

JESUS - MESSIAH

A musical based on the life of Jesus of Nazareth
Words and Music by Bernard Hull

Act One, Scene One -

"PREPARE THE WAY"

[The house curtain is in. A trumpet calls from off stage several times and is answered in the pit. As the full orchestra joins in, the curtain rises to reveal John the Baptist and a crowd of people at the River Jordan. Looking on from one side is a group of Pharisees and Sadducees.]

Chorus: Prepare the way of the Lord,
Make straight a path in the wilderness.
Prepare your hearts for his word,
And open up to His holiness.

John: Repent and be baptised,
Turn away from your sin
God's kingdom is at hand,
Soon it will begin.
With water I baptise,
To show you've died to your sin,
But one is coming soon who will cleanse you from within.

Chorus: Prepare the way of the Lord,
Make straight a path in the wilderness.
Prepare your hearts for his word,
And open up to His holiness.

John: You snakes, you Pharisees,
You love to make a display.
You lying Sadducees,
Leading souls astray.
Prove that you really are
Repentant of all your crimes
Or God will cut you down,
Like prunings from the vine.

[John continues baptising people. Jesus arrives with His disciples. The crowd slowly parts and Jesus enters the Jordan with purposeful step. When John sees Jesus coming toward him, he is transfixed at first and then begins to feel inadequate for the task which Jesus is about to ask of him.]

JESUS' BAPTISM

John: "You come to me to be baptised?
When I should be baptised by you.
I'm just a man, with prophet's eyes,
Unfit to even tie your shoe.
You have no need to turn from wrong.
Or show repentance for the things you've done.
Your life is free from sin and shame,
You are the Christ, God's Holy One."

Jesus: "John, don't you see? It's all been planned
From long before the Earth was made.
This is what righteousness demands,
My Father's will must be obeyed."

John: "Then let it be just as you way.
I will surrender to the great "I Am".
Let not a moment be delayed,
I baptise you God's Holy Lamb." *[John baptises Jesus]*

The voice of God - (off stage chorus): *[As Jesus is coming up out of the water.]*
This is my only son,
In whom I am pleased.

[Jesus leaves the Jordan during musical bridge and slowly walks off stage as John sings last verse.]

John: "Go now my friend and go in peace,
The word of life from heaven sent.
I must decrease, as you increase.
My work is done, I am content.
Go now beloved Son of God.
The one to whom all of creation kneels.
Reveal God's great restoring love,
That all may know your love is real.
That all may know your love is real."

[Scene quickly fades to black. All except Jesus exit. Projection screen flies in showing a wilderness scene.]

Act One, Scene Two

Jesus in the wilderness

"TEMPTATION"

[Jesus centre stage. Satan "appears from nowhere" (perhaps flown in). As Satan mentions different things, they are shown as slides on the screen, or flown in and out.]

Satan:

Jesus, If you're the Son of God,
Why don't you take these stones and make some bread.
I'll bring the drinks, if you'll make the caviar.
We'll have a party and we'll get well fed.

Jesus, look all around you now,
I'll give you every country you can see.
All that I ask, it's not too difficult,
Is that you just bow down and worship me.

Come on now Jesus, why all the waiting?
Just join in, let's have some fun.
Come on now Jesus, quit hesitating,
Just look after number one.

Jesus show us how you can fly,
Jump off the temple now, lets have some fun.
No need to fear, as God will look after you.
That's if you really are his only son.....

Temptation.
Just give in to temptation.
It's the latest sensation.
Just give in to temptation.
Temptation.
Just give in to temptation
It's no sin, it's temptation.
Just give in to temptation. (Repeat twice)

[Blackout after last line. Both exit]

Act One, Scene Three

Have You Seen Jesus?

[Lake Galilee. Two groups of fishermen are cleaning their nets on the shore. Andrew and Simon Peter in one group, James and John with their father nearby. Jesus walks up to them:]

Jesus: "Andrew and Simon, come and follow me.
James and John, the sons of Zebedee
All of the time pulling on your nets
Has trained you for something far better yet.
I have a job for you, my friends
Learning from me as we fish for men."

[The other fishermen revolve off, while Jesus, Andrew, Simon, James and John exit Prompt. Philip and Nathanael revolve on as the others exit.]

Philip: "Brother, we've found the one the prophets spoke of -
His name is Jesus. He's a Nazarene"

Nathanael: "A prophet from Nazareth - are you sure?
I haven't heard of that joke before."

Philip: "Come and I'll show you, you'll like what you find, *[Exiting upstage Prompt]*
Then I'm certain you'll change your mind."

[As they exit, the stage revolves, revealing a market place. People are milling around, excitedly watching for Jesus who is on his way from upstage O.P. A Blind Man with a white cane enters downstage prompt.]

Blind Man: "Life is so hard as a blind man,
Living on what you can find, man. *[People are crowding around him.]*

Hey! Why all the pushing and shoving?"

Person 1: "Don't you know? Jesus is coming.
He has been healing the lame and the sick."

Blind Man: "Maybe today I'll get rid of this stick! *[Jesus is seen upstage O.P. with his disciples. A crowd of people surround Him.]*

Blind Man:

"Son of David Please have mercy!
Son of David Please have mercy!
Son of David Please have mercy!"

Person 1:

"Be quiet now! Be quiet now!
"Be quiet now! Be quiet now!"

Person 2:

"Won't you be quiet? We want to hear what he says."

Person 3: "Get up. The master is calling you. *[Going to the blind man]*
Give me my hand and I'll take you myself." *[Leading him to Jesus]*

Jesus: "What do you want with me?" *[Questioning the blind man]*

Blind Man: "Master, I just want to see!"

Jesus: "Go your faith makes you well." *[Exits downstage Prompt - seeing!]*

[Jairus enters from upstage O.P. Falls at Jesus feet imploring him to follow him.]

Jairus: "Jesus, my daughter is dying, Oh please come and heal her!"

Jesus: "Just show me the way." *[Gently lifts him up and begins following him.]*

Woman: "If I could just touch the hem of his garment, *[Just behind Jesus' group]*
I know I'd be made well today." *[Reaches out and touches Jesus.]*

Jesus: "Who touched me?" *[Turning around looking at everyone]*
Disciples: "You must be kidding! So many people pushing and shoving." *[to Jesus]*
Jesus: "Who touched me? I felt the power go out from me." *[with insistence]*

[Embarrassed, the woman throws herself at Jesus feet.]

Woman: Master, forgive me, twelve years I've been bleeding,
Each morning I seem to get worse.
So many doctors did nothing to help me
And now they have emptied my purse.
You were my only hope,
I knew if only I touched you, I'd be healed today."

Jesus: "Daughter, your faith is rewarded. *[Gently lifting her to her feet]*
Be free of your suffering and go on your way."

Some of Jairus' friends arrive from O.P. Taking him aside, they address him.

Jairus' Friends: "Jairus, don't bother the Master.
I'm sorry your daughter has just passed away."

Jesus: "Don't be discouraged. Only believe *[To Jairus]*
And keep all your doubting at bay."

[The scene and the crowd revolves off. Jesus continues following Jairus. Peter, James and John go with him. The scene moves to Jairus' home. On their arrival, they are greeted by a number of mourners inside the house.]

Jesus: "Send all these people away for your daughter is merely asleep. *[To Jairus]*

Mourners: "Who do you think you are? This girl is dead!" *[To Jesus]*

Jesus: "Just get them out of here. Do as I've said." *[To Jairus]*

Jairus: "Thank you for coming, but please wait outside." *[Dismissing the mourners]*

Jesus: "Where is the child now?" *[To Jairus]*

Jairus: "Lying upstairs in bed." *[Indicating the staircase to the bedroom]*

[Jairus and his wife show Jesus, Peter, James and John upstairs to their daughter's bedroom.]

Jesus: "Come little girl, get up now I say."

[Jesus takes the girl by the hand and she gets out of bed. Her parents embrace her.]

Jesus: "Give her some breakfast."

Jairus: "Oh how can we thank you for giving us back our child?"

Jesus: "God be with you
And don't tell a soul what you've seen."

[Scene fades to black during Jesus' final line.]

Act One, Scene Four

Come see a man!

[Scene: A dusty street in a small village - possibly a market place. A crowd of people are present. In rushes the Samaritan woman addressing them.]

Samaritan woman: "Come see a man who told me everything
That I had ever done before,
Could he be the one? God's holy messenger,
Come to bring hope and healing to the poor.
Down to the well I went to draw water,
When this man asked me for a drink, well
I was amazed that he'd even talk to me,
A Samaritan, what do you think.

What he said next I didn't understand,
If you knew with whom you're speaking then
You'd ask him to give you living water and
Then you would never want for thirst again.
He knew of all my personal problems,
How I'd been married five times before
Could he be the Christ, God's Holy Messiah?
Bringing God's message of hope to the poor.

Crowd: "Where is this man now?"

Samaritan woman: "Down at Jacob's well."

Crowd: "Let's all go and see him,
And learn the truth for ourselves."

[All Exit]

[The crowd re-enters with Jesus]

Crowd : *[To the woman]* "Now we've seen him for ourselves,
We concede that you were right.
Everything you said was true.
[To Jesus] Jesus, won't you stay here?
Teach us how to pray here.
Teach us all the way to God."

A New Commandment

[Jesus addresses the Samaritan crowd, who all sit around him, listening intently]

Jesus: "A New commandment I give,
That you should love one another
And this is how you must live,
Sharing your love with each other.
For this is how the world will perceive you
In everything you do,
Through you, mankind will receive true love
And understanding.

And if your brother is cold,
And he comes to you for assistance.
You must not chide him, or scold,
If he should come to your door.
Reach out to him and share in his sorrow
And open up your home,
Attend to all of his needs
And let him know, he's not alone

Love everyone with a selfless love,
As I love you,
So all those around will find
That your love is faithful and true.

Love everyone with a selfless love,
As I love you,
The world will know you are mine
If you love them just as I do."

[The scene fades to black. All except Jesus exit]

Act One, Scene Five

"COME ON JESUS"

[The scene changes to the Temple court. A group of people rushes in dragging a woman (Mary) and throwing her before Jesus who calmly takes the situation in.]

Crowd:

Come on Jesus, give your opinion now
On this situation here,
All the evidence shows she's guilty so
We must stone her, the verdict's clear.
Come on teacher, show us your wisdom
That is regarded throughout our land,
Come on master give your decision
And stop your drawing in the sand.

MUSIC BRIDGE

[The crowd continues generally questioning and arguing with Jesus who calmly sits down and begins drawing with his finger on the ground.]

Come on Jesus, the matter's serious
This is not petty burglary
The crime that this woman here is guilty of
Is the act of adultery
Death is mandatory punishment
For such offences against our law
We have gathered the stones already
For we have dealt with this type before.

[Jesus slowly rises - the crowd quietens to hear his reply]

Jesus: *[Spoken:]* "Let the person who has never sinned throw the first stone."

[Jesus sits again and draws on the ground. The crowd begin quietly discussing amongst themselves. Realising they all have sinned, they slowly exit, beginning with the older people and ending with the youngest. When they have all gone, Jesus speaks with the woman]

[Dialogue:]

Jesus: "Where are your accusers?"

Mary: "They have all gone, sir."

Jesus: *[standing up.]* "Then I do not condemn you either. Go on your way, but be sure not to sin again."

[Jesus exits leaving the woman on stage.]

"HE DIDN'T CONDEMN ME"

Mary:

I was ashamed,
Caught by the crowd,
Nowhere to run, or to hide.
Stones in their hands,
Hate on their lips,
Closing on every side.

Then the master stood and looked at me,
With love I'd never known before.
He spoke a word and all the crowd was gone,
And I just had to stare in awe.

He didn't condemn me,
Though surely I was doomed to die.
He showed that he loved me
With love that never will run dry.

Who is this man? Where is he from?
Why should he care for me?
I've never known anyone else to treat me with dignity.

Could Jesus be the one the prophets said
Would come to set our people free?
Restoring life to those the world has spurned.
To lead us to eternity.

He didn't condemn me,
He brought me hope when hope was gone.
He showed that he loved me
And gave me hope to carry on.

[Mary exits as scene fades to black.]

Act One, Scene six

This man was blind from Birth!

[Scene: The temple. The Jews are arguing amongst themselves. At the centre of attention is a man who was born blind and has been healed by Jesus on the Sabbath.]

Person 1: "This man was blind from birth, he used to sit and beg along our street."

Person 2: "And every now and then, I'd throw a coin or two down by his feet."

Person 3: "But now his eyes can see!"

Person 4: "How could this ever be?"

All four: "Tell us, can you explain, how he could thus regain his sight?"

Pharisee 1: "That can't be right, I'm sure. How can a man who's blind be made to see?"

Pharisee 2: Such thoughts are not for real, and surely in the realm of fantasy!"

Both together: "Not since the dawn of time, has one who's been born blind,
Been given back his sight, by any work of God or might!"

Group 1: "He's an impostor!"

Caiaphas: "Bring forth his parents, so they can tell us if he is speaking the truth."

[The blind man's parents are brought in.]

Caiaphas: "Is this man here your son and has he always been without his sight?"

Father: "The fact that he's our son and blind from birth is absolutely right!"

Caiaphas: "How then can he now see?"

Father: "I don't know! Why ask me?"

He's old enough to know! why don't you go and question him?"

Chorus: "Give God the glory! Tell us your story!"

So we'll discover how you were given back you sight."

Blind Man: "The man named Jesus came, he spat upon the ground

And with his finger made some mud and then he put it in my eyes and

said,

"Go to the Pool of Siloam, out by the edge of town and wash your face."

And so I did just what he said, I washed and now I see."

Caiaphas: "Who is this man, in your opinion?"

Blind Man: "He is a prophet! How else could he do such miraculous signs?"

Caiaphas: "He is a sinner! He breaks the Sabbath!"

Blind Man: "How could a sinner do such a thing as this?"

Caiaphas: "You claim that you were blind. How was your sight now given back to you?"

Blind Man: "I've told you once before and everything I said was surely true.

Why do you want to know a second time or so?

Do you want to become another one of this man's friends?"

Caiaphas: "How dare you lecture us, when you were clearly born in sin and shame!
We're Moses followers! We do not even know whence this man came!"

Blind Man: "Now that's remarkable! You don't know where he's from?? *[Sarcastically]*

Yet he restored my sight! He is from God! That must be right!" *[Forcefully]*

Caiaphas: "Get out you sinner!"

Chorus [*In cannon*]: "Get out you sinner!"

Caiaphas: "Get out you sinner!"

Chorus [*In cannon*]: "Get out you sinner!"

Caiaphas: "Don't dare come back here!"

Chorus [*In cannon*]: "Don't dare come back here!"

Caiaphas: "To this place

Tutti: "Ever again!"

[The Temple revolves halfway off stage. The blind man is roughly ejected from it. He meets Jesus outside who addresses him.]

Jesus: "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

Blind Man: "Who is he, that I might believe?"

Jesus: "You've met him already and now he is here, *[Indicating himself]*

To bring to the lost a reprieve."

Blind Man: "Yes Master, I truly believe!" *[Bowing before Jesus]*

[Dialogue]

Jesus: "I have come to bring judgement to the world. So that the blind may see and those who see may be made blind."

Some Pharisees [*in the street, nearby*]: "What? Are we blind too?"

Jesus: "If you were blind, you would be excused from your guilt, but as you claim to see, your guilt remains."

Act One, Scene Seven

This is a Grave Situation

[During the introduction the stage revolves back to the Temple scene where the Pharisees and Sadducees are still present. Most are seated. Caiaphas stands, thinking aloud, addresses the Sanhedrin who listen and comment amongst themselves at what he says.]

Caiaphas: "This is a grave situation,
What can be done with this man?
He's undermining the roots of our Nation,
We need some kind of a plan!
If he's allowed to continue,
We will be made obsolete.
Jesus must be done away with and quickly,
But we must be quite discrete!

In my considered opinion,
We can't allow this to slide.
Each time he heals, yet another believer
Is joined to his burgeoning tribe!

So I await your suggestions,
Let me have all your ideas.
Please let me know if you have any questions.
Who'll be the first volunteer?"

Pharisee #1: "We must persuade all the people, *[Standing to address the group]*
Get all we can on our side,
We must ensure that the verdict is "Guilty!"
When this man Jesus is tried.

I won't rest until his blood is spilled.
We must make this phoney pay!"

Pharisee #2: "What gives us the right to have him killed? *[Standing]*
Can't we find some other way?"

Caiaphas: "You don't have any idea man, *[To Pharisee #2]*
Open your eyes and you'll see.
I will now make it abundantly clear and
Then I am sure you'll agree. *[Pharisee #2 reluctantly sits.]*
Don't you know it is expedient
That this man Jesus should die,
Taking the heat on himself in the place of
What may be due you and I." *[The other Pharisees agree]*

All: "In our considered opinion
We can't allow this to slide.
Each time he heals,
Yet another believer is joined to his burgeoning tribe.

Caiaphas: So we are all in agreement,
Jesus must carry the can.
All we need now is someone to betray him..

Pharisee #1: "I think I know just the man.
With the right kind of incentive,
Loyalty's easily changed,
Judas is expert at being deceptive.
He'll do what ever's arranged."

All: "In our considered opinion,
This is an excellent plan!
Judas will make quite a good mutineer,
Jesus will never again interfere,
If things go wrong, then we've nothing to fear as
Judas will carry the can!"

[The Temple revolves off as the Pharisees and Sadducees triumphantly sing the last line. The next scene - a group of mourners revolves on.]

Act One, Scene Eight

The Raising of Lazarus

[Scene: Outside the home of Mary and Martha. Jesus and his disciples arrive on OP side. There is a crowd of people following him. Martha enters from P side, goes to meet Jesus. She has been weeping, mourning the death of her brother and is distraught.]

Martha: “Jesus, if only you’d been here,
My brother would never have died!”

Jesus: “Martha, now don’t be discouraged.
Your brother will soon be alive.”

Martha: “I know he will rise again,
When time comes to an end,
And God will still give to you
What ever you ask for, my friend.”

Jesus: “I’m the resurrection and the life!
Who ever puts his trust in me will live, though he may die
Anyone who lives in me will never die.
Do you believe this Martha?”

Martha: “Yes Jesus.
You are the Christ, the Son of God, who has come into this world!”

Jesus: “Martha, where is Mary? Tell her I’m here.”

[Martha exits P side. Shortly after, Martha re-enters with Mary (who is very distressed).]

Mary: “Lord, if you had been here then my brother would not have died!
If you’d come here sooner, then your friend would be alive!”

Jesus: “Where have you laid him?”

Mary: “Come I will show you.”

[Martha and Mary lead Jesus to the tomb, (a cave cut out of the rock - upstage Prompt), which is sealed with a large stone. As they cross centre stage, some of the crowd comment on the situation.]

Group #1: “See how he loved him.”

Group #2: “If that is so, why did he let him die?”

Jesus: “Roll away the stone!” *[To Mary and Martha]*

Martha: “He’s been dead four days!
There will be a bad smell from all of the decay!” *[To Jesus]*

Jesus: “Did I not tell you that if you believed,
You would see the glory of God?”

[Mary and Martha look at each other then agree to do as Jesus requests. Martha turns to some of her friends and says:]

Martha: *[spoken]* “Take away the stone.”

[Several of the bystanders roll away the stone which has been sealing the tomb.]

Jesus: “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. *[Praying]*
I know, indeed that you always do!
I say this only to help those around me,
That they may know that I am come from you!”

[Jesus turns to face the tomb and calls out in a loud voice:]

Jesus: *[spoken]* “Lazarus, come out!”

[A light shines from within the cave and Lazarus slowly comes out (lit in silhouette), his hands, feet and head wrapped in white grave clothing.]

Jesus: *[spoken]* “Untie him and let him go!”

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Finale Act One

[Martha and Mary embrace Lazarus and Jesus downstage OP. Most of the crowd erupts with excitement - centre stage, however some are jealous of Jesus and move to downstage Prompt to discuss the situation.]

Verse 1:

Group 1: Is this man here the Messiah? Raising our friend from the dead.
Surely this must be the ultimate proof of all of the things that he's said.

Person 1: "I saw him healing a leper, just with a spoken command."

Person 2: "I was born blind, but he made me see, with only the touch of his hand."

All Group 1: Hallelujah! Hallelujah

Verse 2:

Group 2: We must report all that we've seen to Caiaphas.
We can't allow this man free passage any longer.
If we should fail to intervene in this affair,
His popularity will keep on getting stronger.

All Group 1: Hallelujah! Hallelujah

Verse 3:

Jesus: "I am the way to the Father.
I am the truth. I am the life.
Those who put all of their trust in me
Will all be raised unto eternal life.

Bridge:

Group 1: Hosanna unto the Son of David!
Hosanna unto the Son of David!
Hosanna unto the Son of David!
Who reigns for evermore. Hallelujah!

Verse 4: *{Verses 1, 2 & 3 simultaneously}*

Group 1:	Group 2:	Jesus:
Is this man here the Messiah? Raising our friend from the dead. Surely this must be the ultimate proof of all of the things that he's said. "I saw him healing a leper, just with a spoken command." "I was born blind, but he made me see, with only the touch of his hand."	We must report all that we've seen to Caiaphas. We can't allow this man free passage any longer. If we should fail to intervene in this affair, His popularity will keep on getting stronger.	"I am the way to the Father. I am the truth. I am the life. Those who put all of their trust in me Will all be raised Unto eternal life.

[During the play-out, Group 2 exits Prompt, while those remaining rejoice at what they have just seen. Many hugging Lazarus and each other etc as the curtain descends to end the first act.]