

GOOD FRIDAY 2021 – IS HE WORTHY?

PRE-MUSIC

READER 1

READER 2

READER 3

READER 4

ADAM

EVE

JESUS

PETER

JAMES

JOHN

ANGEL

FINALE “CHOIR” (every tribe, tongue, nation - socially distanced)

LIGHTS OUT

1. SONG: “REVIVAL, EPIC BACKGROUND MUSIC”

SPOTLIGHT on scrim, with Jesus actor behind it.

READER 1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

SPOTLIGHT OFF.

READER 2: Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

SPOTLIGHT ON SCRIM. *Actors playing Adam and Eve act behind screen.*

READER 2: So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

READER 3: And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

READER 4: Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?” You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

READER 1: When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked;

READER 3: The Lord God said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life."

SPOTLIGHT OFF SCRIM.

SPOTLIGHT ON EACH READER AS THEY SPEAK.

READER 2: Just as through one human being sin came into the world, and death came through sin, so death has come to everyone, since everyone has sinned.

READER 4: Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

READER 1: Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

READER 3: The free gift of Christ isn't like Adam's failure. If many people died through what one person did wrong, God's grace is multiplied even more for many people with the gift—of the one person Jesus Christ—that comes through grace.

READER 2: There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

LIGHTS OUT.

Fade music down, then start:

2. SONG: "THE MISSION"

LIGHTS UP SOFT.

Jesus actor, with back to audience looks as if he is teaching and speaking to people.

READER 1: Jesus was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

READER 2: It was the night of Jesus' betrayal. The last night before his death. He shared the Passover meal with his disciples. Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane.

VIDEO OF olive press on screens.

READER 3: Gethsemane. The small garden at the foot of the Mount of Olives, just outside the city gate of Jerusalem. Gethsemane means oil press. There in this garden of olive trees, olives are crushed and pressed in three different phases.

READER 4: **Phase 1** – Crushing. The olives, shaken from their trees, are placed in a stone pit and crushed by a heavy, turning millstone.

READER 1: Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities.

READER 2: Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled.

READER 3: Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

Jesus returns to disciples, finds them sleeping. Talks to them, returns to pray.

SPOTLIGHT ON PETER.

PETER: I do not understand why Jesus is so distraught. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked me. “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Watch and pray, He says. I have been doing that for three years. He knows I am a man of action. Some say I am too impulsive and speak my mind too quickly. But it was me who got out of the boat and walked on water to Him, wasn’t it? Sometimes I feel like I am leading HIM along. Time is short! I have boldly gone where He has sent me. I am willing to go to prison or to die with Him! I have already given three years of my life to him. I’ve given up my job, my income, my home...Is He worthy? Is He worthy of ALL my life? Sleeping on the ground? Not having two coins to rub together? We have to rely on a miracle of pulling coins out of a fish just to pay our taxes! But.. he rebuked me, minutes ago. He said I would deny him three times.. tonight. Surely that is not true. I would never... He seems so sad. The heaviness of this night just makes me so tired.

SPOTLIGHT ON READERS as they speak.

READER 4: **Phase 2** – Pressing. The olives, now crushed, are pressed with heavy millstones, squeezing more oil from them.

READER 3: A second time he prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”

FADE MUSIC, down and off

SPOTLIGHT ON JAMES.

JAMES: Jesus calls my brother John and me the sons of thunder! We asked Jesus once if we could call down fire from heaven to destroy a village which refused to show us hospitality. We asked if we could sit on his right and on his left when He comes into His Kingdom. I’m still not sure of His answer to that, but obviously we three are His inner-most circle. We were the ones who saw Him transfigured. I am certain there will be titles for us, a kingdom even. We got into a bit of an argument tonight over which

of us disciples should be regarded as the greatest. We have done so much for him. Is He worthy? Sure, it's thrilling to witness the miracles He has performed. And He is the most amazing teacher anyone has ever heard. But is all this following Jesus, the difficulties, the spiritual warfare..it's not fun. Is it all going to be what we've hoped for in the end? He wants us to stay awake and pray tonight. There's always tomorrow.

Jesus returns to the men, he again finds them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. He leaves them.

SPOTLIGHT ON READERS as they speak.

READER 4: **Phase 3** – the final pressing. More weights are added to the millstone to press out *every possible bit of oil from the olives.*

READER 3: And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like drops of blood falling down to the ground.

SPOTLIGHT ON JOHN.

JOHN: Jesus loves me. He has included me as one of His closest friends. I know that nothing will change His love for me. He will not love me more or less because of what I do. We have given up so much to follow Jesus. What will the rest of my life look like following Him? Is He worthy? He says to stay awake and pray with Him. So that we will not fall into temptation He says. He said such deep and disturbing things tonight. They were so heavy. I'm so sleepy. Surely, it's no big deal to sleep this hour or two to get some rest. I'm sure He can pray enough for all of us. It's not like He'll change His love for me, if I ignore that and just sleep a bit.

SPOTLIGHT OFF.

3. SONG: "GETHSEMANE" Getty (5:37)

Jesus in garden, in agony, getting up to get arrested – disciples shocked, run the other way. Peter with sword. Black. Then video on screens of his crucifixion.

SPOTLIGHT ON CORY.

Pastor Cory – talk

SOFT LIGHTS

COMMUNION:

4. SONG: "SING TO JESUS" (F. Ortega) Live or recorded or other song

WARM LIGHTS.

5. SONG: YOUR WILL BE DONE (City Alight) with lyrical dancers (1-3)

LIGHTS OUT.

SOFT LIGHTS UP, SPOTLIGHT ON EACH APOSTLE AS THEY SPEAK.

PETER: I do not know Him! I am not one of His followers! I do not know what you are talking about! And so Jesus was right. I did deny him three times that night. And oh how I wept, bitterly.

After His resurrection, I returned to Him. I served the Lord Jesus, writing and taking the Good News wherever I was sent. I was killed by Nero in Rome, crucified upside down, because I did not fathom that I deserved a death like that of my Lord Jesus.

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

Is He worthy? Oh yes, He is worthy!

JAMES: I went on to serve Jesus after his death and resurrection. I was the first Apostle to die for Him, killed by the sword by King Herod. And so I was the first to see Him in glory. Is He worthy? He is worthy of all praise and honor and glory!

JOHN: On the cross, Jesus entrusted his mother Mary to me. When Mary died, I went to Ephesus, where I wrote my three epistles. The Romans, many say, brought me into a coliseum and dunked me in a vat of boiling oil. When I emerged unharmed, the entire coliseum converted to Christianity. From there, I was exiled to the island of Patmos for preaching the gospel.

On Patmos, I received the revelation from Christ and wrote the Book of Revelation.

READER 1: Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice..

ANGEL: Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?

READER 4: But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole? Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?

6. SONG: "IS HE WORTHY" Shane and Shane

Every tribe and tongue in native costumes. Sing, come forward. Bright light at end. All gasp and fall to ground.

LIGHTS OUT