

Jesus Was A Fingerpainter

By Jim Pappas
Adapted for Timber Ridge Camp

Characters

Tamar
Jesus
Orpah
Timna
Jerusha
Nathan
Tobias
Yehuda
Matthias
Jonas

Scene 1

Orpah: ...And did you hear about the blind beggar?
Timna: What about him?
Orpah: Jesus healed him too.
Jerusha: The one who begs near the temple?
Orpah: That's the one.
Timna: Wonderful.
Jerusha: But he was blind from birth.
Orpah: No matter to Jesus. Put clay on his eyes and healed him just like that.
(Enter Nathan unseen)
Timna: He is such a great man. I don't understand why the priests and rulers are so set against Him.
Jerusha: Neither do I. Just think of the reformation in our land if the leaders would work with Jesus instead of against Him.
Orpah: It's a mystery to me, girls. Seems what with the Holy Writings they would be the first to follow him.
Nathan: That, ladies, is precisely why they are not following him.
All: Good day, Rabbi.
Nathan: Good day, ladies. I'm sorry to interrupt, but I couldn't help but overhear you conversation.
Orpah: Oh, we didn't mean nothin' by it, Rabbi.

Timna: No, Rabbi. Just old women at the well, you know ...

Nathan: You must be very careful how you speak, ladies. We tend to believe the words from our own mouths even above those of our spiritual leaders.

Jerusha: You're right, Rabbi. We'll be extra careful from now on not to even gossip about that country bumkin.

Timna: That's right, Rabbi.

Nathan: Good. I'm glad to hear you talking that way. Well, wee you later. Do take care, eh?

Orpah: Oh, yes, Rabbi.

(Exit Nathan)

Timna: Whew. We better button our lips.

Jerusha: I'll say. That was close. We could have gotten into some real hot water.

Orpah: Yes, indeedy. Jesus is a great one to talk about all right, but let's not go getting into trouble over Him.

(Enter Tamar)

Jerusha: Right.

Timna: Speaking of trouble ...

Jerusha: Well, if it isn't the town scandal.

Orpah: Sh-h-h...

Tamar: Hello. Beautiful day, isn't it?

Orpah: It was.

Tamar: Have you heard that Jesus is teaching in the temple?

Timna: Rumors.

Tamar: It's true. He's there now.

Jerusha: So what's that to us?

Tamar: Aren't you going to listen to him?

Timna: What's he talking about?

Tamar: The kingdom of God and forgiveness of sin.

Orpah: Is that why you're going?

Jerusha: 'Course it is. Why else would she be going?

Scene 2

Tobias: I tell you it's foolproof.

Yehuda: That's what we thought when we asked Him about taxes.

Nathan: And all the times with the other trick questions.

Yehuda: You think you can do better than they did?

Tobias: Yes, I do.

Nathan: I don't know.

Tobias: Look. There is no way it can fail. We line up this girl I know about - with some guy. Then we catch them in the act and rush her down to the temple. We'll ask Jesus if we should stone her like Moses commanded or let her go.

Yehuda: And if He says stone her the Romans will jail Him for taking their powers to Himself.

Tobias: Right.

Nathan: Suppose He says we let her go?

Tobias: Then He has set aside the laws of Moses. The whole nation will hear and His career of this backwoods preacher will be ended.

Nathan: I like it.

Yehuda: So do I, but there's bound to be some way out of it. He's always tricked us before.

Nathan: Not this time. There are only two answers and either will ruin Him

Yehuda: I don't know.

Nathan: Look, we've got no choice. I just heard three women building up His name. The whole nation has His name on their lips. We must act.

Yehuda: I agree. This is foolproof if anything is.

Tobias: Good. I'll arrange things with the young lady. You be sure to be there with plenty of Romans, Rabbis and rocks.

Nathan: What time?

Tobias: The fifth hour. She sleeps late.

Nathan: Settled.

Tobias: I'll go get things ready.

Yehuda: Wait. Gentlemen. Let us not forget to give thanks.

All: Amen.

Nathan: Go to your task, brother. Godspeed.

(Exit Tobias)

Yehuda: You think it will work?

Nathan: It has to. There is no possible way out of this one.

Scene 3

(Tobias knocks)

Tamar: Who is it?

Tobias: Tobias.

Tamar: Oh, Come in.

Tobias: I ... uh, have a favor to ask.

Tamar: Please, not today. I'm on my way to the temple to hear Jesus talk.

Tobias: Oh, it's not for today. Tomorrow.

Tamar: I don't know if I should be seeking you this way anymore. I'm beginning to feel ...

Tobias: It's not for me. It's for a friend. I told him about you.

Tamar: I shouldn't. This life is making me feel guilty. Especially since Jesus started ...

Tobias: Please just this once. I promised him ... It's very important.

Scene 4

Yehuda: Everything ready?

Nathan: All set. The rabbis are here, the Roman guard is ready, and there is a large crowd here to witness the downfall of Jesus.

Yehuda: Good. Excellent. They should be here any time now.

Matthias: Hey. What's going on?

Jonas: Got me. There sure are a lot of soldiers around.

Matthias: Lots of Rabbis too.

Jonas: Something's gonna happen.

Matthias: Obviously.

Jonas: What're all the Rabbis carrying rocks for?

Matthias: Ask one and see.

Jonas: Rabbi? Pardon me, but why are you all carrying stones?

Nathan: Just stay by and you'll see. You might want to get a couple yourself.

Scene 5

Nathan: All set?

Tobias: Be here any second.

Yehuda: Good. You will no doubt be promoted for your part in this, Tobias.

Tobias: Thank you, Rabbi.

Nathan: Do you have your accusations ready?

Tobias: My accusations?

Nathan: This is your idea.

Tobias: They know what to say, sir.

Yehuda: I want you to speak out too, Tobias. We will support you.

Tobias: Yes ... Rabbi.

Yehuda: You seem hesitant, Tobias. Anything wrong?

Tobias: Well ... She was sort of a ... well ... sort of a special friend.

Yehuda: We all have "special friends," Tobias, my boy. Just don't get caught and don't let them stand in the way of God's service.

Scene 6

Nathan: Take her to the Master. He'll know what to do.

Yehuda: There's only one thing to do. Stone her as Moses commanded us.

Tobias: She's certainly guilty enough.

Yehuda: Caught her in the very act, we did.

Orpah: Look! It's ...

Timna: They caught her.

Orpah: She's dead for sure.

Jerusha: Poor dear.

Orpah: She's just getting what's due her.

Jerusha: Poor thing's shaking.

Timna: I'd be too if I were about to meet my Maker in sin.

Nathan: Bring here over the Master. He'll tell us what to do.

Yehuda: Stone her, I say. Cleanse Israel of evil.

Tobias: Away with her.

Jonas: But should we not also show mercy?

Nathan: Too late for mercy. She has passed the limits of God's forgiveness. Cleanse Israel.

Yehuda: Master, this woman has been taken in adultery.

Tobias: In the very act.

Yehuda: Moses in the Law commanded us that such should be stoned. What do you say?

Matthias: Why doesn't Jesus answer?

Jonas: Maybe He's trying to give her more time to make things right with God.

Nathan: Well, Master?

Yehuda: Speak, Master. All Israel listens.

Jonas: What's He doing now?

Matthias: He's writing.

Jonas: In the dust.

Matthias: What's He writing?

Jonas: Looks like names and dates.

Matthias: And places.

Nathan: If I may say so, Sir, this is not time for finger painting in the dust. This case demands that you ... Excuse me, brethren. I just remembered something very urgent.

(Exit Nathan)

Orpah: Where's he going?

(Shrugs)

Yehuda: Master, please pass judgment for us. Shall we stone her or not? I mean, we have ... Oh ... Oh-h-h-h ... I feel terribly ill. Please pardon me.

(Exit Yehuda)

Tobias: Master, I don't know what You're writing that has disturbed these men but You must tend to the business at hand. This woman has ... Oh ... what time is it? Oh, dear, I've forgotten something extremely important.

(Exit Tobias)

Jesus: He who is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone.

Matthias: Oh, oh ... she's a dead woman now.

Jonas: But they're all gone.

Jesus: Woman, where are your accusers? Has no one condemned you?

Tamar: No one, Lord.

Jesus: Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more.

Tamar: But the Rabbis.

Jesus: Gone.

Tamar: Master, I have sinned. I have been ...

Jesus: Never mind. You are forgiven. Go. And sin no more.