

SIMON OF CYRENE

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EXT. CYRENE STREET HELLENIC PERIOD - DAY

An idyllic ancient street on the Mediterranean. Crystal blue water and sky. Men walked and grouped together discussing ideas. Women carrying bags. Children RUNNING PLAYING BALL with their dogs. Birds flying in the olive trees.

One lone child SIMON watches all this from the white granite stairs to his families business. He is wearing a classic white chiton and sandals.

Three young girls, DI and her friends appear to be around eight years old RUN UP all dressed in colorful short chitons.

DI

Simon, do you want to play with us?

Simon shakes his head no.

Another group of boys RUNS UP PLAYING A GAME OF TAG. BASIL a boy about ten trips and falls against the wall.

DI (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

BASIL

I'm fine. What are you guys doing?

DI

I was trying to get Simon to play.

BASIL

Simon?

(to Simon)

Have you ever played?

Simon Shrugs.

BASIL (CONT'D)

That's not an answer.

SIMON

I play.

BASIL

What?

SIMON

I like Backgammon and Chess.

BASIL

I mean running, fighting, tag, even ball?

SIMON  
No, not so much.

The door opens behind them. Simon's Mom comes out.

MOTHER  
Simon, who are your friends?

SIMON  
You know Di.

MOTHER  
Good day, Diana.

SIMON  
Hi Ma'am.

MOTHER  
The boys.

Simon just looks down.

MOTHER (CONT'D)  
There he goes being shy again.

BASIL  
My name is Basil. I go to school  
with Simon. I want his father to  
teach me Latin when I am old  
enough. My Dad's a scribe. We live  
two blocks away from the poultry  
shop.

The boys with Basil start to run away.

MOTHER  
Thanks for coming by.

DI  
If you want to play Simon we are  
going to the courtyard by  
Aristaeus's Temple.

MOTHER  
Be careful of the bees.

DI  
We are not going to the garden, but  
we will.

MOTHER  
You want to go Simon.

Simon shakes his head.

SIMON  
I am okay right here. I like  
watching people.

DI  
Next week we are dancing at  
Apollo's celebration. There will be  
lots of people to watch there.

Simon smiles.

DI (CONT'D)  
Bye.

Simon raises his hand.

His mother comes out and sits next to him.

MOTHER  
Are you okay Simon?

SIMON  
I'm fine.

MOTHER  
You never play with the other kids.

SIMON  
I like to think.

MOTHER  
What do you think about?

SIMON  
I don't know.

MOTHER  
You have to know what you are  
thinking.

SIMON  
Sometimes.

He trails off.

MOTHER  
Sometimes?

SIMON  
I don't know, sometimes. I just  
don't think of anything. I just  
like to sit.

MOTHER

That's okay Simon. You just think and learn. Can you believe how beautiful it is here? If ever there was a place to just sit and think I think, you have been born in the perfect place.

He smiles and leans into her.

She hugs him and rises to return to the house.

EXT. SEASHORE - DAY

Simon climbs over the ropes to the rocks on the side of the pier. Walking along the rocks he comes to a spot out of sight of the pier.

Sitting down he puts his hands together and prays.

There is a stirring in the water.

SIMON

There you are.

Out of the water is a small dolphin.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Good morning my friend the Nymph.

The dolphin blows air.

SIMON (CONT'D)

You know what I like about you?

The dolphin shakes his head no.

SIMON (CONT'D)

You let me talk about what I want and you don't force me.

The dolphin just looks at him.

SIMON (CONT'D)

My Mom and Dad want me to be more like them and the rest of my family. But I would like to be more like you. Never have to talk.

The dolphin swims in a circle.

SIMON (CONT'D)

What are they like? They are loud.  
In fact, everyone I know is loud.

The dolphin looks at him and seems to grin. Then he SPLASHES and SWIMS away.

He climbs back over the rocks and onto the dock.

EXT. CYRENE STREET - CONTINUOUS

As he walks the street of Cyrene Basil and a few other boys RUN up to him.

BASIL

Come on Simon. Play with us. You know it is the law you have to train.

SIMON

I was on my way home.

BASIL

Here is an extra sword.

He throws a wooden sword on the ground in front of him.

Simon picks it up and they start to battle. In fact, all the boys are fighting each other. They are surprisingly good for being so young.

It is a free-for-all but seems to be choreographed. You can tell they have done this for hours.

They move through the streets. The adults watch this with very little concern. It is the way the Greeks were trained for battle and literacy.

Simon is backing up to his street and his house. Basil is trying to get the better of him but even though a few years older and taller Simon holds his own while defending himself from the other boys.

SIMON

Okay guys, thanks for the play. I am home now and if I tear another Chiton my mother will kill me.

BASIL

Run home, Simon.

SIMON

I am home.

He RUNS up his stairs.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Oh here's your sword. He throws it at Basil and he blocks it from hitting his head.

BASIL

(smiling)

Tomorrow Simon.

Simon runs inside.

INT. SIMON'S HOUSE - DAY

The house is built two-story. The first floor has a large room with tables and chairs. Simon's father AJAX is a language teacher.

Out the back is a courtyard with a garden against the back wall and a trellis with grapes growing as a covering.

There is a stone cooking area on the outside of the trellis against the left wall. Upstairs there are two sleeping areas one for the parents and one for Simon.

The place is sparse and there are no coverings on the walls or floors.

Simon's Mom is busy cooking. Simon is reading a scroll in a chair outside.

Ajax enters the large room from outside.

AJAX

I am sorry I am late.

MOTHER

I was wondering if we were going to the Thargelia or if we were just going to eat this food ourselves.

He walks over and tries to hug her.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

No time for that. Let me get the bread out. Do you want to change? Why were you so late?

SIMON

If we don't go to the Thargelia I could stay here and read.

AJAX

I'm with Simon. I would rather read  
and do some translations myself.

MOTHER

And have Apollo curse us for  
missing his feast. I do not think  
so. And you didn't say what kept  
you.

She faces him.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Are you cheating on me?

AJAX

Yes, that is it. All the women in  
Cyrene are after the linguist who  
lives as well as we do.

She throws a towel at him.

MOTHER

Well?

AJAX

Orion met me in the square and I  
think he has been studying  
Socrates. He was trying to ask me  
questions to trip me on my beliefs.

MOTHER

How did he do?

AJAX

He realized he needed more  
practice.

MOTHER

Practice?

AJAX

Don't you start.

MOTHER

Start?

AJAX

Stop it?

MOTHER

Stop what?



AJAX  
Your bread?

MOTHER  
Blessed be the gods. My bread.

She runs to the oven and pulls out a pan. The bread is fine.

AJAX  
See your bread is fine.

MOTHER  
Go upstairs and change. Let's all  
wear something red. For Apollo.

Ajax runs up the stairs.

Mother walks over to Simon and grabs his ear.

MOTHER (CONT'D)  
You too. Put away that scroll get  
upstairs and change.

SIMON  
Oh, that hurts.

MOTHER  
I would rather grab you by the eye.

SIMON  
Okay, okay I'm going. I don't even  
want to go to the stupid feast.

MOTHER  
We go to honor the Gods.

SIMON  
I know, I know.

And he runs upstairs.

MOTHER  
Remember put on something red.  
(beat)  
Bless the gods, I have to change  
too.

She runs up the stairs.

INT. SIMON'S HOUSE - LATE DAY

The house has changed slightly. There is more atmosphere.

Simon's mother comes down the stairs. She is older.

MOTHER

Simon, did you get the meat pies  
from the market?

Simon comes in from the back courtyard. He is ten years  
older. Bushy brown hair, olive skin, well built, maybe a  
runner now.

SIMON

Yes, Mother. There is a bag by the  
door.

MOTHER

Will your father ever finish  
getting dressed?

SIMON

You know he tries, after his fall.  
I think he does well all things  
considered.

AJAX

I know you are talking about me.

Ajax comes down the stairs. He is also much older, much  
heavier, and limping.

MOTHER

Of course, we are talking about  
you. The sun and the moon, all the  
stars, even the Gods themselves  
revolve around you.

AJAX

Stop, Simon do you have my cane?

SIMON

Right here.

He walks to the doorway grabs a crutch and hands it to his  
Father.

AJAX

That's my boy. How I wish I was  
your age again. All the adventures  
I would have.

MOTHER

Adventure? You never had any  
adventures.

AJAX

Reading. The adventures are all up here.

Pointing to his head.

MOTHER

Might be the only things up there. Now we have to go. They will not hold up the harvest feast for us.

Simon picks up the bag of meat pies. His Mother takes the pan of bread and Father picks up his crutch and follows them out the door.

EXT. APOLLO TEMPLE PARK - DAY

There is a party going on. Forty tables are low on the ground. There are taller ones with the food on them. Guards are chasing dogs and birds away. Children are running in large packs.

A large group of older boys are sword fighting.

A group of mothers are nursing their children and laughing.

There are a couple of groups of girls talking among themselves. They are all watching the boys.

Ajax and his wife walk up to an empty table.

MOTHER

Will this be all right?

AJAX

This will be perfect.

SIMON

I am going to take these to the banquet table.

MOTHER

Can you handle these also?

Handing the pan to Simon he takes it easily and walks to the serving area.

He is met by Di, who has grown into quite a woman.

DI

Good day, Simon.

Simon smiles slightly and nods.

DI (CONT'D)

It is nice to see you out. No scrolls?

Simon sets the bag of pies down and also the tray of bread.

An older woman looks through the bag and starts to spread them out with other items.

Simon picks up a small pie and a roll.

SIMON

Just pies and rolls today.

Di grabs his arm and takes a bite of the pie.

DI

Umm, fresh.

Simon takes a bite after her and smiles.

Di turns to leave and after a few steps. Turns back.

DI (CONT'D)

I hope you stay long enough to dance.

He gets a nervous look on his face.

She runs back up to him. And reaches past.

DI (CONT'D)

I don't mean to be rude, but I should try a roll also.

She picks up a roll then laughs and turns away.

He watches her and smiles.

Walking back to the table his Father is seated.

AJAX

Simon, sit.

He does.

AJAX (CONT'D)

I have to tell you something.

Simon watches.

AJAX (CONT'D)

Many years ago my brother lent me the money to start our school.

Simon nods. He has heard this before.

AJAX (CONT'D)

Every year after the harvest I have always sent him a payment.

He looks away for a while.

AJAX (CONT'D)

I paid him back, plus interest many years ago, but I have always sent payment as a way of saying thanks for his belief in me.

He looks at his crutch.

AJAX (CONT'D)

This year, I do not think I can make the trip. I would like you to do me a favor.

Simon nods.

AJAX (CONT'D)

I would like you to make the trip for me and give him the payment.

Simon looks straight ahead.

SIMON

I know you have made a journey every year, and was wondering if you were going this year. Where would I have to go?

AJAX

He is in Jerusalem.

SIMON

Jerusalem? Father, I have never been out of Cyrene.

AJAX

It is a simple trip. Israel is only a week by sea. Then a simple day's journey to the city. His shop is at the North Gate. It is called the Mercy Gate. I know he will be excited to finally meet you. I have told him every year about you.

SIMON

Father.

AJAX

Simon, I really need you to do this. There is no way I can do it on my own.

SIMON

Could you heal and maybe take two portions next year?

AJAX

No, it is time you left the nest. I really need you to do this.

SIMON

What if I am robbed? If I lose your money?

AJAX

I believe in you. You will be fine. Apollo will guide you. This is a good time to pray to the Gods for guidance.

Simon leans back on the ground and takes and lets out a deep breath.

AJAX (CONT'D)

The gods will be with you. I just know it.

EXT. SEASHORE - DAY

Simon is looking at the water.

SIMON

Nymph I wish you were here.

There is a splash and the dolphin jumps out of the water swimming right in front of him.

SIMON (CONT'D)

I am glad you came to see me off. Will you be able to come with me on the journey?

The dolphin nods.

SIMON (CONT'D)

This makes me so happy. Thank you.

Series of traveling shots.

- Simon getting on the boat.

- Boat sailing off from the port.
- Simon looking at the shore.
- Simon at the bow.
- Simon sleeping on the deck of the ship.
- Dolphin swimming at the bow.
- Sky shots and clouds.
- Another boat. Everyone waving.
- Dolphin again swimming but this time with friends.
- Simon eating and looking at the faraway shore.
- Ship coming into port.
- Simon exiting the ship.
- Very few Greeks. More Hebrews and mixed people.
- Simon talking to a group of Israeli men who point him down a road.
- Simon looks at the water's edge but there is no dolphin.
- Turning he heads down the road.
- Walking over a hill he sees Jerusalem.
- Walks up to the gate.
- Talking again to Hebrews.
- Walking around to another gate.

EXT. JERUSALEM STREET - DAY

Title: MERCY GATE

Simon again talks to a group of Hebrews that point to a small store selling blankets and home goods.

INT. SHOP - CONTINUOUS

He enters and looks at a few blankets. A beautiful brunette NAOMI comes out of the back.

NAOMI

If you are planning to steal anything my husband is coming back any time now.

SIMON

I think it is your husband I am here to see.

She looks at him questionably and puts her hands on her hips.

NAOMI

I have never seen you before. What would you need to speak to my husband about?

SIMON

My name is Simon and I am from Cyrene. My father is Ajax.

NAOMI

Ajax. That is my husband's brother's name.

SIMON

Jason of Cyrene is my Uncle. You must be my Aunt.

NAOMI

My name is Naomi. Welcome Simon.

SIMON

My father didn't tell me my uncle is married.

Naomi starts to sort pots that hold different spoons and utensils.

NAOMI

He might not know. We have been friends for years. My husband was killed by the Romans and we were married two fortnights ago. Word must not have gotten back to your family.

SIMON

So how soon do you think it will be till my uncle comes back?

She moves to a table and refolds a blanket.



NAOMI

It will be a couple of days, unfortunately. He has become involved with a Jewish group that believes the Messiah has been born. They follow a Rabbi named John who preaches the coming of the Messiah and baptizes people in the Jordan River.

SIMON

What is the Messiah?

NAOMI

We believe that God will deliver us a Savior. He will bring peace to Earth.

SIMON

Do you mean like Artemis, Apollo, and Hermes?

Naomi stops and smiles at him.

NAOMI

No, we do not have many gods. We only have one and he has not delivered us a Savior yet.

SIMON

My father sent me to find my Uncle. Should I stay around or do you think I could catch up to him?

NAOMI

I think you could catch up to him. He just left yesterday and would not be getting there till today. John attracts a pretty big crowd and there is only one road there.

Patting down the blankets

NAOMI (CONT'D)

I tell you what, why don't I fix dinner and you can tell me about your family and you can leave in the morning. We have a hammock in the courtyard out back you can sleep on tonight.

SIMON

That sounds fine.

EXT. SHOP COURTYARD - MORNING

Simon is folding his blankets and packing his bag.

Naomi walks with a bag and a jug.

NAOMI

Would you like any more juice?

SIMON

Yes, what did you call that again?

NAOMI

It is Ya-pla. Just a mixture of grapes, figs, and a splash of olive oil. It is a recipe my mother taught me.

SIMON

It is very good.

NAOMI

Be careful. It will make you go if you have too much.

SIMON

I'll be careful.

She pours some into a cup by some plates with pita and spreads on them.

NAOMI

I also have another bag of supplies you can take on your journey. I know Jason will be so glad to see you.

SIMON

I still find it hard to believe he just leaves you here to run the shop.

NAOMI

We are very well known. This is a very safe area.

He takes the cup and begins to drink. Naomi moves the bag, then takes the plates off the table and reenters the back door.

EXT. SHOP ENTRANCE - LATER

Simon is in the street and Naomi is in the doorway.

There are a few people coming and browsing.

NAOMI

Remember straight out of the Gate  
and 3 kilometers down the road.  
There is a sign for the Jordan  
River and there will be a lot of  
people going there to hear John  
preach. He is a sight.

SIMON

I am sure I will be okay.

NAOMI

Oh, I almost forgot.

She turns and runs back into the shop.

Appearing again in a moment with a small purse.

NAOMI (CONT'D)

I made something special for you  
and Jason. I hope you don't mind  
one more...

(slowly)

Bag?

SIMON

I can handle it.

NAOMI

Now don't open it till you two are  
together.

SIMON

I won't.

NAOMI

Promise.

SIMON

By the Gods.

NAOMI

A promise from you will be just  
fine.

SIMON

Okay, I promise.

FADE OUT.

EXT. JORDAN RIVER - AFTERNOON

Simon is climbing a hill. Coming to the crest he views green grass, bushes, and small trees along the banks of a small river.

The road goes by a sand bar about 30 people are sitting and milling around and they seem to be waiting for someone.

As he looks a group of 5 men walk past him.

SIMON

Excuse me, Does anyone here know  
Jason of Cyrene? He is a shopkeeper  
in Jerusalem.

PASSERBY

Of course, we know him. Join us. He  
is over there.

Pointing down the hill he is really no help at all.

They all journey down the hill and the PASSERBY who spoke  
walks up to a man. JASON of Cyrene.

PASSERBY (CONT'D)

Jason, we met this man on the road.  
He was asking about you.

Jason a man in his later forties with curly brown hair and a  
beard and dressed as a Hebrew turns and looks at Simon.

JASON

Good day sir. Do I know you?

SIMON

Not yet, but I believe you know my  
father very well. Ajax.

JASON

My brother Ajax?

He gets a huge grin on his face.

JASON (CONT'D)

Then you must be Simon? By the  
Gods...

He catches himself mid-sentence and looks around.

JASON (CONT'D)

It is so good to meet you, But wait  
if you are here, is there trouble?

SIMON

No, no. My father has a slight case of gout. Too much sitting my mother says. He could not make the journey for his yearly visit so he sent me.

JASON

I have told him for years he does not need to continue coming. We settled years ago.

Lowering his voice.

JASON (CONT'D)

Tell you the truth. I never lent him the money. I gave it to him. It was a gift, not a loan.

SIMON

That was so kind of you. He must have wanted to check up on you then.

JASON

I think you have probably figured it out. We can make the exchange later. I want you to hear something. John the Prophet is about to speak. Look he comes now.

There is a small trail coming to a knoll above the sand bar. A man, JOHN THE BAPTIST, with long jet black hair and a beard wearing a light brown robe made out of camel hair is walking with a staff.

He takes a look at the people on the sand.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

People. Children of Abraham.  
Friends and strangers come close.  
The time of salvation is near.

Simon whispers to Jason.

SIMON

Salvation from what?

JASON

Shhhhh. Listen.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

I have come to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord. God's own son.

(MORE)

JOHN THE BAPTIST (CONT'D)

Born to us in Israel and the salvation of all mankind. When he arrives he will work miracles, he will usher in a new covenant with the children of Abraham, he will tear down the curtain and his reign will be forever and ever. He...  
He...

Looking at the far side of the road. To a small group of Hebrews walking towards them JESUS, SIMON, ANDREW, JAMES, and JOHN. They walk differently. The sun is a spotlight on them.

JOHN THE BAPTIST (CONT'D)

He is here.

Everyone gets up and stares in awe.

John begins to run to the group. People start to move to them also.

They meet at the water's edge and John falls to his knees bowing to Jesus.

JOHN THE BAPTIST (CONT'D)

Lord, lord. I have dreamt about this day. Ask of me anything and it will be done.

JESUS

John, my cousin, I have come to be baptized, myself and my friends.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

No my Lord, it is I that should be baptized by you.

JESUS

No John, in this way we will do all that God requires.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

I am not worthy Lord.

JESUS

You are. Come.

Jesus walks into the water and John follows. All the men on the sandbar are now on the edge of the water watching this unfold.

In a hushed voice, Simon and Jason talk.

SIMON

What are they going to do?

JASON

When you are baptized it signifies a new life. It is a remembrance of when the Israelites escaped Egypt and were led through the Red Sea. When they came out they were no longer slaves.

Jesus's group walks out into the water with them.

Jesus stands in front of John facing the shore in waist-high water.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

I baptize you in the name of Yahweh. You enter the water as the old you and emerge in a new life. Do you accept this?

Jesus nods.

John leans him back and he is submerged.

A great wind begins to blow and disturbs the sky above where John and Jesus are.

Jesus is lifted out of the water and the wind opens a hole into heaven where we see an altar and a dove descending onto the earth.

A voice, deep, strong, loud, GOD speaks.

GOD

This is my Son, of whom I am well pleased.

Everyone on the shore has once again knelt.

SIMON

By the Gods, was that Apollo?

JASON

No, that was his father.

SIMON

Zeus?

JASON

No, Jesus's father.

Simon looks at Jason.

JASON (CONT'D)

Jesus is the son of Yahweh. God's own son.

SIMON

I do not know of this God.

JASON

Then you have a lot to learn.

The followers of Jesus are now getting baptized one at a time.

Jesus is walking on shore and helping people up one at a time. They are praising him and thanking him.

JASON (CONT'D)

Would you like to be baptized?

SIMON

Is God going to speak?

Jason shrugs his shoulders.

JASON

All I know is you will leave your old life behind and begin anew.

SIMON

Wait aren't the Israelites circumcised?

JASON

For now, keep your robes on.

SIMON

Deal.

Simon gets up and heads into the water. Meeting John the Baptist.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Are you Hebrew?

SIMON

No, I am from Cyrene.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Well Greek, do you want to enter the water as the old you and emerge into a new life?

Simon nods.



## JOHN THE BAPTIST (CONT'D)

I baptize you in the name of  
Yahweh. For today the Son of God,  
Jesus, has come for all men to  
receive salvation if they desire  
it.

John moves behind Simon and leans him back into the water.

Under the water something happens it changes from green to  
blue. Simon relaxes and smiles.

Coming up he rubs the water out of his eyes and looks to the  
shore.

Jesus is now on the knoll with his arms raised to the heavens  
and is praying. Again with the sun acting as a spotlight.

Jason turns to John and begins to laugh and hugs him. They  
both fall into the water.

Helping him up.

## SIMON

I am so sorry, I am sorry. I am so  
sorry.

## JOHN THE BAPTIST

(laughing)

I guess it was my turn. Come on  
let's listen to Jesus.

They walk out to the water.

On shore, Jason hugs Simon and they shake John's arm.

## JASON

John, you have met my nephew Simon.

## JOHN THE BAPTIST

Simon, it is good to meet you.  
Welcome.

John heads up the bank and Simon and Jason begin to pick up  
their bags and things.

Following Jason to a blanketed area Jason sits and motions  
Simon to sit beside him.

Jesus is preaching from the knoll.

JESUS

Today my ministry has started. Lord God, Yahweh, El Shadad, I give you thanks for all the blessings of this world. The air, the water, the birds, fish, and animals of the ground. I thank you for John and his willingness to follow your word and the desires that you have put in his heart. Bless him all the days of his life. If any you desire to know the will of God. If you desire peace. If you need healing. If you need to be freed from the trials and tribulations of this world. If you need to be forgiven from sin. It is simple, not easy but simple. Follow me.

As he is speaking Simon, Andrew, James, and John stand behind him. With that, he turns and starts back on the trail he had come from. Most of the people on the sandbar follow him.

JASON

Want to go?

SIMON

I'm not really good with groups.

JASON

Your dad told me that.

He gets up and begins packing.

JASON (CONT'D)

But remember, you are a new you.

SIMON

Okay, we can walk for a while. Do you know where they are going?

JASON

Seems North. Maybe the Sea of Galilee? On second thought that might be too far. I left Naomi at the shop alone.

SIMON

By the gods I forgot, Naomi gave me a bag for you.

Reaching under the blanket he was folding, Simon pulls out the bag and hands it to Jason.

Looking into it he smiles warmly.

JASON  
Naomi's famous fig cookies.

He picks one out and takes a bite.

JASON (CONT'D)  
This is the reason I married her.  
(beat)  
Not the only reason, but here, try  
one.

Simon takes the one he is offered and bites into it.

SIMON  
I see.

JASON  
I should not leave her longer than  
I have to. What do you want to do?

SIMON  
I think I am going to follow Jesus  
for a while. I have never seen a  
God before.

JASON  
I do not know if he is a God.

SIMON  
Then what just happened is going to  
take some explaining. Just a couple  
of days and then I will return to  
Jerusalem. See if any other  
miracles happen.

The clasp arms.

JASON  
Then safe journeys Simon. I will  
see you soon.

SIMON  
Safe Journeys Uncle. May the Gods  
be with you.

JASON  
I only need one now.

Simon nods.

EXT. SEA OF GALILEE - LATE AFTERNOON

Simon is following the group that is now about 25 men and women. He is trailing by 30 feet. He is also the only one dressed as a Greek.

Walking down the hill there is a group of three boats. One is on the bank and two are still on the water. There are two men in two of the boats and three in the one farthest out.

Jesus calls out.

JESUS  
How was the fishing?

One FISHERMAN on the boat on the shore.

FISHERMAN  
It was horrible. We did not catch anything today.

Speaking to a man on the larger boat in a red tunic  
SIMON/PETER.

JESUS  
You in the red. Cast your nets to the sea.

SIMON/PETER  
Didn't you hear? There are no fish today.

Jesus smiles.

JESUS  
Didn't you hear cast your nets into the sea?

SIMON/PETER  
You're crazy, there would be no fish near the shore.

JESUS  
You didn't find any in the deep. You should cast your nets.

Simon/Peter shakes his head.

SIMON/PETER  
Come on men.

They cast their nets out on the seaward side and the water begins to churn.

The nets fill with fish. Too many fish. Now the boat is beginning to list as the weight of the fish begins to capsize the boat.

SIMON/PETER (CONT'D)

There are too many. They are going to sink us.

FISHERMAN

Throw us a line we will pull you in.

One of the men on the boat throws a rope into the water. The men on the boat on the shore run and swim to get it.

He then goes to the front of the boat and throws another line.

FISHERMAN (CONT'D)

You men on the shore. Come and help.

Five of the men in the group get in the water and help pull on the rope.

Simon goes to the aft line with two other men and together they all pull the boat and all the fish onto the shore.

The fishermen are very happy and laughing.

SIMON/PETER

This is more fish than we've caught in a moon cycle.

JESUS

What is your name?

SIMON/PETER

Simon/Peter.

JESUS

Simon/Peter follow me and I will make you a fisher of men.

Simon/Peter looks at him. They both stare into the eyes of each other.

Simon/Peter nods.

FISHERMAN

I don't know about you guys but tonight I am going to eat some fish.

Everyone laughs, pulls the nets onto the land, and prepares the catch.

Simon helps the men but off to the side, quietly watching.

EXT. TIBERIAS - DAY

The group around Jesus has grown to about 50. All men some women and a few older children.

They walk up to Jesus and ask him questions. He talks easily to them but they keep moving.

The fields are a dark green dotted by snow-white sheep and their shepherds.

Walking to the gate of the city of Tiberias there are beggars and blind people. Dirty and poor. Many are at death's door.

Jesus looks at them with compassion.

Simon watches from the back of the group as Jesus bends down to a man whose legs have withered to bone.

Jesus talks to the man and helps him stand.

He begins to jump and dance. Everyone is amazed.

Jesus repeats with another man.

Then a woman.

Going to a blind man with bandages around his eyes Jesus speaks to him. The man is talking back and begins to nod.

Jesus takes the bandages off and places his hands over the empty sockets and when he removes his hands the man opens his eyes and begins to cry.

The crowd is moved and talking to themselves.

The man stands and loudly gives thanks to God, then hugs Jesus.

Jesus then goes to another man and heals him. Then another.

As all the people are now healed they walk through the gate into the city.

A small group of Greeks leading donkeys are coming out of the city. The man in front tall and athletic ADONIS confronts Simon.

ADONIS  
Good day, Greek.

SIMON  
Good day.

ADONIS  
We are from Athens. Are you  
traveling with these Hebrews?

SIMON  
I am Simon of Cyrene and I am, only  
for a short time.

ADONIS  
We are on an adventure to secure  
riches and fame.

SIMON  
Is that working out?

Adonis turns to his travelers and LAUGHS.

ADONIS  
Is that working out? Not yet but we  
are still traveling.

SIMON  
Then I wish you the blessings of  
the gods.

ADONIS  
Thank you. What are you seeking?

SIMON  
Do you see the man in front wearing  
red?

ADONIS  
Yes.

SIMON  
I am watching him. He is different  
than the other Hebrews. He may be  
their Messiah.

ADONIS  
Good luck then, but be careful.  
From what I have noticed the god of  
the Hebrews does not seem to hear  
or answer their prayers.

Turning to his men.

ADONIS (CONT'D)

They might need a good orgy.

SIMON

(blushing)

I will be careful.

ADONIS

May the gods protect you Simon of  
Cyrene.

SIMON

You also, adventures of Athens.

They all bow to each other. Adonis and Simon clasp arms.

Simon again follows Jesus's group.

EXT. NORTH OF TIBERIAS - MORNING

Simon stretches and begins to prepare for today's travel.  
Looking around the crowd has now grown to over 200.

A few feet from Simon is a BOY about 10 years old and his  
SISTER around 7. Their mother SARAH is a late 20s Hebrew  
woman.

BOY

Mother, is there anything to eat  
today?

The mother shakes her head no, looking very sad.

Simon opens his bag and seeing his last cookie closes the  
bag.

SIMON

Boy come here.

Looking at his mother.

SIMON (CONT'D)

It's okay.

The mother nods for him to go. His sister follows.

Simon reaches into his bag and takes out the cookie. It is  
very large. He breaks it in half and then breaks one of the  
halves in half.

SIMON (CONT'D)

This is for you.



The boy looks at his sister and she nods her approval.

He takes the cookie.

Turning to his sister.

BOY

Here you take the first bite then  
I'll take the next one.

He hands the cookie piece to his sister who takes a bite.

SIMON

Boy, you have created a problem. I  
was going to give this piece to  
your sister, but since you gave her  
yours. I guess I have to give hers  
to you.

Handing it to him.

BOY

We each get one?

The boy looks at his mother.

SIMON

Don't even think about it. I have  
this piece for your mother.

BOY

Really?

SIMON

Really.

He then walks over to the mother and hands her the half.

SARAH

Thank you sir, but do you have  
anything to eat?

SIMON

(laughing)  
Actually, not anymore. I am sure  
the Gods will provide something  
later. I'll be fine.

SARAH

I do not know the god's customs but  
I do know ours, and we share.

She breaks the piece in half and hands it back to Simon.

SIMON

Are you sure?

Sarah nods.

Jesus climbs to a ledge overlooking the valley and begins to pray. Sitting on a rock his disciples sit around him.

SIMON (CONT'D)

I am going to get a bit closer and listen.

SARAH

Thank you again.

Simon nods and scruffs up the boy's hair.

Walking to the base of the hill so he can hear Jesus better Jesus begins to teach.

JESUS

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.  
 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.  
 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.  
 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.  
 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.  
 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

More and more people are getting close to hear.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
 Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.  
 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Jesus stands and addresses the crowd from the edge of the ledge.

Simon is now sitting at the base of the ledge. There are now Romans, Persians, Asians, Africans and of course, Hebrews but Simon is the only Greek.

JESUS (CONT'D)

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Turning to a group of Pharisees standing off to the side.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Turning back to the people.

JESUS (CONT'D)

For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.'

But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment.

Turning to the Persians

JESUS (CONT'D)

Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' [**Worthless**] is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'yalik min 'ahmaq!' [**You Fool**] will be in danger of the fire of hell.

The Persians turn and talk to themselves because he used their language [Arabic].

Turning to all the people.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First, go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'

But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

(MORE)

JESUS (CONT'D)

If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell. It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.' But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Looking DIRECTLY at Simon.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.' But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

Turning to his Disciples.

JESUS (CONT'D)

You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles.

(MORE)

JESUS (CONT'D)

Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

Turning back to the crowd.

JESUS (CONT'D)

You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'  
But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?

The crowd laughs.

JESUS (CONT'D)

And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others?

He once again looks at the Persians.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Do not even pagans do that?

Everyone but the Persians laugh. Looking at Simon again.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. "Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret.

(MORE)

JESUS (CONT'D)

Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

He stops at that and looks directly at Simon then at Sarah and her children who had moved up in the crowd like he knows what Simon had done. Simon follows his gaze. Sarah looks at him and smiles. The boy waves. Then to confirm it Jesus nods at him.

Turning back to the crowd.

JESUS (CONT'D)

And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others.

Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

But when you pray, go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

When you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

A voice shouts out from the crowd.

VOICE

Rabbi, how should we pray?

JESUS

This, then, is how you should pray.

Looking up into the sky.

JESUS (CONT'D)

'Our Father in Heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our  
debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.'

The Pharisees start talking among themselves.

MURMER

Did he call Yahweh Father?

Looking back at the crowd.

JESUS

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Looking again at the Pharisees.

JESUS (CONT'D)

"When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Looking back into the crowd.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Looking at the blind man that he earlier healed.

JESUS (CONT'D)

The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light.

(MORE)



JESUS (CONT'D)

But if your eyes are unhealthy,  
your whole body will be full of  
darkness. If then the light within  
you is darkness, how great is that  
darkness!

Back to the crowd.

JESUS (CONT'D)

No one can serve two masters.  
Either you will hate the one and  
love the other, or you will be  
devoted to the one and despise the  
other. You cannot serve both God  
and money.

Looking at Sarah and her kids.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Therefore I tell you, do not worry  
about your life, what you will eat  
or drink; or about your body, what  
you will wear. Is not life more  
than food, and the body more than  
clothes?  
Look at the birds of the air; they  
do not sow or reap or store away in  
barns, and yet your heavenly Father  
feeds them.  
Are you not much more valuable than  
these?  
Can any one of you by worrying add  
a single hour to your life?  
And why do you worry about clothes?  
See how the flowers of the field  
grow. They do not labor or spin.  
Yet I tell you that not even  
Solomon in all his splendor was  
dressed like one of these.  
If that is how God clothes the  
grass of the field, which is here  
today and tomorrow is thrown into  
the fire, will he not much more  
clothe you - you of little faith?

Back again to the whole crowd.

JESUS (CONT'D)

So do not worry, saying, 'What  
shall we eat?' or 'What shall we  
drink?' or 'What shall we wear?  
For the pagans run after all these  
things, and your heavenly Father  
knows that you need them.

(MORE)

JESUS (CONT'D)

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day...

Turning to his disciples then the Pharisees.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Each day has enough trouble of its own. Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Speaking to the crowd again.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?  
How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?  
You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.  
Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.  
Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.  
Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?  
If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

(MORE)

JESUS (CONT'D)

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Again he looks to the Pharisees.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

By their fruit, you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit, you will recognize them.

Turning to his Disciples.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

Louder and with more authority to the crowd.

JESUS (CONT'D)

(MORE)

## JESUS (CONT'D)

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

With that, he turns and starts to talk quietly to the Disciples.

The crowds were amazed at his teaching and were talking amongst themselves.

The different groups have very different looks on their faces.

Pharisees ANGRY.

Persians ASTOUNDED.

Asians CHATTERING.

Africans AMAZED.

Hebrews have found their Messiah.

Simon is again alone and watching.

Jesus begins to walk down the path from the ledge followed by his disciples.

There is a commotion in the crowd, people scream and flee a LEPER is walking among them.

VOICE

Unclean, unclean, run.

The man upon seeing Jesus runs up to him and kneels in front of him.

LEPER

Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.

JESUS

I am willing.  
 (touching him)  
 Be clean.

All of a sudden his wounds were healing. The skin that had been rotting on him became healthy. His nose which had started to rot off became whole. His lips returned and missing teeth grew. His eyebrows returned and his hair grew and became dark brown.

JESUS (CONT'D)

See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.

The man got up and watched as the skin on his hands and arms returned to new. He looked at his feet to see two missing toes were being replaced and the sores were healing.

Everyone around him was amazed. Some even bowed as he passed by.

Simon had a very concerned look on his face. He turns to walk away from the direction Jesus and his followers are heading.

Sarah carrying her youngest with her son on her tail walks up.

SARAH

Where are you going?

SIMON

I think I am going back to Jerusalem and maybe back to Cyrene.

SARAH

Why? Why wouldn't you want to follow the Messiah?

SIMON

He is the Messiah for the Hebrews and there is something else.

SARAH

What?

SIMON

I do not like crowds. There are too many people here for me. I am very uncomfortable.

Looking at her and her children,

SIMON (CONT'D)

You wouldn't understand. No one  
ever has.

He turns and leaves them.

The little boy again waves.

Simon does not turn back to look.

INT. SHOP ENTRANCE - EVENING

Naomi is talking to a female customer and Jason is following  
a large man carrying a basket of fabric.

Simon enters and stands off to the side.

Naomi seeing someone greets him but doesn't look.

NAOMI

I'll be right with you.

Simon watches and says nothing.

NAOMI (CONT'D)

(a little frustrated)

I said...

(turning)

Bless the Lord. Simon, Jason Simon  
is here.

Leaving the customer. She runs over and hugs him.

Jason sets the basket down and greets him.

JASON

Simon, what has it been 2 years?

SIMON

At least that.

They greet.

JASON

How is my brother?

SIMON

He is not well. He has been unable  
to walk since the spring. The  
doctors are draining his legs but  
he is not in great health.

NAOMI

Simon, you could not have come at a better time.

Simon looks.

JASON

Are you thinking what I am?

NAOMI

I think so.

JASON

Do you remember that man who healed and taught about our God Yahweh like He was his father?

Simon nods.

JASON (CONT'D)

It was prophesied 600 years ago that seventy weeks after the first year of Darius, the Messiah was going to enter Jerusalem on a donkey. That is next weekend. I have been charged with collecting palm leaves to sell for his triumphant entrance.

NAOMI

For sale of course.

Simon smiles.

JASON

Of course. You can help me collect them. I can even pay you.

NAOMI

You better pay him.

SIMON

So Jesus is still around?

NAOMI

Yes, he is speaking to a group tomorrow night. We are closing up early to see him. He always performs miracles.

SIMON

So you still believe he is the Messiah?

NAOMI

Yes, I do.

JASON

I do also.

SIMON

Okay, tomorrow we go to see your Messiah.

NAOMI

Let me finish helping this dear lady and I'll start to prepare dinner.

Naomi turns back to the customer,

SIMON

Do you need a hand Uncle?

JASON

Sure, the wagon is in the back.

SIMON

I also have a gift from my father again.

JASON

That silly man. Come on.

They turn and leave.

EXT. HILL IN ISRAEL - LATE AFTERNOON

There is a crowd of thousands of people SITTING and MILLING AROUND.

People are COMPLAINING of hunger and thirst.

Once again there are all nations but primarily Hebrews.

Jesus and his disciples are at the top of the hill and they have a basket that they give him.

JESUS

Could everyone sit down?

They begin to all sit.

Simon, Jason, and Naomi join them and sit on the edge of the crowd. They can barely hear Jesus,



JESUS (CONT'D)

I have sent out my Disciples to collect whatever food they could find because we know how hungry you must be.

There is a lot of grumbling.

JESUS (CONT'D)

They have collected two fish and five loaves of bread.

More grumbling.

JESUS (CONT'D)

(lifting the basket)

Father God, Jehovah Jireh we ask you to bless this food. May you provide provisions for all your children.

More grumbling.

Jesus MOTIONS for the Disciples to bring up other baskets.

As they do he pours fish and loaves into each. FILLING each basket.

As they are filled the Disciples take the food and begin handing it out.

The grumbling stops.

SIMON

Uncle, how is this food multiplied?

NAOMI

It is another miracle.

The disciples are FEEDING everyone on the field.

Jesus is still pouring food into baskets as the Disciples bring them up.

Five thousand men with twice as many women and children.

Every time they take out a fish or a loaf it is replaced again with another.

PETER comes to the group and Naomi TAKES out the fish and loaves and hands them to Simon and Jason.

SIMON

How is this possible?

PETER

With God all things are possible.

Simon takes a bite of the bread.

SIMON

It is real.

JASON

Of course, it is real.

NAOMI

He is the Messiah.

FADE OUT.

EXT. STREET JERUSALEM - MORNING

Simon and Jason each have a cart loaded with palm leaves. They push it to the gate.

People are lining the streets and looking down the hill.

SIMON

How are we going to charge for these?

JASON

Today is a special day. We are not going to charge.

Simon looks at him like he is crazy.

JASON (CONT'D)

The Hebrews have a tradition of pouring drink till it overflows the cup. It signifies the blessings that overflow in their lives. Like your Father still paying on a loan that was settled years ago. Today we bless the people who have been so good to Naomi and myself.

(beat)

Don't fret I'll have you share in the blessings also.

Simon laughs.

Together they hand out palm leaves. As they begin to run out there is a great roar of the crowd.

At the bottom of the road, a figure is riding a small donkey. It is Jesus.

The crowd is chanting "HOSANNA! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD! BLESSED IS THE KING OF ISRAEL."

People are passing the remainder of the branches down the line.

JESUS

Peace, Peace be to you sons and daughters of Israel.

They are THROWING the branches on the ground before the donkey.

Some are THROWING THEIR CLOAKS AND BLANKETS.

Realizing that he stands out because of his clothing Simon backs into the crowd not wanting to be noticed.

The donkey stops right in front of him and Jesus and Simon eyes LOCK.

Jesus SMILES but says nothing.

Simon just looks.

The donkey again begins to move.

The crowd continues to CHANT.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Peace, peace be unto you.

The crowd follows in behind Jesus.

Simon moves the cart onto the road. Jason moves beside him.

JASON

Do you realize what just happened? That was prophesied six hundred years ago. Simon, you just witnessed history.

SIMON

He looked at me.

JASON

I saw.

SIMON

It was like he knew me. I am not even Hebrew.

JASON

You definitely don't look Hebrew.

SIMON  
But he is the Hebrew King.

JASON  
Not exactly. In fact, I wonder what King Herod Antipas will say about this. Oh, I hope Naomi has gotten a chance to see this. She will be so excited.

(beat)  
Our true King has arrived.

They start to push up the hill.

SIMON  
So you are Hebrew now?

JASON  
No, I am still Greek by blood but my heart can choose to which King I am loyal. My heart chooses Jesus.  
(shouting)  
HOSANNA! BLESSED IS THE KING OF ISRAEL. HOSANNA!

They continue to push.

EXT. SHOP COURTYARD - LATER

Jason enters followed by Simon.

JASON  
(yelling)  
Naomi, Naomi!

No reply.

JASON (CONT'D)  
She still must be out.

They PUSH their cart and park them in by the back wall.

JASON (CONT'D)  
Everything has its place.

SIMON  
My Dad says the same thing.

JASON  
It was drilled into us by our father.

SIMON  
Tell me about him.

JASON  
What has your dad told you?

SIMON  
Not much really. We don't talk  
much. I think I let him down  
because I am, well, quiet.

JASON  
That would bother your dad. A man  
who talks so much he had to learn a  
million languages so he could NOT  
shut up in any of them.

Simon smiles.

BURSTING IN AND OUT OF BREATH. Naomi puts her hands on her  
knees.

NAOMI  
Did you see him?

JASON  
We saw...

NAOMI  
Praise God, Our savior has come.

JASON  
We were...

NAOMI  
I followed him to the temple. The  
crowd was chanting. We were all so  
happy. He went into the temple and  
it all went nuts.

Both turn to look at her.

She slowly struts.

NAOMI (CONT'D)  
He walks up the stairs and sees the  
money changers. The merchants. The  
bloodsuckers who sell animals for  
sacrifice.

She starts THROWING SCARVES and BLANKETS into the air from  
baskets against the wall of the shop.

NAOMI (CONT'D)

He over turns tables, He lets all the doves go. They are flying here and there. The goats and lambs are running. People are screaming.

She takes SCARVES and FLUTTERS them up and down and runs around the courtyard.

NAOMI (CONT'D)

It was so amazing. He was saying  
(in man's voice)  
You den of thieves, get out of my Father's house. You den of vipers.  
(normal voice)  
He was like a crazy man. Even the Pharisees ran from him. It was so wonderful.

She takes a few deep breaths.

NAOMI (CONT'D)

Of course, then the Romans came and I left. Stupid Romans.

Both men smile at the feminine story.

JASON

What happened to Jesus?

NAOMI

I didn't see. It was chaos. I ran into a few friends and they said they saw him leaving the city.

RUNNING into Jason's arms.

NAOMI (CONT'D)

Do you think it is true? Do you think? He could really be the Savior?

JASON

I believe he is.

JUMPING UP AND DOWN in his arms.

NAOMI

I am so happy, so happy.

Looking at Simon.

NAOMI (CONT'D)

You must think I am crazy.

He shakes his head no.

NAOMI (CONT'D)

I am going to start a meal. We will have wine tonight. This is a reason to celebrate. Our Savior has come. HOSANNA!!!

JASON

HOSANNA!!!

They both start to pick up the scarves and blankets.

JASON (CONT'D)

We should go in and make sure she doesn't destroy the house with her excitement.

Tapping Simon on the shoulder they turn into the shop. Simon puts the blankets he had folded on a shelf by the door.

INT. SHOP - DAY

Naomi and Simon are moving baskets and setting up displays. Both are very quiet and turn when they hear Jason enter.

JASON

It's true.

NAOMI

Oh no.

JASON

I heard that he celebrated Passover last night and went out of the city to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. The Romans arrested him this morning.

NAOMI

What was the charge?

JASON

With the Romans? Who knows. Something made up by the Pharisees. I heard there was also trouble.

Jason moves to Naomi.

JASON (CONT'D)

One of his followers fought a Roman. He cut off his ear.

NAOMI  
Did they kill him?

JASON  
That is the funny part. Before they could Jesus picks up the ear and puts it back on the guy.

SIMON  
What?

JASON  
I heard he put the ear back on the guy.

NAOMI  
And they still arrested him?

JASON  
Yes.

SIMON  
What about the guy who cut off the ear?

JASON  
I don't know.

SIMON  
Where is Jesus now?

JASON  
They still have him. They took him to Pontius Pilate but he could find no reason to hold him.

NAOMI  
So they are going to let him go?

JASON  
The Romans? No, they took him to be beaten.

SIMON  
Beaten, why?

JASON  
Because they are bloodthirsty savages only concerned about taking over and ruining the world.

Naomi starts to cry.



NAOMI  
We believed in him.

Jason wraps his arms around her.

NAOMI (CONT'D)  
The miracles, his words of peace.  
How can they beat a man of peace?

JASON  
He made enemies in the Temple. I  
don't know. I don't understand.

SIMON  
I am going out. I'll see if I can  
find out any more.

JASON  
Be careful. Most of the Hebrews  
have turned against him.

SIMON  
I'll be careful.

Simon heads out the door.

EXT. SHOP COURTYARD - NIGHT

Simon is trying to sleep. He stares out past the ceiling to a large and very bright fool moon.

He turns to his side with his back towards us. Then back to the other side.

A montage is playing in his head.

- Watching John the Baptist announce Jesus as the Messiah.
- Watching Jesus getting Baptized.
- In the water helping Simon/Peter with the fish.
- Watching Jesus healing people at Tiberias.
- Seeing the blind man dancing.
- Seeing Jesus at the sermon on the mount.
- Jesus blessing the fish.
- Seeing the man Peter who handed the fish and bread to Simon, Naomi, and Jason.

- Watching the crowd as Jesus the Messiah rode into Jerusalem.

Finally lying on his back.

SIMON

This is crazy.

He throws back his covers and starts to put on his sandals.

CUT TO

Pouring water in a bowl SPLASHING some on his face and WALKING out the back door.

EXT. JERUSALEM STREET - NIGHT

There are very few groups of people out. Hearing a lot of shouts he walks to a wall where there are a few people screaming into a window.

Simon tries to get a view but he can't see.

We hear the lasting of a whip and an agonizing scream.

The people are cheering the pain. They are bloodthirsty.

Seeing Peter who handed him the bread last week, he approaches.

There are three teenage girls who cut him off.

GIRLS

You were one of his followers.

PETER

No, I've told you before I do not know this man.

GIRLS

We know it is you by your accent.

PETER

You are mistaken.

Simon begins to speak up when a rooster crows,

Peter looks at Simon and his eyes fill with tears.

PETER (CONT'D)

Three times before the rooster crows.

He lets out a loud agonising scream and runs down the road.

GIRLS

You should run. Coward.

Simon turns to walk away.

Rounding the corner are two ROMAN SOLDIERS. They are carrying a crown of thorns.

ROMAN SOLDIER

This is fitting for the King of the Jews.

They both laugh.

EXT. CITY OF JERUSALEM - MORNING

The sun rises over the city. Cloudless. Shimmering hot.

EXT. JERUSALEM STREET - DAY

Simon is walking around. The mood has changed. People are fighting, pushing, and shoving, everyone is angry.

There are more Romans now breaking up fights and trying to control the crowds.

Simon sees Naomi in tears fighting through the crowd.

SIMON

Naomi  
(Beat)  
Naomi.

Seeing him she comes over.

Two men PUSH by her KNOCKING her over to the ground.

RUNNING over Simon helps her up.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

NAOMI

No, Simon. I am so heartbroken.  
What happened?

SIMON

I don't know. Where is Jason?

NAOMI

He is protecting the shop. Everyone  
has lost their minds.

A group of Roman Soldiers round the corner and start pushing  
people out of the way.

SIMON

Can you get home?

NAOMI

Yes, but where are you going?

SIMON

Some people said they were going to  
crucify Jesus on Calvary.

NAOMI

That must be where the soldiers are  
going. It is that direction.

SIMON

I am going to take you home first.

NAOMI

No, I am fine. Please see if you  
can do something.

SIMON

I'll do my best.

NAOMI

Be safe, may God protect you.

Naomi gives Simon a hug. He nods and turns to follow the  
Romans.

EXT. ROAD TO CALVARY - CONTINUOUS

There are two rows of Hebrews on either side of the road with  
Romans in front making a path for a group of Romans guarding  
Jesus.

The crowd is spitting and hurling insults.

Jesus is unrecognizable. There is a crown of thorns piercing  
his head. Blood is pouring out of the wounds. Parts of his  
beard and flesh on his face has been torn off. He is missing  
flesh on his back. He is a walking wound.

Simon gasps as he sees him. Jesus also falls.

People cheer.

Romans are poking him with their swords and kicking him.

Not wanting to touch him they pick him up and give him the cross again.

ROMAN SOLDIER  
Walk King of the Jews.

This sets the Hebrews off again.

Jesus takes 5 more steps and falls again.

ROMAN SOLDIER (CONT'D)  
He is not going to make it.

Looking around the crowd he spots Simon.

ROMAN SOLDIER (CONT'D)  
You Greek, come here.

Simon tries to hide and sneak into the crowd shaking his head no, but the crowd throws him into the Romans encircling Jesus.

ROMAN SOLDIER (CONT'D)  
Pick up the cross and carry it.

SIMON  
I don't want...

ROMAN SOLDIER  
Pick it up or die where you stand.

He draws his sword.

Simon bends down to pick up the Cross and as he does he looks into the eyes of Jesus.

They are not what he expected.

In the bloody and scared face are the gentlest and kindest eyes you can imagine. Deep Golden. Almost depthless.

Jesus coughs and whispers.

JESUS  
There is more.

Simon picks up the cross and then helps Jesus up who leans on him.

Together they walk through the crowd. Now both are getting spit on and rotten fruit and mud thrown on them.

They walk up the road and at the crest, you see Calvary which looks like a bald man's skull.

The Romans have already hung one man and are preparing to crucify another.

A group of EXECUTIONERS walk out and take the cross from Simon.

EXECUTIONER

We have this.

They throw the cross on the ground and throw Jesus next to it.

Roughly they pull him to the cross and take large 9-inch nails and hammer one into each hand then putting his feet together and nailing them also on the cross.

One man on each side they pull it to a hole already dug.

Throwing it on the ground they nail a sign on it written in three languages. "King of the Jews"

Two new executioners pick up the cross and leverage it with ropes into the hole. It drops a foot with a thud.

Jesus cries out in pain.

Most of the people are screaming at Jesus. Accusing him. Yelling hateful things.

There is a small group of women and a couple of men standing off to the back. They are quiet. The women have been crying.

One of the younger women MARY seeing Simon approaches.

MARY

Why did you do it? Why did you have to carry the cross for him?

SIMON

I am sorry. I didn't know. He was dying.

MARY

Why did you have to carry his cross?

She burst into tears and ran to join her group.

Looking around he is very alone.

He is the only Greek.

The only one not shouting.

The only one not crying.

Then the waves of shame.

SIMON

If I had not carried the cross  
maybe he would not be dying.

The sky begins to darken.

JESUS

Forgive them Father for they know  
not what they do.

Simon begins to tear.

SIMON

I did not know. I am so sorry.

- He turns and runs.

- Runs down the hill.

- Runs past the gate.

- Runs up past shepherds.

- Runs past groups of Pharisees.

- Runs past Ethiopians.

- Runs past Persians.

- Runs up a hill and miles away he sees the Mediterranean.

Out of breath, he puts his hands on his knees.

SIMON (CONT'D)

I am so far from home.

(beat)

I am so alone.

There is a rumble and he turns to see the sky on the other  
side of Jerusalem cloud and darken.

Lightning.

Thunder.

More lighting and thunder.

The ground is shaking.

SIMON (CONT'D)  
Uncle, Naomi.

He runs back to Jerusalem.

Passing the Temple the Pharisees and outside wailing and ripping their robes.

PHARISEE  
The curtain's torn. The curtain is torn.

Shopkeepers are picking up items strewn on the ground.

INT. SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Simon enters to find Jason righting a table and Naomi picking up items and placing them on shelves.

NAOMI  
Simon, Praise God you are not hurt.

SIMON  
Are you guys okay? I was outside of the walls.

JASON  
We are fine. Nothing seems broken.

NAOMI  
You were outside did you see Jesus?

SIMON  
I saw.

Well. NAOMI Well? JASON

SIMON  
He was carrying his cross. They had beaten him so badly. Scourged him till he did not look human.

NAOMI  
Who did it?

SIMON  
I think it was the Romans.

JASON  
That is impossible Pontus Pilot said he washed his hands of him.



SIMON

It was the Romans in the guard.  
They made me...

He looks away.

NAOMI

What?

SIMON

Jesus fell. He fell a few times.  
They made me...

NAOMI

Simon.

SIMON

He was not going to make it. They  
picked me out of the crowd. I  
didn't want to do it. They ordered  
me to pick up his cross and carry  
it. Carry it to his death.

Naomi is speechless.

JASON

Simon, you didn't.

SIMON

Yes, I did. I thought I could help  
him. I thought anytime he was going  
to perform a miracle and  
(beat)  
it would be over.

Naomi is now crying.

SIMON (CONT'D)

There was no miracle. They nailed  
him on the cross. I had to leave. I  
could not watch. So I ran. I ran.  
(now crying)

The last thing I heard was him  
saying Father forgive them because  
they know not what they do. I  
thought he was talking to me. He  
didn't even look at me.

NAOMI

The Romans made you?

SIMON

I could, should have said no.

JASON  
They would have killed you.

SIMON  
But Jesus may still be alive.

NAOMI  
It was the Pharisees. They put the  
Romans up to this.

SIMON  
As I was running by the Temple they  
were all outside ripping their  
robes and putting on a great show  
about how the curtain had been  
torn.

NAOMI  
The curtain of the Holy of Holies?

SIMON  
I don't know. I guess.

NAOMI  
If the curtain is torn there is  
nothing separating us from God.

JASON  
He did say he would destroy the  
Temple and rebuild it in three  
days.

NAOMI  
There is now nothing separating  
from the wrath of God.

Looking at Simon.

NAOMI (CONT'D)  
If you carried the cross that  
killed His son...  
(beat)  
You have to go.

JASON  
Naomi.

NAOMI  
No Jason, He has to go. God's wrath  
will be on all of us. More so on  
him.

SIMON  
But I was ordered by the Romans.

NAOMI

You are not going to be able to bargain with God. You helped murder his son.

Simon's eyes water as he understands.

SIMON

I did not...

JASON

Simon, Naomi...

NAOMI

No Jason, everyone knows you are a Greek. You wear Hebrew robes, but your hair and mannerisms give you away. People remember when you came here. He has to go.

Simon looks at Jason and nods.

SIMON

May I get my stuff from the back?

Naomi nods.

EXT. SHOP COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

Simon stuffs a bag and rolls his blanket.

He exits out the back door.

Moment's later Jason enters.

JASON

Simon?

Looking around he returns into the shop.

EXT. TEMPLE WALL - EVENING

- Simon sits and watches the people.
- People are still picking up.
- Carts are being pushed.
- Romans are marching and riding through.
- Pharisees are walking and making a huge show.

- People are sad.
- People are scared.
- As he sits against the wall it becomes night. Everything speeds up. The stars and moon circle fast.
- He is the same speed. He wraps himself in his blanket. He does not sleep.
- Day comes and again he just sits against the wall watching.
- People are now moving in slow motion but the shadows are speeding.
- The shadows tell the time.
- Day.
- Noon.
- Evening.
- Night.
- He just sits at the wall.
- Morning.

Still sitting he had fallen asleep when running woke him up.

It is Mary the one who first accused him of being an accomplice in the murder of Jesus. She sees him and slows down. Then smiles and runs past.

He stretches and begins to rise.

Mary, Peter, and four others, one woman and three men who were all disciples come running by.

Mary stops and talks to Peter, who approaches Simon.

PETER

Are you the one I saw the other  
night?

SIMON

Yes, you said you didn't know  
Jesus. I remember you gave me bread  
and fish the week before.

PETER

Come, come with us.

SIMON  
Why what has happened?

Peter stops and looks him in the eyes.

PETER  
He has risen.

SIMON  
Who has?

PETER  
Come and see.

Running down the road Peter continues.

PETER (CONT'D)  
Mary went to the tomb to bring  
herbs and spices. She said the tomb  
was empty.

They run down the road and off a side road.

EXT. GRAVESITE - CONTINUOUS

By a small hill, there is a hole in the side. A large round  
rock has been rolled away.

There are three Roman guards standing and talking.

MARY  
See, I told you the stone has been  
rolled away.

ROMAN SOLDIER  
Do you know what has happened here?

MARY  
Yes, our Lord has risen.

ROMAN SOLDIER  
You mean the man we crucified 3  
days ago?

PETER  
He said that on the third day, he  
would rise. Mary, do you think?

MARY  
Can we look in the tomb?

The Guard puts a torch into a small fire off to the side of  
the clearing. He leads them into the tomb.

MARY (CONT'D)

See the burial shroud is folded and  
look there is no blood.

ROMAN SOLDIER

Okay, everyone out.

(outside)

The night watchman said he heard  
nothing. Until you came this  
morning. Who are they?

Everyone turns to see two beautiful men ANGELS in clean white  
linens with golden sashes.

ANGEL

Why do you seek the living among  
the dead?

MARY

Do you know what has happened to  
our Master?

ANGEL

He is not here. Go to the appointed  
place. He will be there soon.

ROMAN SOLDIER

Where is the appointed place?

When the group turned back to the Angels they were gone.

ROMAN SOLDIER (CONT'D)

Where did they go?

Everyone shook their heads.

SIMON

They just vanished.

ROMAN SOLDIER

I will have to say someone stole  
the body.

MARY

Who? Who could have stolen the body  
with a guard and then had the time  
to bring new clothing and fold it?

PETER

Without anyone seeing?

The guards look at each other.

Mary sees Simon.

MARY

You were the one who carried the cross.

SIMON

Yes.

MARY

What do you know about this?

SIMON

Nothing. I am staying with my Uncle and when I told him and his wife that the curtain in the Temple had been torn. She said that it separated your God from you. So I went to the Temple so maybe your God would take my life first and spare anyone else from dying when he came out angry.

PETER

Our God saves.

Turning to the Guards.

PETER (CONT'D)

Do you still need us?

ROMAN SOLDIER

We need the body back. The dead don't rise.

PETER

We have seen him raise the dead before.

SIMON

I saw him do many miracles.

ROMAN SOLDIER

You are saying this is a miracle?

MARY

Do you have another explanation?

ROMAN SOLDIER

Go all of you. We will find you if we need you.

They turn to leave.

When they arrive at the temple Simon takes Peter off to the side.

SIMON

I am going to leave and go home.

PETER

Where is home?

SIMON

We have never met. My name is Simon and I am from Cyrene.

PETER

I have heard of it. A city of art. You will have some stories to tell about this place.

SIMON

I am not a storyteller. In fact, I don't like to talk much.

PETER

My name is Peter. God bless you Simon and protect you on your journeys.

They shake arms. As they were leaving.

SIMON

Peter, where is the appointed place?

Peter looks at him for a moment.

PETER

It was the room we last had supper in.

Simon nods and leaves.

EXT. ROAD TO MEDITERRANEAN SEA - LATER

Simon reaches the top of a hill. He sees the sea for the first time.

There is a man sitting under the shade of a date palm.

JESUS

I have heard that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

SIMON

That is a Greek term. Are you Greek?



JESUS  
No. Would you like a date?

SIMON  
Yes please, That would be  
wonderful. I just realized it has  
been a few days since I have eaten.

JESUS  
Me too.

He throws a date at Simon.

He catches it without a problem.

JESUS (CONT'D)  
Where are you going?

SIMON  
I am going home to Cyrene.

JESUS  
I would like you to stay in  
Jerusalem for a while longer.

Simon just looks at him.

JESUS (CONT'D)  
Here Simon have another date.

Reaching out his hand Simon sees the holes.

SIMON  
How do you know my name?

Then he realizes and falls to his knees.

SIMON (CONT'D)  
Are you a ghost?

JESUS  
I am the Messiah. They have told  
you about me?

SIMON  
Yes, and I have witnessed many  
miracles.

JESUS  
There are more to come. I will be  
here a short time and you have much  
to learn.

SIMON

Learn?

JESUS

You feel the cross you carried took me to the grave.

Simon nods.

SIMON

I am so sorry I was hoping that you would perform a miracle and save yourself.

JESUS

I did perform a miracle. The cross you carried that you thought took my life, in fact, redeemed all mankind. I came to be a sacrifice so that all may have eternal life. The curtain that tore. That separated God from man will remain torn so all may know God. Those who believe in me will have fellowship with me and my Father.

SIMON

Lord, forgive me. I am not a Hebrew.

JESUS

I came for all mankind. In a short time I will bring a helper into this world. He will find you. Would you go back to Jerusalem?

SIMON

Of course, Lord.

JESUS

Oh and two other things.

Simon looks.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Go back to Jason and Naomi. Tell them everything you have heard. There are no secrets. Tell them I am the Messiah the son of the Living God.

He looks into Simon's eyes again. They are again golden and there is no end to the depth.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Verily I say unto you, that  
whenever the story is told of my  
crucifixion, Simon, Simon of  
Cyrene, yours will be the only name  
mentioned. A man not even a Hebrew,  
who helped me and carried the cross  
that saved the world for all who  
believe.

SIMON

Thank you, Lord.

Simon lets go of Jesus's hands and bends to get his bedding.  
When he stands up again he is alone.

Turning to the fig tree he finds it is dead and there is no  
fruit.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Back to Jerusalem.

INT. SHOP - DAY

Jason is working on shelves and Naomi is working on a  
display.

Simon takes a deep breath before he enters the shop.

Stepping in, both look at him.

SIMON

Have you heard?

Both look at each other.

NAOMI

Heard what?

SIMON

That he has risen.

JASON

We have heard that the body was  
stolen.

SIMON

It wasn't stolen. I was at the  
gravesite this morning.

JASON

Why did you go there?

SIMON

I was waiting by the wall of the temple for your God Yahweh to come out. I thought if he could kill me maybe He would spare you.

Both look at each other again.

SIMON (CONT'D)

I saw a group of his followers and the one who gave us the bread and fish the other day asked me to accompany them to the grave. When we arrived he had risen.

JASON

You mean stolen.

SIMON

No risen.

(beat)

I left to go back to Cyrene and met him on the road.

NAOMI

You met Jesus on the road?

SIMON

Naomi, He is the Messiah. He has risen from the dead. He told me to come here, to tell you the story.

NAOMI

Why, why tell us?

SIMON

He said there was something that was going to happen and that I should return here, to Jerusalem, to your shop and tell you, all that I saw.

JASON

Why us?

SIMON

I don't know. Trust me I do not think I am well liked here.

NAOMI

I was hard on you, you are family. In our house, you are loved. I was wrong. I am just so confused.

SIMON

I, I think I can understand the feeling. I just talked to a man who rose from the dead and told me to go to the one place in the world that kicked me out the day before yesterday.

Naomi and Jason walk over to Simon and hug him.

JASON

Our house is yours.

SIMON

Thank you.

NAOMI

Now tell us everything. From the very beginning.

SIMON

It started actually when I came a few years ago to bring Jason the gift from my Father. Remember when we met at the river...

FADE OUT.

EXT. JERUSALEM STREET - AFTERNOON

The sky is turquoise with purple and rose colored clouds. There are a number of vendors and shopkeepers selling their wares.

There is a group of 3 Greek women in Chitons but covered in linen himation also covering their heads. Simon is walking down the road. It is weeks later.

He doesn't notice the women. They notice him.

DI

Simon.

He stops and looks.

DI (CONT'D)

Simon, has it been so long, you have forgotten me?

SIMON

Di? Di, what are you doing here?

DI

We came to see if we could find  
Silphium. There was so much rain  
this year it has spoiled the crop.  
We have the Festival of Apollo and  
the harvest has been good except  
for the herb we all need.

Simon looks at the other two women.

DI (CONT'D)

I am sorry do you know Aikaterini  
and Vasiliki? They have accompanied  
me on my trip.

SIMON

No, I do not think so. Wait  
Vasiliki did you take a class from  
my father?

Vasiliki shakes her head no, giggles, and turns to  
Aikaterini. Both the girls continue shopping. Leaving Simon  
and Di together.

DI

Vasiliki is like you she does not  
talk much and Aikaterini is  
scheduled to be married after the  
Feast.

All of a sudden a sound like a great wind was heard coming  
from a room above the street.

SIMON

Now what?

DI

What is going on?

SIMON

I have a lot to tell you about what  
has been happening here. I have  
discovered a new God.

People from all nations are running to the square down the  
road from where they are standing.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Come on.

DI

I don't know.

SIMON

Come on. Vasiliki, and Aikaterini  
come with us.

They all run to see what the commotion is.

The door in a upper room is open and there are flashing  
lights. The disciples and the women who follow them are  
coming down the stairs. There are tongues of flame appearing  
above their heads.

They are all speaking in languages familiar to all the people  
assembled.

Many are commenting on what they hear.

DI

How do they know our language?

SIMON

I hear at least a dozen languages.

PHARISEE

These men are drunk. All I hear is  
gibberish.

Peter goes to a balcony above the square and raises his  
hands. All look at him.

PETER

People of Judea and all who dwell  
in Jerusalem, let this be known to  
you, and heed my words. For these  
are not drunks, as you suppose,  
since it is only the afternoon but  
this is what was spoken by the  
prophet Joel;  
And it shall come to pass in the  
last days, says God, that I will  
pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;  
Your sons and your daughters shall  
prophecy, your young men shall see  
visions, your old men shall dream  
dreams.  
And on My menservants and on My  
maidservants I will pour out My  
Spirit in those days, and they  
shall prophecy.  
I will show wonders in heaven above  
and signs in the earth beneath  
blood and fire and vapor of smoke.  
(MORE)

PETER (CONT'D)

The sun shall be turned into  
darkness, and the moon into blood,  
before the coming of the great and  
awesome day of the Lord.

Simon looks at Di and says quietly.

SIMON

I saw that happen.

PETER

And it shall come to pass that  
whoever calls on the name of the  
Lord shall be saved.'

Looking down at all the people that are now assembled.

PETER (CONT'D)

Children of Israel, hear these  
words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man  
attested by God to you by miracles,  
wonders, and signs which God did  
through Him in your midst, as you  
yourselves also know Him, being  
delivered by the determined purpose  
and foreknowledge of God, you have  
taken by lawless hands, have  
crucified, and put to death, whom  
God raised up, having loosed the  
pains of death, because it was not  
possible that He should be held by  
it. For David says concerning Him:  
I foresaw the Lord always before my  
face, For He is at my right hand,  
that I may not be shaken.  
Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my  
tongue was glad; Moreover, my flesh  
also will rest in hope.  
For You will not leave my soul in  
Hades, nor will You allow Your Holy  
One to see corruption.  
You have made known to me the ways  
of life; you will make me full of  
joy in Your presence.'  
Men and brethren, let me speak  
freely to you of the Father David,  
that he is both dead and buried,  
and his tomb is with us to this  
day.

(MORE)



## PETER (CONT'D)

Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: The Lord said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles,

## SIMON

Men and women, what shall we do?

Di looks at him knowing he would never have before shouted out in a crowd.

## PETER

Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.

Many in the crowd fell to their knees confessing the shame to God. Others were shaking their heads in disbelief.

The Disciples were gathering small groups together and praying over them.

Some of the groups were going off to be baptized.

SIMON

Come on Di. Would you like to be baptized?

DI

Will it hurt?

SIMON

No, in fact, once you do you will be able to live forever in the Kingdom of God.

DI

Elysium?

SIMON

Kind of. I'll explain it on the way. Vasiliki and Aikaterini come on I'll tell you all about Jesus and who he is.

The two girls shake their heads no.

DI

(Looking at them)

I am going with Simon. Something has changed him. I am deeply impressed.

Simon holds out his hand and Di takes it looking into his eyes.

Her two friends get stompy and slump their shoulders but follow along.

EXT. SHIP - DAY

Simon is standing by the bridge of the ship. There are the oarsman and sailors sitting underneath him.

Di and her friends are listening to him.

There are other passengers spellbound by his story.

He is animated and obviously telling a story. He reaches out his hand like being on a cross.

Many of the people are deeply moved. Vasiliki begins to cry and Di comforts her.

EXT. SHIP BOW - LATER

Simon is standing on the bow and looking at the dolphins that are leading the ship.

Di approaches.

DI  
It is so beautiful.

SIMON  
That it is.

DI  
Didn't you use to have a pet  
dolphin?

SIMON  
How did you know that?

DI  
You told me once as a child.

SIMON  
I believed that I had a sea nymph  
that protected me.

DI  
You might.

SIMON  
No, it was a childish thought.

DI  
Is it one of these?

SIMON  
No, they are just along for the  
ride.

DI  
I wonder why they lead the ship.

SIMON  
I don't know.

DI  
Well, I believe that they are here  
to protect us.

SIMON  
I was hoping for that job.

DI  
It is about time.

They kiss.

DI (CONT'D)  
Simon, you have changed. I am very  
impressed.

He smiles at her.

DI (CONT'D)  
What are you going to do when we  
get home?

SIMON  
First, I am going to celebrate  
being home. Then I was thinking of  
taking a wife.

DI  
Oh, you were?

He kisses her again.

SIMON  
Yes. I am.

DI  
Does she know?

SIMON  
No, it is going to be a surprise.

DI  
Then we should not kiss anymore. I  
don't want to kiss someone else's  
husband.

SIMON  
I am not married yet and I believe  
I could use the practice.

DI  
You seem pretty accomplished to me.

SIMON  
And you have a lot of experience?

DI  
No, but I know what I like.

SIMON

I have no experience at all and  
think I need a lot of practice.

DI

Then let me continue the lessons.

They kiss again.

INT. SIMON'S HOUSE - DAY

Simon enters and his mother turns to see him.

MOTHER

By the gods, is this Simon  
returning?

SIMON

Mother.

They hug.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Where is Dad?

MOTHER

(yells upstairs)  
Ajax get down here we have a  
visitor.

Coming down the stairs.

AJAX

Who is it?

Seeing his son.

AJAX (CONT'D)

By the gods. Has our son returned?

SIMON

He has.

They embrace.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Garlic?

AJAX

I was sick. Your mother made me her  
famous onion and garlic soup.

SIMON  
Reminder don't get sick, wow.

Waving his hands.

AJAX  
It is not that bad.

Simon nods excitedly that it is.

SIMON  
That reminds me I have a gift for  
you mother.

MOTHER  
For me?

SIMON  
Do you remember my friend Di?

MOTHER  
That little girl that had a crush  
on you?

SIMON  
I don't think she had a crush.

MOTHER  
Trust me a mother knows.

SIMON  
Well, I ran into her in Jerusalem  
and she gave me a present for you.

MOTHER  
Whatever could it be?

Simon looks in his bag and pulls out a leather bag tied on  
the top.

Handing it to his mother, she opens it and looks in  
surprised.

MOTHER (CONT'D)  
By the gods, Silphium. Where did  
she find it?

SIMON  
That is why she came to Jerusalem.  
I heard you have had some rain?

MOTHER

It had wiped out the whole crop.  
I'll again have my special bread  
for the Feast.

SIMON

Are they still having the  
Thargelia?

AJAX

Still? Why would we not have the  
Thargelia?

SIMON

I don't know. I have so much to  
tell you, but first, what have you  
been up to?

AJAX

The Romans conquered a new land  
called Spain. I have been working  
on creating a written language for  
them. They have a very interesting  
sound.

He rolls his R's going up and down in tone.

SIMON

How do you do that?

AJAX

You put your tongue to the top of  
your mouth and blow and vibrate it.

Simon tries but fails.

MOTHER

Like this.

AJAX

You'll get it.

MOTHER

How was Jerusalem? We have heard  
some fascinating stories.

SIMON

Whatever you have heard is not even  
close to the truth. Is there time  
to talk?

AJAX

You want to talk? Who is this man?

SIMON

Here, sit you two. Do I have a story to tell.

His parents look at each other and sit. His mother gives the bag to Ajax to smell and he shuts his eyes like he is in Elysium.

SIMON (CONT'D)

When I first got back to Jerusalem I again ran into that man Jesus...

AJAX

He is the one we heard stories about.

SIMON

I feel so strange calling him a man for he is...

FADE OUT.

EXT. APOLLO TEMPLE PARK - DAY

Once again Ajax with a cane, Simon and his mother walk to a set of tables and set their food on them.

Di comes running up.

DI

Have you told them yet?

MOTHER

Told us what?

SIMON

No, I must talk to your parents first.

The way they are looking at each other there is no mistaking what they are talking about.

DI

Come let's dance.

MOTHER

Dance, that would be the day when...

SIMON

I would love to.



DI

I thought you would never ask.

Mother and Ajax look stunned.

Simon and Di walk out to the middle of the field where everyone is dancing. Some around Maypoles. Some throw flowers in the air. Some spinning and holding hands.

Simon and Di are doing a choreographed dance joining a group doing the same dance.

They are laughing and looking at each other, the world seems to melt away.

After a moment of dancing, he holds her and whispers something.

She looks around the field full of people and points to a row of tables.

He grabs her hand and skips to the tables.

He bows to the woman and the man standing they shake arms.

Saying something to the man the woman rises to stand next to her husband.

Simon grabs Di around the waist and continues.

The man looks sternly at Di. Asks her something.

She looks at Simon and lovingly nods.

The man looks at Simon and they shake arms.

Simon and Di hug.

Turning Simon sees his mother across the field looking at them.

Again grabbing Di's hand they walk to Simon's parents.

MOTHER

Did what I just think happened,  
happen?

Simon looks at Di who is smiling back at him.

SIMON

Mother, I am going to need to raise  
a dowry.

MOTHER

By the god's

SIMON

In Jesus name.

MOTHER

In Jesus name. Welcome to the family Di.

The two women hug.

Ajax who was sitting on the ground starts to get up.

AJAX

Don't just stand there, give me a hand.

Simon helps his dad to stand and he joins in the hug fest.

EXT. APOLLO THEATRON - LATER

Again the sky is turquoise with purple, orange, and pink clouds.

The seats are full and there are torches and two fire pits on the stage.

The ORACLE of Cyrene walks to the center holding up his hands

The crowd begins to quiet.

ORACLE

Friends, Greeks, and visitors we have come to my favorite part of the festival. The story. We are a culture devoted to the arts, music, language, science, medicine, sculpture, painting, and song. Who would like to be the first to tell a heroic song?

As people are looking around Simon stands up and walks out to the center. Di who was next to him looks approvingly.

ORACLE (CONT'D)

Do I know you?

SIMON

My name is Simon.

ORACLE

Where do you hail from Simon?

SIMON

I was raised here. Ajax the polygon  
is my father.

ORACLE

Okay, Simon son of Ajax you have  
the arena.

BASIL

This ought to be good. He has never  
said more than 10 words in his  
life.

There are snickers in the arena.

SIMON

Basil, is that you? This man  
bullied me since I was a young boy  
in school but you can bully me no  
longer. Greeks, people of Cyrene I  
have a story of love. The kind of  
love that brings peace, joy, and  
understanding. The kind of love  
that all men and women long for.  
This is a story of God's love for  
us. I have a question for you  
first. Have you ever met a man that  
from the very first instant, you  
knew, your life would be different?  
This is the story of a man I  
personally met. A man I heard  
preach. A man I ate with. A man who  
died and then  
(beat)  
rose from the dead.

The crowd murmurs and leans in.

SIMON (CONT'D)

A man that was truly the Son of  
God.

The crowd again murmurs.

Simon looks down on the ground and raises his hands till the  
crowd quiets.

Looking up into the crowd.

SIMON (CONT'D)

A man named Jesus of Nazareth.

SNAP TO BLACK:

