYRAS and MORDECAI start walking toward the temple. The HIGH PRIEST and PHARISEES enter, in the distance.)

MORDECAI

(Amused and impressed)

Really Tyras, I don't know how you do it.

TYRAS

It's simple, actually.

(Motioning to the PHARISEES and HIGH PRIEST).

While these 'men of God' waste their time in service and prayer, I've learned to take care of myself.

(MUSIC UP for "A Politician's World.")

Watch and learn, my friend. It's all just a game...

TYRAS

IN A WORLD OF WIDE-EYED DREAMERS,
THERE IS POWER TO BE HAD
THEY'RE SO WILLING TO BELIEVE
THAT IT'S EASY TO DECEIVE,
ALL IT TAKES IS ANY PASSING FAD.
WHEN THEY LOOK TO ME FOR WISDOM,
THAT'S THE TIME TO SPIN MY WEB
IN A WORLD OF DOG EAT DOG,
THEY'LL GET MIXED UP IN THE FOG
THAT'S THE CHANCE FOR ME TO STRIKE
AND MOVE AHEAD.

(BLIND MAN enters with a bowl, begging for alms.)

I TELL THEM WHAT THEY WANT TO HEAR,
I KNOW JUST WHAT THEY WANT TO SEE

TYRAS (cont.)

(TYRAS puts a coin in the BLIND MAN'S cup as PHARISEES watch in approval.)

WHEN THEY WATCH,
 PRETEND TO PRAY.
 WHEN THEY LOOK THE OTHER WAY
 I PROCEED TO DO EXACTLY AS I PLEASE

(TYRAS takes BLIND MAN'S bowl of money and empties into his own pocket while PHARISEES aren't watching.)

I PUT A FACE ON FOR THE CROWD,
 I'M JUST AN ACTOR IN A PLAY
 YOU CAN ALWAYS HAVE YOUR WAY
 IF YOU KNOW JUST WHAT TO SAY,
 IT'S A POLITICIAN'S WORLD!

(During the last two lines and musical interlude, SARAH and HANNAH enter, as if they had just come from the temple. They are being followed by a MERCHANT selling scarves. SARAH and HANNAH motion that they can't afford one. TYRAS steps in, gallantly purchases a scarf for SARAH who shyly accepts it. HANNAH is impressed. SARAH and HANNAH move to another part of the stage. TYRAS' demeanor changes back to sinister.)

THERE'S THE BEAUTIFUL YOUNG SARAH,
 FAIREST VIRGIN IN THE TOWN
 MEN ARE DAZZLED BY HER CHARM,
 SHE'LL BE PERFECT ON MY ARM,
 NOT TO MENTION WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN
 I WILL PRAISE HER FOR HER VIRTUE,
 SAY SHE'S INNOCENT AND SWEET
 A SMALL DOWRY TO BE SURE
 FOR HER FAMILY IS POOR
 THERE'S A PRICE TO PAY FOR EVERY LITTLE TREAT
 I TELL THEM WHAT THEY WANT TO HEAR.
 TALK FAST ENOUGH, THE TRUTH WILL BLUR
 IF THEY CATCH YOU IN THE RAW
 THAT'S THE BEAUTY OF THE LAW,
 ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS REDEFINE A WORD
 I PUT A FACE ON FOR THE CROWD,
 I'M JUST AN ACTOR IN A PLAY
 YOU CAN ALWAYS HAVE YOUR WAY
 IF YOU KNOW JUST WHAT TO SAY,
 IT'S A POLITICIAN'S WORLD!

TYRAS (cont.)

MARK MY WORDS AND READ MY LIPS,
POWER'S AT MY FINGERTIPS,
IT'S A POLITICIAN'S WORLD!

(TYRAS and MORDECAI laugh, exit. Focus shifts to SARAH and HANNAH. SARAH sets down her scarf. HANNAH is admiring it.)

HANNAH

(Pouting)

You're so lucky Sarah. You'll be the first of any of our friends to get married. It's not fair.

SARAH

Hannah, it will only be a few years before you're married too.

HANNAH

It might as well be forever.

(NATHANIEL enters, walks toward them.)

Besides, with my luck, I'll end up marrying some obscure boy.

(HANNAH sees NATHANIEL, says with disdain)

Speaking of which...

(SARAH turns and sees NATHANIEL. They gaze at each.)

HANNAH sighs, clearly bored and annoyed.)

Hello Nathaniel. Sarah, are you coming?

SARAH

In a moment.

HANNAH

Well hurry. I can't be late to Seder.³

(HANNAH exits)

SARAH

Gut Yomtov, Nathaniel.

NATHANIEL

Sarah, I heard your father is seeking a match for you.

SARAH

Yes he's promised to arrange an engagement within the week.

³ Robinson, George. Essential Judaism. Seder is a traditional Jewish dinner observed on the first two nights of Passover. It is observed with family and friends in the home. Pg. 118

NATHANIEL

Sarah, I realize it's unorthodox to say this to you, but ...
(Losing courage, hesitating)

SARAH

(Hopeful)

Yes?

NATHANIEL

(Blurting out quickly)

I don't have much to offer. But I'm going to Galilee soon to apprentice with my uncle. In a few years, I'll be able to support a wife.

(Stopping, embarrassed)

Listen to me, you must think I'm a fool.

SARAH

Not at all. I've been hoping you felt that way!

NATHANIEL

You have?

(Looking heavenward)

Oh, God is good and does good! It would be a long engagement, Sarah. I only wish I was older!

SARAH

Nathaniel, age doesn't matter. Today, there was a twelve year old boy teaching the Elders in the Temple and they were *astonished* with his understanding.

NATHANIEL

I heard him! His words were powerful, filled with insight.

(NATHANIEL'S focus shifts back to Sarah.)

I'll speak to my father tonight! I'll ask him to see your father tomorrow.

SARAH

And I'm sure he'll agree to it! Well, it's getting late, and Hannah is waiting. I should go. But Gut Yomtov Nathaniel!

NATHANIEL

(Tenderly)

Shalom, Sarah.

(SARAH exits forgetting to take her scarf. NATHANIEL sees SARAH'S scarf, picks it up, heads toward home. MUSIC UP for "Something Her Eyes Do To Me." Nathaniel's father AARON sees NATHANIEL arriving.)

AARON

AH, YOU'RE FINALLY HERE NATHANIEL,
I'VE BEEN LOOKING EVERYWHERE
SO WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

(Taking scarf from NATHANIEL, amused, teasing)

OH I UNDERSTAND,
DID YOU HAPPEN TO SEE SARAH?
YOU ARE FAR TOO YOUNG TO MARRY
GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF THE CLOUDS

(Returning scarf to NATHANIEL)

YOU HAVE WORK TO DO,
IN A YEAR OR TWO
YOU CAN CHOOSE A WIFE BUT NOT NOW,
THERE'LL BE OTHER PRETTY GIRLS AROUND.

NATHANIEL

ANY MAN CAN SEE
THAT SARAH IS BEAUTIFUL
BUT FATHER THERE IS SO MUCH MORE
WHEN I HEAR HER VOICE
IT MAKES ME FEEL
A WAY I'VE NEVER FELT BEFORE
WHEN SHE SMILES
ALL OF THE CARES OF THIS TROUBLED WORLD
FADE FROM MY MIND
I MUST CONFESS,
SHE IS ALL I SEE,
SHE'S THE WORLD TO ME
A WORLD THAT IS FILLED WITH HAPPINESS
SOMETHING IN HER EYES
REACHES INTO MY HEART,
TOUCHES MY SOUL
WHEN SHE'S NEAR
MY HEART RACES WILDLY,
I'M SOARING,
IT'S OUT OF MY CONTROL.
AND I CANNOT DESCRIBE
WHAT I'M FEELING INSIDE,
I CAN'T EXPLAIN THIS SENSATION
BUT SOMEHOW I AM FINALLY FREE
SOMETHING HER EYES DO TO ME

(SARAH and HANNAH enter)

HANNAH

SARAH THIS IS SO EXCITING,
 KNOWING SOON YOU'LL BE A BRIDE.
 BUT IT MAKES ME SICK,
 YOU COULD HAVE YOUR PICK OF THE LOT

SARAH

I'D CHOOSE NATHANIEL.

HANNAH

HE IS FAR TOO YOUNG TO MARRY,
 GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF THE CLOUDS
 FIND A WEALTHY MAN,
 YOU NEED ONE WHO CAN SHOWER YOU
 WITH RUBIES AND PEARLS
 LOVE CAN FADE
 BUT DIAMONDS STAY AROUND.

SARAH

WHILE IT'S TRUE
 HE HAS NO RICHES TO OFFER
 NATHANIEL GIVES ME SO MUCH MORE
 WHEN I HEAR HIS VOICE
 IT MAKES ME FEEL
 A WAY I'VE NEVER FELT BEFORE
 LOVE OR MONEY,
 ASK ME WHICH IS THE THING I SEEK
 I WILL CHOOSE LOVE
 I MUST CONFESS
 HE IS ALL I SEE,
 HE'S THE WORLD TO ME
 TOGETHER,
 OUR LIVES WILL BE BLESSED.
 SOMETHING IN HIS EYES
 REACHES INTO MY HEART,
 TOUCHES MY SOUL
 WHEN HE'S NEAR
 I CAN'T KEEP FROM SMILING
 I'M TREMBLING,
 IT'S OUT OF MY CONTROL.
 AND GOLD COULD NEVER BUY
 WHAT I'M FEELING INSIDE
 I CAN'T EXPLAIN THIS SENSATION
 BUT SOMEHOW I AM FINALLY FREE
 SOMETHING HIS EYES DO TO ME.

SARAH

SOMETHING IN HIS EYES
 REACHES INTO MY HEART, TOUCHES
 MY SOUL
 WHEN HE'S NEAR
 I CAN'T KEEP FROM SMILING
 I'M TREMBLING,
 IT'S OUT OF MY CONTROL
 AND GOLD COULD NEVER BUY WHAT
 I'M FEELING INSIDE
 I CAN'T EXPLAIN THIS SENSATION
 BUT SOMEHOW
 I AM FINALLY FREE
 SOMETHING HIS EYES DO TO ME.

NATHANIEL

FATHER I KNOW
 I LOVE
 SARAH
 CAN'T YOU SEE
 NOTHING CAN STOP ME
 IF SHE'S BY MY SIDE.
 SHE IS EVERYTHING I NEED
 PLEASE TRY
 TO UNDERSTAND!
 TELL ME YOU SEE
 THERE'S SOMETHING
 SHE DOES TO ME
 SOMETHING HER EYES DO TO ME.

(SARAH and HANNAH exit.)

AARON

Well, if it means that much to you, I'll talk to Eli tomorrow.
(NATHANIEL is ecstatic.)
 Now go and get ready for dinner.

(AARON exits.)

NATHANIEL

Thank you Father!

(Aside)

This news cannot wait for tomorrow. I'll find a way to tell Sarah tonight!

(Blackout)

ACT I: SCENE THREE

(Passover dinner at Eli's house. TYRAS, JUDAS and SIMON are guests and have just finished their meal. SARAH is cleaning up as ELI sits with his guests.)

TYRAS

(Kindly, to SARAH)

Sarah, I don't know when I've had a finer Passover.

SARAH

You're very kind, Tyras. I'm sure you had invitations to homes far less humble than ours.

TYRAS

But I couldn't ask for better company, or for a better meal. It truly was wonderful, Sarah. Thank you.

SARAH

(Flattered)

Gut Yomtov, Tyras.

(SARAH kisses ELI'S cheek and exits. ROMAN SOLDIER enters, grabs ELI. Alarmed, TYRAS, SIMON and JUDAS step aside, watch SOLDIER and ELI.)

ROMAN SOLDIER

You've been hiding money from Caesar and you'll pay for it!

ELI

That's not true! I pay the tribute as the law requires.

ROMAN SOLDIER

Don't lie to me Jew!

ELI

(Pleading in hushed tones)

Please, it's Passover. I have guests here.

ROMAN SOLDIER

(Shoving ELI against the wall)

If you don't want your guests to see you in prison, I suggest you come up with some incentive for me to leave quietly.

ELI

All right, all right. Just give me a moment to put something together.

(ELI exits into house. Outraged, JUDAS pulls out a dagger to attack the ROMAN SOLDIER, whose back is turned. TYRAS and SIMON restrain JUDAS, pull him away from the house. ELI returns, gives the SOLDIER a bag of gold, then returns to the table, looking distraught. SOLDIER exits.)

JUDAS

Why did you stop me? How can watch that kind of an insult to one of our own?

TYRAS

If we'd let you go, you'd just be one more nameless Jew murdered by the Romans. There are more important things for you to do.

SIMON

There's a time and a place to fight, son.

JUDAS

What better time than now?

TYRAS

Judas, don't let your temper betray you! It will take more than a few daggers to rid our people of the Romans.

(Turning to SIMON)

You have a fine son Simon, one I'll keep my eye on. With *his* zeal, he could just make a mark in history. I think it's best if you get off the streets. I'll look in on Eli.

SIMON

I hope our paths cross again soon, Tyras.

TYRAS

Yes. God be with you on your journey.

(SIMON and JUDAS exit, TYRAS returns to Eli's house.)

TYRAS

Are you all right, Eli?

ELI

(Visibly upset)

Tyras, the money I gave that soldier was everything I had saved for Sarah's dowry. I'll never be able to arrange a suitable match for her now. I've failed her completely!

TYRAS

It's not your fault, Eli. Who knows why that soldier singled you out.

ELI

What if he comes back? What would become of Sarah if I were arrested?

TYRAS

(Pausing as if in deep thought)

Listen, perhaps I can help.

ELI

I'm not asking for your charity, Tyras.

TYRAS

And I would never insult you by offering it. As it happens, lately I've been thinking of taking a wife. I've never given it much thought before, I've been so busy with my *religious* studies.

ELI

Surely you can't mean Sarah? I couldn't allow you to marry her out of pity. You could make a far more profitable match.

TYRAS

I don't care about profits. What I want is a virtuous wife. And marriage is a step I *should* take as a spiritual man. I've never thought of Sarah before, but why not?

(MUSIC UP for "I Will Promise to Love Her.")

ELI

(Over music)

I don't know what to say. Your offer is very generous...

TYRAS

(Aside)

IN THIS LIFE NOTHING'S BLACK AND WHITE,
THERE ARE ALWAYS SHADES OF GRAY

TYRAS (cont.)

I WILL MAKE HIM SEE SHE SHOULD BE WITH ME
FOR I KNOW JUST WHAT TO SAY

(To ELI)

I WILL PROMISE TO LOVE HER,
TREASURE HER ALL MY LIFE
PLEDGE MY HUMBLE DEVOTION
I'D TAKE CARE OF SARAH
IF SHE WERE MY WIFE
WE WOULD SHARE EACH TOMORROW,
SHE WOULD BE SAFE TODAY
CALM YOUR FEARS,
LET THIS MOMENT CARRY THEM AWAY.

ELI

(Aside)

SURELY THIS IS AN ANSWER TO MY PRAYERS,
HE CAN GIVE HER ALL SHE NEEDS
HE IS KNOWN AS A SCHOLAR,
AND A MAN OF GOD
SHE WOULD LIVE A LIFE OF EASE.
AND HE'D LOVE HER,
HE'D TREASURE HER
SHE'D BE SAFE NOW,
HE'D CARE FOR HER.
AND TOMORROW,
A BRIGHTER DAY
MY FEARS ARE GONE
FOR THIS MOMENT CARRIES THEM AWAY.

(NATHANIEL approaches, sees TYRAS and ELI talking and overhears what they are saying.)

ELI

You're a good man, Tyras. Sarah is fortunate to have such an offer.

TYRAS

Are we agreed then?

ELI

Yes! I'd be proud to call you my son-in-law.

TYRAS

And I honored to marry your daughter ...

(NOTE TO SOUND ENGINEER: Focus on Nathaniel in the trio below as his is the only new information)

TYRAS	ELI	NATHANIEL
I WILL PROMISE	HE WILL	I HAVE NOTHING
TO LOVE HER	LOVE HER	TO OFFER HER
TREASURE HER	HE'LL TREASURE HER	HE CAN GIVE HER
ALL MY LIFE		ALL THE WORLD
PLEDGE MY HUMBLE	SHE'LL BE SAFE NOW	I'M A COMMON BOY
DEVOTION		I CANNOT GIVE HER
I'LL TAKE CARE OF HER	HE'LL CARE	ALL THAT SHE
WHEN SHE IS MY WIFE	FOR HER	DESERVES
I'LL PROTECT HER		
TOMORROW	AND TOMORROW	I'D BE SELFISH
SHE WILL BE SAFE	A BRIGHTER DAY	TO OFFER HER
TODAY		A LIFE OF HARDSHIP
CALM YOUR FEARS	MY FEARS ARE GONE	AND PAIN
LET THIS MOMENT	FOR THIS MOMENT	
CARRY THEM AWAY.	CARRIES THEM AWAY.	
		AND THIS MOMENT
		CARRIES ALL MY
		HOPES AWAY.

(Blackout)

ACT I: SCENE FOUR

(The next morning, Eli's house. LIGHTS UP on SARAH and ELI in conversation.)

SARAH

Tyras has always been kind to us Papa, but I can't marry him. I'm in love with Nathaniel.

ELI

Nathaniel's a good boy, but he can't give you the kind of life Tyras would. Besides, his father hasn't even approached me.

SARAH

He'll come today, Papa. Please talk to him before you make a decision.

ELI

Of course I will. But consider what I've said - in time you would grow to love Tyras.

SARAH

(Seeing NATHANIEL coming toward them)

Here's Nathaniel now! Good morning Nathaniel!

(Alarmed)

Where is your father?

NATHANIEL

(Defeated)

He's not coming. I've only come to say goodbye.

SARAH

Goodbye?

NATHANIEL

Sarah, I'm leaving for Galilee. I was talking foolishly yesterday. I'm too young to provide for a wife. And you're certain to have more promising offers.

SARAH

(Desperate)

Nathaniel, please, I don't care about money.

(NATHANIEL shakes his head, looks down.)

I'm in love with you. Doesn't that mean anything?

(TYRAS enters in background, eavesdropping. He is holding a piece of parchment.)

NATHANIEL

(Softening toward her)

Of course it does. You know how I feel about you ...

TYRAS

(Interrupting)

Good morning, Sarah, Nathaniel.

(To Sarah)

I don't mean to intrude, I have some business with your father.

(Turning to NATHANIEL as if surprised)

Nathaniel, you've grown taller since I last saw you. Your bar mitzvah must be coming soon.

(TYRAS crosses to ELI.)

NATHANIEL

(Bitterly, to himself)

It was three years ago.

(Becoming resolute again)

Sarah, there's more to marriage than just love. A man must provide for his family and I simply have no means to do that. I'm sorry!

(NATHANIEL exits quickly.)

SARAH

Nathaniel!

(NATHANIEL doesn't stop. SARAH stares after him, stunned.)

ELI

(Approaching SARAH)

Where is Nathaniel's father?

SARAH

(Turning slowly to ELI)

He's not coming.

ELI

(Sympathetically)

Sarah, I'm sorry. I know you're upset, but we can't let this opportunity pass by. Tyras is here to sign the betrothal.⁴

⁴ Ibid. Historically, the parents of an engaged Jewish couple signed a legal contract called a t'nayim agreeing that their children would be married. Liberty has been taken because Tyras signs his own engagement contract. Pg. 164

SARAH

(Looking sadly at ELI, then at TYRAS)

Do what you think is best, father.

ELI

(Gently)

Tyras is a good man. I know he'll do all that he can to make you happy.

(ELI crosses back toward TYRAS, picks up the betrothal paper and signs it. MUSIC UP for "A Politician's World" reprise.)

TYRAS

(Aside, smugly)

YOU CAN ALWAYS HAVE YOUR WAY
IF YOU KNOW JUST WHAT TO SAY
IT'S A POLITICIAN'S WORLD!

(Blackout. Optional MUSIC UP "Politician's World" tag. During tag, screen projection shows 18 years later. SET NOTE: Replace table and chairs in Eli's house with a bed.)

ACT I: SCENE FIVE

(Tyras' house in Jerusalem, 18 years later. TYRAS and MORDECAI are together. TYRAS is counting his money while MORDECAI is working, ripping up documents by hand.)

TYRAS

How's that "filing" coming along?

MORDECAI

Just fine.

(Sighing)

There's got to be a faster way to shred documents.

(JUDAS enters, TYRAS greets him. MORDECAI eavesdrops as he pretends to work.)

TYRAS

Judas, thank you for coming!

JUDAS

It's been a long time, Tyras. Of course my father and I have followed your prestigious career. Congratulations!

TYRAS

Thank you. I'm sorry I was unable to attend your father's funeral. He was a true visionary.

JUDAS

Yes. He always dreamed of big things for me. He thought I'd take the world by storm.⁵

TYRAS

And he was right. You made an impression on me, Judas. I haven't forgotten it. That's why I've called you here. The zealots have learned of a new revolutionary, a prophet⁶ rising

⁵ Wikipedia Encyclopedia online. (www.wikipedia.org.) The phrase by storm was a code word for zealots in reference to the overthrow of the Romans.

⁶ Talmage, James E. Jesus the Christ. Utah, Deseret Book Company, 1976. During Christ's ministry, the common belief about the Messiah was that he would be a political leader and would overthrow all other nations to reign in power on the earth. Even many of the disciples, including Peter, had this expectation of the Messiah. Pg. 226

TYRAS (cont.)

in power in Galilee. I'm told that even the great John the Baptist acknowledges him as the Messiah.⁷

JUDAS

The Baptist has a large following! Who is the man John named as the Redeemer?

TYRAS

He is called Jesus of Nazareth. I know little of him. That's where I'm hoping you can help. I can't leave my responsibilities here, but thought you could travel to Galilee, find out if this 'Jesus' is someone who could lead us against the Romans.

JUDAS

I'm flattered you would think of me! I'll help in any way I can.

TYRAS

I knew I could rely on you!

(Giving JUDAS a bag of money)

This should see to your needs for the journey.

(Pausing)

But it might be best if you don't mention my name.

My colleagues frown upon the activities of the zealots.

JUDAS

I understand.

(Standing up to leave)

Tyras, if this is the Messiah, the downfall of the Romans is finally at hand! Thank you!

TYRAS

Yes. Good luck, Judas.

(JUDAS exits.)

MORDECAI

Tyras, I don't understand. You know the accounts of Jesus are true. Why send Judas all the way to Galilee?

⁷ Ibid. John the Baptist also had the expectation of Christ as a political Messiah. Those that did expect Christ to take a political role became disillusioned and impatient with Christ at his lack of action. Pg. 254. The writer S. Hughes also points out that the zealots looked to John the Baptist as a leader. (Hughes, S. John the Baptist, Canterbury Christ Church University College, 2000.)

TYRAS

I have a use for him. This "prophet" may prove to have enormous political influence. This way, I have eyes and ears in Galilee without leaving the pleasures of my very comfortable home.

MORDECAI

(Amused)

Including the pleasure of a very beautiful wife.

(TYRAS looks up in surprise. MORDECAI laughs, acts sheepish for saying too much.)

Forgive me, Tyras, but you have to admit, no man would mind being in your shoes.

TYRAS

(Pouring a glass of wine for each of them. Coldly.)

Hmmm! You think Sarah is beautiful? Well, she was stunning in her day. Pity, unlike a good wine, a woman does not improve with age!

(TYRAS laughs arrogantly and drinks. Lights cross-fade from TYRAS and MORDECAI to JUDAS walking down the street. MUSIC UP for "A Better World.")

JUDAS

THE TIME HAS COME
 TO MAKE A STAND
 AND MY SPIRIT SOARS WITHIN ME
 I HAVE WAITED FOR SO LONG
 TO MEET THIS CHOSEN ONE
 AND I WILL BE
 AT HIS RIGHT HAND,
 WE WILL CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY
 THE REDEEMER OF ISRAEL HAS COME
 HE WILL BRING A BETTER WORLD,
 ONE WHERE WE ARE FREE
 WE WILL FIGHT FOR A BETTER WORLD,
 THROW OFF THE CHAINS OF TYRANNY
 I'LL STAND BY HIS SIDE,
 GO THROUGH WAR AND STRIFE
 YES I'D GIVE MY LIFE FOR A BETTER WORLD.

AT LAST GOD'S WORD
 WILL BE FULFILLED
 FOR HE PROMISED OUR FATHERS
 THERE WOULD BE A DAY
 WHEN ISRAEL WOULD BE STRONG

JUDAS (cont.)

A LAND OF HOPE,
A PROMISED LAND

NOW THE PROPHESED MESSIAH
HAS COME TO LEAD US
HE WILL RIGHT EVERY WRONG

HE WILL BRING A BETTER WORLD,
ONE WHERE WE ARE FREE
WE WILL FIGHT FOR A BETTER WORLD,
THROW OFF THE CHAINS OF TYRANNY
I'LL STAND BY HIS SIDE,
GO THROUGH WAR & STRIFE
YES I'D GIVE MY LIFE
FOR A BETTER WORLD.

NOT KNOWING WHAT MY FATE WILL BE,
I SET OUT ON THIS JOURNEY
GOD IN HEAVEN,
HELP ME FIND A BETTER WORLD.

*(JUDAS begins walking again. It is now late afternoon.
SARAH enters returning home. Their paths cross.)*

SARAH

(Surprised)

Judas, is that you?

JUDAS

Sarah! You haven't aged a day!

(More seriously)

I've heard your father is ill. How is he?

SARAH

Not well. He grows worse every day.

JUDAS

I'm sorry. That must be difficult.

SARAH

Yes.

(Taking a deep breath, with forced cheerfulness)

But enough sad news! How are you? What are you doing here?

JUDAS

Actually, I had business with your husband.

(SARAH becomes guarded)

JUDAS (cont.)

Tyras is an amazing man. His reputation has spread throughout Palestine.

SARAH

(Hesitating, choosing her words carefully)

Yes. He's so involved with his political affairs these days, it seems I hardly see him anymore.

JUDAS

(Not noticing her hesitancy)

A man of *such* devotion! Sarah, I'm sorry, but I have a long journey ahead of me. I should be on my way. But I'll be back in Jerusalem soon, and I'll see you and Tyras then.

SARAH

I look forward to it Judas. Shalom.

JUDAS

Shalom.

(JUDAS exits. SARAH enters Tyras' house. TYRAS is reading something. MORDECAI is making notes in a ledger. As SARAH enters, MORDECAI watches her with interest and attraction. TYRAS doesn't even notice her.)

SARAH

Good afternoon, Tyras.

(TYRAS ignores her)

Hello Mordecai.

MORDECAI

(Affectionately)

Shalom, Sarah.

SARAH

(Hesitating, to TYRAS)

Tyras, my father sends his regards. He's ...

TYRAS

(Interrupting her, irritated)

Sarah, I've told you *never* to interrupt me when I'm working. I'm quite busy.

(TYRAS exits)

MORDECAI

(Approaching SARAH to comfort her)

Don't mind him, Sarah. He has enormous pressure on him.

SARAH

I only wish I could help. But it seems I just get in the way.

MORDECAI

(Flirting)

You're very patient. There aren't many women in the world who are so understanding. Or so beautiful.

SARAH

You always do have something kind to say, Mordecai. You make me feel young again.

MORDECAI

Tyras is lucky to have you.

(Touching SARAH'S arm)

If only I had met you before he did...

(SARAH is startled at the physical contact. MORDECAI smiles apologetically and removes his hand.)

Well, I should get back to work. Tyras is waiting for these records.

(MORDECAI exits. MUSIC UP for "Will I Ever Be Enough?")

SARAH

(Spoken over the musical introduction)

The world sees my husband as a man of devotion. But no one sees what goes on behind closed doors. They don't know of his temper, and his cruelty.

WILL I EVER BE ENOUGH FOR HIM TO LOVE ME?
 WILL I EVER SEE AFFECTION IN HIS GAZE?
 WHEN I WAS YOUNGER,
 HE WANTED ME THERE BY HIS SIDE,
 TREATED ME TENDERLY
 I HOPED WE COULD BE HAPPY IN THOSE DAYS
 BUT THEN AS TIME WENT BY
 IT SEEMS HE GREW TIRED OF ME
 I NO LONGER HAD THE POWER TO MAKE HIM SMILE
 THERE'S A DISTANCE I DON'T UNDERSTAND
 WHY HE'S QUICK TO PUSH AWAY MY HAND
 AND IT'S CLEAR I'M NOT ENOUGH.

SARAH (cont.)

AM I SO DIFFERENT FROM THE GIRL I WAS BACK THEN?
THE MEMORIES FADE FROM MY MIND
IF ONLY I KNEW HOW TO CHARM HIM ONCE AGAIN,
BUT THERE IS ONLY COLDNESS IN HIS EYES

NOW I SEE THAT I HAVE NEVER REALLY KNOWN HIM
THERE'S SO MANY THINGS THAT HE HAS NEVER SHARED
WHEN WE MARRIED I WAS SO NAÏVE
FORCED MYSELF TO HOPE,
AND TO BELIEVE
LOVE WOULD APPEAR AND BE ENOUGH
BUT NOW I FEAR THAT I WILL NEVER BE ENOUGH
I WILL NEVER BE ENOUGH

(Blackout)

ACT I: SCENE SIX

(MUSIC UP for "Through The Eyes of a Child." In Galilee, a group of CHILDREN are playing. Some ADULTS are in the background, repairing nets or spinning wool. MARY and NATHANIEL are there. JUDAS enters, approaches children.)

JUDAS

I'm looking for the man they call Jesus of Nazareth. Do you know him?

(CHILDREN come forward to answer JUDAS, excited to tell him their stories.)

CHILD SOLOIST #1

THERE'S A MAN WHO IS LIKE NO OTHER,
HE WILL HOLD YOU SAFELY IN HIS ARMS.

CHILD SOLOIST #2

ALL THE PEOPLE COME TO SEE
THIS MAN WHO TEACHES IN GALILEE.

ALL CHILDREN

CAN YOU SEE HIM THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD?
DO YOU KNOW HIS NAME?
HAVE YOU HEARD HIM TELL THE STORY
OF THE SHEPHERD & HIS FOLD?
HE'LL GIVE ALL THAT HE HAS
TO BRING HIS SHEEP IN FROM THE COLD.

CHILD SOLOIST #3

IN HIS EYES, YOU CAN SEE GOD SMILING,
YOU WILL FEEL THE POWER OF HIS TOUCH.

CHILD SOLOIST #4

HE WILL LEAD YOU BY THE HAND
HE IS MY BROTHER, HE IS MY FRIEND.

ALL CHILDREN

CAN YOU SEE HIM THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD?
DO YOU KNOW HIS NAME?
HAVE YOU HEARD HIM TELL THE STORY
OF THE SHEPHERD & HIS FOLD?
HE'LL GIVE ALL THAT HE HAS
TO BRING HIS SHEEP IN FROM THE COLD.

CHILD SOLOIST #1

IF YOU OPEN UP YOUR HEART YOU WILL SEE
HE IS MUCH MORE THAN A PROPHET IN GALILEE.

CHILD SOLOIST(S)

THERE'S A MAN
WHO IS LIKE NO OTHER,
HE WILL HOLD YOU SAFELY IN
HIS ARMS.
ALL THE PEOPLE
COME TO SEE
THIS MAN WHO TEACHES
IN GALILEE

CHILDREN'S CHORUS (WOMEN OPTIONAL)

CAN YOU SEE HIM
THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD?
DO YOU KNOW HIS NAME?
HAVE YOU HEARD HIM TELL THE STORY
OF THE SHEPHERD & HIS FOLD?
HE'LL GIVE ALL THAT HE HAS
TO BRING HIS SHEEP
IN FROM THE COLD

CHILD SOLOIST #1

IF YOU OPEN UP YOUR HEART YOU WILL SEE
HE IS MUCH MORE THAN A PROPHET

CHILD SOLOIST #2

MORE THAN A TEACHER

ALL

THE SAVIOR CAME TO GALILEE.

(NATHANIEL and MARY approach JUDAS.)

NATHANIEL

(Spoken over music)

Jesus is a man of power and wisdom

MARY

Come listen to him. You can decide for yourself what to believe.

(Blackout. Optional MUSIC UP for "Through the Eyes of A Child" tag for scene transition.)

ACT I: SCENE SEVEN

(Eli's home. ELI is frail and SARAH is helping him into bed and covers him with blanket.)

ELI*(Weakly)*

Sarah, you haven't slept in days. You've hardly left my side.

SARAH

Well, someone needs to see that you get better.

ELI*(Touching SARAH'S face)*

There's no need to pretend. I know the end is near.

(MUSIC UP for "My Whole World" reprise.)

I don't fear death, I only regret leaving you.

SARAH

Papa, please don't talk like that...

I CAN'T IMAGINE THIS WORLD WITHOUT YOU
WITHOUT YOUR GENTLE SMILE,
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD DO
FOR SOMEHOW
I AM SAFE
WHENEVER YOU ARE IN THE ROOM PAPA...

*(SARAH is overcome with emotion.)***ELI**

YOU HAVE FILLED MY DAYS WITH LAUGHTER,
YOU HAVE WIPED AWAY MY TEARS
YOU ARE SUNLIGHT IN A COLD WORLD
IN YOUR EYES
I SEE MY WHOLE WORLD
MY TIME IS NEAR,
YET IT GIVES ME PEACE TO KNOW
YOU HAVE SOMEONE THERE BY YOUR SIDE

SARAH

I FEEL MY HEART BREAKING,
PAPA PLEASE DON'T GO
I CAN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF GOODBYE

SARAH & ELI

YOU HAVE FILLED MY DAYS WITH LAUGHTER,
YOU HAVE WIPED AWAY MY TEARS
YOU ARE SUNLIGHT IN A COLD WORLD
IN YOUR EYES I SEE MY WHOLE WORLD

SARAH

IN YOUR EYES...

ELI

IN YOUR EYES...

(ELI dies.)

SARAH

I SEE MY WHOLE WORLD.

(Blackout. Optional: MUSIC UP for "My Peace" tag for scene transition.)

ACT I: SCENE EIGHT

(Tyras' home at night. TYRAS is laughing and joking with MORDECAI, clearly unaffected by Eli's death. SARAH is walking in the garden to the side, obviously distraught. TYRAS is oblivious to her grief. JUDAS approaches the house. TYRAS quickly changes his demeanor to appear in mourning.)

JUDAS

Shalom Tyras, Mordecai.

(To TYRAS)

I came as soon as I heard the news. My sympathies are with you and Sarah.

TYRAS

(Acting distraught)

Yes, Eli's death has weighed heavily on us.

(Pausing)

But tell me, what news do you bring? Have you found this "Jesus"?

JUDAS

Yes, and the stories about him are true! He gathers more followers every day. Soon we'll have enough men to strike at the Romans with force!

TYRAS

It's as I've hoped! Judas, we need to arm those willing to fight. Go back to Galilee, gather all the money you can and bring it to me. I'll organize the zealots here. But first, let's take this good news to our friends.

(Turning to MORDECAI)

Mordecai, take care of those records we discussed.

(MORDECAI nods obediently, TYRAS and JUDAS exit.)

MORDECAI

(Making sure TYRAS is gone, then approaches SARAH)

Sarah, I don't mean to intrude in your time of grief.

Your father was a great man. You must be heartbroken.

SARAH

I've never felt so alone in all my life.

MORDECAI

I can only imagine how you feel.

(Touching her arm gently)

But you know, you don't have to go through this alone.

SARAH

(Pulling away from MORDECAI)

Mordecai, the law forbids a woman to be touched in that way by any man other than her husband.

*(MUSIC UP for "Lose Yourself in the Moment."
Throughout this song, SARAH is torn. She's sorely
tempted - it feels good to be held again - but also
struggles with her conscience as she knows she
shouldn't allow it and pulls away. She doesn't
completely give in until the end of the song.)*

MORDECAI

I know the law, Sarah. But there are times when rules don't apply.

IN THIS LIFE NOTHING'S BLACK AND WHITE,
THERE ARE ONLY SHADES OF GRAY
DO NOT THINK OF WHAT'S WRONG OR RIGHT,
ONLY WHAT FEELS RIGHT TODAY
LOOK FOR SWEET CONSOLATION IN THE ARMS OF A FRIEND
SUCH ENTICING SENSATIONS,
TO BE HELD ONCE MORE, TO BE LOVED AGAIN
DO NOT THINK OF TOMORROW, ONLY LIVE FOR TODAY
CLOSE YOUR EYES, LET THE MOMENT CARRY YOU AWAY
BITTER TEARS, LONELINESS, LEAVE THOSE THINGS BEHIND
FEEL MY TOUCH AND EMBRACE THE PLEASURE YOU WILL FIND
LOSE YOURSELF IN THE MOMENT, ONLY LIVE FOR TODAY
CLOSE YOUR EYES, LET THE MOMENT CARRY YOU AWAY

(MORDECAI kisses SARAH. She hesitates, then embraces him. He pulls aside one of the curtains in the wings and motions to her to come with him, to a bedroom offstage. SARAH exits into the bedroom, MORDECAI looks around to make sure the coast is clear, then follows her. Lights drop. MUSIC UP for "Where is That Love?" Lights come up as MORDECAI enters out of the bedroom. MORDECAI gathers his things preparing to leave in a rush. SARAH enters tying her robe.)

SARAH

Mordecai ...

(MORDECAI doesn't turn back and exits at the door-slamming sound in the music.)

SARAH (cont.)

HERE AGAIN, I FIND MYSELF
 ABANDONED AND ALONE
 NO CARING VOICE,
 NO GENTLE TOUCH TO CALL MY OWN.
 THOUGH I SEE I CAN'T ESCAPE MY FATE,
 A HUSBAND'S SCORN
 NOTHING TO HOPE FOR,
 YET STILL I LONG FOR SOMETHING MORE
 WHERE IS THAT LOVE
 I SWORE I'D FIND,
 WHERE IS THE DREAM
 LEFT SO FAR BEHIND
 HEARTLESS AND CRUEL,
 HOW CAN IT BE
 THIS WORLD GIVES NOTHING TO ME?
 THE WORLD THAT I ONCE DREAMED OF
 WHERE IS THAT LOVE?
 SHADOWS FALL,
 THIS MAN COMES TO ME,
 DESIRE IN HIS EYES
 WITH WHISPERED PROMISES,
 I'VE HEARD THOSE PROMISES SO MANY TIMES.
 BITTER TRUTH IS PLAIN TO SEE,
 BUT STINGS MORE THAN THE LIE
 PASSION THAT'S MEANINGLESS,
 A LIFE OF EMPTINESS IS MINE.
 WHERE IS THAT LOVE
 I SWORE I'D FIND,
 WHERE IS THE DREAM
 LEFT SO FAR BEHIND
 THROUGH JADED EYES,
 CLEARLY I SEE
 THIS MAN CARES NOTHING FOR ME
 AND ALL THAT I ONCE DREAMED OF
 WHERE IS THAT LOVE?

(Blackout)

ACT I: SCENE NINE

*(MUSIC UP for "Better World Finale."
Two years later in Jerusalem, near the
temple. A group of JESUS' FOLLOWERS in-
cluding MARY and JUDAS are sitting
together. JESUS is not with them.
NATHANIEL enters.)*

NATHANIEL

THE NEWS IS DARK TODAY
OUR PROPHET JOHN THE BAPTIST IS DEAD
(DISCIPLES are visibly upset.)
SEDUCED BY SALOME,
THE TETRARCH MURDERED HIM
GAVE HER HIS HEAD,
A GRISLY MURDER...

JUDAS

(Outraged)
THE TIME HAS COME
TO MAKE A STAND!
A THIRST FOR VENGEANCE
CRIES WITHIN ME
WE HAVE STRENGTH NOW,
WE HAVE FOUND THE CHOSEN ONE
FOR TWO LONG YEARS,
I'VE WATCHED THIS MAN
GATHER FORCES IN GALILEE
SOON WE'LL MARCH IN TRIUMPH TO JERUSALEM
HE WILL BRING A BETTER WORLD
ONE WHERE WE ARE FREE
WE WILL FIGHT FOR A BETTER WORLD,
THROW OFF THIS ROMAN TYRANNY
I'LL STAND BY HIS SIDE,
GO THROUGH WAR AND STRIFE
AND I'LL GIVE MY LIFE
FOR A BETTER WORLD.

(TYRAS enters, motioning to JUDAS and JESUS' FOLLOWERS.)

TYRAS

IN A WORLD OF WIDE-EYED DREAMERS,
THERE IS POWER TO BE HAD
GIVE IT TIME AND YOU WILL SEE
THAT THIS CHRIST IN GALILEE
IS JUST ANOTHER PASSING FAD

TYRAS (cont.)

YET I'LL USE THIS YOUNG DISCIPLE
 LIKE A PAWN AT MY COMMAND
 KNOWING HOW THE GAME IS PLAYED
 THERE IS MONEY TO BE MADE
 IN A POLITICIAN'S WORLD.

(MORDECAI enters near Tyras' house.)

MORDECAI

RICHES, FAME AND FORTUNE IN MY HAND
 WINE AND WOMEN,
 YES THIS IS THE LIFE!
 ALL THE PLEASURES OF A MARRIED MAN
 WITHOUT THE ACTUAL BURDEN OF A WIFE

MARY

HE HAS SHOWN US A BETTER WORLD,
 ONE WHERE WE ARE FREE

NATHANIEL

HE HAS POWER OVER ALL THE WORLD,
 RAISES THE DEAD AND CALMS THE SEAS

DISCIPLES

WE'LL STAND BY HIS SIDE,
 WE COULD NOT DENY
 THAT HE IS THE CHRIST
 HE BRINGS A BETTER WORLD

*(SARAH enters near Tyras' home. SHE is wearing the
 dress needed for Act II costume switch.)*

SARAH

YEARS GO BY,
 YET NOTHING'S CHANGED
 FOR I AM STILL ALONE
 NO CARING VOICE,
 NO GENTLE TOUCH
 TO CALL MY OWN
 THERE IS NO LOVE
 AND I WAS BLIND
 TO HAVE BELIEVED
 THIS LIFE WOULD BE KIND
 THROUGH JADED EYES,
 CLEARLY I SEE
 THIS WORLD GIVES NOTHING TO ME

SARAH (cont.)

THIS WORLD THAT I ONCE DREAMED OF,
THERE IS NO LOVE!

(MORDECAI comes up from behind and embraces SARAH.)

SARAH

BUT IN HIS ARMS I FEEL BEAUTIFUL
IN HIS EMBRACE I AM YOUNG
AND FOR A MOMENT
I CAN ALMOST FEEL ALIVE AGAIN
BUT THEN THE MOMENT IS GONE

MORDECAI

LOSE YOURSELF IN THE MOMENT
FEEL THE RUSH OF DESIRE

YOU WILL FEEL ALIVE AGAIN

MARY & NATHANIEL

HE HAS SHOWN US A BETTER WORLD,
ONE WHERE WE ARE FREE

SARAH

AND I DREAM OF A BETTER WORLD,
BUT ALL I KNOW IS MISERY

*(MORDECAI holds aside curtain for SARAH to go into the
bedroom, SARAH exits there followed by MORDECAI.)*

JUDAS

I'LL STAND BY HIS SIDE,
GO THROUGH WAR AND STRIFE
AND I'LL GIVE MY LIFE
FOR A BETTER WORLD.

ENSEMBLE

HE WILL BRING A BETTER WORLD,
ONE WHERE WE ARE FREE

MEN

WE WILL FIGHT FOR A BETTER WORLD,
THROW OFF THE CHAINS OF TYRANNY

ENSEMBLE

WE'LL STAND BY HIS SIDE,
WE COULD NOT DENY
THAT HE IS THE CHRIST,
HE BRINGS A BETTER WORLD

*(TYRAS discovers the affair between SARAH and
MORDECAI, angrily pulls SARAH out of the bedroom.
MORDECAI abandons her, TYRAS sees him, but lets him
go. TYRAS drags SARAH toward PHARISEES and HIGH*

PRIEST, who have recently entered, accusing her of adultery before them.)

TYRAS

WHAT IS THIS THAT I'VE DISCOVERED?
MY SWEET WIFE LIVING A LIE
SHE PLAYS THE HARLOT IN THE NIGHT,
SINS OF SCARLET BROUGHT TO LIGHT,
AND FOR THAT THE LAW DECREES THAT SHE MUST DIE

(To SARAH)

THOUGH IT DOES HUMILIATE ME
TO TELL THE COUNCIL OF YOUR CRIME
I'LL BE FREE WHEN YOU ARE GONE,
I'LL MARRY YOUNGER,
I'LL MOVE ON
IN A POLITICIAN'S WORLD.

*(JESUS enters among his FOLLOWERS in the background,
the DISCIPLES stir in excitement as he enters.)*

HIGH PRIEST

(Motioning toward JESUS)

WE HAVE HERE AN OPPORTUNITY
TO FORCE JESUS TO CONTRADICT THE LAW
THIS PRETENDER COME FROM GALILEE
PRESUMES TO PREACH TO US
SPEAKS OF OUR FLAWS

*(TYRAS and the PHARISEES bring SARAH before JESUS.
TYRAS throws SARAH to the ground.)*

PHARISEES

THE CASE IS CLEAR,
WE CANNOT BEND
THE LAW COMMANDS
THAT WE CONDEMN HER
DEATH IS THE PENALTY
FOR THAT WHICH SHE HAS DONE

*(JESUS looks at her in compassion, stoops down and
writes in sand.)*

HIGH PRIEST

(Disdainfully)

But what sayest thou, "master"?

JESUS*(Gently)*

IF THERE IS ONE HERE WITHOUT SIN
 LET HIM BE THE FIRST TO JUDGE HER
 LET THAT MAN BE THE FIRST TO CAST A STONE

(PHARISEES look at each other, stumped, and exit one by one. TYRAS is last to leave, disgusted and angry.)

JESUS*(To SARAH)*

DAUGHTER, THERE IS A BETTER WORLD,
 ONE WHERE WE ARE FREE

(Taking SARAH'S hand to help her stand)

I WILL SHOW YOU A BETTER WORLD
 WITHOUT THE CHAINS OF MISERY
 FOLLOW BY MY SIDE
 YOU WILL FIND NEW LIFE
 AND LOVE WILL GUIDE YOU TO A BETTER WORLD
 SARAH, LET ME GUIDE YOU TO A BETTER WORLD.

(Spoken over tag)

Go thy way and sin no more.

(Blackout. End of Act 1)

ACT II: SCENE ONE

*(MUSIC UP for "Better World" prelude
LIGHTS UP on the modern-day church.
JASON and KENDRA are where we left them
in beginning of Act I as if they have
been talking the whole time about the
Bible story of the "woman taken in
adultery." NALEA has fallen asleep
nearby.)*

JASON

Kendra, Christ's message hasn't changed. He invites *all* of us to follow him. I wonder if the woman in this story became a disciple of Jesus that day.

KENDRA

I hope she was able to find some happiness in her life.

JASON

You deserve to be happy too.

(Offering KENDRA the Bible, which KENDRA accepts)
Study Christ's life. I know you'll find what you're looking for.
(Noticing NALEA is asleep)
Well, it's getting late. Can I walk you home?

KENDRA

Do you mind if I stay here for a while? It *is* kind of peaceful here.

JASON

Not at all. I'll see you tomorrow, then.

KENDRA

Good night, Jason.

JASON

Good night.

(JASON exits. KENDRA opens the Bible. MUSIC UP for "Who is this Man?" Lights up on SARAH DOUBLE in the same pose Sarah was in at the end of Act I. JESUS has just helped her stand. SARAH DOUBLE moves away from JESUS, but hesitates, watching as HE turns to his followers, teaching them. The focus remains on SARAH DOUBLE in biblical times and KENDRA in modern times.)

KENDRA

I CAN IMAGINE THE PAIN SHE MUST HAVE KNOWN
TREMBLING AND FRIGHTENED, ASHAMED AND ALONE

SARAH DOUBLE

I THOUGHT THAT I COULD NEVER DREAM AGAIN
I'VE LONG FORGOTTEN EVERY HOPE I ONCE FELT
AND AS I STOOD BEFORE THIS WORLD CONDEMNED
MY HEART WAS COLD AND HEAVY AS THE STONES THEY HELD.
BUT IN THAT MOMENT WHEN MY LIFE WOULD END
THERE A STRANGER SPOKE FOR ME ALONE
AND HIS GAZE WAS LIKE A SWEET CARESS
THERE WAS A TENDERNESS THAT I HAVE NEVER KNOWN.
WHO IS THIS MAN WHOSE EYES SEEM TO PIERCE THROUGH MY SOUL?
AND THERE IN THE BLACK OF THE DARKEST NIGHT
HE FOUND A LIGHT
HE SAW A FRIGHTENED CHILD, SHIVERING IN THE COLD
WHO IS THIS MAN?
WOULD GOD SEND TO ME SUCH A FRIEND?
HE SPOKE OF A FATHER WHO LOVES ME STILL
CAN THIS BE REAL?
AND CAN I FIND THE STRENGTH TO DREAM AGAIN?

KENDRA

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I BELIEVED IN LIFE
LONG AGO, MY DREAMS WERE SWEET AND PURE
TO A CHILD, THE WORLD SEEMS WARM AND BRIGHT
I DREAMED THAT LIGHT AND LOVE WOULD LAST FOREVERMORE
I WATCHED THOSE DREAMS SHATTER LIKE SHARDS OF GLASS
THAT DAY I CLOSED THE WINDOWS TO MY HEART
CHOOSING THEN A LIFE OF EMPTINESS
INSTEAD OF FEELINGS THAT WERE TEARING ME APART
WHO IS THIS MAN WHOSE HANDS REACH TO THOSE IN DESPAIR?
WHILE MEN SAW A SPIRIT ALREADY DEAD,
HE WAS KIND INSTEAD
HE SAW A GLEAM OF HOPE I NEVER KNEW WAS THERE.
WHO IS THIS MAN?
WOULD GOD SEND TO ME SUCH A FRIEND?
HE SPOKE OF A FATHER WHO LOVES ME STILL
CAN THIS BE REAL?
AND CAN I FIND THE STRENGTH TO DREAM AGAIN?

(While KENDRA and SARAH DOUBLE sing the following duet, they move toward one another as mirror images, eventually transforming into each other as they trade costumes, identities and locations. Under her biblical costume, SARAH DOUBLE is under-dressed, wearing the identical clothing KENDRA has on at the

top of Act II, so the transition occurs simply by the robe being exchanged between SARAH DOUBLE and KENDRA.)

SARAH DOUBLE

I WILL BELIEVE
I'LL FOLLOW WHEREVER HE LEADS
FOR SOMEHOW I KNOW
THAT THIS GENTLE LIGHT
BURNING IN HIS EYES
HOLDS EVERY HAPPINESS
THAT I COULD EVER NEED.
I WILL GO ON
A VOICE WITHIN WHISPERS I CAN
AND SOMEHOW I'LL
LEARN HOW TO LIVE AGAIN
I'LL BEGIN AGAIN
I'LL LOOK TO GOD ABOVE
AND FIND THE LIGHT OF LOVE
WITHIN THIS MAN

KENDRA

IF ONLY
I COULD BELIEVE
I WISH I COULD SEE
THAT GENTLE LIGHT
BURNING IN HIS EYES
COULD I BE HAPPY?
IF I WERE
TO FOLLOW HIM
COULD I SOMEHOW
LEARN TO
LIVE AGAIN
COULD I BEGIN AGAIN
AND FIND
THE LIGHT OF LOVE
WITHIN THIS MAN

SARAH

I'LL LOOK TO GOD ABOVE
AND FIND THE
LIGHT OF LOVE
WITHIN THIS MAN.

(SARAH DOUBLE, now dressed as KENDRA and carrying the Bible, wakes NALEA and exits with her. SARAH looks toward JESUS' FOLLOWERS, longing to join them, but loses courage and turns to go. MUSIC UP for "Power in His Touch." NATHANIEL and MARY stop SARAH from leaving. Throughout the next song, NATHANIEL and MARY motion toward JESUS as he heals various afflictions among those in the crowd.)

NATHANIEL

(Over the musical introduction)

Sarah, don't go.

MARY

Please, join us.

SARAH

(To MARY)

Can you tell me about the man who showed me such kindness today?

MARY

I can tell you a great deal about him. You see, he is my son.

DO YOU SEEK A GOD OF MIRACLES?
 ONE WHOSE VOICE COMMANDS THE EARTH AND SEAS
 HE FED FIVE THOUSAND WITH JUST FIVE LOAVES
 WALKED ON THE WATERS OF GALILEE.

MARY & NATHANIEL

THERE IS POWER IN HIS TOUCH,
 THROUGH HIS EYES, THE BLIND CAN SEE
 HE HAS HEALING IN HIS HANDS
 THEY REACH OUT FOR YOU AND ME
 THIS IS GOD'S PLAN
 TO LEARN HIS LOVE BY FOLLOWING THIS MAN
 COME FIND HIM AND FEEL THE POWER OF HIS TOUCH

NATHANIEL

CAN YOU HEAR THE SPIRIT WHISPER
 THAT HE LIVES TO CONQUER DEATH?
 HE IS THE SHEPHERD OF HIS FATHER'S FOLD
 THIS GENTLE CARPENTER OF NAZARETH.

MARY & NATHANIEL

THERE IS POWER IN HIS TOUCH,
 THROUGH HIS EYES, THE BLIND CAN SEE
 HE HAS HEALING IN HIS HANDS
 THEY REACH OUT FOR YOU AND ME
 THIS IS GOD'S PLAN
 TO LEARN HIS LOVE BY FOLLOWING THIS MAN
 COME FIND HIM AND FEEL THE POWER OF HIS TOUCH

NATHANIEL

HE RAISED THE DEAD, THE LAME CAN WALK
 THE SICK MAN IS MADE WHOLE

MARY & NATHANIEL

BUT THE GREATEST MIRACLE'S
 THE ONE YOU FEEL WITHIN YOUR SOUL.
 THERE IS POWER IN HIS TOUCH,
 THROUGH HIS EYES,
 THE BLIND CAN SEE
 HE HAS HEALING IN HIS HANDS
 THEY REACH OUT FOR YOU AND ME
 THIS IS GOD'S PLAN
 TO LEARN HIS LOVE
 BY FOLLOWING THIS MAN

MARY & NATHANIEL (cont.)

COME FIND HIM
AND FEEL THE POWER OF HIS TOUCH

MARY

COME FIND HIM AND FIND NEW LIFE

NATHANIEL

COME FOLLOW HIM, THIS JESUS CHRIST

MARY & NATHANIEL

COME FIND HIM AND FEEL THE POWER OF HIS TOUCH

(MUSIC UP for "The Wrong Man to Challenge." TYRAS enters angrily, watches JESUS as the crowd around him begins to disperse and exit. TYRAS is followed by the HIGH PRIEST and the PHARISEES. The ZEALOTS, who have been listening to JESUS, gather together nearby.)

TYRAS

(To himself)

HOW DARE THIS MAN
PREACH TO SOMEONE LIKE ME!
HE IMAGINES HIMSELF A KING

(To HIGH PRIEST and PHARISEES)

HE PICKED THE WRONG MAN TO CHALLENGE,
HE'LL SEE
WHEN HE FEELS THE WHIP'S STING
FOR WE WILL BRING HIM DOWN!

HIGH PRIEST

Yes, but how can it be done?

TYRAS

Oh, I have some ideas. Trust me.

(PHARISEES and HIGH PRIEST huddle around TYRAS.)

JESUS

(Walking with the DISCIPLES, teaching as he goes, JUDAS follows at the end, carrying the money bag.)

Seek not treasures on this earth, for you cannot serve God and riches. And what is a man profited if he should gain the whole world, but lose his own soul?

TYRAS

(Hushed, to the HIGH PRIEST)

I'll catch him in his own words.

TYRAS (cont.)

(Calling out to JESUS in a sincere tone)
Master, tell us, is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar?

JESUS

Why do you attempt to ensnare me?

(Holding up a coin)

It is Caesar's image on this coin. Therefore give unto Caesar that which is Caesar's....

(Turning back to his followers, continues walking)

And unto God, that which is God's.

(JESUS exits. JUDAS is still following JESUS, but doesn't get offstage before TYRAS calls him back.)

HIGH PRIEST

(To TYRAS)

He speaks in riddles so his words can't be held against him.

(HIGH PRIEST and PHARISEES exit.)

TYRAS

(To himself)

There are other ways to destroy him.

(Calling out to JUDAS)

Judas!

(JUDAS turns back, approaches TYRAS. ZEALOTS also gather around.)

You said this "Jesus" would help us overthrow the Romans. Yet now he tells us to pay their tributes peacefully?

JUDAS

I don't understand it myself. He must be avoiding conflict until we're strong enough to fight.

TYRAS

We never *will* be strong enough unless we have more money. You told me you hold the bag.

JUDAS

Yes, what of it?

TYRAS

Don't you think it's time Jesus contributed to our cause?

JUDAS

I'll suggest it...

TYRAS*(Interrupting)*

Jesus doesn't tell you everything he does. Why mention it at all?

JUDAS

You're proposing I steal the money?

TYRAS

It wouldn't be stealing, Judas. He put you in charge of the purse because he expects you to make the decisions! We'll never get anywhere unless we're daring enough to push some boundaries. We need an army, and to put swords in their hands, we need *money!*

(MUSIC UP for "Money Makes a King.")

That is, after all, the true source of power in this world!

MONEY IS THE THING THAT MAKES A KING A KING!
IF YOU HOLD THE PURSE STRINGS, YOU HAVE POWER

MORDECAI

WORK AWAY YOUR LIFE AND STILL YOU'LL HAVE NOTHING
WHILE THE BOSS GETS RICHER BY THE HOUR

TYRAS

IF YOU WANT TO BE THE ONE WHO RUNS THE SHOW
IF YOU EVER WANT TO GET AHEAD
HERE'S A GEM OF WISDOM THAT YOU OUGHT TO KNOW
GREED IS HOW AN EMPIRE IS CREATED

TYRAS & MORDECAI

IF YOU HAVE SILVER AND GOLD
THAT IS POWER THAT YOU HOLD
WHEN YOU SEEK DOMINION, LEARN ONE THING
MONEY MAKES A KING A KING!

ZEALOTS

IF YOU HAVE SILVER AND GOLD
THAT IS POWER THAT YOU HOLD
WHEN YOU SEEK DOMINION, LEARN ONE THING
MONEY MAKES A KING A KING!

JUDAS*(Spoken during musical interlude)*

But how can we ever prosper? The Romans take everything we have in their tribute!

MORDECAI

YOU NEED AN ACCOUNTANT WITH EXPERTISE
 IN THE SUBTLE ART OF TAX EVASION
 I CAN FIX YOUR INCOME ANY WAY YOU PLEASE
 I KNOW HOW TO PLAY WITH THE EQUATIONS
 HIDE THE EXTRA MONEY WITH A FRIEND OFF-SHORE
 IT'S A THEME AS OLD AS CAIN AND ABEL

TYRAS

NO ONE KNOWS EXACTLY WHO YOU'RE WORKING FOR
 IF YOU TAKE YOUR PAY UNDER THE TABLE

TYRAS, MORDECAI & ZEALOTS

IF YOU HAVE SILVER AND GOLD
 THAT IS POWER THAT YOU HOLD
 WHEN YOU SEEK DOMINION, LEARN ONE THING
 MONEY MAKES A KING A KING!

MORDECAI

LEARN TO COOK THE BOOKS, YOU WILL NEVER PAY
(Holding a ledger)
 IF YOUR BALANCE SHEETS LOOK A CERTAIN WAY

TYRAS, MORDECAI & ZEALOTS

IF YOU HAVE SILVER AND GOLD
 THAT IS POWER THAT YOU HOLD
 WHEN YOU SEEK DOMINION,
 LEARN ONE THING

MORDECAI

IF YOU WILL BE KING

ZEALOTS

IF YOU WILL BE KING

TYRAS

MONEY IS THE THING

ZEALOTS

MONEY IS THE THING

TYRAS, MORDECAI & ZEALOTS

MONEY IS THE THING THAT MAKES A KING A KING!

JUDAS

(Hesitating, but then gives TYRAS money from the bag)
 Well, I suppose this wouldn't be missed.

TYRAS

You won't regret it, Judas.

(JUDAS and ZEALOTS exit. MORDECAI moves toward exit too, but TYRAS calls MORDECAI back.)

TYRAS

Mordecai! I have a job for you. One that should be very profitable.

(Whispering into MORDECAI's ear. MORDECAI steps away, outraged.)

MORDECAI

I'd never take such a risk! I could be thrown into prison. Or worse!

TYRAS

Then again, you'd be taking quite a risk to refuse me. I'm sure my colleagues would be interested to know where you were the night my wife was caught in adultery.

MORDECAI

So you're going to blackmail me now?

TYRAS

That's such an ugly word. Let's just say we've reached an understanding between friends. Are we agreed?

MORDECAI

I don't have much of a choice, do I?

TYRAS

I knew you'd see things my way.

(TYRAS exits.)

MORDECAI

(Aside, looking in the direction TYRAS exited)

What you don't know, Tyras, is that I've kept careful records of all of your financial dealings. And of course, any accountant worth his salt knows how to cover his own tracks. I'm sure your 'colleagues' will pay a good price to know exactly what you've been up to all of these years!

(MORDECAI exits. Blackout. Optional MUSIC UP for "Money Tag" to transition to next scene.)

ACT II: SCENE TWO

(An evening in Jerusalem, a few days later. JESUS is talking with SARAH, NATHANIEL and JUDAS. It is a happy, lighthearted moment. The HIGH PRIEST, PHARISEES and TYRAS enter.)

HIGH PRIEST

(To the PHARISEES, appalled as he notices JESUS interacting with SARAH)

This man associates with sinners. That woman is known to be unchaste.

(Mortified, SARAH turns and exits quickly. NATHANIEL follows, calling after her.)

NATHANIEL

Sarah ...

JESUS

(Turning to PHARISEES)

Those who are sick need a physician, not those who are whole. Pharisees and hypocrites, you shut the kingdom of heaven against men.

(PHARISEES are offended and exit. TYRAS shakes his head in disapproval to JUDAS and exits.)

JUDAS

(To JESUS, agitated)

Master, you've offended these men! Their political influence is crucial to us. Why do you antagonize them?

JESUS

(Walking with JUDAS toward exit)

Do not put your trust in the arm of flesh, Judas. These men put on the appearance of righteousness, but neglect the weightier matters of the law.

(JUDAS and JESUS exit. SARAH enters, walking quickly, NATHANIEL catches up with her. MUSIC UP for "If You Believe In Love" reprise)

NATHANIEL

(Motioning toward the direction PHARISEES exited)

Sarah, wait. Don't let one man's insolence drive you away from us.

SARAH

(Spoken over the music)

Nathaniel, what he says is true. I'm not worthy to be with Jesus – or with you.

SARAH

I THOUGHT I COULD SIMPLY MAKE A NEW START
BUT THE SHAME I CARRY PIERCES MY HEART
NATHANIEL, DID YOU SEE HOW THEY LOOKED AT ME?

NATHANIEL

CAN YOU BELIEVE IN A LOVE SO STRONG
IT CARRIES YOU THROUGH EVERY PAIN?
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT THE ONE WE'VE LONGED TO KNOW
IS HERE AT LAST
THE SAVIOR CAME!
NOTHING CAN TAKE THAT LIGHT,
YOU WILL BE STRONG ENOUGH,
IF YOU BELIEVE IN LOVE.

SARAH

HELP ME TO FIND THAT LIGHT
AND TO BE STRONG ENOUGH
JUST TO BELIEVE IN LOVE.

NATHANIEL

DON'T GIVE UP ON THAT LIGHT,
YOU WILL BE STRONG ENOUGH
IF YOU BELIEVE
CAN YOU BELIEVE?

*(SARAH is comforted. NATHANIEL and SARAH exit.
Blackout.)*

ACT II: SCENE THREE

(Jerusalem. JESUS and 11 APOSTLES are seated, as if in a teaching moment. JUDAS is not there.)

JESUS

And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled, for all of these things must come to pass.

JUDAS

(Entering quickly, agitated)

Master, haven't you heard the news? Pilate has stolen money from our temple treasury to pay for his aqueducts.

JESUS

I have heard.

JUDAS

He sent his soldiers with clubs and swords into a crowd of protesters and slaughtered them!

JESUS

Yes, I know.

JUDAS

(Incredulous that JESUS is calm)

We must fight! How can you sit here calmly while the Romans murder our brothers?

JESUS

(Gently)

Judas, I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you. Do good to them that hate you and pray for them that persecute you.

JUDAS

(Angry and astonished)

You'll do nothing then?

JESUS

You have not understood. Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.

(MUSIC UP for "On The Other Hand." JESUS reaches to touch JUDAS' shoulder, but JUDAS throws off his arm and storms away. JESUS watches him leave with pity. Focus stays on JUDAS)

JUDAS

THIS IS AGGRAVATING, THIS WAS NOT IN THE PLAN
 WHAT IS THIS MAN THINKING OF?
 WHY IS HE WAITING, WE MUST FIGHT FOR OUR LAND!
 GOD IN HEAVEN ABOVE
 WHY IS HE SPEAKING OF LOVE?
 BLESSED ARE THE MEEK, TURN THE OTHER CHEEK,
 I CANNOT UNDERSTAND
 WHY HE PREACHES PEACE
 TO LOVE OUR ENEMIES
 AND SERVE OUR FELLOW MAN

(Slowly, more reflectively)

BUT ON THE OTHER HAND
 SOMETHING IN HIS EYES REACHES INTO MY HEART,
 TOUCHES MY SOUL
 WHEN HE SPEAKS THE WORLD SEEMS TO BRIGHTEN,
 I'M SOARING
 IT'S OUT OF MY CONTROL
 AND I CANNOT DESCRIBE WHAT I'M FEELING INSIDE
 I CAN'T EXPLAIN THIS SENSATION
 BUT SOMEHOW I AM FINALLY FREE
 SOMETHING HIS EYES DO TO ME.

(Becoming angry and agitated again)

THE ROMANS SLAUGHTER US LIKE SHEEP IN A PEN
 HE LAYS DOWN LIKE A LAMB
 HAS HE LOST COURAGE? I CANNOT COMPREHEND
 WHY HE WON'T TAKE A STAND
 WHY DOES HE NOT TAKE COMMAND?
 BLESS THE MERCIFUL, LIVE THE GOLDEN RULE
 I MUST MAKE MY PROTEST
 IT DOES NOT MAKE SENSE TO TEACH TOLERANCE
 WHILE ISRAEL IS OPPRESSED

(Slowly, more reflectively)

YET STILL I MUST CONFESS
 SOMETHING IN HIS EYES REACHES INTO MY HEART,
 TOUCHES MY SOUL
 I HAVE SEEN THIS MAN PERFORM POWERFUL MIRACLES,
 GREAT AND WONDERFUL
 AND I CANNOT DESCRIBE WHAT I'M FEELING INSIDE
 I CAN'T EXPLAIN THIS SENSATION
 BUT SOMEHOW I AM FINALLY FREE
 SOMETHING HIS EYES DO TO ME

(Determined)

SOMEHOW I'LL MAKE JESUS SEE

(Blackout. Optional MUSIC UP for "My Peace" tag for scene transition.)

ACT II: SCENE FOUR

(JESUS and his DISCIPLES are gathered together just before the Last Supper. SARAH, MARY and other WOMEN are around JESUS. One WOMAN is anointing his feet with ointment.⁸ JUDAS is watching in disapproval.)

JUDAS

(Confronting WOMAN angrily)

Why do you waste this ointment? It could have been sold and used for a great purpose!

JESUS

(To JUDAS)

Do not trouble her, Judas. She has anointed me for my burial.

(DISCIPLES look sad and shocked)

The time has come that the Son of Man shall be delivered to the Gentiles to be mocked, scourged, and crucified, to rise again after three days.

(Looking at JUDAS)

I say unto you that this night, one of you shall betray me.

(DISCIPLES are astonished, and begin to murmur among themselves, and question JESUS saying "Is it I, Lord?")

JUDAS

(Bitterly, over the top of the others)

Is it I, Lord?

(The room grows quiet.)

JESUS

(Looking at JUDAS with pity)

Thou hast said.

(JUDAS looks around at the others, then storms away. SARAH follows him.)

⁸ The accounts of the woman anointing Christ before his death are slightly different among the gospel writers. John identifies the woman as MARY and says she anointed Christ's feet with ointment. (John 12:1-6) Matthew does not identify the woman by name, but recounts that she anointed Christ's head rather than his feet. (Matthew 26: 6-12) Both writers agree that this event happened a few days before Passover at the house of Simon of Bethany. Some artistic liberty has been taken in this scene as the scene moves directly into events of the Last Supper (JESUS identifying JUDAS as the betrayer, etc. in order to move the story forward.

SARAH

Judas, where are you going?

JUDAS

(Motioning toward JESUS angrily)

I'm finished listening to this man.

SARAH

Judas, you don't mean that! You know Jesus is the Redeemer.
He loves you ...

JUDAS

(Interrupting angrily and motioning toward JESUS)

I've heard enough about love! I won't waste another moment with cowards and hypocrites!

(JUDAS exits. SARAH watches sadly and walks back toward JESUS and FOLLOWERS.)

JESUS

(Motioning toward the direction JUDAS just exited)

The hour has now come that the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. These things I have told you that in me you might have peace.

(MUSIC UP for "My Peace". JESUS speaks over the musical introduction.)

In the world you shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer,
I have overcome the world.

LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED,
NEITHER LET IT BE AFRAID
THERE COMES A TIME OF SORROW,
SORROW WILL TURN TO JOY
IF YOU HAVE FAITH
I GO TO MY FATHER,
WE ARE ONE
I AM IN THE FATHER,
HE'S IN HIS SON,
AND 'THOUGH I MUST LEAVE,
THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH WILL COME.

JESUS (cont.)

MY PEACE
 I GIVE UNTO YOU,
 MY LIFE
 I WILL LAY DOWN FOR YOU.
 NOT AS THE WORLD WOULD GIVE
 THIS PROMISE,
 THIS GIFT I GIVE UNTO YOU.
 I WILL BE THERE,
 JUST LISTEN FOR MY VOICE
 LET THE SPIRIT
 GUIDE THROUGH EVERY CHOICE
 'THOUGH SHADOWS MAY APPEAR,
 THE COMFORTER IS NEAR
 COME FIND HIM
 AND HE WILL BRING YOU PEACE.

WHEN THE SHEPHERD RETURNS
 AND HE CALLS FOR HIS SHEEP,
 WILL YOU KNOW HIS VOICE THAT DAY?
 WILL YOU FEEL THE WOUNDS
 IN MY HANDS AND MY FEET,
 AND KNOW THAT I DIED TO PREPARE THE WAY?

MY PEACE
 I GIVE UNTO YOU,
 MY LIFE
 I WILL LAY DOWN FOR YOU.
 NOT AS THE WORLD WOULD GIVE
 THIS PROMISE,
 THIS GIFT I GIVE UNTO YOU.
 I WILL BE THERE,
 JUST LISTEN FOR MY VOICE
 LET THE SPIRIT
 GUIDE THROUGH EVERY CHOICE
 'THOUGH SHADOWS MAY APPEAR,
 THE COMFORTER IS NEAR
 COME FIND HIM
 AND HE WILL BRING YOU PEACE.

LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED,
 NEITHER LET IT BE AFRAID.

(Blackout)

ACT II: SCENE FIVE

*(MUSIC UP for "Imagine The Moment."
LIGHTS UP on Tyras' house. TYRAS is
listening sympathetically to JUDAS.
MORDECAI is working in the background,
eavesdropping on the exchange.)*

JUDAS

CHRIST HAS LOST SIGHT IT IS TIME WE MUST STRIKE
HE'S BLIND, HE JUST DOESN'T SEE
WHILE HE TEACHES PEACE OUR BROTHERS DIE IN THE STREETS!
WHAT KIND OF SAVIOR IS HE?|
HE WILL NOT LISTEN TO ME!

TYRAS

IN THIS LIFE NOTHING'S BLACK AND WHITE,
THERE ARE ONLY SHADES OF GRAY
JUSTICE CALLS BUT TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT
THERE IS ONE YOU MUST BETRAY

JUST IMAGINE THE MOMENT WHEN ALL ISRAEL IS FREE
LOSE YOURSELF IN THAT MOMENT
YOU WILL BE THE ONE TO CHANGE HISTORY!
FOR A FREE WORLD TOMORROW,
WE MUST US RISE UP TODAY
AND THAT MOMENT OF TRIUMPH ISN'T FAR AWAY
WHEN THE ROMAN INFIDELS HAVE JESUS IN THEIR HANDS,

IT WILL INCITE ISRAEL TO FIGHT,
HE'LL BE FORCED TO MAKE A STAND
GIVE US GLORY AND POWER, START THE BATTLE TODAY
JUDAS ALL OF THE WORLD WILL REMEMBER YOUR NAME.

TYRAS

(Spoken quickly)

Judas, the council will pay anyone who can deliver Jesus into
their hands. Take the money. We need all we can get for this
fight. Lead us to him, let the war begin tonight!

(JUDAS takes money, shakes TYRAS' hand in oath.)

TYRAS

WE'LL HAVE GLORY AND POWER
WE WILL RISE UP TODAY
AND THAT MOMENT OF TRIUMPH
ISN'T FAR AWAY

JUDAS

JESUS JUST DOESN'T UNDERSTAND
WE MUST RISE UP TODAY
FOR THIS MOMENT,
ALL THE WORLD
WILL KNOW MY NAME!

*(JUDAS exits, TYRAS smugly watches him leave.
MORDECAI looks toward him with malicious pleasure.)*

MORDECAI

(Aside, sung a capella)
HOW IRONIC! HIS FINAL ACT.
HE CONVINCES THE SERVANT TO BETRAY HIS MASTER.
HOW DELIGHTFUL! HE'LL FIND TOO LATE,
THIS WILL MIRROR HIS OWN FATE!

(ROMAN SOLDIER and a PHARISEES abruptly enter TYRAS' home.)

PHARISEE

(To the soldier)
Seize him!

(SOLDIER binds TYRAS' hands. MORDECAI acts surprised.)

TYRAS

(Outraged)
What is the meaning of this?

PHARISEE

It has come to our attention that you've violated hundreds of our laws. Your greed and deceit have brought shame upon this council.

TYRAS

That's not true!
(Breaking away and moving toward MORDECAI)
Mordecai, I suppose you don't know anything about this?

MORDECAI

Certainly not!

TYRAS

(Aside to MORDECAI)
You'd better get me out of this. Don't forget I can take you down with me.

MORDECAI

Don't you think I realize that? Calm down. I've doctored the records specifically to shelter us in a time like this. My plan is foolproof, I assure you.

(MORDECAI gathers records, they walk to a group of PHARISEES who have gathered in council. MUSIC UP for "Second in Command.")

TYRAS

(Spoken over musical introduction)

Mordecai has brought evidence to clear my good name.

MORDECAI

YOU ALL KNOW MY REPUTATION AS A SIMPLE, HONEST MAN

TYRAS

An honest man!

MORDECAI

I HAVE FOLLOWED HIS CAREER,
HE'S A MAN I HAVE REVERED,
I CAN SPEAK FOR HIM IF ANYBODY CAN.
WHEN I HEARD THE ALLEGATIONS,
I SEARCHED HIS RECORDS TO REVIEW

TYRAS

The records are clear!

MORDECAI

I WAS *SHOCKED* BY WHAT I SAW,
YOU KNOW MY REVERENCE FOR THE LAW..
I AM GRIEVED TO SAY THAT EVERY CHARGE IS TRUE!

TYRAS

(Shouting)

Traitor! He's lying!

HIGH PRIEST

(Interrupting)

Silence him!

TYRAS

He set me up!

(SOLDIER gags TYRAS.)

MORDECAI

I FEAR THERE'S SOMETHING YOU MUST KNOW,
TO SAY IT WOUNDS ME TO THE CORE
FROM THESE RECORDS YOU WILL SEE
HE DECEIVED SO CLEVERLY
IT'S NO SURPRISE THAT WE COULD NOT SEE IT BEFORE.

MORDECAI (cont.)

LIKE YOU I'VE TRUSTED IN THIS MAN,
 OUR FAITH IN HIM HAS BEEN BETRAYED
 COLD AMBITION,
 RUTHLESS GREED
 LED HIM TO THE BLACKEST DEEDS
 THAT YOU'LL SEE IN ALL THE WORLD.

HIGH PRIEST

Take him away!

(TYRAS struggles. MORDECAI approaches TYRAS, says in hushed voice)

MORDECAI

YOU FORGOT THE SIMPLEST RULE MY FRIEND
 OF ANY KING OR LEADER WHO IS WISE
 NEVER TRUST YOUR SECOND IN COMMAND,
 HE HAS THE MOST TO GAIN FROM YOUR DEMISE!
 BUT DO NOT WORRY,
 DO NOT FEAR
 YOUR WORK WON'T GO TO WASTE,
 YOU'LL SEE
 EVERY LIE YOU'VE EVER TOLD,
 EVERY HIDDEN PIECE OF GOLD
 I WILL PUT TO USE AS THEY'RE PROMOTING ME
 I'LL PUT A FACE ON FOR THE CROWD,
 I'M JUST AN ACTOR IN A PLAY
 AND I KNOW I'LL HAVE MY WAY
 FOR I KNOW JUST WHAT TO SAY
 IN A POLITICIAN'S WORLD.
 AS YOU ROT IN SOME DARK CELL...
 KNOW YOU'VE TAUGHT YOUR STUDENT WELL
 IT'S A POLITICIAN'S WORLD!

(Blackout. Optional MUSIC UP for "Politician's World" tag.)

ACT II: SCENE SIX

*(MUSIC UP for "Thy Will Be Done."
It's midnight and JESUS enters alone in
Gethsemane. JESUS kneels to pray.)*

JESUS

FATHER, THE HOUR IS COME,
GLORIFY THY SON,
THAT THY SON MAY GLORIFY THEE,
THY SON MAY GLORIFY THEE.
FATHER, I PRAY FOR THEM,
I PRAY NOT FOR THE WORLD,
BUT FOR THEM THOU HAST GIVEN ME,
FOR THEM THOU HAST GIVEN ME.

THY WILL BE DONE, NOT MY WILL
BUT THINE BE DONE IN HEAVEN AS ON EARTH.
THAT THEY MAY BE ONE AS WE ARE ONE,
MY FATHER, THY WILL BE DONE.

A PAIN SO EXQUISITE,
HOW SORE, HOW HARD TO BEAR,
FATHER IF IT BE POSSIBLE,
REMOVE THIS BITTER CUP.
I TREMBLE, GREAT DROPS OF BLOOD
FLOW FROM EVERY PORE
YET IF THIS CUP PASS NOT AWAY FROM ME
UNLESS I DRINK,

*(During next four lines, JESUS stands. JUDAS enters
with PHARISEES behind him. JUDAS walks toward JESUS,
hesitates, then betrays him with a kiss. JUDAS re-
turns to the PHARISEES.)*

THY WILL BE DONE, NOT MY WILL
BUT THINE BE DONE IN HEAVEN AS ON EARTH.
THAT THEY MAY BE ONE AS WE ARE ONE,
MY FATHER, THY WILL BE DONE.

*(JESUS walks toward place of crucifixion and raises
his arms as if in pose of cross. His FOLLOWERS, in-
cluding MARY, come forward, see him on the cross.
MARY kneels at his feet.)*

AND FORGIVE THEM FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO.

(Looking at JUDAS and PHARISEES)

FORGIVE THEM

JESUS (cont.)

(Looking toward heaven)

THY WILL BE DONE,
 NOT MY WILL
 BUT THINE BE DONE
 IN HEAVEN AS ON EARTH.
 THAT THEY MAY BE ONE
 AS WE ARE ONE,
 MY FATHER, THY WILL BE DONE.
 MY FATHER, THY WILL IS DONE...

It is finished.

(JESUS dies. Don't stop CD or drop lights. Music segues directly into next song. JESUS' body is taken from cross and placed on MARY's lap. Use the pose in the Michelangelo's Pieta if possible)

MARY

SLEEP MY SON,
 YOUR MOTHER'S ARMS WILL HOLD YOU.
 CLOSE YOUR EYES
 NOW THAT THE DAY IS GONE.
 LET MY WORDS
 COMFORT AND CONSOLE YOU,
 BE AT PEACE
 AND SLEEP UNTIL THE DAWN.
 THOUGH THE LIGHT
 HAS GIVEN WAY TO DARKNESS
 YOU ARE SAFE,
 OF THAT I CAN BE SURE.
 THROUGH THE NIGHT
 YOUR FATHER WILL PROTECT YOU,
 I WON'T FEAR,
 MY SON WILL RISE ONCE MORE.

FOR YOU HAVE A FATHER IN THE HEAVENS,
 SMILING UPON YOU AS YOU GROW.
 YOU ARE A TREASURE SENT TO THIS WORLD,
 YOUR LOVE GIVES ME THE GREATEST JOY
 THAT I COULD EVER KNOW.

SLEEP MY SON,
 YOUR MOTHER'S ARMS WILL HOLD YOU.
 CLOSE YOUR EYES,
 THE SUN WILL SOON APPEAR.
 THROUGH THE NIGHT,

MARY (cont.)

YOUR FATHER WILL PROTECT YOU,
 WHEN YOU WAKE,
 I PROMISE I'LL BE HERE.
 WHEN YOU WAKE,
 I PROMISE I'LL BE HERE.

*(MUSIC UP immediately for "Betrayed With a Kiss."
 Lights cross-fade from MARY and JESUS to JUDAS, who is
 in despair.)*

JUDAS

I STARE INTO
 A BLACK ABYSS,
 THE VERY JAWS OF HELL SURROUND ME
 I CAN'T FORGOT THE PAIN
 I SAW THERE IN HIS EYES
 AS I BETRAYED HIM
 WITH A KISS,
 NOW BITTER ANGUISH SUFFOCATES ME
 I SENT MY FRIEND,
 MY GOD TO BE CRUCIFIED
 HE SPOKE OF A BETTER WORLD,
 ONE WHERE WE ARE FREE
 TRIED TO SHOW US A BETTER WORLD,
 BUT I COULD NOT SEE
 SO I PIERCED HIS SIDE,
 BLIND WITH GREED AND PRIDE
 IN AGONY HE DIED ...

(Pulling a noose from his bag)

I STARE INTO
 A BLACK ABYSS,
 THE VERY JAWS OF HELL SURROUND ME
 GOD IN HEAVEN,
 LET ME FIND A BETTER WORLD.

*(JUDAS' suicide is implied with lighting effects -
 lightning, etc. - as he disappears into the darkness.
 Blackout.)*

ACT II: SCENE SEVEN

(MUSIC UP for "He is Risen." It's sunrise. DISCIPLES and a group of JESUS' FOLLOWERS, except CLEOPAS and NATHANIEL, are gathered together in mourning. SARAH, MARY and several other women enter, excitedly recount seeing an angel at the tomb. Angels offstage can be sung by actors who played TYRAS, MORDECAI, JUDAS, ROMAN SOLDIER, etc.)

SARAH

EARLY THIS MORNING WE WENT UNTO THE SEPULCHRE
TO ANOINT THE BODY OF OUR MASTER
BUT AT HIS TOMB, THE STONE WAS ROLLED AWAY

MARY

OUR HEARTS WERE GRIEVED,
WE DID NOT KNOW WHERE THEY'D TAKEN HIM
SUDDENLY BEFORE US THERE STOOD TWO MEN,
ANGELS OF GLORY PROCLAIMED...

WOMEN

WHY DO YOU SEEK THE LIVING AMONG THE DEAD?

ANGELS

(Offstage)
HE IS RISEN!

WOMEN

WHY DO YOU WEEP, GOOD WOMEN BE COMFORTED.

ANGELS

HE IS RISEN!

WOMEN

DID YOU NOT UNDERSTAND THAT HE WOULD LIVE AGAIN?
HE IS NOT HERE, HE IS RISEN.

ANGELS

HE IS RISEN!

(NATHANIEL and CLEOPAS enter excitedly.)

NATHANIEL

He is risen!

NATHANIEL & CLEOPAS

A STRANGER WALKED WITH US AS WE TRAVELED TODAY.

WOMEN

HE IS RISEN!

NATHANIEL & CLEOPAS

OUR HEARTS BURNED AS HE TAUGHT US ALONG THE WAY.

WOMEN

HE IS RISEN!

NATHANIEL & CLEOPAS

THEN THERE BEFORE OUR EYES,
HIS FACE WE RECOGNIZED
IT WAS OUR MASTER, HE IS RISEN!

WOMEN

HE IS RISEN!

NATHANIEL & CLEOPAS

HE IS RISEN!

WOMEN

HE IS RISEN!

ALL

HE IS RISEN!

DISCIPLES

DOUBTS FILLED OUR HEARTS, COULD WE BELIEVE THIS WAS TRUE?

WOMEN

HE IS RISEN

DISCIPLES

WE PRAYED FOR STRENGTH, AND FELT OUR SPIRIT RENEWED

WOMEN

HE IS RISEN

ALL

FOR FROM A HOLIER SPHERE
THE SON OF MAN APPEARED
IT WAS OUR LORD,
HE IS RISEN
HE IS RISEN
HE IS RISEN!

ALL (cont.)

HE IS RISEN!
 HE IS RISEN!
 OUR GOD STOOD BEFORE US
 NOW WE HAVE SEEN!
 HE IS RISEN!
 THE GRAVE HAS LOST ITS VICTORY,
 DEATH HAS NO STING!
 HE IS RISEN!
 WE TOUCHED HIS HANDS AND FEET,
 AND FELT A JOY SO SWEET
 THE SAVIOR LIVES, HE IS RISEN! (HE IS RISEN!)
 HE IS RISEN! (HE IS RISEN!)
 THE SAVIOR LIVES!
 HE IS RISEN!

(SARAH and NATHANIEL are together at the front of the stage at the end of this song. SARAH comes forward and lights fade out on all but SARAH who walks back toward the modern day, removing her robe as she becomes KENDRA again. KENDRA sings the first three lines as she walks. MUSIC UP for "Kendra's Prayer.")

KENDRA

NOW I KNOW WHY
 HE ASKED ME TO READ THIS PART
 THERE'S A FEELING
 STIRRING DEEP WITHIN MY HEART
 COULD IT REALLY BE?
 DID HE DIE FOR ME?
 (Kneeling in prayer)
 GOD IN HEAVEN,
 ARE YOU THERE?
 I CAN'T WALK THIS ROAD ALONE
 NO NOT ALONE
 CAN YOU HEAR ONE WHISPERED PRAYER
 FROM A CHILD LOST LONG AGO
 I CANNOT SEE THAT LIGHT
 AND AM I STRONG ENOUGH
 JUST TO BELIEVE IN LOVE?
 HELP ME TO FIND THAT LIGHT
 AND TO BE STRONG ENOUGH
 JUST TO BELIEVE IN LOVE.

(KENDRA looks heavenward, a spotlight shines on her face, she smiles. Blackout.)

ACT II: SCENE EIGHT

(The next evening. MUSIC UP for "Hold My Hand" tag. LIGHTS UP on modern church. DIRECTOR and CHOIR MEMBERS, including JASON, are entering and greeting each other as they get ready for the concert, zipping up robes, etc. KENDRA enters.)

KENDRA

Jason, you were right! Last night I prayed, and felt a peace I've never known before!

JASON

Kendra, that's wonderful! I knew you'd find what you're looking for!

KENDRA

I feel like the weight of the world has been lifted – like I can finally begin again.

(Taking JASON's hand)

For the first time in a long time, there's something to hope for.

(KENDRA and JASON hug.)

JASON

(Seeing CHOIR and CONDUCTOR taking their places, JASON takes KENDRA'S hands.)

Well, it looks like we're about to start. Are you ready for this?

KENDRA

(Smiling confidently)

Yes, I think I'm finally ready!

(JASON and KENDRA take their places onstage. MUSIC UP for "He Is The Light.")

JASON

HIS QUESTION IS SO SIMPLE YET STIRS SOMETHING INSIDE
WHOM DO YOU SAY THAT I AM, THE SPIRIT WILL TESTIFY
HE IS THE LIGHT SHINING IN THE DARKNESS,
HE IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH, THE BREAD OF LIFE
IN HIM THE WORD, THE POWER TO MOVE MOUNTAINS,
HE IS THE SAVIOR, HE IS THE CHRIST.

KENDRA

HE WAS A MAN OF SORROWS, REJECTED BY HIS OWN
HIS FINAL WORDS SHOWED MERCY,
"FORGIVE THEM," THEY DO NOT KNOW.

KENDRA & CHOIR

HE IS THE LIGHT SHINING IN THE DARKNESS,
HE IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH, THE BREAD OF LIFE
IN HIM THE WORD, THE POWER TO MOVE MOUNTAINS,
HE IS THE SAVIOR, HE IS THE CHRIST.

JASON

AND ALL THE POWERS OF DARKNESS COULD NOT DESTROY THIS MAN

KENDRA

THE GARDEN TOMB STANDS EMPTY, THE SON OF GOD IS RISEN!

ALL

HE IS THE LIGHT SHINING IN THE DARKNESS,
HE IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH, THE BREAD OF LIFE
IN HIM THE WORD, THE POWER TO MOVE MOUNTAINS,
HE IS THE SAVIOR, HE IS THE CHRIST.

KENDRA & CHOIR

HE IS THE LIGHT
SHINING IN THE DARKNESS,
HE IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH,
THE BREAD OF LIFE
IN HIM THE WORD, THE POWER
TO MOVE MOUNTAINS,

JASON

(Countermelody)

HE IS THE LIGHT,
SHINING THROUGH EACH OF US,
HE IS THE WAY,
THE TRUTH, THE BREAD OF LIFE,
HE HAS THE POWER
TO MOVE MOUNTAINS!

KENDRA

HE IS THE SAVIOR

JASON

HE'S MY REDEEMER

ALL

COME FIND THE SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST.

(MUSIC UP for "Power Curtain Call.")

