SON OF MAN

by

Nathan Berry

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for Departmental Honors in the Department of Music Theory and Composition

Texas Christian University

Fort Worth, Texas

May 8, 2017

SON OF MAN

Project Approved:

Supervising Professor: Blaise Ferrandino, DMA

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ABSTRACT

Son of Man is a rock opera currently being composed by Nathan Berry. The writing process began in the summer of 2016, and the project will culminate in the production and release of a studio album recording of the show. This record is slated to be released by the end of 2017. The book, lyrics, and music are all written by Berry; the lyrics have been completed and there are only a few songs that have yet to be set to music. The department honors project centered on Berry's senior recital, which featured live musicians performing eleven of the show's twenty-one songs. These eleven songs were selected to lay out the structural skeleton of the show's narrative. Contained in this document are the following items: the program and program notes (which include a description of the plot) from Berry's recital on April 28th, 2017, full scores of the eleven songs that were performed live, lyrics of all twenty-one songs, and artwork created for the project by Kevin Harrington-Bain.

Content of this Document

Listed in order

- April 28th, 2017 recital program
 April 28th, 2017 recital program notes
- Full scores of the eleven songs presented in the recital on April 28th, 2017
- Full lyrics of the total twenty-one songs of *Son of Man*
- Artwork for Son of Man by Kevin Harrington-Bain Note: Each item is paginated individually



Nathan Berry, Composition

Friday, April 28, 2017

7:30 PM

Brown-Lupton University Union Ballroom

Selections from Son of Man (2017)

Book, lyrics, and music by Nathan Berry (b. 1993)

O Come Emmanuel
Bread of Life

Water into Wine

The Temptation

My Love

Coming Out

Mary and Hannah

It is Finished

This was for the Best

Lament of Joseph and Miriam

Bread of Life (reprise)

The Lamb of God, the Bitter Cup

This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Bachelor of Music in Music Composition. Mx. Berry is a student of Dr. Blaise Ferrandino

Cast

Jesus	Nathan Berry
Caiaphas	Dr. David Grogan
Hannah	Adriana Medina
Mary	Kyra McGuirk
Miriam	Amber Davis
Judas	Will Wood
Joseph	Jonathan Carmichael
Isaiah	Melina Wikoff
Random Dudette	Victoria Wood
Random Dude	Kathy Berry
Cynical Steward	Sarah Davis

Band

Piano: Charlene Sutton

Violin: Melanie Demer

Viola: Marcela Chavarria

Cello: Nathaniel Cook

Cello: Drew Johnson

Guitar: Nathan Berry

Guitar: Paul Demer

Bass Guitar: Dr. Neil Anderson-

Himmelspach

Drums: Patrick Bowman

Drums: Ben Cato



Artwork by Kevin Harrington-Bain



PROGRAM NOTES

Development of the show

Rock operas combine my favorite styles of music with the well-established musical tradition of storytelling. Over the last few years it has become one of my favorite genres. So, when it came time to decide what my departmental honors project would be, it did not take long for me to decide I wanted to compose one of my own.

I began work on *Son of Man* in the summer of 2016. I quickly decided that I wanted to write a show that would serve as a commentary on the relationship between white Evangelical Christianity and political power in the United States. My original idea was to create an alternate version of the Gospel where the rhetoric of political figures (such as Donald Trump or Ted Cruz) who enjoy wide support from Evangelicals is put into the mouth of Jesus. This would serve to examine whether such rhetoric would ring true to Jesus' character.

However, my composition instructor, Dr. Blaise Ferrandino, noted that this would likely become a farcical show that would quickly lose the potential power of its message. Eventually I hit upon two questions that would be more meaningful to explore: What would Jesus' ministry look like if he let his human nature ultimately guide his actions? and What would have happened if Jesus became a part of the religious and political power system of his time? As a Christian who identifies as genderqueer, the lens through which I am exploring these questions is the consequences of theology are not affirming of LGBTQ+ individuals.

Plot and characters*

The show opens just before Jesus begins his ministry in earnest. Jesus introduces himself as the one who has been called by God to "make life on earth as it is in heaven." Various other characters talk about this new prophet (*Bread of Life*). The next scene is the wedding at Cana, where Jesus turns water into wine. In the Bible, Jesus goes about this in a quiet manner, not wishing to call attention to himself. In my alternative telling, however, Jesus chooses to make a show out of it at the behest of his mother Mary in order to attract a following and kick-start his ministry (*Water into Wine*). Mary, wishing to ensure that Jesus does not meet the same deadly fate as his cousin John the Baptist, goes to the high priest Caiaphas and convinces him that Jesus would be a great asset to Caiaphas himself and to the temple (*Caiaphas and Mary*). Caiaphas, emulating the tempter in the desert (an incarnation of Satan as presented in the Gospels) (*Caiaphas Tempts Jesus*), goes to Jesus. He describes what might be accomplished if Jesus allied his powers with the resources of the temple (*Why Give it Away?*).

As Jesus' ministry goes on, he continues to make reasonable human, decisions: In exchange for healing the dying slave of a Roman centurion, he asks the centurion to promise to protect him from potential persecution (Scratch My Back); uses the Beatitudes to re-ignite the support of the marginalized who have begun to feel abandoned by him due to his work in the temple (The Beatitudes); and performs a miracle to feed a huge crowd following him so that they will leave him alone (Loaves and Fishes/Astonish Or Minds).

By this time, Jesus has strayed from his original ethos of advocating for the marginalized. When a rich young ruler asks Jesus what he must do in order to inherit eternal life, Jesus uses the parable of the prodigal son to warn the man to be careful with how he gives to charity by making sure they have earned his help (*Prosperity Gospel*).

The mechanism through which I explore the ramifications of non-LGBTQ+-affirming theology is the introduction of queer characters into this biblical world. Judas, who in this telling

^{*} Titles of songs featured in this recital are in boldface

is Jesus' right-hand man, falls in love with Jesus. Hannah (an invented character), the younger sister of Jesus, is in a relationship with another woman. The way that Jesus chooses to react as their identities are revealed becomes the focus of the show's conclusion, serving as a commentary on the way that many Christians and churches treat the LGBTQ+ individuals in their families and congregations.

Due to her fear of how her family would react if her sexual orientation were to become known, Hannah lives with serious depression. However, the love of her girlfriend Miriam is a source of strength and encouragement for her (My Love). After having fallen in love with Jesus, Judas spends time in prayer contemplating whether or not to confess his love to Jesus. He eventually decides that he will declare his love. (How Beautiful). Jesus is now conflicted between his loyalty to Judas, the teachings of his religion, and his reputation, Caiaphas, having overheard this conversation, implores Jesus to denounce Judas. He warns him that Judas' identity poses a risk to Jesus' reputation (Coming Out), which was already in danger after a sinful woman was seen using her hair to wash his feet with fine ointment (Party Time!). Jesus meets secretly with Judas in order to convince him to recant. Jesus reminds Judas that there could be deadly consequences if his orientation were to become known. However, Judas remains steadfast and refuses to lie about his identity. Frustrated, Jesus abandons Judas, leaving him to be arrested by Caiaphas and the religious authorities (Gethsemane).

Hannah finds out about these events and, worried that Jesus would not have her back, argues with Jesus about how he has handled the situation (Hannah Confronts Jesus). Frightened, Hannah goes to Mary for consolation and in her panic comes out to her mother. By this time Mary is obsessed with helping Jesus succeed no matter the cost. Mary becomes upset, worried that Hannah will put Jesus' reputation in danger. She goes to Caiaphas for advice (Mary and Hannah). Caiaphas wryly suggests that Mary "take care of" Hannah. Hannah has been driven to the brink of suicide by her mother's reaction. When Mary returns home, she finds Hannah preparing to hang herself, but hesitating to go through with it. Seizing this opportunity, Mary kicks the stool out from under Hannah, killing her daughter and, in her mind, saving Jesus' reputation (It is Finished).

Having learned of Hannah's "suicide", Jesus puts two and two together and blames himself for Hannah's death. Mary realizes that her son, now carrying the guilt for his sister's death, will be unable to effectively continue his ministry. She tells Jesus the truth, that she, Mary, killed Hannah (*This was for the Best*). Jesus and Hannah's father Joseph laments over the loss of his daughter, and invites Miriam to spend a moment alone with Hannah to mourn (*Lament of Joseph and Miriam*). Jesus then returns to the desert to reflect upon everything that has transpired, asking "if this is the fruit of my tree, what does that say about me?" (*Bread of Life-reprise*). The show closes with a version of *O Come O Come Emmanuel* that serves as a Greek chorus-like commentary on the drama (*The Lamb of God, the Bitter Cup*).

Theology of Son of Man

I have long thought that creating and exploring variations of biblical narratives is a meaningful yet underused way of doing theology—particularly when it involves Jesus. Many may feel this is an inappropriate practice; that one may be trying to remake Jesus into their own image. However, I believe that much can be learned from such an exercise. When done properly, the purpose of such variations should not be to make a definitive statement about Jesus. Such definitive statements are dangerous regardless of the form they take, and by focusing on the style of a message one decenters the message (and therefore its fruit, whether good or bad) itself.

Instead, changing a Gospel narrative to ask the question, "What if Jesus were like this?" prompts one to reflect on one's understanding of Jesus. One's reaction to such a question or thought experiment can be incredibly illuminating about who one understands Jesus to be. Whether one's reaction is "Jesus is not like that at all!" or "That rings true to Jesus' character," one has learned more about one's faith by engaging with the question. I believe that to be good fruit—as Jesus said, "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit...thus, by their fruit you will recognize them" (Matthew 7:18, 20).

This is the kind of theology I am doing with *Son of Man*. By introducing modern understandings of sexuality and gender identity, I am seeking to explore the ways Jesus' ministry is relevant to our lives today. I am asking a "what if Jesus..." question, suggesting a possible answer, then inviting you, my audience, to engage that question for yourselves and to reflect on how you feel about my answer. The message of this show is one that advocates for LGBTQ+ individuals and is critical of how the Church has usually treated them, and I have no intention of trying to hide that. However, more important than my message is that people to (and thereby refine) their own understanding of Jesus. With that in mind, I invite you to engage with my message and reflect upon the questions I present.

Future plans for Son of Man

I am still in the process of composing the entire rock opera, though I am nearing completion. I have finished writing the lyrics for all the songs in the show, and I only have a handful of songs left to compose. This summer, after I have finished the entire composition process, I will record, produce, and release a studio album recording of the entire show. Soon I will be launching an Indiegogo crowdfunding campaign in order to finance the mixing and mastering of the album and the production of CDs. Stay tuned for more info!

Thank you all for coming tonight, and I hope you enjoy the show! I warmly invite you to catch me after the concert or connect with me at a later time if you would like to discuss *Son of Man*.

Peace, Nathan Berry



Book, lyrics, and music by Nathan Berry

Complete score of selections performed on April 28th, 2017

Son of Man

April 28th, 2017 Recital Score by Nathan Berry

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0. O Come Emmanuel

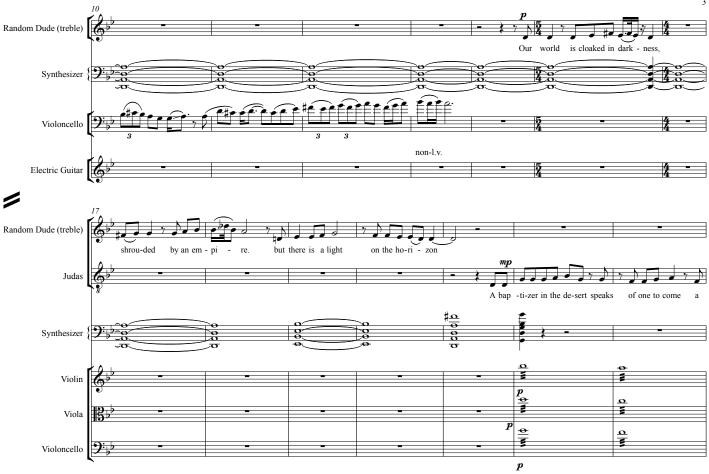
(Traditional, arr. Nathan Berry)



1. Bread of Life

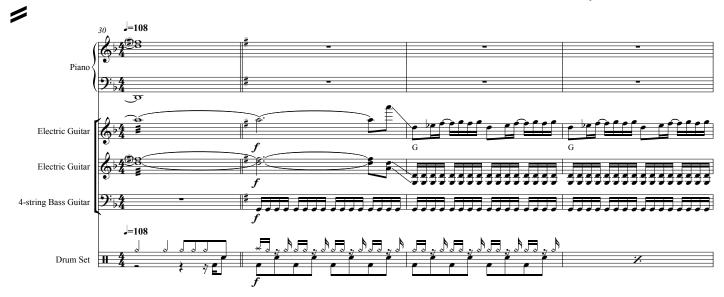












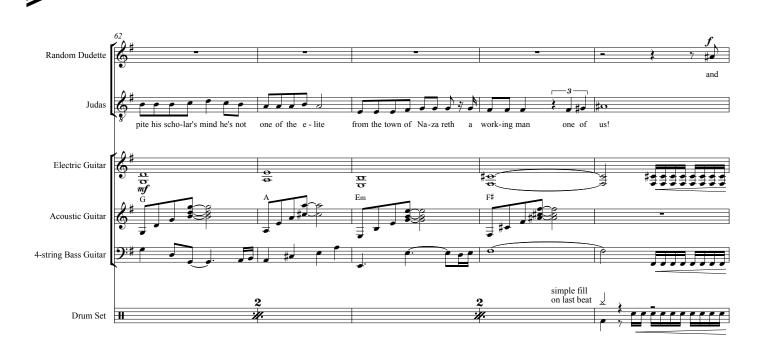




















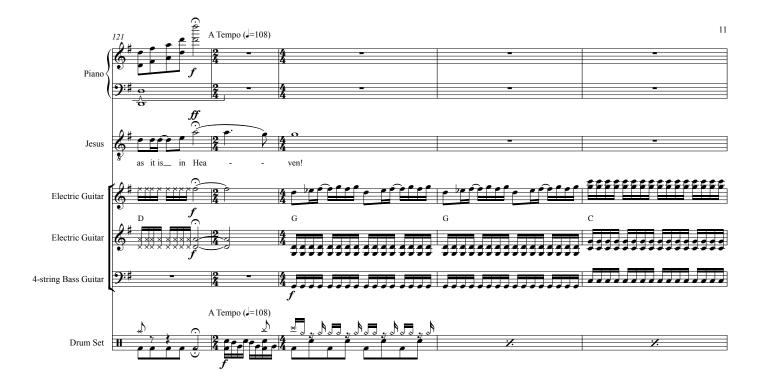




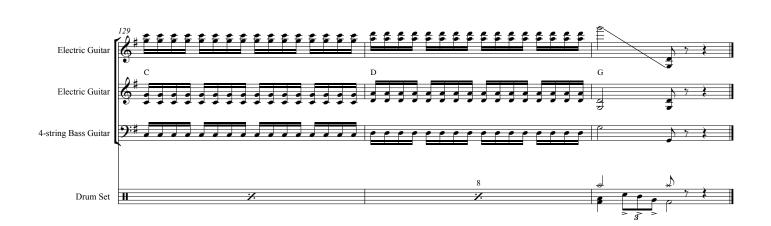








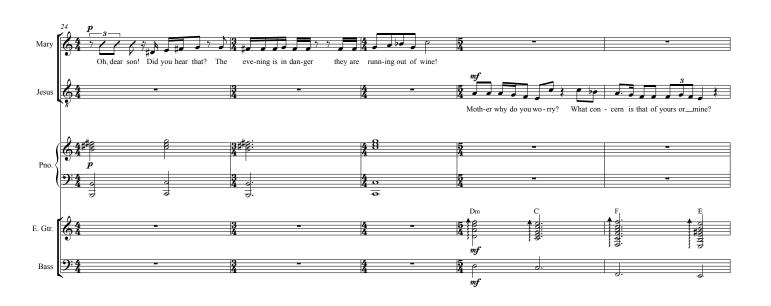














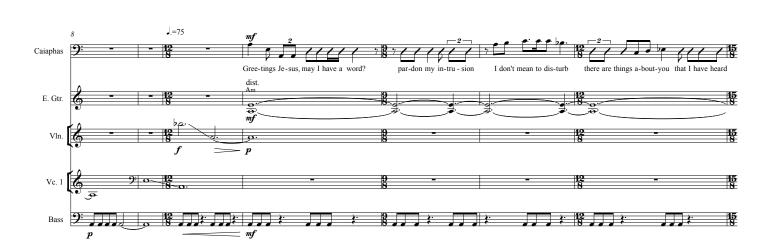






3. The Temptation

















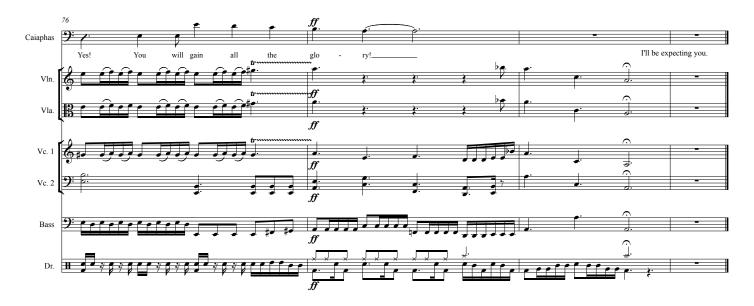


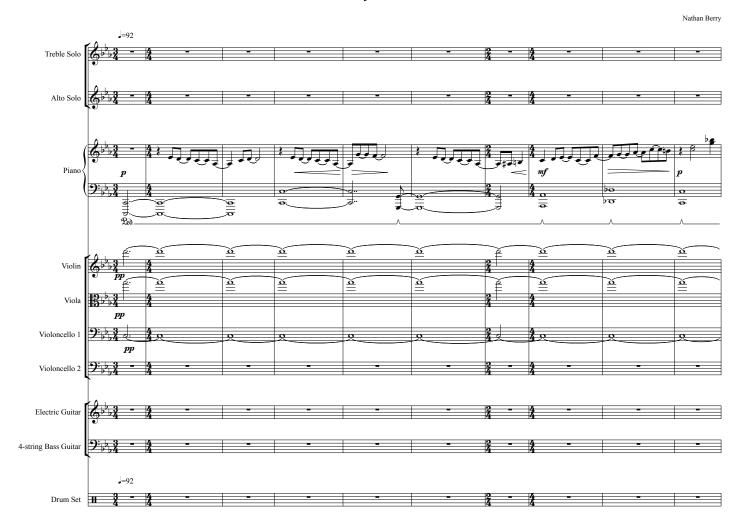






































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6. Mary and Hannah





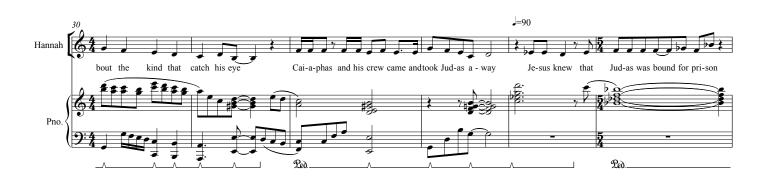




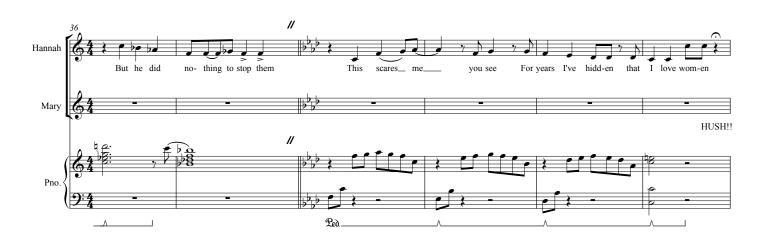




























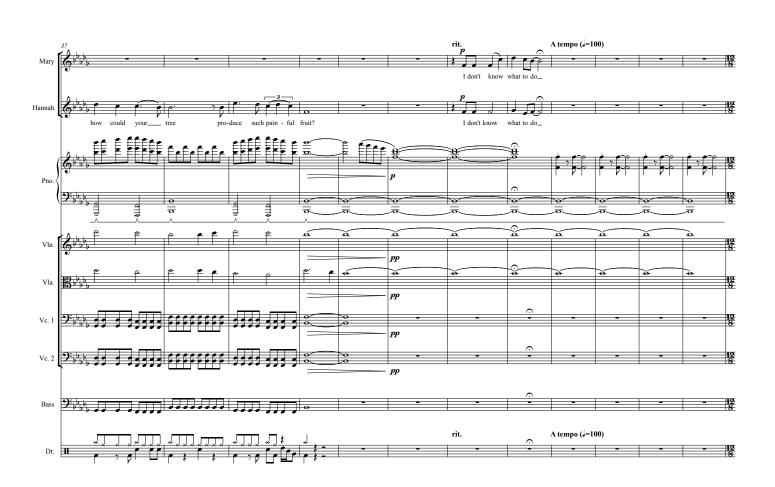














8. This was for the Best











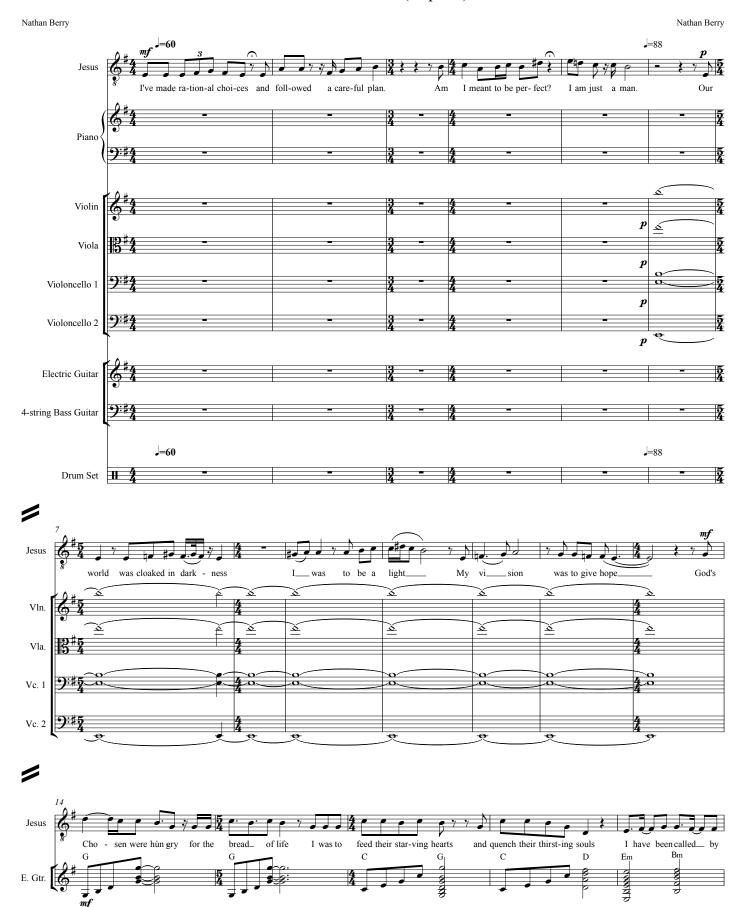


9. Lament of Joseph and Miriam













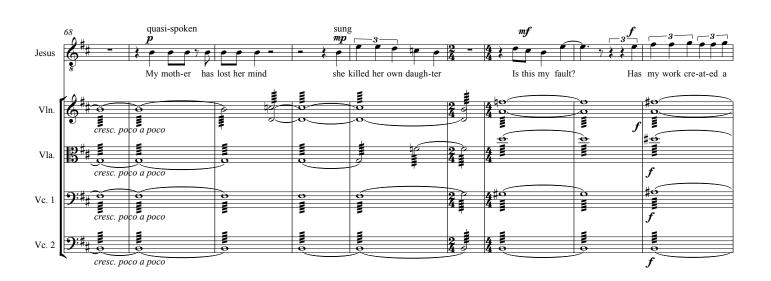




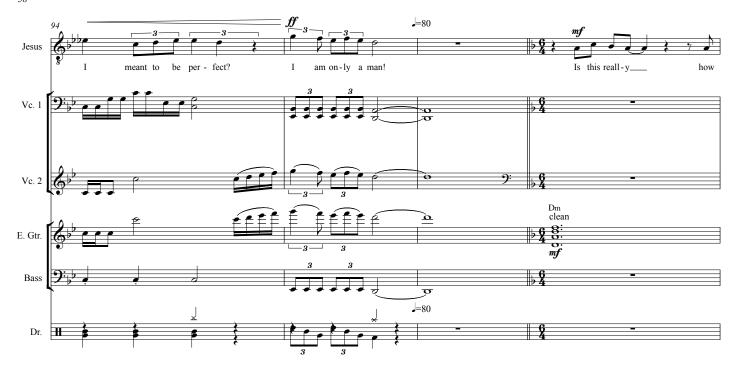








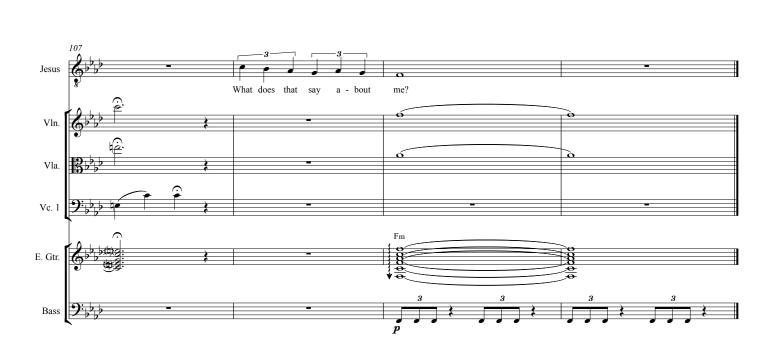








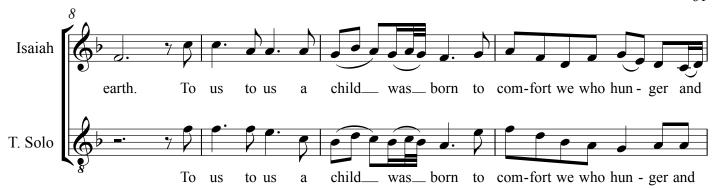




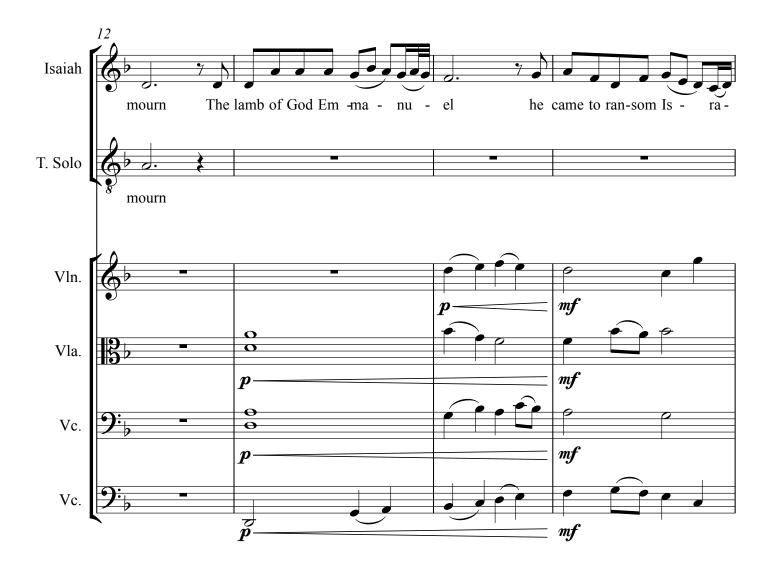
11. The Lamb of God, the Bitter Cup

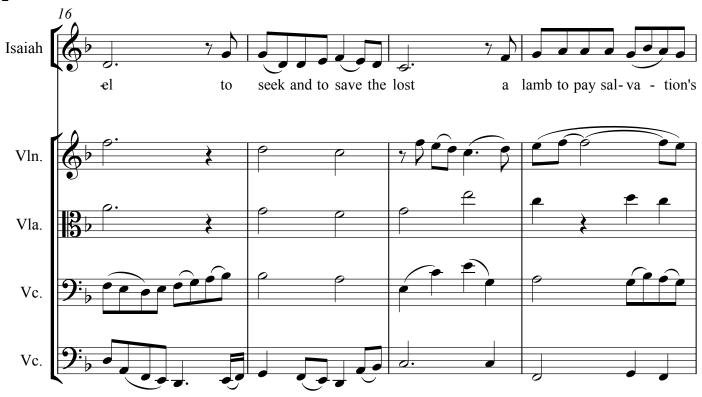
Nathan Berry Nathan Berry

















The Lyrics of Son of Man

by Nathan Berry

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Ensemble:

Our world is cloaked in darkness, shrouded by an empire But there is a light on the horizon A baptizer in the desert speaks of one to come A man whose vision might give us hope Our hearts are starving, hungry for new life Our souls struck by thirst for justice

Jesus:

God's chosen are hungry for the bread of life
I will feed their starving hearts, I will quench their thirsting souls
I have been called by our Creator
To make life on earth as it is in Heaven

Random dude:

I've heard this savior shit a million times before Tell me why *this* "messiah" should not be ignored

Judas:

Yes, that Simon was foolish and had the stench of Rome But a familiar face to the scribes, Jesus is a learned man And despite his scholar's mind he's not one of the elite From the town of Nazareth, a working man, one of us!

Random dudette:

And is he not from David's line like the prophets foretold?

Judas:

The son of Joseph, the son of Jacob, indeed he grows from the stump of Jesse And even more, Jesus is the one of whom the baptizer in the desert speaks!

Random dudette:

So he is from David's line He is our savior, just as John said!

Jesus:

God's chosen are hungry for the bread of life
I will feed their starving hearts, I will quench their thirsting souls
I have been called by our Creator
To make life on earth as it is in Heaven

Random dude:

What if the crowds get to his head?
Will he remember his roots, or forget us instead?

Hannah:

Throughout my whole life I have known no other more loyal and true than my big brother.

Jesus:

Dear sister, no matter where my journey goes You can count on my love, this you'll never need doubt This I promise to every one of you No matter where I go I won't forget where I'm from

Hannah:

This is my brother who brings the bread of life He will feed your starving hearts and quench your thirsting souls

Jesus:

I have been called by our Creator

To make life on earth as it is in Heaven

Servant: (to Steward)

Ma'am, I must inform you we have a problem here Though the wine is running out, the night's end is nowhere near

Mary:

Oh, dear son, did you hear that?
The evening is in danger; they are running out of wine!

Jesus:

Mother, why do you worry? What concern is that of yours or mine?

Mary:

Don't you know that our hosts would be in shame? Why not use your talents? Or did God bless you in vain?

Jesus:

While I have gifts from above are they meant for this trivial matter?

Mary:

The Word needs a following, the crowd would surely chatter! Servants, come here! Do as my son tells you.

Jesus:

Very well.

Fill those jars with water and bring them unto me
If you do as I say, you will soon see
Right in front of everyone's eyes, through the grace of God
I'll turn this water into wine!

Now, our gracious host would you be so kind as to give a toast?

Steward:

L'chaim!

By god, that is delicious, its quality unsurpassed! This is quite unusual, you've saved the best for last!

Ensemble:

Let us rejoice, let us rejoice We have seen a sign from God Let us sing, oh, let us sing Of Jesus' power we are in awe!

Mary:

Rabbi, I've come to tell you a story about my eldest son You might not believe me, but please hear me out I fear he is in trouble It may be that only you can help

Caiaphas:

Dear woman, please come near Though I have a skeptic's heart, I will lend an ear

Mary:

I am a humble woman from the land of Galilee
I was Betrothed to a carpenter at age fourteen
When an angel appeared, and told me something odd
right there in my womb—the Son of God!

And just as he said, nine months afterward I gave virgin birth!

Caiaphas:

Virgin birth?

Mary:

Yes, virgin birth.

Caiaphas:

That's absurd.

Mary:

I had not lain with my husband!

Caiaphas:

Oh, but you did lie to him.

Mary:

Please, you promised I'd be heard!

The strange things didn't stop there
Before he was three foreigners brought gifts fit for a king
Strangers came from beyond Galilee
They called him "Messiah," a remarkable thing!

You yourself may remember my son from his time in the temple He was the one studying scripture with your scholars Even though he was much smaller, sometimes it seemed my boy was teaching them!

Caiaphas:

I recall your Jesus, his mind was quite sharp But how can you expect me to take this as but a farce?

Maru:

My son has great powers, not found in man And not too long ago he gave us all a sign We were at a wedding, and all our cups had run dry But Jesus took the water and turned it into wine

Now he has a following, and I should be proud But I must confess to you, I don't trust his crowd Remember John the Baptist, and what happened to him? I worry that my son is on that same path, dark and grim

So would you take Jesus under your wing, lend him your guidance and wisdom? If you surround him with the right people I believe he'd resurrect God's Kingdom!

Caiaphas:

What you've said, if true, merits investigation And suppose I think your story is sound If I wished to speak with your son, Where might he be found?

Mary:

He has gone into the desert to pray and fast alone

Caiaphas:

Greetings, Jesus, may I have a word? Pardon the intrusion, I don't mean to disturb But there are things about you that I have heard That most people would find quite absurd

News of a wedding down in Galilee A miracle, they say, a true sight to see Water into wine, why, how could this be? Well, that's your doing I've been led to believe.

I've seen many talented men in my day Men claiming powers, who caused quite a fray, But by each of their ends they all went astray So I've grown quite cynical I'm afraid I must say

But you seem familiar; yes, I know your face As a young boy in the temple you spoke with much grace You gave questions and answers both at a torrid pace Mastery of scripture at twelve – an impressive case.

Now Jesus, I've also spoken with your mother She's told me things I wouldn't believe of any other person but you You've made this priest wonder if your gifts could be of no other than God!

It seems that you've been out here for quite a while From the sun and from hunger you must be light in the head. But if you're the Son of God, and can turn Water into wine, why not stone into bread?

Now that is impressive, but can you do more? For example, this cliff, would you survive the fall? Don't scriptures say that God's angels will keep you from harm? Take a leap of faith, why would you worry at all?

What might happen if you called for a storm? Or see that mountain? Tell it to run! Test your power and might discover That there's no end to what might be done

Just think of all the good you could do! Heal the sick, feed the hungry, exert your authority If you come to Jerusalem, return to the temple Mark my words, you will gain all the glory. Yes, you will gain all the glory! I'll be expecting you.

Hannah:

These cold, bare walls here as long as I can recall they've hidden who I am, and I wonder, Can I make it through it all?

I fear I'd be damned For who I truly am By my family, do they really love me? Or is it all a sham?

So I retreat into my mind I go out beyond the snows and hide myself away
In a forest dark and cold

But when I'm lost in winter
You are my spring
When my world has grown cold
Warmth is what you bring
Your beauty is radiant
Your eyes, pure as the doves
You have stolen my heart
You are my love

Miriam:

Nobody has a clue What they're missing in you You are perfect and complete, lovely and sweet You're a blessing, yes, it's all true

Let me look into your face Comfort you in my embrace Though your winter is, your spirit buried deep You're not alone in this place

So when you fade into your mind And go out beyond the snows When you hide yourself away In a forest dark and cold I'll be there

When you're lost in winter
I will be your spring
When your world has grown cold
Warmth is what I'll bring

Your beauty is radiant Your eyes, pure as the doves You have stolen my heart My love

Hannah:

Though in this darkened valley I can feel the shadow of death Your love comforts me with life-giving breath

Miriam:

I will be by your side no matter what comes our way Our love will not be denied, I am here to stay

Hannah:

I am her beloved

Miriam:

And she is mine

Both:

Your love is sweeter Than the sweetest wine

Hannah:

When I'm lost in winter

Miriam:

I'll be your spring

Hannah:

When my world has grown cold

Miriam:

Warmth is what I'll bring

Both:

Your beauty is radiant Your eyes, pure as the doves You have stolen my heart...

Hannah:

When I'm lost in winter
You are my spring
When my world has grown cold
Warmth is what you bring
Your beauty is radiant
Your eyes are pure as doves
You have stolen my heart
You are my love

Miriam:

Arise my love, my dear one
The rain is over and gone
We will dance among the flowers
By the fount of living water
You are radiant
Shining like the stars
You have stolen my heart
You are my love

Caiaphas:

Jesus! I am glad you have arrived For there is an idea I have contrived But this dream, my hope, my vision Needs you to come to fruition

Your power provides an opportunity To win over our community From which the temple could benefit With a very generous profit

You have been given a marvelous gift Why give it away for free? Hundreds, even thousands would line up To be healed for a simple fee

Imagine how far, with funds a-plenty You could carry your ministry For big ideas deserve a plan¹ To accomplish all they can

You have attracted quite a large crowd But so many more you could reach Hundreds, even thousands, with the coin of the realm Backing up what you teach

Jesus:

Caiaphas, your plans are well-intended But I worry, would my followers be offended? Aren't I here for the needy? Are we getting too greedy? I don't want to grow over-extended

Caiaphas:

Do not fret, the proceeds could be used For anything that you choose! Yes, indeed, my friend, you could start a charity To assist those in poverty

Although, I think I have a solution That will give your concerns some resolution The temple has programs to aid those in need Thousands that, with your help, we could feed!

¹ This particular line is inspired by a phrase in Bono's spoken word piece during "Bullet the Blue Sky" in the 2016 concert film "U2 iNNOCENCE + eXPERIENCE, Live in Paris"

For you have been given a marvelous gift Why give it away for free? Use your powers for the good of the temple And exceptional things you will see.

Jesus:

Alright, my friend, I am convinced You argue your point well In order to reach every woman and man, It's a good plan, I can tell.

Caiaphas:

Yes, now that your work has a plan You'll accomplish all you can.

Centurion:

Lord, I am in great distress I have a slave, close to death He lies at home paralyzed Barely move his eyes I have heard of your power Would you make him well?

Jesus:

While I'm inclined to have compassion Your people rule in a cruel fashion I know I'm being watched So, how do I know That within three hours I won't be in a cell?

Centurion:

Your distrust is justified
This fact cannot be denied
But you don't need to fret
Your aid I won't forget
I truly love this town, every woman and man
Why, the synagogue was built at my command

For I'm a man of authority
With many soldiers under me
I say to one go and away he goes,
To another, "Come," and to me he comes
Just say the word, that's all I ask of you
To heal my slave, that's all you have to do

Jesus:

Your trust amazes me, for I have never seen The faith that I now see in you in no Gentile nor Jew

So I will heal this dear slave of yours
But there is one thing I will ask for
I do not know where my journey leads, and there is something I might need
Can you, with all your power and connections, promise me protection?

Centurion

Protection? Yes Lord, you have my word

Jesus:

Good. Your faith has made him well.

Random Dudette:

I am becoming wary of this "messiah," Jesus he's always in the temple he's starting to ignore us

Random Dude:

They say he's healing up there but to get in you have to pay! We can't afford to take time off To wait in line all day!

Random Dudette:

He promised to us He'd bring the bread of life But he can't know what we need When he doesn't know our strife

Caiaphas:

Jesus, I applaud you, You are doing great work But your followers Are starting to go berserk!

They're growing quite upset And it seems to be That because they haven't seen you They are fraught with worry

I think it would be prudent If you soothed the crowd's ire For we don't want to lose them We need the people's fire!

Remind them of the things That made them come to you Use your gift of speaking And get them to stay true.

Jesus:

My friends, I know that it has been a while But there is no reason to fret For while I've toiled every day You already have been blessed!

Blessed are you, whose spirits are poor

The kingdom of heaven shall be yours! Those who mourn, you are blessed For your sorrow will be comforted

Blessed are the gentle, the humble, and the meek For you shall inherit the earth, though you're seen as weak Blessed are those whose hearts for justice, hunger and thirst your hearts shall be filled up, they will be ready to burst!

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy Blessed are the pure in heart, for God's face, they will see Blessed are the peacemakers, who calm war's agitators For they will be called children of our creator

To the persecuted, you are blessed, As God's kingdom is for the oppressed

So if you are sick, hungry, or sad, Tired or have no riches stored Do not worry, just trust what I say In heaven is your true reward

Judas:

Three years ago I was struck by his vision To bring the bread of life An inspiring mission

The journey has been long And sometimes seems off track But these words of blessing, The Jesus I love is back

I've been at his Side from the very start He is true, a loyal friend I know his heart

I have a certain feeling Now fed like a flame A part of who I am That I've been taught to shame

It is a burden Keeping this inside I am tired of the game I don't want to hide

Even though I've been at his Side from the very start Will he be a loyal friend? Can I bare my heart? How beautiful Are his compassion and grace I long for his love To touch his face

I remember a tale Of our ancestors A brave woman Whose name was Esther

She spoke of who she truly was In spite of any fear So from death our people were saved We tell this every year

God, what are you telling me?

I could be put to death! But to do as Esther did My truth I should give breath

Because I've been at his Side from the very start I will trust in him and bare my heart How beautiful are his compassion and grace I long for his love to touch his face

Peter:

Rabbi, the hour is now late It's been long since the people ate You should send away the crowd Before their stomachs grumble too loud

Jesus:

I like your idea; for I'm growing weary And my eyes are becoming quite dreary If we tell them to go and eat Maybe I can finally retreat.

Caiaphas:

Look at your crowd! Why send them away? Why not let the people stay? Surely you're able to devise a plan to feed every single woman and man

Peter:

What do you mean? Are you mad? Look around! Is there any food to be had?

John:

We have five loaves and two fishes, for what it's worth

Peter

Hah! Don't be absurd.

Caiaphas:

Show them a sign just one more time!
Then you can send them on their way.

Jesus:

Peter, do calm down. Caiaphas is right. I am more than able to solve their plight Bring the loaves and fish to me They're enough, you will see.

Arrange yourselves into groups of fifty Or a hundred if need be Then you are welcome to take a seat For soon we shall eat!

Heavenly father, I ask your blessing upon our meal Now eat and be filled!

Caiaphas:

This is no joke, he's the real deal!

Peter:

This is amazing!
Can you hear the crowds praising
Your name, oh Lord?
Above all you are adored!

John:

Look at how much food is left! Picking it up will require some heft.

Jesus:

Dear friends, you do flatter me But come now, we really must leave Please send the crowd back into town So I can look for a place to lie down.

Crowd:

No lord, please don't go We admire you so! Perform more signs Astonish our minds Make our wonderment grow

This man is blind, he has no light Can you not restore his sight? Look, this man cannot talk he can hardly make a squawk!

Give him his voice, put on a show! I'm sorry, pardon my elbow Perform more signs
Astonish our minds
Make our wonderment grow

I could really use some wine! C'mon, it would be a good time!

Yes, let the booze flow! Jesus, why do you hurry so? Perform more signs Astonish our minds Make our wonderment grow

Jesus:

HEY.

Who touched me?

Peter:

What do you mean? Don't you see All of the people pressing in on you?

Jesus:

I know someone touched me For I felt power leave

Bleeding Woman:

Forgive me, it is I who touched you This chance I could not ignore 'Cause I bleed without ceasing And I can bear it no more

Jesus:

I am exhausted, tired as hell But your faith has made you well So go in peace Be healed of your disease

But everyone else, please, I beg you Return to your homes I need to relax I need time of my own.

There will be another day But I can't work any longer If you come back another time I will be stronger.

Rich Young Ruler:

Pardon me, good teacher
I only need a moment of your time
I wish to ask a question
That's been weighing on my mind
What must I do to inherit eternal life?

Jesus:

You know the commandments God gave Moses at Sinai Do not murder, do not steal Honor your parents, do not lie And stay true to your wife

Rich Young Ruler:

I have kept all these since my youth I am faithful and always tell the truth What else might be required of me?

Jesus:

Your righteousness, my friend, I applaud And I see you are rich, blessed by God To answer you, let me share a story

Our central character is much like you A young man who was well-off But by the end of the tale He was eating from a trough

When he was only twenty-three He went to his father and said I want a share of my inheritance Right now! As if his dad were dead.

Saddened but of a kind soul The father granted the request And he gave to that son Half of all he possessed

Be careful who you give to With your charity, be wise Ask yourself, have they earned your help? Or are they full of lies?

The son went to a city far away And indulged in every excess

He spent his money freely His friends were surely impressed

But our "hero" was quite a fool And before too long He spent all that he had Every penny was gone

Be careful who you give to With your charity, be wise Ask yourself, have they earned your help? Or are they full of lies?

He soon became so hungry He ate the pigs' scraps off the ground A pathetic sight, our fool Was the laughingstock of the town

So the man returned to his home Not even a tunic to his name And had to beg to be taken back Into the family he had shamed

Not only should you learn from the son But learn from the father too Beware of bad investments For with your money you must be shrewd

Rich Young Ruler:

Thank you for the advice, Rabbi
It was an illuminating story
I shall put the lesson into practice immediately
I can tell that you are quite tired
And in need of rest
Why not come and be my guest!
For if there is anyone who deserves
To receive my hospitality
Dear teacher it is you, surely!

Jesus:

You are an answered prayer I gratefully accept your invite I shall dine with you tonight!¹

Rich Young Ruler:

Servants, send word to all my friends Tonight, we're having a celebration! For this is a special occasion.

Fetch my finest wine Prepare the fatted calf! For tonight we shall eat and laugh!

Woman of Questionable Origin:

Rabbi, I can see that you're exhausted Covered in dust, your feet are quite sore You could use some relaxation I have some oil and perfume That I think would do just the trick Just lie back; I will give you relief

Random Dude:

Look over there, isn't that Jesus With that prostitute practically wrapped around him? **Random Dudette:**

He must have had far too much to drink Why else would he let her touch him like that?

Mary:

Peter, John, please come here! Things are out of hand, I fear Go to Caiaphas and ask him to come

¹ And don't call me "Shirley."

Talk some sense into my son

John:

Caiaphas, the party is growing wild And Jesus is raising some suspicion

Peter:

There is a woman who is putting him In a compromising position

John:

Please come quickly!

Peter:

He's lost his inhibition!

Caiaphas:

Jesus, what the hell are you thinking? You need to stop this drinking! Why is she touching you like that? Are you going mad?

Jesus:

I have been worn out for quite some time now and haven't had a break How dare this woman take pity and tend to my aches

She's speaking the language Of love that she knows best For her grace and kindness I tell you she is blessed

Caiaphas:

You've worked hard, this is true But must I remind you? If you keep hanging with the wrong crowd This thing could come crashing down

Mary:

Think about how this looks You're surrounded by crooks!

Caiaphas:

Listen to your mother; she is right! Isn't this a woman of the night? The way that she is touching you Is not a marketable view!

Come now, let us leave! Don't you agree That you should not be eating dinner With each and every kind of sinner?

In the future take more care
Of the company that you share
People watch your every act
So keep your reputation intact

Judas:

Jesus, may I speak with you? I need something off my chest And you can be trusted With anything, yes?

Jesus:

Yes, my friend! Please, do come near I am always willing To lend an ear

Judas:

Will you make a promise that you'll keep this between us?

Jesus:

Of course! You know that in me you can trust

Judas

Three years ago
I was struck by your vision
You're an incredible man
With an incredible mission

My life has been changed By being at your side Seeing you work Has been quite the ride

So tonight I must say
That I have fallen for you
How beautiful
Are your compassion and grace
I long for your love
To touch your face

Jesus:

Judas, what are you saying?
What am I supposed to do?
You're in love with me?
Don't you know what might happen to you?
I need a moment aloe

Caiaphas:

Jesus, we must talk about Judas I heard every word

Or at least enough to know That man is a danger

Jesus:

A danger? He is my friend!

Caiaphas:

You are wrong He's a liability A man like that Is a risk, don't you see?

Jesus:

A risk? He's done nothing wrong!

Caiaphas:

But when he does He will be caught And he's been with you Every time you've taught

Jesus:

He's my right-hand man!

Caiaphas

He?
Don't you know who I am?
And what I can do?
Have you forgotten
What I've done for you?

Jesus:

Have you forgotten who I am? Don't you know what I can do?

Caiaphas:

You have some neat tricks
But you have no plan!
You have a way with words
And your ideas may be grand
But one thing you clearly lack
is a sense of practicality!
Do you think things through?
Are you aware of the reality?

That if the truth is known

About this friend of yours It'll look much worse Than when you were with whores

Now who you want to bring to bed Is no concern of mine But in public, you very well know You must walk a line

Jesus:

I have no interest in men!

Caiaphas:

But your crowd, is that clear to them? Besides the harlot with the oil Have you been seen with other women?

You have made the temple rich This, everyone knows Would your donors continue If they thought you were one of those

Jesus:

He's done nothing wrong!

Caiaphas:

But when he does He will be caught And he's been with you Every time you've taught

You have accomplished so much It would be such a shame! If your movement died On account of Judas' name

Has he even thought of this? Of the danger he's put you in? Are all the lives that you might save Worth defending him?

God's love is hard its yoke is not easy if you really loved Judas You'd denounce him, don't you see? For the law is quite clear On what we must do To people such as Judas You know this to be true

You must get ahead Of this looming catastrophe To avoid a disaster Your followers must see

That you don't condone his sin

I wouldn't wish this tragedy to come to anyone But tomorrow we must do the thing that must be done.

Jesus:

Judas, I must speak to you privately Wait a bit, then follow me To the Garden of Gethsemane

Judas, your situation is grave
For your life I am afraid
Your confession was overheard
by people whose ire you have incurred
So please tell me it's not true
Say that I misheard you

Judas:

As much as this frightens me I cannot tell a lie I am who I am Please understand, Rabbi

Jesus:

I'm sorry, but this doesn't make sense Do you not think of self-defense? What about our work? There is much left to do! Does that no longer matter to you?

Judas:

Our work is dearly important to me I am hurt that you would suggest otherwise But I have lived a fiction far too long No longer will I hide

Jesus:

Don't you get how serious this is? You are putting your life at risk!

Judas:

I am very well aware! Do you think that I am blind? I have made my decision I will not change my mind

Jesus:

Why are you so stubborn? Why do you ignore my concerns? You have become so selfish It's as if you have a death wish!

Judas:

Selfish? You're one to talk
For three years I have worked at your side
But now you refuse to have my back
You've become a slave to your pride

Jesus:

Judas, I truly care for you! But I don't know what else to do. Surely you can see If I affirm you I'll lose credibility So if you won't listen to me, fine! Your fate is no fault of mine

Caiaphas:

Stand up, Judas You must come with us You've been accused of a heinous crime For which you must be tried.

Judas:

Jesus! Why have you forsaken me?

Hannah:

Brother, what is happening?
I cannot believe my eyes
As they came and took Judas
You simply stood by
I was hiding in the bushes
And now I'm truly shocked
By the way that you have treated him
While the two of you talked

Jesus:

Sister, you don't understand I was trying to save him From the unfortunate fate That now awaits him

Hannah:

You know very well That is a lie You did nothing to defend him What was his crime?

Jesus.

He said he's in love with me
As a woman loves a man
If had I protected him
It could destroy God's holy/righteous plan
For I cannot be seen
With a one who would know other men.

Hannah:

How could you hand Judas over? He is your strongest friend

Jesus:

Judas lives in sin; a lifestyle I can't support As much as it hurts me To our law he must report Though the sinner can be loved, One must hate the sin.

Hannah:

My whole life I thought That you, my older brother Were more loyal and true
Than any other
But what you said about Judas...
You've never talked that way before.
What has happened to you, Jesus?
I don't know you anymore!

My world has been shattered Like clay dropped on the floor If he finds out what I am I fear I'd too be damned By Jesus, my brother, God's son Whom I can no longer trust His love seems a sham

Mary:

Daughter, why do you cry? Come, lie down at my side What is on your mind?

Hannah:

Something my heart can hardly bear And though I know you care I am afraid to share

Mary:

Hannah, I love you dearly There is nothing you can't tell me What might the problem be?

Hannah:

I don't know...
Should I go?

Mary:

I must know!

Hannah:

Did you hear the rumors about Judas?

Mary:

Yes.

Hannah:

I saw Jesus arguing with Judas At Gethsemane about his identity Judas refused to lie about the one who catch his eye So Caiaphas and his crew came and took Judas away Jesus knew Judas was bound for prison But he did nothing to stop them

This scares me, you see For years I've hidden That I love women

Mary:

HUSH!

Are you out of your mind? You're telling me you're one of that kind?

Hannah:

Mother, this is my truth.

Mary:

Hannah, don't you dare do this to us If people were to find out Hannah, you would ruin Jesus About this I have no doubt!

What are we meant to do with a child such as you? How could you lie to us for all of these years? We could have dealt with this before it posed a risk But now you've put Jesus in great danger I fear

Jesus is the main concern
His power has risen
A privilege he deserves
Jesus cannot lose this position
In all we do we must protect his mission

What should I do with a child such as you? Your true life is in sin, nothing like your brother How should we deal with this? You pose a great risk We cannot turn you in and bear the scorn you might incur

Jesus is the main concern
His power has risen
A privilege he deserves
Jesus cannot lose this position
In all we do we must protect his mission

What should I do? Hannah, go to your room! Stay there until I decide what to do with you.

Caiaphas, we have a problem My daughter just told me that she loves women After that whore and Judas I fear my son's reputation is in great danger

Caiaphas:

This troubles me, my worries are the same No one can be allowed to bring Jesus shame Above all else we must protect his name

Mary:

What then should I do, Rabbi? How can I protect him?

Caiaphas:

We have all made sacrifices for the sake of your son I think it is your turn to do what must be done

Hannah:

These cold barren walls
Here as long as I recall
Hide who I am no more, what is in store?
My world has started to fall...

I was right, I've been damned For being whom I truly am My family? They never knew me Was their love a sham?

My truth has been spoken Now I'm exhausted, broken Even in my own home, I'm afraid, alone My heart has been torn open

Everything I once feared is now true I'm at the end of my rope
How can I make it through?
God, how could your tree
Produce such painful fruit?
Hannah and Mary:
I don't know what to do...

Mary:

It pains me to do this
But for the sake of my son, your brother,
God's chosen one
Though I love you
God's will must be done

It is finished.

Jesus:

Hannah, oh Hannah What have you done? What have I done? You were a light and a joy to everyone that you met

Mary:

Hannah was not right in the head A deviant like Judas, she posed a threat You should be thankful she is dead

Jesus:

I killed her
With my own words
I killed my sister
I said I could not be seen with her, I would not defend her
What have I done?

Mary:

Snap out of it son! You are still blameless and upright Your sister had to die, she could have clouded your light Hannah was hesitating to extinguish her flame So I kicked out the stool and I saved your name! Do not wallow in some misguided sense of guilt It will distract you from all that you have built!

Jesus:

How could you do this? What kind of mother are you? What made you think this was the right thing to do?

Mary:

Ungrateful child, I was protecting you!

Be upset with me all you want Hate me, I don't care! I'll carry the burden that you're afraid to bear. Nothing matters more to me than your success In the long run you will see that this was for the best.

Joseph:

God, I trusted your angel
And did as I was asked
Did not abandon, Mary, my wife
But the mission of our son
Has grown frightening
Now my daughter is gone
Help me see where you are amongst this strife

Miriam:

My heart is filled with grief
I am spent, and weary
This world is bleak, my spirit weak
I am losing my strength.

Joseph:

I know you love my daughter Would you like a moment alone with her?

Miriam:

Thank you.

I am your beloved And you are mine Your love is sweeter Than the sweetest wine

When you were lost in winter
I was your spring
When your world had grown cold
Warmth is what I'd bring

Her beauty was radiant Her eyes pure as the dove She had stolen my heart She was my love

Jesus:

I've made rational choices And followed a careful plan. Am I meant to be perfect? I am just a man!

The world was cloaked in darkness I was to be a light
My vision was to give hope
God's chosen were hungry
For the bread of life
I was to feed their starving hearts
And quench their thirsting souls
I have been called
By our divine Creator
To make life on earth
As it is in heaven

Judas...Hannah...
I did all I could do!
Judas, I had no choice,
But to betray you!
Hannah, I did all I could do
Our mother made the only choice
Our people are not yet ready
To dismantle that taboo

How could I abandon the ninety-nine to save the one? I would have lost my following, wiped out all we have done

God's people were hungry
For the bread of life
I was to feed their starving hearts
And quench their thirsting souls
I've done all I can
It's an impossible task
To make life on earth
As it is in heaven

My mother has lost her mind She killed her own daughter? Is this my fault? Has my work created a monster?

Did I bring the bread of life? Or did I take the bread and eat it? My people have been starving Did I give them what they needed?

I've made rational choices And followed a careful plan. Am I meant to be perfect? I am only a man!

Is this really
How things are meant to be?
Has your will been done?
God, help me see!
Has this all been worth the cost?
Is this the fruit of my tree?
If that is the case,
What does that say about me?

Isaiah:

The son of God, Emmanuel
He came to lift up Israel
Great was our hope at his birth
For God had come to live with us on Earth
To us, to us a child was born
To comfort we who hunger and mourn

The lamb of God, Emmanuel
He came to ransom Israel
To seek and to save the lost
A lamb to pay salvation's cost
He taught, he healed, and then the lamb of God
Judas:
Took the bitter cup
Hannah:

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And passed it on



Original poster by Kevin Harrington-Bain



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