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

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SON OF MAN

Project Approved:

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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
The School of Music Presents

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                          Drums: Patrick Bowman
Violin: Melanie Demer                           Drums: Ben Cato
Viola: Marcela Chavarria
Cello: Nathaniel Cook
Cello: Drew Johnson
Guitar: Nathan Berry
Guitar: Paul Demer
Bass Guitar: Dr. Neil Anderson-Himmelspach

Artwork by Kevin Harrington-Bain
NATHAN BERRY PRESENTS:
SELECTIONS FROM

SON OF MAN

A ROCK OPERA OF BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS

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 decents 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
SON OF MAN

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)

Isaiah

O Come o come Emmanuel And ransom captive Israel
1. Bread of Life

Andante Moderato

Choir

Random Dudette

Random Dude

Random Dude (treble)

Hannah

Judas

Synthesizer

Piano

Violin

Viola

Violoncello

Jesus

Electric Guitar

Electric Guitar

4-string Bass Guitar

Drum Set

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Our world is cloaked in darkness, shrouded by an empire. but there is a light on the horizon. A bap...
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

I've heard this savior shit a
mill- •on times be-fore Tell me why this "mess-i- ah" should not be ig-nored

Ye_ that Si-mon was foo-liish and

had the stench of Rome. But a fa-mil-iar face, to the scribes Je-sus is a learn ed man And des

pne his scho-lar’s mind he’s not one of the e-lite from the town of Na-za reth a work-ing man one of us!

simple fill on last beat
Random Dudette

Judas

Piano

Electric Guitar

Acoustic Guitar

4-string Bass Guitar

Drum Set

Judas

Electric Guitar

Acoustic Guitar

4-string Bass Guitar

Random Dudette

So he is from David's line, He is our Saviour Just as John said!

Jesus

God's Chosen are hungry for the
This is my brother who brings the bread of life He will

feed your starving hearts And quench your thirsting souls He has been called by our creator

I have been called by our creator to make life on earth
2. Water Into Wine

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Ma'am, I must in-form you we have a prob-lem here Though the wine is runn-ing out, the night's end is no-where near

Oh, dear son! Did you hear that? The eve-ning is in dan-ger they are runn-ing out of wine!

Moth-er why do you wor-ry? What con-cern is that of yours or mine?
Choir: We are in awe. Let us rejoice. Let us rejoice. We have seen a

Servant: We are in awe. Let us rejoice. Let us rejoice. We have seen a

Steward: We are in awe. Let us rejoice. Let us rejoice. We have seen a

Pno:  

Dr:  

Vln:  

Vla:  

Bass:  

Pad 1:  

Pno:  

Dr:  

Vln:  

Vla:  

Bass:  

Dr:  

Choir: sign from God! Let us sing. Oh let us sing. Of Jesus' power we are in awe.

Servant: sign from God! Let us sing. Oh let us sing. Of Jesus' power we are in awe.

Steward: sign from God! Let us sing. Oh let us sing. Of Jesus' power we are in awe.
3. The Temptation

Caiphas

Piano

Electric Guitar

Violin

Viola

Violoncello 1

Violoncello 2

4-string Bass Guitar

Drum Set

\( \text{music notation}\)

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Caiaphas

you see most people would find them ab-surd
There's news of a wed-sling down
It's a mir-a-cle they say, a true sight to see!
Wait in to wine, why, how could this

Pno.

so it's come to this
that's your doing I've seen
men claiming pow-er who caused quite a fray
But the

E. Gtr.

it's come to this
that's your doing I've seen
men claiming pow-er who caused quite a fray
But the

Vln.

this is why I say
that's your doing I've seen
men claiming pow-er who caused quite a fray
But the

Vla.

delay off
that's your doing I've seen
men claiming pow-er who caused quite a fray
But the

Vc. 1

dist.
that's your doing I've seen
men claiming pow-er who caused quite a fray
But the

Vc. 2

that's your doing I've seen
men claiming pow-er who caused quite a fray
But the

Bass

why, how could this
 waits in to wine, why, how could this

Caiaphas

be? Well! that's your doing I've been led to be-heve
I've seen many tal-ent-ed men in my day
men claiming pow-er who caused quite a fray But by

Pno.

this is why I say
that's your doing I've seen
men claiming pow-er who caused quite a fray
But the

E. Gtr.

what do you mean
that's your doing I've seen
men claiming pow-er who caused quite a fray
But the

Vln.

dist.
that's your doing I've seen
men claiming pow-er who caused quite a fray
But the

Vla.

dist.
that's your doing I've seen
men claiming pow-er who caused quite a fray
But the

Vc. 1

dist.
that's your doing I've seen
men claiming pow-er who caused quite a fray
But the

Vc. 2

dist.
that's your doing I've seen
men claiming pow-er who caused quite a fray
But the

Bass

why, how could this
 waits in to wine, why, how could this
Caiaphas: each of their ends they all went a stray so I've grown quite ey ti cile I'm so afraid. But you seem fa mi liar yes I know your face as a young boy in the tem ple you spoke with much

Vc. 2

Vc. 1
dist.

Bass

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

She's asked questions and gave answers at a too rapid pace. Mas ter y of scrip too at twelve an im pre ssive case Now Jesus, I've al so spoken with your

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc. 1
dist.

Vc. 2
cresc.

Bass
cresc.

Dr.
cresc.

Caiaphas: you've told me things I would n't be able to under stand any other person but you you've made this priest wonder if your gifts could be of any other than

Pno.

cresc.

Vln.
cresc.

Vla.
cresc.

Ve 2
cresc.

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

Dr.: "Now that is impressive but can you do more? for example this cliff would you survive the fall? don't scriptures say God's angel 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 you might discover 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 of the glory.

Test your power and you might discover there's no end to what might be done.
Yes! You will gain all the glory! I'll be expecting you.
4. My Love

Nathan Berry

Treble Solo

Alto Solo

Piano

Violin

Viola

Piano

Violoncello

Violoncello 2

Electric Guitar

4-string Bass Guitar

Drum Set

Hannah

4. My Love

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Hannah

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

Hannah

to my mind I go out beyond the snows and hide myself away in a forest dark and cold but when I'm lost in

Hannah

You are my spring When my world has grown cold Warmth is what you bring
Hannah
beauty is radiant, your eyes pure as the dawn
You have stolen my heart, you are my love

Miriam
No one has a clue What they're missing

Miriam
You are perfect and complete love-ly and sweet You're a bless ing yes it's all true Let me look into your face com fort you in

delay off arco, slightly separated.
my em brace Though your Win-ter is bleak your spi-rit ba-ried deep, you’re not a lose in this place So When you fall in to your mind and go out be-yond the
Though in this dark-valley
doves
You have stolen my heart my love

I can feel the shadow of death
Your love comforts me with life giving breath

I will be right by your side no
Hannah

I am here to stay

Miriam

What comes our way

Our love will not be denied

I am here to stay

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Vc.

E. Gtr.

Bass

Dr.

and she

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Vc.

E. Gtr.

Bass

Dr.

be loved

your love

is sweeter than the
When I'm lost in winter
When my world has grown cold

When I'm lost in winter
I'll be your spring

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

Warmth is what I'll bring,
Your beauty is radiant, your eyes pure as the dove,
You have stolen my heart.

When I'm lost in winter
You are my spring
When my world has grown cold
Warmth is what you bring

rise my love, dew, one the rain is over and gone
We will dance among the flowers by the fountain of living
Your beauty is radiant, your eyes pure as the doves. You have stolen my heart.

Your beauty is radiant, shining like the stars. You have stolen, stolen my heart.

You are my love.

You are my love.
Jesus: I need a moment alone.

Caiaphas: He is a false prophet.

Jesus: I heard every word of your testimony. But what he does he will bear; and he is bound every time that you have taught.

Caiaphas: You do not know what I am about.

Jesus: Am I so wrong? You are wrong, for a king is above the law.

Caiaphas: You do not know what I am about.

Jesus: Have you never heard what I have done for you?

Caiaphas: What I have done for you?

Jesus: You have some who acknowledged me, but you have no love for me.

Caiaphas: You have some who acknowledged me, but you have no love for me.

Jesus: He is a false prophet. You do not know what I am about.

Caiaphas: What I have done for you?

Jesus: You have some who acknowledged me, but you have no love for me.

Caiaphas: I do not know what I am about.

Jesus: Have you the power to lead me into the world, or to lead me into the world?

Caiaphas: What I have done for you?

Jesus: You have some who acknowledged me, but you have no love for me.

Caiaphas: I do not know what I am about.

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Jesus: You have some who acknowledged me, but you have no love for me.

Caiaphas: I do not know what I am about.

Jesus: Have you the power to lead me into the world, or to lead me into the world?

Caiaphas: What I have done for you?
Of all the love that naught do for us, don't you see? You're not alone, don't you see?

And for all the world to see, you're not all alone, don't you see? You're not alone, don't you see?
Mary and Hannah

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

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Some thing my heart can hardly bear
and though I know you care
I am afraid to share

are you telling
the audience
I don't know...
Should I go?
did you hear
the rumors
about Judas?
dearly

are you telling
the audience
I don't know...
Should I go?
did you hear
the rumors
about Judas?
dearly

are you telling
the audience
I don't know...
Should I go?
did you hear
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are you telling
the audience
I don't know...
Should I go?
did you hear
the rumors
about Judas?
dearly

are you telling
the audience
I don't know...
Should I go?
did you hear
the rumors
about Judas?
dearly

are you telling
the audience
I don't know...
Should I go?
did you hear
the rumors
about Judas?
dearly

are you telling
the audience
I don't know...
Should I go?
did you hear
the rumors
about Judas?
Hannah
I saw Jesus arguing with Judas at Gethsemane. About his identity Judas refused to lie a...

Mary
Yes.

Pno

Vc. 1
To E. Gtr.

Vc. 2

Hannah
bout the kind that catch his eye. Caiaphas and his crew came and took Judas away. Jesus knew that Judas was bound for prison.

Pno

Hannah
But he did nothing to stop them. This scares me you see. For years I've hiddden that I love wom-

Mary

Pno

HUSH!!
This troubles me; my worries are the same. No one can be allowed to bring Je - suhame. A - bove all else we must pro-

tect his name. We have all made sa -cri-

i - ces for the sake of your son. I think it is your turn to do what must be done
7. It is Finished

Nathan Berry

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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.

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.

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.
8. This was for the Best

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You should be full she is dead.

I killed her with my own hands
I killed my sister I could not be sure with her.

I love her
I am through with you.

Ful of hate I see you are still blame-less and up right
Fate over laid to die she could have chose-d your light

Could not do-fend her
What have I done?

Sleep out of these you are still blame-less and up right
Fate over laid to die she could have chose-d your light
Himns are to tail to miff out bat flame so I kicked out the steel and I saved your name! Do not wallow in some mis-guided sense of guilt it will dis - tract you from

How could you do this? What kind of moth - er are you? What made you think this was the right thing to do?
9. Lament of Joseph and Miriam

Miriam

Joseph

Piano

Electric Guitar

Pad 2 (Warm)

Violin

Viola

Violoncello 1

Violoncello 2

4-string Bass Guitar

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God I trust-ed your an gel_ and did as I was asked did not a - ban-don Ma-ry my wife But the mis_ ion_ of our
My heart is filled with grief
I am spent and worn.
My world is blank.
I am losing my

strength
Thank you.
I am your
cold
and

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

you are mine.
You 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

as di-ant,
her eyes pure
as the doves.
She had stolen my heart.
She was my love.

rit.
10. Bread of Life (Reprise)

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Jesus
read-y to dis-man-ple that ta-boo How could 1 a-ban don the nine-ty-nine to save the one?

Bass

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc. 1

dist.

Vc. 2

Dr.

Jesus

I would have lost my fol-low-ing Wiped out All we had done

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc. 1

Vc. 2

Bass

Dr.

Jesus

God's Cho-sen were hin-gry for the bread of life I was to feed their star-ving hearts and

Pno.
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
Jesus

Did I bring the bread of life?
Did I give them what they needed?

I've made rational choices and followed a careful plan!
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?
11. The Lamb of God, the Bitter Cup

The son of God Em-ma-nu-el he came to lift up Is-ra-el

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

mourn
Isaiah

el to seek and to save the lost a lamb to pay salvation's cost.

He taught, he healed, and then the lamb of God
and passed it on

Took the bitter cup
# The Lyrics of *Son of Man*

by Nathan Berry

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1. Bread of Life – Son of Man – Nathan Berry

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?
1. Bread of Life – Son of Man – Nathan Berry

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 plan
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.
Prosperity Gospel (White Jesus) – *Son of Man* – Nathan Berry

**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 alone

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.
14. Gethsemane – *Son of Man* – Nathan Berry

**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:
And passed it on
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