

# THE SURRENDER

## JESUS & JOHN

by  
David S. Lampel



# Notes on Using This Script

*Stage directions for characters are in this typeface.*



5

**Directions for the light crew are preceded by the symbol above this paragraph (a candle) and are in this typeface.**



10

**Directions for the sound crew are preceded by the symbol above this paragraph (a tape reel) and are in this typeface.**

*(Note: Sound crew should also look for the tape reel symbol imbedded in dialogue for precise cueing of trax.)*

15

**Page numbers** (located in the lower right-hand corner of each page) are for **script pages only**; they do not include any inserted music literature pages.

## THE SCENES

20

### ACT ONE

The Wilderness - One ..... John the Baptist

Nazareth ..... Jesus and Mary

Bethabara - One ..... John and Jesus

### ACT TWO

25

The Wilderness - Two ..... Jesus

Bethabara - Two ..... Bartholomew, Timaeus, John

Bethabara - Three ..... Andrew, John, John bar Zebedee, Jesus

### ACT THREE

30

Aenon ..... John the Baptist & his disciple

Nain ..... Disciples of John, Jesus

Bethsaida-Julius ..... Jesus

## Background

35 John was born to a woman who was beyond the years of childbearing and Jesus was born to a virgin; John was a man accustomed to the solitude of the desert and Jesus was raised in the village of Nazareth; John gave his life for Jesus and Jesus gave His life for our sins. The miraculous will of God was manifested in their lives to accomplish His plan for our salvation.

40 Jesus was sent by His heavenly Father to be light for a world darkened by sin. John the Baptist was sent by God to bear witness of this light and to proclaim His coming.

45 John's role was a difficult one which even he never fully understood. He stepped into a world wracked with political and religious upheaval to announce the coming of the long-awaited Messiah. But he also became a bridge from the adulterated laws of Moses to the saving grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Together they changed for all time the relationship people would have with God.

## The Production

50 This play has been written for a more sparse—almost abstract—production standard. The Director certainly may, at his discretion, stage this play with complete sets, crowd scenes, etc., and it should work just fine. The author's original intent, however, was to focus on the words (which, in this play, are primarily Scripture) and strong, empathetic characters.

55

## Prologue



60

**Slow fade on houselights to black. Spotlight up on Storyteller.**

### STORYTELLER

65

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were created through Him, and apart from Him nothing was created that has been created.

*(with warm joy)*

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not comprehend it.

*(pause; a new chapter in the story)*

70

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for a witness, that he might bear witness of the light, that all might believe through him. He wasn't the light, but came that he might bear witness of the light—the true light which enlightens every man coming into the world. He was in the world—the world was made through Him—

75

*(sadly)*

—and the world didn't know Him. He came to His own—and those who were His own didn't receive Him.

*(brighter)*

80

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory—glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him, and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.’”

*(warmly)*

85

For of His fulness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.



90

**Spotlight out on Narrator.**

John 1:1-11,14-17.

## The Wilderness - One



Lights up full.

JOHN

95 *(entering hurriedly, with great anxiety; addressing God, but more as if someone is pursuing him)*

No! No! Leave me alone! Get someone else to do this. I can't fulfill your demands.

*(pause)*

100 Don't you realize what You're asking? They'll laugh at me, ridicule—surely they'll question the legitimacy of my birth. Who am I to be so burdened?!

*(calming down; more to himself)*

I don't even like people that much. I'm happy here, with the scorpions and snakes. My solitude is my cloak, my security.

105 *(to God)*

And you'd send me into that pit of vermin? Find somebody else!

*(trying to reason with God)*

110 Seriously, I can't do it. I'm the wrong man for the job. You want a person people will like—someone they can get close to. Look at me. No, I belong right here, where I am—where I fit in.

*(after long pause; quietly; introspectively)*

115 I met a man once. He was passing through the desert in a caravan. Oh, he must have been very rich; he was dressed in fine, beautiful robes and had many slaves. Yet, he welcomed me into his tent as a neighbor and filled my empty stomach with his food. He acted as if he truly liked me—accepted me as I was.

*(nostalgically)*

He was nice and I liked him. I was sorry when he moved on.

*(snapping out of it)*

120 Now, that's the sort of man you want for this job. Someone people will like! Lord, I'm unworthy of the task. You know I love You, but surely You could make a better choice. You're the author of my righteousness, You fill me with Your love. But You also fill my mind with confusing babble! My

125

head burns with the storm of ideas. Surely it'll burst from what You place in it. I'm too simple for this!



**Lights go to black immediately.**

*John moves to a different location on stage (time passes).*

130



**Lights up.**

**JOHN**

*(still arguing)*

135

What preparation have I had for Your work? All I know is the solitude of the desert—and it's given me no clues as to the mind of man. How can I minister to them?

*(trying to convincing himself that God is right)*

People have to know! If God's now decided that His word is to be fulfilled, then who better than I. The crowd would pay no attention to the ordinary; only someone out of the ordinary will be able to change their hearts.

140

*(with self-deprecating humor)*

Yes, I think so—an animal from up out of the desert will show them the way.

*(pause)*

145

Now, wait a minute. You say I am to “go before and prepare the way for the Lord”—that at last You'll send the Anointed One and I'm to precede Him. But what will You give me for tools? You have to supply me with the tools, for, as I am now, I'm certainly ill-equipped.

*(pause; waiting for God to reply)*

150



Well?

*(pause; immediately agitated)*

155

If You're angry with me then say it! Say it to my face! My God, You place me in Your agony, but give me no reason why. The voices of this world disclaim Your justice; give me evidence to disclaim their disbelief! Speak to my ears, as You did to Abraham, the father of our faith. My life—all of me!—is in Your hands. There's nothing but Your demanding will that sustains me

*(pleading)*

	So speak to Your servant!
160	 <p><b>Lights fade slowly to black.</b> <i>John moves to another location on stage (time passes).</i></p>
	 <p><b>Lights up.</b></p>
165	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>JOHN</b> <i>(quietly reasoning to himself)</i></p>
	<p>My father, Zechariah, taught that we're redeemed by the covenant and the law; that we're a people special unto God. He said if we keep the law, obey our jealous God, then we'll be saved.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(pause)</i></p>
170	<p>But then, surely we're <u>none</u> of us redeemed! Who can say they've kept the law—this book of impossibilities? These books of regulations are nothing less than obstacles to our God.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(realizing his blasphemy, he falls to his knees)</i></p>
175	<p>My God, forgive me! I dare to speak against Your holy word. Spare this evil life!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(long pause; recovering; pondering again)</i></p>
	<p>Then why did You give us these rules? To what end?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(pause)</i></p>
180	<p>You've said that every swarming thing that swarms on the earth is detestable and not to be eaten. That it's unclean. But in my times of hunger, when I've had nothing but the dust for my meal, You've sent the locust and the honey-bee to minister to me. I've stayed alive by eating the locusts and the honey-bee. Am I now unclean and despised by You?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(pause)</i></p>
185	<p>Also, in my hunger, Lord, I've eaten of forbidden birds—for in my sanctuary are only unclean birds. I eat them or I die. Which would You have, Lord?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(painfully)</i></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Lev 11:41. Deut 14: 12-18</p>

190

You've also said that the man who is presumptuous and doesn't listen to the priest shall surely die. Am I to die? Am I evil in Your sight?

*(in anguish)*

My father was a priest and I disobey him by these thoughts alone!

*(weeping)*

195

So then, how shall I be judged? And why do You place in my mind such blasphemy?



**Lights fade slowly to black.**

*John exits.*

Deut 17:12.



200



## Nazareth

**Lights up <sup>¾</sup>.**

*Enter Mary and Jesus, already in conversation.*

205

**MARY**

*(frustrated)*

But I don't understand this.

**JESUS**

*(quietly, but firmly)*

I must leave.

210

**MARY**

You haven't given me a reason. Have I done something wrong?

*Jesus turns away, saying nothing.*

**MARY**

*(continuing)*

215

Jesus, when your father died, he left with his heart at peace, knowing that you—his first son—would continue his business and care for his family.

**JESUS**

*(patiently)*

I'm the first-born to another.

220

**MARY**

Again you speak of it!

**JESUS**

*(tenderly)*

225

Mother, when I was twelve years old you and father took me to the temple in Jerusalem. Do you remember?

*(retelling happy memories)*

It was my first time and I was so excited. It was all so new and special to me. But I stayed too long. I was separated from you and stayed behind

230 and made you angry. Do you remember what I said to you when you  
found me there in the temple? Mother, do you?

**MARY**

*(emphatically; knowing His point, but refusing to cooperate)*

Your father's business is here!

**JESUS**

235 Would you have me deny my Father's will?

**MARY**

*(missing his inference; nostalgically)*

He wanted only the best for you. You learned his trade so easily—you  
were born to it. And he was so proud of you. Why, Joseph always said—

240 **JESUS**

*(firmly)*

Mother!

*(pause; softening)*

245 I loved Joseph with all my heart. With all his uncertainty, all his questions,  
he accepted me. He loved me as his son. But it was a love that held much  
pain. He put up with so much vicious talk.

**MARY**

Oh, was I immune to the gossip of neighbors?

**JESUS**

250 I was at least of your body. He held no claim to me but marriage to you.

*(pause)*

A man and woman join to create life. That child is then a special miracle  
to those two people. Joseph never had that with me. He could love, even  
accept, but never fully understand.

255 *(heavier)*

I was never a part of him. My beginnings weren't stirred from his  
loins—and my end will not be his memorial.

260

**MARY**

*(turning away; after a pause; sadly)*

At this moment, I think I miss my husband very much. I feel so . . . alone.

**JESUS**

*(going to her; compassionately)*

265

I'll always be a part of you. You brought me to this world. You gave me the warmth of your arms, the nourishment of your breast . . .  
You gave me life! You're my mother!

**MARY**

*(turning back quickly; pleading)*

Then how can you leave?

270

**JESUS**

*(stronger)*

It's my time.

**MARY**

*(angrily)*

275

Time for what? To break your mother's heart? Time to walk away from your responsibilities—your family? Your life is here! You're the oldest.

**JESUS**

I have to be baptized.

280

**MARY**

*(taken aback; incredulous)*

Baptized? Why? Only the Gentiles must be baptized, when they accept our faith. Why you?

**JESUS**

*(matter-of-factly; not sanctimoniously)*

285

To fulfill all righteousness. In obedience to my father.

**MARY**

*(having had enough of this; harshly)*

Your father died nine years ago. He left you to take care of his family.

**JESUS**

*(sternly)*

290

Woman! You can no longer keep buried in your heart the reality of my birth! Remember. Remember how it began. I've never been yours to keep. Only for a time.

*(pause; softening)*

295

I have no one closer to me on this earth than you. But, it's my Father's plan that I walk the rest of the way alone.

**MARY**

*(after a pause; in catharsis)*

300

Oh, Jesus! I've denied the possibility of this day for . . . thirty years. I prayed that, somehow, God would show me mercy—that He'd change His mind.

**JESUS**

*(comforting her)*

305

The Father won't forsake you. Through you He's accomplished His purpose. Don't be afraid, Mary.

**MARY**

*(smiling through her tears)*

310

A long time ago, an angel from the Lord said that to me. I wasn't sure how to take it then—

*(seriously)*

—I'm not sure how to take it now. I'm very much afraid—for you.

*(pause)*

Will I ever see you again?

**JESUS**

315

I'll not be a stranger to you. We'll meet from time to time and others will keep you informed of my whereabouts.

*(painfully)*

But you must understand, I now walk the path of my Father's design. It's a way narrow and hard—and lonely.

320

*(pause)*

Mother, you'll never completely understand why I came. To you, I'll always be your son. But now I must be His son—and only His son. That, too, is my Father's design. He's given you thirty years—more than even I imagined.

325

*(pause)*

It's now my time. And my time is short.

*Jesus exits.*



**Lights fade to black.**

330

*Mary exits, sadly, as the lights fade.*

## Bethabara - One



335

**Lights up full, quickly.**

**JOHN**

*(loudly, almost angrily)*

340

Repent! Lay down your sins and accept God's forgiveness! Repent!  
Confess your sins and be baptized. We're all part of God's kingdom and  
His kingdom is fast approaching.

*John notices Pharisees and Sadducees in his audience (their presence is not literal, but implied).*

**john**

*(continuing; addressing the religious leaders with contempt)*

345

You brood of vipers! So now you come—even you. Who warned you of  
God's impending wrath? And who among you decided it was necessary to  
flee from this judgement?

*(laughing)*

350

Go ahead, turn up your nose at my stink. Oh, and be sure to wash your  
hands after being near my disciples.

*(sternly)*

But I tell you this: Before one drop of this water touches you, prove your  
repentance. Show me first your changed hearts.

*(pause; motioning around)*

355

Take some of my friends home for dinner. Or help bring the lame to me.  
Come on! Soil your hands on forgiven sinners.

*(pause)*

I know what you're thinking.

*(mimicking the religious leaders)*

360

"We are the sons of Abraham. We have redemption in our blood. Only the  
Gentiles require baptism—not the children of Abraham."

*(contemptuously)*

What is that worth? God is able from these stones to raise up more  
children of Abraham. You can't rest on your heritage. There'll be wrath to

365 come—the axe is already in place, lying at the base of the tree. If the tree  
fails to produce good fruit, it'll be cut down and cast into the fire.

*(pause)*

370 So see that your hearts turn from their self-righteous greed and piety; live  
lives of compassion and concern for others. Then you can be baptized by  
the Lord because of your repentance.

*Enter Jesus.*

*John turns away from the religious rulers to see Jesus walking toward  
him. He goes to Jesus, bowing before Him.*

**JOHN**

375 My Lord—

**JESUS**

*(lifting John)*

John, please. I need to be baptized.

**JOHN**

*(stammering)*

380 I— I'm the one who should be baptized by You. Yet You ask it of me?

*John tries to pull away from Jesus.*

**JESUS**

*(taking John by the arm)*

385 Let it happen, John. This is the time for it to happen.

*(they cross to exit)*

This is the time for us to fulfill all righteousness.



390 **Lights fade to black as they exit.**

Matt 3:1-10.  
Mat 3:13-15.

## Into the Wilderness



### Spotlight up on Storyteller

395

#### STORYTELLER

*(standing opposite exit of John and Jesus)*

As John lifted Jesus out of the water of the Jordan, the heavens were torn open and the Holy Spirit—in the form of a dove—descended and remained upon Jesus. Then, in a loud voice, God declared, “This is My Son, the beloved, in whom I am well-pleased.”

400

In obedience to His Father, Jesus had been baptized. In further obedience, He now went into the wilderness for a period of trial and testing. Like John before Him, He needed to be honed to a fine, sharp edge, to be prepared for His ministry.

405

*(pause)*

So Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, was led about by the Spirit for forty days, living with the wild beasts and being tempted by Satan. He ate nothing during those days, and wasn’t hungry; but when the days were ended, He then became hungry.

410



### Light out on Storyteller.

Mat 3:16-17; Mark 1:10-11; Luke 3:21-22.



## The Wilderness - Two



415

**Lights up full.**

**JESUS**

*(upon wounding himself on a thorn)*

**Ouch!**

420

*(He, grimacing, pulls out the thorn then rubs the wound; addressing the Father—without looking up—as He studies His hand)*

**You've made Me human in the eyes of men, and have given me the ability to experience the shortcomings of their bodies.**

*(pause)*

425

**How curious this flesh. How easily the thorn penetrates and how quick the hurt. The flesh is warm, alive—yet, so terribly fragile.**

*(pause)*

430

**I know, Father. I know You want Me to experience the fragility of man. When I'm hungry, I ache; when I'm pierced, I bleed. Use this flesh as You will, for I know that the body is only the physical conveyance of the Spirit—the Spirit which is from You. The pain I feel now—and the pain that is to come—will pass quickly. They're only necessary for the . . . conveyance of Your salvation.**

*(more seriously)*

435

**I ask only for the strength by which to withstand the discomfort of Your plan.**

*(pause; glancing about nervously)*

440

**Protect Me from the evil one; this is his place. He's a murderer and doesn't stand in the truth—because there's no truth in him. Whenever he speaks it's a lie, for he's a liar by nature and the father of lies. He continues to test My spirit—but We're stronger than he. Still, protect Me, and keep Me close to Your voice.**

*(less agitated)*

445

**Father, the hour comes when I must carry out Your plan; glorify Your Son, so that the Son may glorify You. You've given Me authority over all people so that I might give them eternal life. You've given them to Me and those**

John 8:44.  
John 17:1.

who come to Me I won't cast out. For You've sent Me here not to do My own will, but Yours.

*(pause)*

450 I can do nothing by Myself, unless I first see it done by You. Whatever You do, so also do I. Just as You raise the dead to life, so too will I give life to whomever I desire. You judge no one, but have entrusted all judgement to Me, so that all people will honor Me—just as they honor You. No one can honor You without honoring Me, and You will honor anyone who serves Me.

455 *(working through it; talking more to Himself)*

You've given Me authority to judge because I am the Son of Man! Soon the dead will hear My voice and those who hear will live! By myself I can do nothing; I'll judge only as I hear, and My judgement will be just, for I seek not to please Myself, but You, the Father who sent Me. But even so, 460 I've not come to be served, but to serve, and to give My life so that others might live!

The person who loves this life will lose it; the one who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal.

*(almost amused)*

465 Some people may come to Me, after searching the scriptures, thinking that in them they'll have eternal life. But they don't realize it's these very scriptures that bear witness of Me. For if they believe Moses, then they must believe Me, because he wrote of Me! But if they don't believe his writings, how can they believe My words?

470 *(becoming agitated, even though exhausted; crying out)*

He who believes in Me does not believe in Me but the Father who sent Me! And he who sees Me sees the Father! I've come as light for the world, so that all who believe in Me need not remain in darkness; just as the prophet, Isaiah said, "I will make You a light to the nations so that My 475 salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

*(sadly)*

John 6:37-38.  
John 5:19, 21-23.  
John 12:26b  
John 5:27,25,30.  
Mark 10:45.  
John 12:25.  
John 5:39,46,47.

Those who choose darkness over the light choose evil over good.

*(resignedly)*

480 But those who hear what I have to say and choose not to believe, I'll not  
judge; for I'm not here to judge the world—but to save it. Those who reject  
Me will be judged by the very words they choose to disregard.

*(pause; mysteriously)*

485 The words I speak aren't created by My mind in this fragile form, but  
they've been given Me by the Father who sent Me. The Father Himself  
has commanded Me what to say and what to speak. And I know that His  
precepts lead to eternal life; so, I speak just as the Father has told Me.

*(moving off; ponderously)*

But My soul is troubled.

*(pause; expressing the great turmoil going on inside of Him)*

490 My heart is heavy. Father, dare I speak it? Dare I ask You to save Me  
from this hour?

*(pause)* ☹️

But I couldn't. It was just for this that You sent Me! Oh My Father, may  
Your name be glorified!

495 *Jesus finishes exhausted and crumpled.*

*If song is not used, insert optional scene between Jesus and Satan ("The Testing") here.*



**Cue IT IS WRITTEN - fade in trax slowly under dialogue to hide inappropriate music; begin *audible* fade-in at p18, m17.**

500 *As trax plays (from m17 to m25, Jesus, sensing the approach of Satan, looks about anxiously (not fearfully), wondering what will happen next. As trax crescendos and hits chord on beat 1 of m25, Jesus suddenly "sees" Satan.*



505 **Begin slow trax fade-out at p29, m2—being sure to be completely out by p30, m7.**



**Slow fade to black.**

*Jesus exits in darkness.*

John 12:44-50; Isaiah 49:6.  
John 12:27,28.

## Bethabara - Two

510



**Lights up full.**

*Bartholomew (the tall one) and Timaeus (the short one) enter.*

**BARTHOLOMEW**

*(imperiously)*

515

Now, you do all the talking.

**TIMAEUS**

Barth—

**BARTHOLOMEW**

No, they said you were to do all the talking.

520

**TIMAEUS**

Don't get pushy, Bartholomew. I've had just about enough of you always having your way. We're here to look this guy over for the Pharisees, and we are going to do it together.

*(shaking his finger in Bartholomew's face)*

525

Don't you chicken out on me like you did last week.

*Bartholomew feigns surprise: "Who, me?"*

**TIMAEUS**

We had agreed that we'd share equally the blame for misplacing the tithe money. But no. At the last minute, you tell the treasurer that I lost it all by myself!

530

*(shaking his finger again)*

God will punish you, Bartholomew. He won't forget.

**BARTHOLOMEW**

*(stiffening)*

535

Don't threaten me with the Lord, Timaeus. I was already in the temple when you were still tugging at your mother's apron.

**TIMAEUS***(unimpressed; disgustedly)*

540 A lowly apprentice.

**BARTHOLOMEW***(snooty)*

In the temple, nonetheless.

**TIMAEUS**

545 Children are children, no matter whose apron they're tugging.

*(pause)*

But never mind; we have important business at hand. This teacher has a sizable following and we must find out more about him. He came to us so suddenly, from out of nowhere.

**BARTHOLOMEW***(confidentially)*

550

I am told he was raised by a family of jackals. They found him abandoned as a child in the desert and raised him as one of their own kind. Why, he wears the skins of beasts, as if still a wild man.

**TIMAEUS***(disgusted with Bartholomew for taking seriously such a preposterous tale)*

555

If indeed he was raised by jackals, how did he come to speak our language?

**BARTHOLOMEW***(after a beat; blustering to mask his ignorance)*

560

Precisely why we're here. We must determine just what sort of . . . peculiarity this John is. Come, he's just over the next rise.



**Lights down on Bartholomew and Timaeus as lights up on John.**

565

**JOHN**

*(continuing with teaching that has been going on for some time; not piously—more as one friend counseling another)*

—then let the man who has two tunics share with him who has none; and the one with food, do likewise. A true friend will know the pain of a brother

570 in need—and all are brothers and sisters before the Lord, responsible  
one to another.

*(pause)*

And you who choose to gather the Roman taxes: if you must, then collect  
no more than ordered; if a man steals from his brother, collecting more  
575 than the law demands, then that thief collects also the wrath of God.

*(pause)*

Likewise, you soldiers, don't take money from anyone by force, or falsely  
accuse others; be satisfied with the wages you receive.

580 *During John's last few lines, Bartholomew and Timaeus have entered the  
immediate area, listening.*

### TIMAEUS

*(interrupting John arrogantly)*

585 Good rabbi, may we have a word with you? We are Levites, faithful  
servants of the Lord, and have been sent by the Pharisees. They—uh,  
we—are curious, uh, that is to say . . . we were wondering, uh, well . . . .  
Who are you?

### JOHN

*(flatly; knowing their intentions)*

I am not the Christ.

590 **BARTHOLOMEW**

*(quickly; ill-at-ease)*

No, no, of course not. Not Him.

### TIMAEUS

What then? Could you be—Elijah?

595 **JOHN**

I have the spirit and righteous power of Elijah, but I'm not he.

### BARTHOLOMEW

*(uncomfortable; backing out again; wanting to leave; to Timaeus)*

Of course he isn't. How silly!

Luke 3:11-14.

600

**TIMAEUS**

*(scowling at Bartholomew)*

Well, then, are you the Prophet?

**JOHN**

The Prophet you speak of will come later. I'm not the one.

605

**BARTHOLOMEW**

*(tugging at Timaeus' arm)*

Timaeus, that's quite enough—

**TIMAEUS**

*(shrugging Bartholomew off)*

610

Then who are you? We need an answer to take back to those who sent us.

*(impatiently)*

Come now, what have you to say for yourself?

**JOHN**

*(after pondering for a moment)*

615

You may tell those who sent you that I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord!"

**BARTHOLOMEW**

*(timidly; finally to John)*

620

But, if you're not the Christ, nor are you Elijah raised from the dead, and you're not the Prophet, why are you baptizing?

**TIMAEUS**

*(insistently)*

What authority have you? What is your purpose?

625

**JOHN**

*(pointedly)*

The nation of God's chosen people is evil and filled with sin. The hour has come to confess this diseased life, confess the wickedness of a people gone bad. I come baptizing those who have confessed their sin and

John 1:19-23.  
John 1:25.

630 turned away from the old life. I baptize as a sign of the remission of their  
disease.

I baptize only with water—a symbol of cleansing power. But One will  
come after me who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.

*(seriously—almost introspectively)*

635 He is mightier than I and I'm not even fit to kneel and untie his sandal.

He will judge the people with righteousness and baptize with fire.

*(pause)*

He will be the complete revelation of God!



640 **Lights go to black.**

*All exit.*

Luke 3:16-17.



## Bethabara - Three

645



**Lights up full.**

*John enters, walking with two of his disciples—Andrew and John, son of Zebedee.*

650

**JOHN**

*(teaching; methodically)*

Andrew, twice daily, in the temple, a sin-offering is made by the priests.

**ANDREW**

*(simply)*

Yes, rabbi.

655

**JOHN**

And what animal is used for the sin-offering?

**ANDREW**

Why, a lamb.

660

**JOHN**

John bar Zebedee, what are the qualifications of that lamb.

**JOHN bar Z**

*(wondering what the point of this is)*

It must be a pure and unblemished lamb.

665

**JOHN**

*(methodically)*

I want you both to understand that twice daily, by the law, an innocent lamb gives up its life for our sins. The lamb has done nothing to deserve its death at the hands of the priest. It's totally without its own sin—yet its blood is shed for us.

670

*Jesus now enters, opposite.*

**ANDREW**

*(to John)*

675 Of course, master, we know all this. Our people have performed these rights for hundreds of years—since Moses handed down the laws.

**JOHN bar Z**

*(also to John)*

What's your point?

**JOHN**

680 *(pointing to Jesus; with some drama)*

Behold the sinless Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Remember what I said before? "After me comes a Man far greater than I, because He existed before me." This is that Man.

**JOHN bar Z**

685 *(skeptical)*

But, rabbi, this is only Jesus bar Joseph. I've known Him all my life.

**JOHN**

*(not unacquainted with his disciple's quandary)*

690 I didn't know completely who He was either. We're of the same family, yet I didn't know Him as the Messiah. But so that He would be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing with water. And now I know; I've seen the dove.

*Andrew and John bar Z. look at each other and back to John, confused.*

**ANDREW**

A dove?

695 **JOHN**

This is what God told me: "When a man comes to you for baptism and you see the Spirit descend as a dove out of heaven and remain upon Him, this is the One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit."

*Andrew and John bar Z. turn to study Jesus.*

700

## JOHN

I've seen it. I am His witness. This is truly the Son of God.

*(emphatically)*

Look at Him! The Lamb of God! 🙏



705

**Spotlight up on Storyteller.**

*Andrew and John bar Z. cross to Jesus, who receives them by name and (silently) invites them to be seated. John quietly exits, pleased that his disciples have gone to Jesus.*



710

**Lights down on John as he exits. Lights remain up on Jesus, but fade to ¼ during song.**



**Cue A TOUCH OF HEAVEN - short intro; Storyteller must be in position already.**

*During A Touch of Heaven, Jesus and the two disciples talk animatedly with each other (silently, of course).*

715



**At end of song, fade out spotlight on Storyteller; lights up full on Jesus and group. Storyteller exits.**

720

John 1:29-37.

## Sermon on the Mount

### JESUS

725 *(beginning quietly, simply; to the two disciples—and anyone else in attendance)*

Blessed are those whose spirit is humble, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them. Blessed are those who share the pain of others, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall  
730 be filled! Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be known as the sons of God! Blessed are those who have known persecution for the sake of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them. And blessed are you when you're  
735 insulted and persecuted, and people make evil accusations against you because of Me. Be glad, for your reward in heaven is great! They persecuted the prophets before you in the same way.

*(pause)*

740 Let your light shine before men so that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father in heaven.

*(pause)*

It's been said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I say, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; He causes the sun to rise on the  
745 good and the evil, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. So, be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

*(pause)*

750 Don't think that I came to abolish the law or the prophets; I didn't come to destroy, but to fulfill. Believe Me, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest portion shall pass from the law—until everything is accomplished.

*(pause)*

Mat 5:3-16.  
Mat 5:43-45,48.  
Mat 5:17-18.

755 Now, when you pray, don't be as the hypocrites who love to stand and  
pray in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell  
you, they already have their reward in full. But when you pray, go into  
your room, and after you've shut the door, pray to your Father in secret,  
and your Father—who knows all secrets—will hear and repay you. And  
when you pray, don't use meaningless repetition as the heathen do;

*(bemused)*

760 they suppose they'll be heard because of their many words.

*(more seriously)*

No. Don't be like them; your Father knows what you need, before you ask  
Him. Pray like this:

765 Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
770 And forgive our debts,  
As we have forgiven our debtors.  
And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.

*(pause)*

775 If you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will  
forgive you. But if you don't forgive men, then your Father won't forgive  
you.

*(pause)*

780 Don't store your treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and  
where thieves will break in and steal. Instead, store your treasures in  
heaven, where they won't be destroyed or stolen. Remember, your heart  
will be where your treasure is. So make sure your heart is in the right  
place. You can't serve two masters; either you'll hate the one and love the  
other, or you'll cling to one and despise the other. You can't serve God  
and riches.

785 *(pause)*

Mat 6:5-15.  
Matt. 6:19-21,24.

Don't be anxious for your life. Don't say things like:

*(with feigned anxiety)*

“What shall we eat?” or “What shall we drink?” or “How shall we clothe ourselves?”

790

*(bemused)*

All these things the heathen seek; your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. Instead, be always seeking His kingdom and His righteousness and He'll provide all the essentials. So, don't be anxious for tomorrow—tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

795

*(pause)*

Don't judge others or you, too, will be judged. However you wish people to treat you, so treat them.

*(pause; beginning to move closer to the audience)*

800

Everyone who hears My words and follows them, you could compare to a wise man who built his house upon a rock.

*(telling a story; expansively)*

The rain descended and the floods came; the winds blew and beat against the house; yet it didn't fall—for it had been built upon the rock.

805

*(pause)*

But everyone who hears My words and does not follow them, will be like a foolish man who built his house upon the sand. The rain descended and the floods came; the winds blew and beat against that house—and it fell, and great was its fall.

810



**Lights fade slowly to black as Jesus finishes His last line.**

Mat 6:31-34.  
Mat 7:1, 12.  
Mat 7:24-27.

**Aenon**

815

**Lights up full.***John and two of his disciples enter (or are already in place when lights come up).***DISCIPLE #1**

820

*(of John)*

Master, what's to become of us? We're being replaced by this other rabbi. This one who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you referred to as the Lamb of God, the Messiah—He's baptizing. The people are flocking to Him instead of us! What are we to do?

825

**JOHN***(calming him; slightly irritated at the disciple's apparent priorities)*

Don't worry so. A man can only receive what is given him from heaven. Why should my baptism be more important than His? You're forgetting what I said before, "I'm not the Christ, but have been sent ahead of Him to prepare the way."

830

*His disciple still doesn't understand.***JOHN***(patiently teaching)*

Maybe you'll understand if I put it this way: The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. Jesus is the bridegroom and all the people who believe in Him are the bride. Do you understand that?

835

*The disciple thinks so, slowly nods his head.***JOHN***(continuing)*

Now, there's a third person, the friend of the bridegroom, who attends to Him, waiting at His side, listening. The friend of the bridegroom hears and rejoices at the sound of the bridegroom's voice. He delights in it!

840

*(pause)*

845

I am the friend of the bridegroom—and so this joy of mine has been made full.

**DISCIPLE #1**

*(seriously)*

What will happen to you, master?

850

**JOHN**

*(simply, with a shrug)*

I must decrease; He must increase.

855

**DISCIPLE #1**

*(incredulous; after a beat)*

How could you even consider such a thing? God's appointed you, trained you, given you an effective ministry. God has set you apart to accomplish His will, and now you want to just fade away, giving it all to this one you call the Messiah?

860

**JOHN**

*(flaring angrily)*

You're as short-sighted as the rest! I call Him the Messiah because He is! With my own eyes I've seen the Holy Spirit come out of heaven and rest on Him.

*(with intensity)*

865

Don't you see? It's happened! He's here! Why do you resist the good news?

**DISCIPLE #1**

But why should this mean you diminish your work? Isn't there room for both of you?

870

**JOHN**

*(struggling for patience)*

The Anointed One who comes from above—from the heavenly Father—is above all; I am from the earth, so my words are of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above me—above all! He is from God and speaks the true words of God, for the Spirit given to Him is beyond measure. The Father in heaven loves His Son and He's given all things into His hand.

875



**DISCIPLE #1**

*(shaking his head)*

It's too much for me. Will the Messiah, this Jesus, free us from the Roman tyranny?

880

**JOHN**

*(as if he had never thought about that before)*

I'm not really sure.

**DISCIPLE #1**

*(disgusted)*

885

Then why has God bothered sending Him? What good is He?!

**JOHN**

*(furious; slapping his disciple)*

Shut your mouth! I won't allow such profanity! We've no right to define the Son of God.

890

*(composing himself, but still with intensity)*

What I do know is that he who believes in the Son has eternal life; but the one who doesn't believe will not see life. The anger of God will stay with him.

**DISCIPLE #1**

*(from the ground, where John's slap has left him; contrite)*

895

But it makes no sense to me. I— I Just don't understand.

**JOHN**

*(kneeling down to comfort)*

True faith comes when we believe without understanding.

900



**Lights fade slowly to black on last line.**

John 3:22-36.

905

## The Arrest of John

### Spotlight up on Storyteller

#### STORYTELLER

910

No one at the time really understood the role of Jesus. Not John, not his disciples, and certainly not the rest of the people. God had revealed to John the deity of Jesus, but John still saw Him in the light of that era.

*(pause)*

915

Since the time of the ancient prophets, the Anointed One had been anticipated as the final solution for a battered and exhausted nation. Long-awaited and now misunderstood. Jesus was the Messiah, the Anointed One. But He had come to fulfill His heavenly Father's plan of salvation—not the supposed plan of the Jews.

*(pause)*

920

John was now in the final phase of his surrender to the Christ. His submission to “the One greater than he” had been facilitated by Herod Antipas, Tetrarch of Galilee and Peraea.

925

Herod was no stranger to the baptizer. John had been a thorn in his side for some time and he was at once enraged and fascinated by this rabbi who went about baptizing people. There was, too, a more personal reason for Herod to be following the preaching of John. You see, Herod had rudely divorced his first wife in order to marry his niece, Herodias—who, in turn, was married to Herod's brother, Philip.

930

This relationship, deemed immoral by the Jews, was made even more so by the fact that Herodias had failed to divorce her husband, Philip. This was an abomination to John, and he was vocal in his denunciation of their marriage. At every opportunity he proclaimed against Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife!”

*(pause)*

935

So Herod, weary of the embarrassing preaching of John—and fearful that his great appeal would incite the public to rebellion—imprisoned John in his palace at Machaerus.

940

His wife, Herodias, hated John because of what he had been saying about her in public. She wanted him dead. But Herod recognized John as a righteous and holy man, and kept him around because he enjoyed listening to him—although, most often John’s words left him quite perplexed.



945

**Spotlight out on Storyteller**

Mat 14:1-5; Mark 6:14-20.

## Nain



Lights up ½ to ¾.

950 *Two disciples of John enter and approach Jesus, who is seated.*

**DISCIPLE #2**

*(awkwardly)*

Rabbi, could we have a word with you?

*Jesus motions for them to join Him.*

955 **DISCIPLE #1**

*(confidentially)*

Our master, John, is very low. The prison walls press heavy on his spirits.

**DISCIPLE #2**

In his despair he has found . . .

960 *(embarrassed)*

uncertainty. His mind's clouded by the darkness; he's beginning to doubt the events he himself was a part of.

**DISCIPLE #1**

Rabbi, he needs your assurance.

965 *(embarrassed to ask; haltingly)*

Are You really the Expected One—or shall we look for someone else?

**JESUS**

*(quietly troubled about this news of John)*

Where have they taken my brother?

970 **DISCIPLE #1**

Herod's castle at Machaerus.

*(with disgust)*

Herod Antipas has him as a plaything.

975

**JESUS***(after some thought)*

980 I want you to return to John and tell him all that you've seen and heard:  
that the blind receive sight and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed  
and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up and the poor have the good  
news preached to them. Go now and tell him he can be at peace.

*The disciples exit.***JESUS***(to the disciples as they exit; almost as an after-thought)*

985 And blessed is he who keeps from stumbling over Me.

*After the disciples have left, Jesus turns to the audience, as if addressing a crowd of people who have been privy to the preceding exchange.***JESUS**

990 Why do you all question John? He certainly fulfills the Father's  
expectations—if not yours. What was it in the wilderness you went out to  
see? A reed shaken by the wind? Maybe a man dressed in soft clothing.

*(he shakes his head)*

No, those who wear soft clothing are in king's palaces.

*(pause)*

995 Now, why did you go out into the wilderness? To see a prophet? Yes! And  
I say to you, one who is more than a prophet.

*(emphatically)*

1000 John is the one spoken of in the scriptures, where it's written: "Behold, I  
send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before  
you."

*(with warm admiration)*

I tell you, among those born of women, there is no one greater than John.

*(sharply)*

1005 But there's no satisfying you! John the Baptist has come eating no bread  
and drinking no wine; and you say, "Impossible! He has a demon!" Then

the Son of Man has come eating and drinking; and then you say, “Behold,  
a glutton and a drunkard—a friend of tax-gatherers and sinners!”

*(after a beat)*

Make up your minds!

1010



**Lights out immediately.**

Mat 11:2-19; Luke 7:18-35.

## The Death of John



1015 **Spotlight up on Storyteller (low, if possible).**

### STORYTELLER

*(flatly)*

The disciples of John came to Jesus bearing news of John's death. This was their report:

1020 *(cynically, as if a bad taste in the mouth)*

It had been Herod's birthday and he held a feast for his officials, military commanders, and the leading citizens of Galilee. As a special treat for his guests, he had asked his step-daughter, Salome, to dance before them. Oh, her dance greatly pleased Herod. In appreciation for her performance he had promised the girl anything she might desire. Salome consulted with her mother as to what she should request, then came back with her demand. "Give to me on a platter, the head of John the Baptist!"

1025

*(troubled)*

Herod was very upset. He had never intended killing John. He respected him—he feared him because the people respected him. He didn't want to kill him. But before all his important guests he had sworn an oath and was duty-bound to fulfill the demands of his treacherous step-daughter.

1030

*(flatly)*

So he sent word to the guard. They wasted no time in the execution.

1035

*(heavily; darkly)*

In a moment, in the empty gloom of his cell, John died.

*(pause)*

They carried his head back to the banquet and presented the grisly trophy to the girl—who then handed it over to her mother. Herodias had finally seen to the death of her nemesis.

1040

*(pause)*

Jesus was overcome by the loss. His heart heavy, He withdrew to a lonely place near Bethsaida-Julias.



1045 **Spot light fades to dark on Storyteller—who exits.**

Mat 14:6-12; Mark 6:21-29.

## Bethsaida-Julius



Lights up ¼ to ½.

### JESUS

*(praying in anguish)*

1050

Abba Father, please let Me feel You; trouble is near and there's no one to help. They've killed John and I'm alone now—alone to accomplish Your plan. I'm poured out like water; My heart is like wax melted within Me. My strength is dried up like dust.

1055

*(pause)*

John was like a brother to Me. Our moments together were short, but our hearts beat as one in our service and devotion to You. We were kindred. We were brothers.

*(short pause)*

1060

Father, where are you? Don't be silent!

*(pause)*

John was a lamp burning and shining, and for awhile they rejoiced in his light. But his honest words were too harsh for some and they snuffed out his flame. He delivered Your gospel to them—and they killed him!

1065

*(pause)*

From the end of the earth I call to You because My heart is faint. Let Me dwell in Your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of Your wings. For You've heard My vows, Father, and You've given Me the inheritance of those who fear Your name. I'll sing praise to Your name forever!

1070

Oh Father, take John into Your arms. His time here was so brief. You gave him a task hard and cruel and he accepted it. You took him from a comfortable life with Zechariah and Elizabeth, to raise him up in the wilderness; then you pushed him out amongst the wolves to proclaim My coming. And then, with much life still in him, he was cut off! Yet, his love for You knew no equal on this earth—save that of My own. And though he

1075

Psalm 22:11.  
Psalm 22:14-15.  
Psalm 35:22.  
John 5:35.  
Psalm 61:2,4,5,8a.



never fully understood the kingdom he proclaimed, he served You with true devotion.

*(pause)*

Receive him, Father, and love him.

1080

*(long pause)*

So my hour approaches. You've sent Me so they might have life—and have it in abundance. I'm the good shepherd, and I lay down My life for My sheep. Because of this, I know You love Me, because I lay down My life. No one takes My life away; I give it by My own choice. I have that

1085

authority; it's what You've given Me.

*(pause)*

Sometimes, when the way is hard, I'm reminded that I could appeal to You, and You'd at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels!

1090

*(pause)*

But in this the scriptures wouldn't be fulfilled? It has to happen this way. The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priest and scribes and be killed!—and be raised up on the third day.

1095

Oh Father, My soul sings praise to You! I'll give thanks to You forever!

*(pause)*

Everything I have is from You; everything I am is because of You; everything I am to accomplish, I give back to You.

*(after a pause; to audience; pointing)*

1100

Who do you think I am? I'm the Living Bread that's come down out of heaven; anyone who eats of this bread will live forever.

*(beaming; smiling)*

John 10:10, 14a,15b,17-18.  
Mat 26:53-54.  
Luke 9:22.  
Psalm 30:12.  
Luke 9:20.  
John 6:51.

1105 I'm the Light of the World; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness,  
but will have the light of life!

*(more seriously)*

If anyone wants to come with Me, let him deny himself, take up his  
cross—

1110 *(hushed intensity)* ☹️

—and follow Me.

*Jesus turns and walks upstage, away from the audience, on His last line.*

*Storyteller enters and sings to the departing Jesus.*

1115 ☹️ **Cue GO CHANGE THE WORLD (from end of *From Heaven's Throne*)**



**Lights slowly fade on Jesus as He walks into the distance.**

1120

John 8:12.  
Luke 9:23.

## The Testing

**(Optional Wilderness scene between Jesus and Satan; dialogue to be used in place of song.)**

1125 *Immediately His (Jesus') last line, Satan speaks. The disembodied voice is ugly and distorted—yet with a touch of manipulative sweetness.*

**SATAN**

Jesus.

*(pause; waits to see if He will answer; more insistently)*

1130 Jesus! It's now been forty days and still You've not eaten.

**JESUS**

*(weakly)*

You're slow-minded, Satan—and ignorant. My spirit is fed; My body has not been hungry.

1135

**SATAN**

*(with some satisfaction)*

Your body is hungry now.

**JESUS**

*(flatly)*

1140

Yes.

**SATAN**

If You are the Son of God, turn these stones into bread, so that Your body might be fed. If You truly are the Son of God, You have the power to do this.

1145

**JESUS**

These stones should be a suitable meal for you just as they are. I do have the power to transform them, but it is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God"

**SATAN**

1150

Mmmm—, then You trust in the Father.

1155

**JESUS**

My life is perfect submission to His will.

**SATAN**

This trust is absolute?

**JESUS**

Absolute.



**Go to black immediately.**

*Jesus moves to higher spot.*

1160



**Lights up full.**

**SATAN**

Do You recognize the place where You now stand?

**JESUS**

*(looking down)*

1165

Why, yes. I'm on top of the temple in Jerusalem.

**SATAN**

If You are the Son of God, and Your trust in Him is absolute, then throw Yourself down—

1170

*(with a tauntingly sarcastic tone)*

—for it is written: “He will give His angels to protect You, to guard You in all their ways. They will bear You up in their hands—

*(‘there, there—poor baby’)*

lest You strike Your foot against a stone.”

1175

**JESUS**

On the other hand, it is written, “You shall not test the Lord, your God.” I am here so that man might see the Father—see the Father through Me as I accomplish His will. His will—not Mine!

1180



**Go to black immediately.**

*Jesus moves to an even higher spot.*



**Lights up full.**

1185

**SATAN**

*(with sneering contempt)*

Look around You, Jesus, Son of God.

*(expansively)*

1190

From this mountain top see the world. See the lands given to God's people, the lands belonging to other peoples—the endless blue waters. See it all—all the kingdoms of this earth. Everything before You, and the glory that goes with it, I give to You.

*(with heavy confidence)*

1195

You know, Jesus. You know He gave it to me. And I may do with it what I wish—even give it to You. All this will be Yours, if You fall down, right now, and worship me!

**JESUS**

*(through clenched teeth)*

1200

It is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only!"

*(screaming)*

GET AWAY FROM ME SATAN! You've made a mistake, devil. I've come to do the Father's will—to fulfill His kingdom. This is your kingdom, and I don't want it!

1205

**SATAN**

*(in an angry growl, immediately Jesus' last line)*

I'll be back!



**Lights go to black immediately.**

1210

Mat 4:1-11; Luke 4:5-8.

## HIS COMPANY SCRIPTS

### USE & COPYRIGHT NOTICE

Permission is hereby granted for copies to be made of this His Company script so long as the following conditions are met:

- ☛ All copies will include the script title page with copyright notice.
- ☛ The total number of copies per script will not exceed number of characters, plus director, plus any necessary technical personnel.
- ☛ Copies will not be made for, nor distributed to, other churches. Please recommend that they obtain their own free copy at the His Company web site ([HTTP://DLAMPEL.COM/](http://DLAMPEL.COM/)).
- ☛ The script, or copies thereof, will not be sold or leased to others.

His Company scripts, while distributed at no charge, are copyrighted. We appreciate your cooperation in following these few guidelines. If you have any questions regarding the use of this script, please contact David S. Lampel at 515-462-1971, or leave a message at our *Support Center* at [HTTP://DLAMPEL.COM/SUPPORT/](http://DLAMPEL.COM/SUPPORT/)

### Contributions

Our first priority is to ensure that our resources get into the hands of those who wish to use them—and always for free. We do not charge for any of our resources. Our first and most important payment comes from the Lord—in the privilege we have of serving in His name.

But if the Holy Spirit is speaking to you, and you would like to contribute to this work, we want you to know that your gift will be very much appreciated, and will be put to work covering our expenses. To express our appreciation, we have prepared some special “thank-you” gifts for those who contribute. Visit our *Contribution Page*, at [HTTP://DLAMPEL.COM/CONTRIB.PHP](http://DLAMPEL.COM/CONTRIB.PHP), for details.

### Upholding Your Performance

We would like to hear from you when performances of this His Company script have been scheduled, so that we (and others) can be lifting you and your production up to the throne in prayer. Post as much information as you can about your production at our *Support Center* ([HTTP://DLAMPEL.COM/SUPPORT/](http://DLAMPEL.COM/SUPPORT/))—and may the Lord use this resource for His glory.

