

Made Free to Praise Him



Pamela R. Smith

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Characters:

- Disciples (12)
- Jesus
- Angel
- Pilate
- Mary
- Mary Magdalene
- Soldiers (at least 4)
- Barabbas
- Weeping Women (at least 4)
- Chief Priests (at least two)
- Elders (at least three)
- Narrator
- Multitude
- Multitude Member #1 (*from Multitude*)
- Multitude Member #2
- Multitude Member #3
- Multitude Member #4
- Pastor Sampson
- Melvin – *In his mid thirties to mid forties. Struggling with the lost of his job and his need for salvation.*
- Martin – 17 year old son of Rhonda and Melvin
- Sharon – 15 year old daughter of Rhonda and Melvin
- Rhonda – Melvin's wife and a strong Christian.
- Choir
- Congregation

ACT I

Setting: Living Room. Melvin is dressed in jogging pants and a t-shirt.

Melvin: *(sitting on the sofa, taking his last sip from a beer can, then places it on the coffee table where a few other empty beer cans are and picks up the remote control)*

Rhonda: *(enters – she is just arriving home from work, she has one bag of groceries in her hand. When she enters she takes a quick glance at Melvin and at the coffee table where the empty beers cans are)* Good evening Melvin. How was your day?

Melvin: *(never looking at her – he keeps his eyes straight ahead on the television)* The usual.

Rhonda: *(placing the grocery bag on the table)* I see that. Did anyone call from the applications you put in?

Melvin: No.

Rhonda: Where are Martin and Sharon?

Melvin: I don't know. Martin hasn't come in from school yet and Sharon said she was going down the street, or somewhere.

Rhonda: *(walking over to the coffee table and picking up the beer cans to place them in the garbage can)* Have you eaten anything today?

Melvin: A little.

Rhonda: I'm going to fix some spaghetti and make a salad and then maybe we can look through the papers or on the computer for job openings.

Melvin: Whatever. It's not like I haven't been looking. It's just that with all the manufacturing companies closing and sending our jobs overseas, I can't find anything comfortable to what I was making or in the field that I was in.

Rhonda: *(taking the spaghetti and other things out of the grocery bag)* Baby, we can't just give up. We need to look at other avenues. It is not good for the children to see you drinking and sitting around looking hopeless. There is hope...

Melvin: Don't start that Jesus stuff. Where was Jesus when they were closing the doors to the company that I had worked at for fifteen years?

Rhonda: Melvin!

EXCERPTS ONLY.....

Act II

Setting: *Living room. Martin is dressed in baggy pants; he has on a t-shirt and another unbuttoned shirt on top of the t-shirt. He's moving things around looking for a packet of marijuana he's misplaced.*

Martin: *(lifting the cushion up on the sofa and moving books and things around looking for the marijuana he's misplaced. Give him enough time to look to allow Martin the opportunity to change the color of his sweats)* Man, what did I do with it?

Melvin: *(coming from the back of the house.)* Do with what?

Martin: Nothing.

Melvin: You have been rambling through this house all morning *(holding a small bag representing marijuana)* Is this what you are looking for?

Martin: *(shocked)* Naw. *(leaning forward as if to get a closer look)* What's that?

Melvin: What are you tearing this house up for?

Martin: I misplaced my homework.

Melvin: What homework?

Martin: History *(trying to leave)*. Well, I better get going, I'm already late.

Melvin: Sit down.

Martin: Excuse me?

Melvin: You heard me. Sit down.

Martin: Dad, I got to go. I have a test second period and I can't miss it.

Melvin: Sit down.

Martin: *(reluctantly sits)* What's up. Whatever that is in your hand, it's not mine.

Melvin: Really. I can't imagine anyone else in this house losing a bag of marijuana in the sofa cushion. It probably fell out of those baggy pants you be wearing halfway down your bottom.

Martin: It's the style and I know *that's* not mine. I don't mess with no drugs.

Melvin: Really. So, who do you think this is? It's not Sharon's and I know you're not accusing your Mom of doing drugs.

Martin: It's not mine.

Melvin: Then whose is it Martin?

Martin: (*agitated*) For all I know it might be yours.

Melvin: What did you say? Boy I'll...

Martin: You're the one who sits around here all day drunk. Maybe you decided you needed something a little stronger than...

Melvin: (*standing*) If you ever disrespect me like that again...

Martin: How am I disrespecting you? I'm not the one who has given up on life. (*rising*) I have to go.

Melvin: No, you have to sit down, now. (*firmly*) Don't push me.

Martin: (*silent*)

Melvin: I'm not telling you again, sit down.

Martin: (*sits*) You're going to make me miss my test.

Melvin: What test is that since you have missed three days out of school this week? Who do you think you are fooling? If you think that you're going to go and hang out on the corner and dropout of school, you are wrong.

Martin: What do you care? This is the first time you have said more than three consecutive words to me since I don't know when.

Melvin: (*sitting*) I'm sorry. I'm so very sorry that I allowed my feelings of inadequacy to prevent me from being the father you needed this past year.

EXCERPTS ONLY.....

ACT III

Setting: Church Play at Rhonda's church. *Melvin, Rhonda, Martin and Sharon are in attendance (you can use them in one of the roles of the church play if you desire)*

(Twelve Disciples and Jesus seated having communion)

Jesus: With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. *(picks up the bread and breaks it)* Father, thanks you. *(passes it to the disciples)* This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

Disciples: *(breaks off a piece of the bread)*

Jesus: *(picks up the goblet)* Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you. But verily I say unto you, one of you which eats with me shall betray me. *(Jesus does not drink but he gives it to the disciples and they drink of it).*

Disciples: *(all looking around at each other and asking "Is it I?")*

Jesus: It is the one who dips with me in the dish. The Son of man indeed goes, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! Good were it for that man if he had never been born.

Disciples: No, it couldn't be one of us. *(each still searching himself)*

Disciples: *(sings – you can either have the disciples to sing or your choir – this will allow the disciples the opportunity to get to the Mount of Olives)*

Narrator: After singing a hymn the Disciples and Jesus go out into the Mount of Olives.

Act III, Scene II

Setting: The disciples and Jesus are walking to the Garden of Gethsemane.

Jesus: All of you shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered. But after I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee. Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for you, that your faith fail not: and when you are converted, strengthen your brethren.

Peter: Although all shall be offended, yet I will not. (*adamantly – insulted at what Jesus said*) No, I will not. Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death. If I should die with you, I will not deny you in any wise.

Disciples (*except Peter - all say*): I will not deny you.

Jesus: Simon, verily I say unto you, that this day, *even* in this night, before the cock crow twice, you shall deny me three times.

Peter: (*speechless, and looks disappointed at what Jesus said*)

(*Arrive at the Garden of Gethsemane*)

EXCERPTS ONLY.....