

The Gospel of the Rauschmonstrum

By

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Based on the book
"The Gospel of the Rauschmonstrum"
by Nick La Torre

September 2016

FADE IN

EXT. DESERT- DAY

The sun beats down on the sandy landscape.

A CLOUD OF SMOKE

floats around.

It transforms into a young man. This is is THE RAUSCHMONSTRUM.

This human incarnation of the Rauschmonstrum smiles directly at THE CAMERA and begins to address it.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

Hello. Did you like my entrance? I figured you would. You can call me the Rauschmonstrum. I've been around for...well I don't really know quite how long, let's just say a long, long time. I can do a number of nifty things. I can make things appear...

An apple appears in the Rauschmonstrum's hand.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

And disappear...

The apple disappears.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

I can change into any form I want...

The Rauschmonstrum rapidly shifts to several different forms:

A COW

A PIG

A HORSE

A TREE

A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

He then changes back to his standard human appearance.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

My natural state is like this
though.

The Rauschmonstrum shifts back into a cloud of smoke and
glides from side to side.

He changes back to his standard human appearance.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

Why is a cloud of smoke my natural
form, you ask? I don't know.
There's plenty of other things I
can do but you'll see all that soon
enough. Anyway, the reason I'm
telling you all this is I've got
this scheme cooked up, something
really big, and I think you'll all
really enjoy it...

EXT. TOWN- DAY

The Rauschmonstrum walks down a road, addressing the CAMERA.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

I'm currently in what is referred
to as Judea. The power structure is
pretty simple here.

OUTSIDE TEMPLE

The Rauschmonstrum pokes his head inside the door

A Rabbi is speaking.

The congregation sits at attention. The Rauschmonstrum turns
his attention back to the CAMERA.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

The Priests have a lot of sway over
the Jewish people. They spit out
rules for them to follow, and talk
of a moral code that extends from
Abraham to Moses to the present
day. Believe me, I knew Abraham and
Moses, those guys didn't have
anything going on. I don't care
much for moral codes.

Some Pharisees are talking to each other nearby. They wear
dark clothes with tall pointed hats.

The Rauschmonstrum walks over to them and then continues addressing the CAMERA.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

I really hate these guys; the Pharisees. They take the Jewish scriptures way too literally, when they shouldn't be taken any way at all. I'm sure we'll be seeing a lot more of them as things roll along.

The Rauschmonstrum walks away.

ROMAN GUARDS

Stand at attention. Two men dressed in rags carry a large wooden cross over to them. The Soldiers take the cross from them.

The Rauschmonstrum goes up to them, and goes right back to talking to the CAMERA.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

The real power is with the Romans though, after all they occupy the place. And you don't want to piss off any of these soldiers, they don't waste any time.

The Rauschmonstrum strokes the wooden cross.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

They know how to make good use of these.

The Rauschmonstrum continues walking along.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

Anyway, I'm hoping to cause a big splash in this region. Something to shake Judea to its core. And if I do things right, it'll shake the world up too.

EXT. RIVER- DAY

The Rauschmonstrum walks down the side of the river.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

So here's the lowdown. At this point in my existence, I believe I have met every single type of

RAUSCHMONSTRUM
 person there is. It is in man's
 nature to believe those who offer
 them their desires, particularly
 when these people show they can do
 things regular people cannot do.

Apples appear in the Rauschmonstrum's hands and he juggles
 them. More apples appear as he juggles.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM
 If I appeared to people and did
 this they would worship me as a God
 immediately.

The apples disappear.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM
 Since I'm immortal and have nothing
 else to do I am going to find
 someone nearby and convince him he
 is blessed with magic powers by a
 divine force. His teachings will
 spread the world, countries will be
 ruled by his laws, wars fought,
 people slain, it'll be all types of
 fun. And I think I have just the
 man for the job right over there.

The Rauschmonstrum points out in the distance.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

a man dressed in a frayed tunic, standing in the river.

John is baptizing people in the river. The people stand in a
 line, walk up to him, and one by one he dunks their heads in
 the water.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM
 His name is John, John the Baptist
 to his followers. The whole Judean
 countryside comes out here to hear
 him. They confess their sins to him
 and he baptizes them here in the
 Jordan River.

John continues to baptize people in the river, one by one.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM
 He's a very good speaker. Even the
 tax collectors listen to him. I'm
 certain with a little grooming from

RAUSCHMONSTRUM
yours truly they'll be calling him
"Messiah" in no time.

John the Baptist and his followers walk out of the river.
The followers sit down on the shore while John remains
standing.

The Rauschmonstrum walks over to where they are and stands
observing.

John addresses his followers.

JOHN THE BAPTIST
I know you think highly of me.
However, soon there will be someone
more powerful than me. I will not
be worthy to untie the straps on
his sandals. I'm able to baptize
you with water, but he will baptize
you with the Holy Spirit.

John's followers all mutter amongst themselves.

The Rauschmonstrum curls his lips in intrigue.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM
This John knows of someone who is
even better than *he* is? Whoever it
is, I must meet him.

EXT. ROAD- DAY

John and his disciples walk down the road, John in the front
and his disciples behind him.

The Rauschmonstrum trails behind them.

Suddenly John stops, he looks stunned. His disciples stop
along with him.

A joyful smile appears on John's face.

He points out in the distance.

JOHN THE BAPTIST
Look! There he is, the Lamb of God!
The one who takes away the sin of
the world!

The followers get up and stand with John. They look out
where he is staring.

The figure of JESUS walks towards them.

The Rauschmonstrum walks forward so he is side by side with John.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM'S POV- JESUS

continues to walk towards them.

The Rauschmonstrum smiles. He looks over at John. John rushes forward toward Jesus. His followers go after him.

John reaches Jesus and touches his shoulders. John then bends down and prostrates himself at Jesus' feet.

John's disciples reach them and prostrate themselves to Jesus as well.

John turns to look at his followers.

JOHN THE BAPTIST
Do you realize who this man is?
This is Jesus of Nazareth!

John gets up and continues addressing his disciples.

JOHN THE BAPTIST
I witnessed the Spirit descend down from Paradise in the form of a dove and fix itself within him. A voice from above then spoke to me. It said 'This man whom you've seen the Spirit go within is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' I can testify that this is the true Chosen One of God. He will be the Messiah.

As John speaks Jesus remains tranquil. It is as though he is concentrating on something really important , and he thus can't be bothered to pay attention to what is going on here.

The Rauschmonstrum walks closer to Jesus and looks him up and down.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM
This man might be the one for my mission, but if I am to be sure, I need to explore his background. Since John mentioned this Jesus is from Nazareth, that is where I will go.

The Rauschmonstrum turns and walks away.

EXT. NAZARETH- DAY

A SIGN

reads "WELCOME TO NAZARETH".

RAUSCHMONSTRUM (VO)

And so I journeyed to his hometown
to make my inquiries.

INT. TAVERN- DAY

The Rauschmonstrum is dressed like a commoner. He is sitting
at a table with a Nazarene BARFLY

BARFLY

Oh, Jesus? Sure, everybody knows
him, Joseph's boy. Brightest fella
around.

INT. MIDWIFE'S HOUSE- DAY

The Rauschmonstrum, dressed like a commoner, is sipping tea
with a Nazarene MIDWIFE.

MIDWIFE

He was a curious lad, very
inquisitive. But what comes to mind
most about him are the stories I've
heard about his birth

INTERCUT

The Barfly strokes his chin, grinning.

BARFLY

There's a couple strange rumors
about his birth, but mind you,
there's rumors about everybody's
birth in these parts

MIDWIFE

His parents were in Bethlehem for
the census. She was pregnant...

DISSOLVE TO

INT. BARN- DAY

Jesus' mother and father (Mary and Joseph), both in their early 20s, enter the barn. Mary is heavily pregnant.

BARFLY (VO)

There was no room for them in the inn, so they went to the barn.

MIDWIFE (VO)

She gave birth there.

DISSOLVE TO

Baby Jesus is in swaddling clothes, and held by Mary. Joseph sits beside her, looking proud.

BARFLY (VO)

That's when something interesting happened...

Three Wisemen enter the barn, holding ornate boxes.

Jesus' parents look up at them, surprised.

MIDWIFE (VO)

Some Magi from the East came bearing gifts. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The Three Wisemen kneel down to the baby Jesus, placing the boxes in front of them.

MIDWIFE (VO)

They said they had followed a star which had led them to the spot and that their holy books had counseled them that a king would be born that night.

Jesus' parents have expressions of intrigue and look down at their baby.

Some Shepherds now enter, holding shepherd crooks.

BARFLY (VO)

To make things more bizarre, some shepherds then entered as well. They said some angels had appeared before them in a field and told them a savior would be born in that barn.

The Shepherds kneel down next to the Magi.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. TAVERN- DAY

The Rauschmonstrum takes a sip from his glass.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

That is a strange story. Where did you hear it?

BARFLY

All around the place.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

Do Jesus' parents tell the story?

BARFLY

Oh yes, his mother loves telling the story when she is out in public.

INT. MIDWIFE'S HOUSE- DAY

The Midwife pours some more tea into the Rauschmonstrum's cup.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

Are there any other stories about him that come to mind?

The Midwife puts the kettle down.

MIDWIFE

There was one passover...

INTERCUT

BARFLY

I remember hearing one thing about him when he was a boy, it was the passover and-

MIDWIFE

He and his parents went with a large group by caravan to Jerusalem...

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. STREETS OF JERUSALEM- DAY

Jesus (age of 12) and his parents walk along with a large group down the streets of Jerusalem, passing by merchants with their parts and booths. Jesus walks with the dignity of somebody much older.

MIDWIFE (VO)

They were there to observe the custom of the feast.

EXT. TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM-DAY

People stream in and out of the temple.

MIDWIFE (VO)

However, as they were returning, Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem.

Jesus' parents approach the temple, looking afraid. They walk into the temple.

INT. TEMPLE- DAY

The boy Jesus stands in the center of the temple, lecturing. A group of people sit around him, looking amazed.

Jesus' parents have looks of confusion as they approach Jesus and his group of devotees.

Jesus' parents walk up to him, angry. Jesus' mother grabs him.

BARFLY (VO)

They were very angry. They asked him, "We were worried sick looking for you, how could you do this to us?" And he said-

INT. TAVERN- DAY

The Barfly has really gotten into telling the story. A grin is plastered on his face as he finishes.

BARFLY

Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?

The Rauschmonstrum looks intrigued.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM
That is quite the story.

BARFLY
Isn't it? The young man was wise
beyond his years. By now he is
certainly the wisest man in Judea.

The Rauschmonstrum gets up.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM
Thank you for your time.

The Rauschmonstrum drops a great deal of coins on the table,
and walks away.

INT. MIDWIFE'S HOUSE- DAY

The Rauschmonstrum drops some coins on the Midwife's table.
He then gets up and leaves. The midwife gathers the coins
and looks them over. She then gets up, looking startled.

MIDWIFE
Wait sir, this is much too much.

INT. TAVERN- DAY

The Barfly has gathered the coins together, and looks them
over.

BARFLY
Well that was quite the generous
fella.

EXT. RIVER- DAY

The Rauschmonstrum is walking along the river again,
addressing the CAMERA.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM
That journey to Nazareth taught me
everything I need to know. It is
clear to me that Jesus already has
suspicions about himself as the son
of God. All that I have to do is
make miracles perform around him to
cement his belief. After that, it
will be as though he is my puppet.

The Rauschmonstrum stops and points out at the river, in
which we can see two men, Jesus and John the Baptist.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM
And today is the day for step one.

IN THE RIVER

John stands with Jesus

JOHN THE BAPTIST
I will ask you once more. Are you
sure? You should be the one
baptizing me!

JESUS
Please John. This is the best start
for us to fulfill all
righteousness.

JOHN THE BAPTIST
Very well

John takes hold of Jesus and dunks his head backwards in the
river. He then brings Jesus back up.

ON LAND

The Rauschmonstrum grins.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM
Showtime!

The Rauschmonstrum snaps his fingers and points up at the
sky.

A large white cloud appears overhead the river.

IN THE RIVER

Jesus and John look up.

A BOOMING VOICE comes from the sky.

BOOMING VOICE
You are my beloved son, with whom I
am well pleased.

The cloud then vanishes.

Jesus and John continue to look up at the sky for a little
while and then look at each other, neither showing any
emotion

ON LAND

The Rauschmonstrum show surprise.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

They're not even fazed! Neither man thinks there's anything strange at all that they are spoken to be God. This'll be even easier than I thought! This is gonna be so much fun.

EXT. TOWN- DAY

MONTAGE

Jesus is walking through a town.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM (VO)

From then on Jesus was a busy man.

Jesus is making a speech to some people on top of a pile of hay.

They look captivated by what he is saying.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM (VO)

He made speeches and asked people about their troubles.

Jesus talks to some townsfolk.

They look very happy, and nod as he speaks.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM (VO)

It wasn't rare for people to cling to him and beg to go with him.

A woman clings to Jesus' leg and he tries to forcibly remove her.

Jesus walks and a group of people following him. He turns and speaks angrily towards them.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM (VO)

Sometimes I would allow him to heal the sick.

Jesus touches a man writhing in pain on the ground.

The man gets up, looking overjoyed.

He runs around in circles in glee.

An old woman with arms involuntarily shaking is led by two men to Jesus.

Jesus touches her forehead.

Her arms stop shaking. She looks at them, unable to believe it.

She hugs Jesus.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM (VO)
Sometimes he would go too far.

A large group of angry men chase after Jesus

RAUSCHMONSTRUM (VO)
But that was to be expected.

The men chase Jesus to the edge of a cliff.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM (VO)
And I was always there to bail him
out of it.

As the men close in on Jesus on the edge of the cliff, the Rauschmonstrum appears.

The Rauschmonstrum snaps his fingers.

The group of men all FREEZE in place.

Jesus runs through the crowd to get away.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM (VO)
Pretty soon is was amongst the most
famous men in Judea.

END MONTAGE

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. LAKE- DAY

Jesus walks towards the lake shore.

Some PEOPLE BY THE LAKE look up and see Jesus and have looks of amazement.

As Jesus walks towards the shore, the people approach him.

PERSON BY THE LAKE
Teacher give us some wisdom.

Jesus puts his hands up in the air and begins to address the crowd.

JESUS
Verily I say to you, during your
everyday encounters with your
neighbors, it may be-

Jesus stops speaking and looks out at the lake.

JESUS' POV- ON THE EDGE OF THE LAKE

some fishermen are working with some nets on a boat.

ON THE BOAT

The fishermen, PETER, ANDREW, and JAMES are lowering some
nets into the water. They look frustrated.

PETER
We've been out here all day and yet
no haul, we've never had it this
bad.

ANDREW
Stay positive Peter, certainly
things will get better.

ON THE SHORE

Jesus stops speaking and walks towards the lake. The
gathered crowd watches him as he goes.

Jesus goes into the water, and wades towards the boat.

ON THE BOAT

Jesus climbs into the boat.

The Fishermen all look at him, confused.

PETER
Who are you?

JESUS
Pull out into the deep water, and
let the nets down so that you may
catch.

PETER
We have been out here all day and
have spent most of our time over
there, we caught nothing. Now
please tell me who you are, and
what you are doing in my boat.

Jesus looks at them silently.

PETER
Well? Answer me.

A look of recognition appears on James' face.

JAMES
I know who he is. This is Jesus of
Nazareth, the wandering preacher.

PETER
Oh, I have heard of you. Okay,
because you are Jesus of Nazareth I
will do as you ask.

The boat pulls away from the shore.

DISSOLVE TO

A NET

overstuffed with fish.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM (VO)
When the fishermen had done this,
I worked my abilities, and thus the
fishermen caught such a large
number of fish that their nets were
unable to take the strain, and
began to break.

Peter, Andrew, and James are all on their knees before
Jesus.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM (VO)
Of course, the fishermen all
believed it was Jesus who was
responsible for their good fortune.

PETER
Depart from me, for I am a sinful
man, Lord.

JESUS
Don't be afraid; from now on you
will fish for people.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM (VO)
And so the Nazarene found himself
the disciples with the levels of
gullibility he needed.

EXT. BANQUET HALL- DAY

RAUSCHMONSTRUM (VO)
 Pretty soon after that there was a
 wedding in the town of Cana.

INT. BANQUET HALL- DAY

Jesus and the three disciples sit at a table

RAUSCHMONSTRUM (VO)
 Jesus and his disciples were
 amongst the guests

Jesus' mother sits at another table along with some other
 older women.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM (VO)
 As was Jesus' mother.

The Rauschmonstrum sets at a table between two beautiful
 women, holding a glass of wine. He addresses the CAMERA.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM
 As a fella once said, there's no
 wedding like a Cana wedding.

On a long table is an array of delicious looking food and
 drink.

All around the place people are talking and laughing, having
 a fantastic time.

The bride and groom exchange a deep kiss.

One MAN AT WEDDING holds an empty glass up to a WEDDING
 SERVANT.

MAN AT WEDDING
 Boy! Boy! More Wine!

The Wedding Servant takes the glass.

The Wedding Servant goes to the big table and tips the
 pitcher over the glass to pour.

Nothing comes out.

The Wedding Servant tries again to pour wine into the glass,
 however once again nothing comes out.

The Wedding Servant stops ANOTHER WEDDING SERVANT.

WEDDING SERVANT
We're out of wine.

The other servant walks away and then immediately comes back.

ANOTHER WEDDING SERVANT
There's none left.

MAN AT WEDDING
Boy! Boy! Where's my wine!

WEDDING SERVANT
There's none left.

MAN AT WEDDING
None left?!

The Man turns to the people he is with.

MAN AT WEDDING
There's no more wine!

This causes a displeased rabble to start amongst the guests.

The Rauschmonstrum smiles and finishes his glass of wine.

Jesus and his disciples watch this, unsure of how to proceed.

Jesus' mother gets up from her table and walks over to Jesus.

JESUS' MOTHER
They have no more wine, help them.

JESUS
Woman, why do you involve me? My hour has not yet come!

The Rauschmonstrum, from where he sits, seems surprised by Jesus' remarks.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM
Well that's an interesting way to address your mother.

Jesus' Mother goes up to the servants, who look frazzled by the guests' response to the lack of wine.

She points to Jesus.

JESUS' MOTHER
He will prepare new wine. Whatever
he says to you, do it.

With reluctant eyes, Jesus gets up and walks over to the Servants.

He puts his hand on one of their shoulders and points over in one direction.

JESUS
You see those stone jars over
there?

The Servants look over where Jesus points.

Several large stone jars sit on a shelf.

The Servants nod to Jesus.

JESUS
Fill those jars with water and
bring them to me.

The Servants walk away.

The Rauschmonstrum gets up, looking intrigued.

TIME CUT

INT. BANQUET HALL- FIVE MINUTES LATER

The Servants set the stone jars on the table. They are filled to the brim with water.

Jesus look at the jars.

The Rauschmonstrum stands over Jesus' shoulder.

JESUS
These jars of water will now become
wine.

Jesus moves his hands over the jars of water, as if expecting the water to transform into wine.

Nothing happens.

The Servants look at each other- "Is this guy for real?"

Jesus himself is surprised the water has not transformed into wine.

Jesus moves his hands over the jars of water again.

JESUS

These jars of water will now become
wine!

The Rauschmonstrum snaps his fingers and points at the jars.

The water transforms into wine.

The Servants look shocked.

One of them takes a glass and fills it from the jar.

He tastes the wine. He nods his head, he is pleased.

The disciples all look delighted by what they have seen.

The Rauschmonstrum shakes his head and turns to the CAMERA.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

This is sure to raise Jesus'
profile quite a bit, but I really
wish I had not needed to perform
that miracle. Turning water into
wine is the stuff of parlor tricks,
not for something to be looked upon
from the son of God.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE- DAY

MONTAGE

Jesus walks along a green pasture.

One by one the disciples follow him. Peter, Andrew, James,
BARTHOLOMEW, JOHN, JAMES THE YOUNGER, THADDEUS, MATTHEW,
PHILIP, SIMON, THOMAS, and JUDAS.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM (VO)

Jesus soon added to his collection
of disciples so there were twelve.
Along with Peter, Andrew, and
James, who he met on the boat,
there was Bartholomew, John, James
the Younger, Thaddeus, Matthew,
Philip, Simon, Thomas, and Judas.

EXT. TOWN- DAY

Jesus is now in a town speak to a large crowd. His disciples stand behind him.

The crowd looks overjoyed at seeing him.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM (VO)
The peasants loved him, and oftentimes his orations would gather more people than temple ceremonies.

The Pharisees watch him as he speaks, looking disgruntled

RAUSCHMONSTRUM (VO)
However, the Pharisees, whose power came from the persuasion they held over the poor were not pleased with the Nazarene's large following.

END MONTAGE

The Rauschmonstrum walks on screen and addresses the CAMERA.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM (VO)
The Pharisees are sticklers for rules. If you don't go to temple on the sabbath there's a good chance they're going to come ask you about it. Jesus tells people to flat out ignore the sabbath, so you can imagine how they feel about that. And because of the miracles Jesus is a product the Pharisees can't complete with. This is bound to cause them and the Nazarene to butt heads later on. I can't wait to see it.

EXT. HILL- DAY

Jesus and his disciples are walking up the hill. They are leading a very large group of people.

The Rauschmonstrum strays behind.

Jesus, the disciples, and the crowd get to the top of the hill.

Jesus turns to address the crowd. His disciples stand behind him. Jesus addresses the crowd with a tremendous intensity. Revivalist preachers and populist demagogues have nothing on Jesus' speaking powers here.

JESUS

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
 Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.
 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? And why are you worried about clothing? For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

As Jesus continues to speak, the Rauschmonstrum addresses the CAMERA.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

Do you understand what's going on here? He is telling them that to be poor and weak is being better than being rich and strong. He is telling them to forgive others unconditionally for the wrongs they have committed

RAUSCHMONSTRUM
 against them. With a message such
 as this, he will surely spread
 faster than any other philosopher
 the world has ever known. If the
 people to accept what Jesus tells
 them here will allow them to accept
 the calamities and tragedies that
 befall their lives with greater
 ease and optimism than any other
 system of thought I have yet heard
 of. He is an opiate, and they are
 going to feast on him with
 unquenchable appetite.

Jesus finishes up his sermon.

JESUS
 Therefore everyone who hears these
 words of mine and acts on them, may
 be compared to a wise man who built
 his house on the rock. And the
 rain fell, and the floods came, and
 the winds blew and slammed against
 that house; and yet it did not
 fall, for it had been founded on
 the rock. Everyone who hears these
 words of mine and does not act on
 them, will be like a foolish man
 who built his house on the sand.

The crowd is stunned by Jesus' words. They APPLAUD and chant
 "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus..."

EXT. TOWN- DAY

Jesus and his disciples sit together in the town square.

The Rauschmonstrum sits nearby, tapping his fingers against
 the ground.

A RICH MAN, dressed in fancy clothes approaches them.

RICH MAN
 Jesus, I have something to ask you.

JESUS
 Speak then, for I am not frugal
 with my answers.

RICH MAN
 Good teacher, what good things must
 I do, so that I may have eternal
 life?

JESUS

Why do you call me good? No one is good but one, and that is God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.

RICH MAN

Which ones?

Jesus turns to his disciples, who look back at him, and they all chuckle.

JESUS

All of them.

RICH MAN

All these things I have observed from the time of my youth. What more do I lack? Whatever it may be I will do it.

JESUS

If you want to be perfect, then go sell what you have and give to the poor. Then you will have treasure in heaven.

The Rich Man looks sad.

RICH MAN

Oh

He lowers his head.

RICH MAN

I have many possessions.

The Rich Man slinks away.

When he is gone Jesus speaks to his disciples.

JESUS

Most certainly I say to you, a rich man will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven with difficulty. It is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God.

The Rauschmonstrum shakes his head.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

That's not a teaching that's gonna catch on.

EXT. TOWN- DAY

Jesus is speaking in front of a large crowd. His disciples stand behind him.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM (VO)

As Jesus' ministry went on and his following grew larger his speeches also became bolder.

The crowd Jesus speaks to looks angry.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM (VO)

And some of the things he said were met with rage.

They pick up rocks from the ground and hurl them at Jesus and the disciples.

Jesus and the disciples dodge the rocks, and then run away. The crowd chases after them.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM (VO)

As a result, he and the disciples had to flee Judea and live quietly for a period of time.

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. TOWN- DAY

A FAN OF JESUS approaches him.

FAN OF JESUS

I want to follow you wherever you go, Lord.

JESUS

The foxes have holes, and the birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.

The man walks away, looking disappointed.

ANOTHER FAN OF JESUS approaches him.

ANOTHER FAN OF JESUS
I want to follow you, Lord, but
first allow me to say good-bye to
those who are at my house.

JESUS
No one, having put his hand to the
plow, and looking back, is fit for
God's Kingdom.

The man walks away, looking disappointed.

A BEREAVED MAN approaches Jesus.

BEREAVED MAN
Lord, I would like very much to
follow you. However, my father has
recently died, and I would very
much like to attend his funeral
first.

JESUS
Forget your father. Let the dead
bury the dead! Come along with me
to announce the kingdom of God.

The Bereaved Man is taken aback. He walks away,
disappointed.

The Rauschmonstrum stands nearby.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM
For a man known far and wide for
his compassion it doesn't really
come across that was too often in
his interactions.

A LEPER rushes over to Jesus. Gruesome leprosy sores are all
over his body. He is in tears.

He gets on the ground and weeps inconsolably.

LEPER
If you want to, I know you can make
me clean.

The leper continues to weep.

Jesus touches the man.

JESUS
I want to. Be made clean my friend.

The leper's sores are now all gone. He looks at his hands and cannot believe what has happened.

He jumps up in glee.

LEPER

I am healed! I am healed!

The Leper hugs Jesus. He then skips away, overjoyed.

A TOWNSMAN approaches Jesus.

TOWNSMAN

Jesus, there is a man over there
who has been blind from birth.

The Townsman points.

Jesus looks out in the direction the Townsman points.

JESUS' POV- THE BLIND MAN

his eyes enclosed, walks around slowly with his hands stretched out, so that he does not bump into anything.

TOWNSMAN

Allow me to bring him over here so
that you may heal him.

Jesus nods.

The Townsman smiles.

TOWNSMAN

Thank you my Lord.

The Townsman rushes away.

Peter turns to Jesus.

PETER

Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his
parents, that caused him to be born
blind?

JESUS

Neither did this man sin, nor his
parents; but so that the works of
God might be revealed in him.

The Rauschmonstrum slaps himself on the forehead and then turns to the CAMERA.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

See this is where I start having
issue with what I am doing here.
Jesus, being a man of his time,
doesn't know anything about germs.
Like everyone else, he thinks
physical problems are usually
caused by sins and sometimes by
[using finger quotations] "the
glory of God." If Jesus succeeds in
spreading teachings which will last
thousands of years, then his flawed
understanding of science will also
last that long...Sure I could
easily do something to right his
thinking... but I'll put that off
for now.

The Townsman leads the BLIND MAN over to Jesus.

TOWNSMAN

This man will help you.

The man comes forward. Jesus puts his hands on the man's
eyes.

JESUS

Be healed my son.

The Rauschmonstrum snaps his fingers and points.

Jesus takes his hands away.

The Blind Man blinks rapidly.

He puts his arms up in the air.

BLIND MAN

I can see!

The Blind Man grabs dances around.

BLIND MAN

I can see!

One TOWN PHARISEE come over

TOWN PHARISEE

What is going on here?

The Blind Man, grinning, turns to the Town Pharisee. He
points at Jesus.

BLIND MAN

I was blind and this man cured me.

The Town Pharisee points at Jesus.

TOWN PHARISEE

This man? I've seen him before. He does not even keep the sabbath, he can't be from God. There's no way he healed you.

The Town Pharisee turns to the other people who have gathered around.

TOWN PHARISEE

Tell me the truth. Was this man ever actually blind

TOWNSMAN

Yes, he was blind until just now.

TOWN PHARISEE

Well then obviously there is some other explanation for this.

The Town Pharisee walks closer to the Blind Man in intimidating fashion.

TOWN PHARISEE

Tell me the truth, how was your sight cured?

BLIND MAN

It is as I told you. It was *this* man. He touched me and I healed.

TOWN PHARISEE

But he couldn't have cured you, he's a sinner!

BLIND MAN

Whether he is a sinner I do not know. All I know is I was blind and now I see.

The Town Pharisee wags his finger at Jesus.

TOWN PHARISEE

Since no one here wants to tell me the truth I will leave.

The Town Pharisee walks up to Jesus.

TOWN PHARISEE

But *you*, you're a troublemaker. I am going to tell my fellow Pharisees all about this. We have ways of dealing with your kind.

The Rauschmonstrum walks behind the Town Pharisee and sticks his foot out.

The Town Pharisee turns to leave and trips over the Rauschmonstrum's foot.

He falls to the ground.

The disciples and the others gathered around Jesus all LAUGH.

Indignant, the Pharisee gets up and staggers away.

INT. TEMPLE- DAY

Jesus is on the altar, speaking.

The crowd sits in the pews, their eyes enthralled by Jesus' oration.

JESUS

Therefore, if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into heaven maimed, rather than to enter hell with two hands. If your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter heaven hobbled, rather than having your two feet cast into hell.

Some PHARISEES enter the temple, dragging along with them a squirming woman, an ADULTERESS.

The Pharisees push the woman down to the ground near the altar.

Jesus looks down at this display stoically.

Those seated look shocked.

FIRST PHARISEE

Teacher, we found this woman in adultery. In the very act!

The Rauschmonstrum sits in a pew fanning his head with a fan.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM
 (sarcastically)
 Oh no what a travesty.

SECOND PHARISEE
 Now in our law, Moses commanded us
 to stone such women. What then do
 you say about her?

Jesus walks down from the altar to their level. He looks deep into the eyes of the first Pharisee, as if peering into his soul. He then does the same thing to the second Pharisee. After this, he then goes to the Adulteress, who lays on the ground, and lifts her chin up to look in to her eyes as well.

Jesus then crouches on the floor of the temple and traces his finger on the ground as though writing.

The Pharisees give each other a look - "what the hell is he doing?"

The people in the pews don't seem to know what is going on either.

The Rauschmonstrum appears less surprised. - "I'm sure he has a good reason for this."

Jesus continues to trace his finger over the ground, moving closer to the Pharisees.

FIRST PHARISEE
 Well? What do you say?

Jesus gets up. He swings his arms around, motioning that he is addressing all in attendance.

JESUS
 He who is without sin among you,
 let him be the one to throw the
 first stone at her.

Jesus crouches down and once again begins tracing his finger on the ground.

The Pharisees exchange looks with each other, then give a glance over at the crowd.

They glare once more at the Adulteress, and then storm out of the temple with a huff.

The crowd begins to empty out of the temple as well. After all, Jesus is too busy writing on the ground with his finger to give any more speeches.

Pretty soon the last person sitting in the pews is the Rauschmonstrum.

The Adulteress stands up. She keeps her eyes on Jesus, unsure how to proceed.

Jesus stops with his finger tracing, and stands up.

JESUS

Woman, did anyone condemn you?

ADULTERESS

No one, my Lord.

JESUS

Then neither do I condemn you. Go in peace.

The Adulteress walks out of the temple.

Jesus kneels down and prays.

The Rauschmonstrum walks over to where Jesus is, and then turns to address the CAMERA.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

I hope any aspiring politician took notes there. The Pharisees thought they had trapped the Nazarene into either agreeing or disagreeing that she should be stoned. If he had said yes, he'd be violating Roman law, only the Romans have the authority to execute people, and the Pharisees would jump to squeal to them about it. If he had said no, then he'd be violated Jewish law. Yet he went with a third option. That's masterful political strategy.

The Rauschmonstrum sighs.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

It is astoundingly cruel for adultery to be punishable by death. Man puts such rigid restrictions on sexual behavior. If this Nazarene's teachings really do last for millennia, I hope permissive sexuality is a central tenant.

INT. INN- DAY

Jesus and his disciples are sitting in chairs, loafing around.

A MESSENGER BOY enters.

Jesus and the disciples look up at him.

PETER

Yes?

The Messenger Boy walks up to them.

MESSENGER BOY

Is amongst you Jesus of Nazareth?

PETER

(suspicious)

Who is asking?

Jesus puts his hand up to Peter.

JESUS

I am Jesus of Nazareth, what is it boy?

MESSENGER BOY

I have word from Bethany.

JESUS

Word of what?

MESSENGER BOY

You are acquainted with Lazarus of Bethany?

JESUS

Yes, I know him very well, along with his sisters Martha and Mary.

MESSENGER BOY

I hate to say it, but Lazarus is dying.

The disciples all look sad from hearing this.

JESUS

Oh, I had heard Lazarus was ill for quite some time.

MESSENGER BOY

I'm very sorry.

JESUS

Thank you for your message.

The Messenger Boy holds his hand out for a tip. Jesus looks at him and then looks away. The Messenger Boy gets the drift and walks out of the room.

Jesus sits there quietly. The disciples keep their eyes fixed on him, waiting for him to speak.

JESUS

I think...we should return to Judea, so we may then journey to Bethany to see Lazarus.

PETER

But Master, the last time we were in Judea they tried to stone us! If we return they might finish the job.

JESUS

It is already decided. I will go to Bethany to see Lazarus. If you are willing to accompany me, then follow.

Jesus gets out of his seat and walks out the door.

The disciples are left to discuss amongst themselves.

JAMES

I don't think we should go it in too dangerous.

ANDREW

I second that motion

PETER

I know it'll be dangerous, but since he is already going... I don't know.

THOMAS

If the master is to die in Judea, we should go with him, so that we may die with him.

The disciples are silent, thinking.

PETER

Thomas is right, if that is Jesus' destiny what type of men would we be if we abandoned him to save ourselves. Let's go.

The disciples get up and walk towards the door.

The Rauschmonstrum is revealed to be sitting in a corner of the room, reading a newspaper. He puts the newspaper down, and speaks to the CAMERA.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

I have a pesky feeling that by the time they get to Bethany this Lazarus fellow will be dead, and I will be forced to raise him to uphold the Nazarene's reputation.

EXT. STREETS OF BETHANY- DAY

Jesus and the disciples walk along.

MARTHA and MARY stand with a group of people.

A WOMAN OF BETHANY rushes up to them.

WOMAN OF BETHANY

Jesus of Nazareth is here.

Martha and Mary look at each other in shock.

MARY

Where!

The Woman of Bethany points off in one direction.

WOMAN OF BETHANY

There.

Mary and Martha look where she points.

MARY'S POV- JESUS AND THE DISCIPLES

walk down the street in their direction.

Mary and Martha walk away from the crowd.

As Jesus and the disciples walk, Mary and Martha meet them.

JESUS
Martha, Mary.

Jesus hugs Martha and then hugs Mary.

After Mary hugs Jesus she goes does to her knees and grasps his leg, crying.

Jesus looks down at Mary and then turns his attention to Martha.

MARTHA
Lazarus is dead.

JESUS
When?

MARTHA
Four days ago.

JESUS
I see, we were on our way over here.

Mary gets up, tears streaming down her face.

MARY
Lord, if you would have been here days ago, my brother would not have died.

Jesus looks up at the sky, as if searching for guidance from above.

A crowd gathers around them.

JESUS
I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will still live, even if he dies. Whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?

MARY
Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, God's Son, who has come into the world.

Jesus paces around in a circle.

He then collapses in the street and weeps. The tears pour down his face.

The disciples look disturbed at Jesus' crying.

Mary, Martha, and the crowd also look taken aback by Jesus' tears.

The Rauschmonstrum appears and also looks surprised.

Two MEN IN THE CROWD speak.

FIRST MAN IN CROWD

See how much affection he had for him!

SECOND MAN IN CROWD

Could not this man, who opened the eyes of him who was blind, have also kept this man from dying?

Jesus stops crying and wipes away the tears.

He gets up, and turns back to Mary and Martha.

JESUS

Where have you buried him?

MARTHA

Lord, come and see.

Jesus beckons for Mary and Martha to lead him.

Mary and Martha walk away and Jesus and the disciples follow them.

The Rauschmonstrum turns his attention to the CAMERA.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

I guess I really am going to be raising Lazarus. I wish I didn't have to do this. I feel for Jesus, did you see how they manipulated him? It was shameless. Making him feel guilty about not getting to Bethany in time to see Lazarus still alive, it takes a week to get here!

The Rauschmonstrum pauses and shakes his head.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

Well...at least this will be a miracle to be rooted in gravitas, unlike that water into wine trick I did earlier.

The Rauschmonstrum walk away towards where Jesus and the others are going.

EXT. LAZARUS' TOMB- DAY

Lazarus's tomb consists of a boulder rolled in front of a cave.

Mary and Martha walk towards the cave, leading Jesus, the disciples, and the crowd.

They all reach the tomb.

Jesus stares at the tomb.

He turns to his disciples.

JESUS

Take away the stone.

MARTHA

But Lord, he has been in there for days. There's going to be quite the stench.

Jesus grabs Martha by her face.

JESUS

Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see God's glory?

Jesus lets go of her and turns his attention to his disciples again.

JESUS

Take away the stone.

The disciples go to the stone and begin pushing it away.

Jesus stands side by side with Mary and Martha watching the disciples as they roll.

The Rauschmonstrum stands there watching as well, and turns to the CAMERA.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

They really need to ditch this whole boulder in front of a cave nonsense. Isn't burying someone in the ground enough?

The disciples succeed in rolling the boulder away from the cave. The boulder is now off to the side.

Jesus turns around and scans the crowd.

Those in the crowd look at Jesus- "Is he actually going to do it?"

Jesus walks toward the cave, and stops.

He looks up in the air.

JESUS

Father, I know that you always
listen to me, but because of the
multitude that stands around me, I
ask that you do this, that they may
believe that you sent me.

Jesus takes a deep breathe.

JESUS

(screaming)
Lazarus! Come out!

Jesus stands in place, waiting.

The crowd stands watching as though hypnotized.

The Rauschmonstrum snaps his fingers and points towards the cave.

Lazarus walks out of the cave, dressed head to toe in bandages. The crowd MURMURS as he walks out.

Jesus looks stoically at Lazarus as he comes out, and they both hug.

The crowd CHEERS and APPLAUDS.

Tears stream down Mary and Martha's faces. They rush over.

Mary and Martha hug Lazarus. Mary and Martha then hug Jesus.

The crowd comes over and lifts Jesus up in the air. A smile spreads on Jesus' face.

The crowd chants "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus" as they carry him away. Mary, Martha, Lazarus, and all the disciples leave with them.

Smiling, the Rauschmonstrum watches everyone as they leave.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

If this does not give the Nazarene
a large following, nothing will.

INT. CAIAPHAS' HOUSE- DAY

Around a table sit several bearded priests, dressed in robes.

CAIAPHAS, the head priest, sits at the head of the table, looking especially disgruntled.

PRIEST #1

What are we to do with this Nazarene? Stories about him raising that man from the dead have spread all over.

PRIEST #2

Many come to me and ask why it is that I can not heal the sick.

PRIEST #3

Yes, and they have begun to question rules on fasting, and the keeping of the Sabbath.

PHARISEE #1

This man does many signs. If we leave him alone like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.

Caiaphas bangs his hand against the table.

This shocks the other priests, who look up at him silently.

Caiaphas stands up.

CAIAPHAS

As chief priest this year I believe the right decision is held by me.

PRIEST #1

What do you suggest Caiaphas?

CAIAPHAS

You are all fine scholars, but you are not men of action! Can't you understand it is advantageous to us for one man to die so the nation can live! Jesus will not just go away just because we ask him to, or pray to Yahweh that he leave. No! To get rid of Jesus we will have to kill him.

The priests sitting at the table all exchange silent looks. Then they look back up at Caiaphas. They nod.

Caiaphas smiles.

CAIAPHAS

Then it is settled then.

INT. LAZARUS' HOUSE- NIGHT

Jesus, the disciples, Lazarus, and Martha are all eating seated at the table, eating. The Rauschmonstrum is also seated. He addresses the CAMERA.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

Martha and Mary are giving Jesus a thank you dinner for raising Lazarus. It's the least they can do.

The Rauschmonstrum motions at Lazarus, who is gulping down a bowl of soup. Lazarus looks as though he doesn't have a single thought in his head.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

Look at this man. He was dead, and yet he sits here as though none of that happened. He is living his life the same way he had before, nothing is altered. What a waste. If I were in his position, I would be dancing around the town, drinking and whoring, and singing songs. I would travel to the finest cities, and sail the darkened seas. Yet, I feel as though most people would behave just as this man does, if they were under the same circumstances. Worthless!

Mary comes to the table, carrying a jug of perfume.

MARY

Master.

Jesus looks up at Mary.

JESUS

Yes, Mary?

MARY

This is a jar of perfume. It cost me a lot of money. I've been saving it for a special occasion. Master, I'd like to rub this perfume on your feet as a way of anointing you.

JESUS

I'd like that very much.

Jesus turns in his seat so that he faces her.

Mary bends down and takes off Jesus' shoes.

She then begins rubbing the perfume on Jesus' feet

The Rauschmonstrum looks puzzled.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

Well that's a pretty strange thing to do during dinner.

Judas gets up, looking enraged.

JUDAS

Why wasn't this perfume sold for three hundred Denarii coins, and given to the poor?

Jesus and Mary look up.

JESUS

Judas, leave her alone! Don't you know I am always on death's door! You will always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me.

Judas sits down and crosses his arms, glaring at Jesus.

The Rauschmonstrum looks intrigued.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

A rift is here. This Judas has his doubts about the direction the Nazarene's ministry is taking. Perhaps he is ripe for a turn.

Some VOICES are heard from outside. Martha gets up.

MARTHA
I will see what that is all about.

Martha walks toward the door.

EXT. LAZARUS' HOUSE- NIGHT

An ANGRY CROWD is outside the house.

Martha walks outside. Now that she's there the crowd gets noisier.

ANGRY CROWD
(chanting in unison)
Bring out the Nazarene! Bring out
the Nazarene!

MARTHA
What do you want with Jesus?

ANGRY CROWD
(chanting in unison)
His blood! His blood!

Martha rushes back inside.

INT. LAZARUS' HOUSE- NIGHT

Martha rushes over to the table. Mary is now toweling off Jesus' feet.

MARTHA
There are men outside out to get
you!

Jesus and the disciples all jump up.

MARTHA
You'll need to go out through the
back!

Jesus strokes Mary's chin.

JESUS
Thank you for anointing me with the
perfume. I'll cherish the memory
close.

Mary sheds a tear.

We hear a VOICE FROM OUTSIDE

VOICE FROM OUTSIDE (VO)
We're coming in!

Jesus and his disciples rush away.

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. WOODS- DAY

Jesus and his disciples are laying down by some trees.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM (VO)
Jesus and the disciples spent some
time hiding in the wilderness.
However, with Passover upon them it
was believed inevitable Jesus would
be making a trip to Jerusalem.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. INN- NIGHT

Jesus and his disciples sit at a table, eating.

Jesus is at the head of the table, looking solemn.

As Peter eats he notices Jesus' solemn expression.

PETER
What is wrong my Lord, you have not
touched your food.

JESUS
My friends...I have been thinking
about my eventual end.

Hearing this troubles the disciples.

PETER
But Jesus, what do you mean?

JESUS
What I mean is...it is my destiny
to go to Jerusalem, suffer at the
hands of the priests, elders, and
Pharisees, and then die on the
cross.

After saying this, Jesus begins to eat from his plate as
though nothing is wrong.

The disciples look horrified.

PETER

No Master! That will never happen
to you!

Jesus bangs his hand against the table.

JESUS

Get behind me, you Satan! You are
just a stumbling block to me; you
do not have in mind the concerns of
God, but merely human concerns!

We see the Rauschmonstrum sitting in a chair in the corner.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

Better to have human concerns than
the ones you have in mind,
Nazarene.

JESUS

If anyone desires to come after me,
let him deny himself, and take up
his cross, and follow me. For
whoever desires to save his life
will lose it, and whoever will lose
his life for my sake will find
it. For what will it profit a man,
if he gains the whole world, and
forfeits his life?

The disciples look confused as to how to react to this.

Jesus calmly goes back to eating his meal.

The Rauschmonstrum paces around the room addressing the
CAMERA.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

This Nazarene must have a death
wish. It is as though he views his
death as some moral high point in
the history of mankind. Nobody has
thought of themself in this manner
before, he's an all new creation.
I'll admit, I've been weary at the
thought of the Nazarene's eventual
demise, in a way I'd like our game
to go on forever, but since it'
something he desires...

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF JERUSALEM- DAY

A Sign reads "WELCOME TO JERUSALEM".

Jesus and the disciples are walking, with two of the disciples leading a horse by its reins.

They stop.

Some of the disciples take off their cloaks and put them on the horse as cushioning.

They then help Jesus get on the horse.

The horse CLIP-CLOPS along, and the disciples walk along on either side.

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. STREETS OF JERUSALEM- DAY

A CROWD is standing on the road. Many of them hold palm branches.

They murmur things amongst themselves such as "Jesus is coming", "the Master is coming", and "the Teacher is coming."

Jesus comes down the street riding the horse. The disciples walk at his side.

The crowd CHEERS as Jesus arrives. It is as though it is the 1960's and the Beatles are in town.

Many people run up to the procession to SHOUT things at him.

PALM BRANCHES

are tossed in the air in flux.

Palm branches now litter the road.

The Crowd begins to SING in unison.

CROWD

(singing)

Holy, holy, holy. Lord God of Hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

CROWD
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest

Jesus' disciples all look overjoyed at their treatment,
Jesus just keeps a stoic look.

Some Pharisees and Priests stand in the crowd watching the
procession, and looking disgruntled.

Jesus and his procession keep on treading down the road.

CROWD
(chanting)
Jesus! Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!

INT. TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM- DAY

Carts and tables are set up everywhere. Merchants are
shouting about what they're selling and customers walk
around inquiring what to buy.

Money changers also have booths set up, where they sit
behind tall stacks of coins.

Musicians play their instruments in a corner.

Jesus and his disciples walk into the temple. Jesus has an
intense look in his eye.

The Rauschmonstrum walks in behind them.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM
Time for some action.

Jesus goes up to one table and flips it over. The owner
gives a cry of displeasure.

Other people inside the temple look over in puzzlement.

Jesus continues to flip over tables and carts.

People rush around in confusion.

Jesus stops in the center of the temple

JESUS
 (screaming)
 My temple will be a house of
 prayer! But you have made it a den
 of thieves!

Jesus continues running around flipping over carts and tables. Some people run away from him, and some run up to him begging him to stop.

JESUS
 Get out you merchants! Get out you
 money changers! Out! Out!

People rush out of the temple in droves.

The Rauschmonstrum watches with a big grin.

With the temple now empty, Jesus sits down in the middle of the temple, breathing heavily. His disciples gather around him.

A crowd of poor people dressed in tattered clothes nervously enter the temple and approach Jesus.

He looks up at them with exhausted eyes.

The people genuflect before him.

Some PHARISEES enter the temple.

The Rauschmonstrum looks up at them with interest.

PHARISEE #1
 Now is the time when we may seize
 him. He is in plain sight and he
 has just given us cause.

PHARISEE #2
 But look at the crowd that has
 gathered around him. They will
 anger if we seize him and we do not
 know what they may do.

PHARISEE #3
 Yes, if we are to arrest him, we
 will need to do so when nobody else
 is around to cause a disturbance

Jesus gets up and points at the Pharisees.

JESUS

Curse you you Pharisees! You preach
what you do not practice! You trick
the poor out of their wages! You
worship gold over God! You
persecute the righteous! Be gone
with you!

The Pharisees stand frozen in shock.

JESUS

OUT OF MY SIGHT! GO!

The Pharisees all run out of the temple in cowardly fashion.

The Rauschmonstrum shakes his head

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

These Pharisees are useless, and
the priests are just as bad. They
are powerful men, yet they are
afraid of these poor people?
They'll never get this done.

The Rauschmonstrum shakes his head some more, his eyes in
thought.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

No, if Jesus of Nazareth is to die,
it'll have to be through me.

INT. JUDAS' ROOM- NIGHT

Judas is asleep in a bed.

The Rauschmonstrum stands watching him. He then turns to
face the CAMERA.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

What better way to end the life of
the Nazarene than for him to be
betrayed by one of his disciples.

He points in Judas' direction.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

Judas will be the one. He's behaved
strangely towards Jesus ever since
that Mary woman rubbed perfume over
Jesus' feet. He doubts him. And I
am going to harness that doubt.

The Rauschmonstrum transforms into the form of a glowing angel dressed in white. In this angelic form, the Rauschmonstrum speaks in a sweet, high voice.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

Judas...Judas

Judas' eyes open.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

Judas.

Judas looks over at the angel incarnation. Shock appears in his eyes

The angel incarnation smiles at him.

Judas falls out of bed. He crawls towards the angel and remains prostrate.

JUDAS

You are an angel?

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

I am a servant of our God.

Judas prays under his breathe and rocks back and forth.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

Judas, I am appearing before you now, for you are the most righteous of the disciples of the man known as Jesus.

JUDAS

Thank you, thank you, thank you! I am not worthy.

Judas trembles on the ground.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

Judas, unfortunately the man known as Jesus is not who is says he is.

JUDAS

He isn't? I suspected as much. The deeds he does are too powerful.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

He is something quite darker.

JUDAS

Is he the Beelzebub? The devil?

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

Not quite, but he is one of his underlings. He must be stopped.

JUDAS

Why do you tell me this? What must I do?"

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

"I am going to tell you what to do. Now, listen very carefully..."

INT. TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM-DAY

Caiaphas stands at the altar in the temple with some other PRIESTS and PHARISEES.

PHARISEE

Why don't we just seize him when he's out in public?

CAIAPHAS

If we seize him when he's out in public his supporters will show up in droves to his trial and demand his release. The Romans would never allow someone with that kind of rousing support to be executed for only breaking religious laws. Anyone, let's forget all this, it's useless. Let's discuss further the ceremonial plans for Passover.

PRIEST

Due to tax increases by the Romans this year we're not going to have enough of a budget for anything lavish.

CAIAPHAS

Damn.

Judas enters the temple.

Caiaphas and the Pharisees look at him.

Judas walks up the steps to the altar.

CAIAPHAS
Can we help you?

JUDAS
It's I who can help you.

CAIAPHAS
And how is that?

JUDAS
Jesus of Nazareth, I'm one of his
twelve.

Caiaphas exchanges looks with the Priests and Pharisees. He then turns back to Judas.

CAIAPHAS
I'm listening.

JUDAS
I can supply him for you, if you
desire.

CAIAPHAS
You wish to betray your master?

JUDAS
I don't think of it as such.

CAIAPHAS
Why are you doing this?

JUDAS
My reasons alone.

Caiaphas grins.

CAIAPHAS
Do these reasons have to do with
money?

JUDAS
Not at all.

Caiaphas purses his lips trying to figure out Judas' motives.

CAIAPHAS
Nevertheless I'll pay you anyway.
Here...

Caiaphas pulls a small sack out of his shirt and holds it out to Judas.

CAIAPHAS
Should be thirty pieces of silver
in there.

Judas looks at the sack, unsure whether to take it.

CAIAPHAS
Take it.

Judas takes the sack.

CAIAPHAS
I trust you'll alert us when the
time is right.

Judas starts walking away.

CAIAPHAS
This is quite a noble deed you're
doing.

Judas stops short.

CAIAPHAS
You're bound to receive some grand
divine reward for this.

Judas walks away.

EXT. TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM-DAY

Judas walks out of the temple holding his bag of silver. The Rauschmonstrum watches him as he walks. The Rauschmonstrum begins walking around and the CAMERA keeps pace with him as he walks.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM
Well that went smoothly. Along with
my maneuvering of Judas I have done
some further maneuvering of the
Nazarene. I implanted some visions
into Jesus' dreams. Jesus is a man
who believes his dreams, trust me.
The first thing I showed him was
Judas' betrayal. I'm intrigued by
how Jesus will react. The second
thing I showed him is his right
hand man Peter denying that he
knows him. I think I had it that
Peter denies him three times before
a cock crows, or something like
that; seems poetic enough. I know

RAUSCHMONSTRUM
 that it's in Peter's character that
 if he's put in a tough scenario
 he'll turn into the lowliest of
 cowards, and Jesus' arrest is gonna
 be as tough a scenario as Peter's
 ever been in. Anyway, tonight's
 Passover, and it seems like Jesus
 has gotten a very special meal
 planned for his disciples.

The Rauschmonstrum walks away.

INT. DINING HALL- NIGHT

Jesus and the disciples are sitting around a square table.
 The disciples are all eating. While Jesus sits silently,
 staring out into space.

JESUS
 My friends, most certainly I tell
 you this... tonight one of you will
 betray me.

The disciples all GASP.

Judas tenses up.

PETER
 It isn't me, is it Lord?

JESUS
 One of you who dined with me will
 betray me. As it is written, I
 must go. However, woe to that man
 by whom the Son of Man is betrayed!
 It would be better for that man if
 he had not been born.

Judas' eyes dart from side to side.

JUDAS
 Certainly it is not me. my Lord.

JESUS
 You say so.

Jesus picks up a piece of bread, and breaks it. He then
 passes it out amongst the disciples.

JESUS

Take, eat; this is my body, which
will be given up for you.

The disciples all hesitate, and look at each other; for this
is a strange thing to say. Then they eat the bread.

Jesus pours wine into all their glasses.

JESUS

All of you drink, for this is my
blood of the new covenant, which is
poured out for the forgiveness of
sins. I will not drink of this
fruit of the vine from now on,
until that day when I drink it anew
with you in my Father's Kingdom.

The disciples hesitate once again, and look amongst
themselves. They then sip from the glasses.

JESUS

I hate to say it but all of you
will be made to stumble because of
me tonight.

PETER

Even if all will be made to stumble
over you, I will never be made to
stumble.

JESUS

Peter, tonight, before the rooster
crows, you will deny me three
times.

PETER

No! Even if I must die with you, I
will not deny you.

JESUS

I can only hope.

Judas gets up.

Jesus looks at him.

Judas meets his eyes

JESUS

Go Judas, do what you must do.

Judas rushes away.

JESUS

We will finish our drinks, and then
we will journey to the Garden of
Gethsemane so that I may pray.

EXT. GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE- NIGHT

Jesus and his eleven remaining disciples enter Gethsemane,
which is a huge sprawling park.

They stop. Jesus looks from side to side, taking in the
scenery.

JESUS

Ah Gethsemane...I loved coming here
as a child whenever my family made
one of our infrequent trips to
Jerusalem...it really is beautiful.

Jesus and the disciples walk onward.

From a distance the Rauschmonstrum watches them.

DISSOLVE TO

Jesus and his disciples walk underneath a tree.

JESUS

I must go off alone to pray. My
soul is exceedingly sorrowful, to
the point of death. Stay here, and
watch for me.

Jesus walks away.

DISSOLVE TO

Jesus walks by himself until he finds a secluded spot.

He whimpers and then tears pour down his face.

Jesus collapses on the ground in prayer, SOBBING loudly.

JESUS

(between sobs)

I have had my occasional doubts,
but I have always done what I
believed was required of me. And
now, as we come close, I ask you
this. Father, let this cup of
suffering pass away from me!

Jesus looks up towards the sky, expecting an answer.

JESUS
Please, please, please, take it
away!

Jesus writhes on the ground in anguish.

JESUS
(screaming)
Of all the beings who have ever
lived, it had to be I charged with
this task! Why!

RAUSCHMONSTRUM
Look at the agony he puts himself
through over a fantasy he had
fabricated about his own destiny.

The Rauschmonstrum walks in front of Jesus.

He transforms into an angel, glistening in white light.

Jesus looks up at the angel. His sobbing stops and his
breathing calms down.

The angel incarnation moves closer to Jesus and strokes
Jesus' chin.

Jesus smiles.

The angel incarnation then disappears.

JESUS
Nevertheless, do not what I desire,
but what you desire.

Jesus then prays silently.

The Rauschmonstrum, in his standard human form, reappears to
the back of Jesus. He addresses the CAMERA.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM
Perhaps what I am doing is too
much? Perhaps the life of Nazarene
has shown there is more good about
the human race than I thought
possible before?...If I wanted to I
could manipulate the coming events
so that Jesus avoids arrest. I
could continue following him and
performing the miracles. Or I could
simply leave, and he would need to
adjust to no longer being able to
carry on as he had before.

The Rauschmonstrum shakes his head violently. He crouches down on the ground with his head in his hands. He regains his composure and gets back up.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

No...no, I will finish what I have begun.

The Rauschmonstrum looks over at Jesus.

Jesus is continuing to pray very softly in a feverish sweat.

The Rauschmonstrum takes a deep breath. He then TRANSFORMS into a cloud of smoke.

As Jesus prays, the Rauschmonstrum floats towards him.

The Rauschmonstrum floats in front of Jesus' face. Jesus opens his eyes and sees the Rauschmonstrum for the first time. Jesus blinks his eyes a few times and then closes them again, and goes back to his prayer.

The Rauschmonstrum floats around Jesus' body again and goes directly in front of his face again.

Jesus opens his eyes and once again looks at the Rauschmonstrum.

When the Rauschmonstrum speaks in his smokey form his voice is deep and articulate.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

Do you know who I am?

JESUS

Yes, you are the serpent, come to tempt me away from facing my fate. Be gone with you!

The Rauschmonstrum laughs.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

You think I am Satan? I am not Satan.

JESUS

Of course you are Satan, for who else may you be? I know you are no angel.

The Rauschmonstrum gives a smokey grin

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

Quite right...no angel. Certainly not the angel who appeared to you right here...when you were praying before?

The Rauschmonstrum transforms into the same angel he had appeared as before during Jesus' prayers.

Jesus watches him, without any expression.

The Rauschmonstrum then returns right back to his smokey form.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

There, now what do you think of that?

Jesus' lips tremble despite his attempts to control them. Not responding to the Rauschmonstrum, he goes back to his prayer.

The Rauschmonstrum floats around Jesus

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

Do you remember all the blind you made see, the lame you made walk, and all the others you cured of disease?

JESUS

Have you come here to mock me for my aid to the downtrodden?

The Rauschmonstrum cackles in laughter.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

Do you remember feeding the multitude of five thousand with the five loaves and two fish?

JESUS

"I have fed many."

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

"And do you remember reviving Lazarus from the dead?"

Jesus remains silent, starting to breathe heavier.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

You were reluctant to raise Lazarus, weren't you?

JESUS

I would have preferred it if
Lazarus had not died, and I had not
needed to raise him.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

What if I told you all those
miracles you performed were
actually my doing, and all of your
feats were able to happen only
because I wanted them to happen, to
spite your foolishness, and the
foolishness of the human race.

Jesus returns to silent prayer for a period of time before
answering the Rauschmonstrum.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

When I was a boy...I suspected my
design was different than that of
other people. I became sure of it
the day I was baptized in the
Jordan by John...

Tears roll down Jesus' face.

He gets up and reaches his hands up to the sky.

JESUS

The heavens opened up and the voice
of God shouted down upon me "this
is my beloved son, with whom I am
well pleased."

Jesus smiles at this memory.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

I remember, I was there that day.

JESUS

Then you know it is so.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

I was the one who rearranged the
sky and made that voice.

JESUS

(agitated)

No, that is not true. That is
impossible.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

If there is any truth at all, it is that you are no Messiah. But no worries, you will find all that out soon enough. Judas will be returning shortly.

The Rauschmonstrum then vanishes.

Jesus spends some more time praying with his eyes closed. VOICES are heard in the distance. Jesus opens his eyes and turns his head.

JESUS' POV- JUDAS AND THE TEMPLE GUARDS

are coming towards the garden, holding torches.

Jesus gets up.

He walks up to his sleeping disciples.

Jesus crouches down and nudges Peter. Peter's eyes open.

JESUS

Are you still sleeping and resting?
Enough! The hour has come. Look,
the Son of Man is delivered into
the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us
go!

The disciples all open their eyes. Muttering things like "huh" and "what's happening."

Jesus gets up and turns around.

JESUS' POV- JUDAS AND THE TEMPLE GUARDS

come closer to Jesus and the disciples.

JESUS

Here comes my betrayer!

The disciples all get up and stand behind Jesus.

Judas and the Temple Guards reach Jesus and the disciples.

Judas looks at Jesus, nervously.

Jesus looks back at him, expressionless.

The disciples look frightened.

The Rauschmonstrum, back in human form, stands loftily to the side.

Judas turns to the temple guards.

JUDAS
Whoever I kiss is the one.

Judas walks up to Jesus.

Jesus stares into his eyes.

JESUS
Do what you came for, friend.

Judas hesitates before grabbing Jesus by the shoulders and giving him a violent kiss on the lips.

Judas then pulls away and walks back over to where the temple guards are.

The temple guards go forward and a couple of them grab Jesus.

PETER
No!

The disciples rush at the guards.

Some disciples grapple hands with the temple guards, while others exchange punches with them.

Peter's hand goes to his pocket.

A KNIFE

is pulled out.

Peter raises the knife in his hand.

He brings the knife down.

It slashes off one temple guard's ear.

The Temple Guard howls in pain, bringing his hand up to his ear.

Jesus uses his hands to separate Peter and the Temple Guard.

JESUS
Put your sword away. No more of
this!

Everyone stops fighting and looks at Jesus.

Jesus touches the man's ear.

The Rauschmonstrum snaps his fingers and points.

Jesus brings his hand away from the man's ear. It is healed.

The Rauschmonstrum grins.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

One last miracle for the Nazarene.

The Temple Guards grab hold of Jesus, who remains calm.

JESUS

Am I such a threat that you needed
to come with swords and
clubs? Every day I was with you in
the temple and the streets, yet you
did not lay a hand on me. But this
is the hour when darkness reigns.

Jesus turns to his disciples.

Jesus' disciples all run away.

Jesus lowers his head.

The temple guards lead him away.

The Rauschmonstrum looks off at the procession.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

No more is needed of me to shape
the life of the Nazarene.

The Rauschmonstrum sheds a single tear.

EXT. CAIAPHAS' HOUSE- NIGHT

The Temple Guards lead Jesus towards the house.

When they reach the steps they push Jesus to the ground.

Laying on the ground he gives a yelp of pain.

They pick him up and lead him into the house.

Judas stops outside the house. He looks very sad.

He gets down on his knees and begins to cry.

He gets up and scampers away.

INT. CAIAPHAS' HOUSE- NIGHT

Caiaphas sits at his table.

Jesus is brought into the room by the guards.

Caiaphas smiles upon seeing Jesus.

Jesus is forced into a chair directly across from Caiaphas.

CAIAPHAS

Did you get to have dinner for
tonight's Passover?

Jesus looks back at Caiaphas silently.

CAIAPHAS

I did. It was very good. Too bad
it's all gone, I'd offer you some.

Jesus remains silent.

Caiaphas is humored by Jesus' silence. He gets up and starts
pacing around the room.

CAIAPHAS

I've dealt with many a rogue
preacher. Many many. But...none of
them were anything quite like you.

Caiaphas chuckles.

CAIAPHAS

I'm sure you'd agree. I've heard
all the stories. The feedings, the
healings, the so-called raising
from the dead...Maybe you did do
all those things, I don't know...
But you're gonna go down just the
same.

Caiaphas sits back down.

CAIAPHAS

The trial will begin now!

Some Pharisees, Priests, and Scribes walk into the room.
They go over to stand between where Jesus and Caiaphas sit.

One Elder Scribe steps forward and unwinds a long scroll.

ELDER SCRIBE

The following is a list of grievances I have against Jesus of Nazareth. First of all the accused has been known to be critical of the-

EXT. CAIAPHAS' HOUSE- NIGHT

Some Temple Guards stand outside of Caiaphas' house, talking to each other.

There are some other people standing around and talking.

Peter, looking very nervous, walks towards the house.

PETER'S POV- CAIAPHAS' HOUSE

We can see the scribe inside reading from his list of grievances.

Peter stands there, trying to get a sense of what is happening inside.

One SERVANT GIRL looks up to him and then walks up to him.

SERVANT GIRL

Excuse me sir...sir?

The Servant Girl touches his shoulder.

At her touch, Peter quickly turns toward her with a look of fear.

PETER

What is it?

SERVANT GIRL

I know who you are.

PETER

No, I don't think you do.

SERVANT GIRL

But I do. You are a disciple of Jesus of Nazarene, the man being questioned inside.

At this, the Temple Guards and the other people around all turn to look at Peter.

PETER

You're wrong. I don't even know who he is. I've never heard of him.

A MALE SERVANT walks up to them.

MALE SERVANT

Yes, I do believe I've seen this man with Jesus of Nazareth.

PETER

You must be mistaken.

A crowd gathers over to Peter in interest. Amongst them is the Rauschmonstrum.

One TEMPLE GUARD walks up to Peter.

TEMPLE GUARD

Surely you are one of his disciples, I believe I recognize your voice.

PETER

I do not know the man!

The crowd which has gathered around Peter begins to go away.

The Rauschmonstrum smiles. He opens his mouth and the sound of a rooster CROWING comes out.

Peter looks stunned. He sits on the ground, and begins to weep. The Rauschmonstrum stares at him as he weeps.

INT. CAIAPHAS' HOUSE- NIGHT

The Elder Scribe is just finishing up reading from the list of grievances against Jesus.

ELDER SCRIBE

(reading from scroll)

The accused has been known to congregate with prostitutes, and other women of lesser repute.

Jesus keeps his head bowed in prayer.

ELDER SCRIBE

There has been an accusation that he once stole a sandwich out of another man's hand.

Caiaphas gives a strange look- that accusation doesn't sound right.

ELDER SCRIBE

And lastly, the accused was heard by several witnesses to say that he will tear down the temple of God and rebuild it in three days. There are several things wrong with this statement, first of all being that destroying a temple is strictly forbidden. Also, rebuilding a temple in three days is an impossibility so it would require dark magic.

The Elder Scribe rolls up his list and takes a step backwards to stand along with the other Pharisees, Priests, and Scribes in the room.

CAIAPHAS

Very good Elder Scribe, that was a very long and multifaceted list.

Caiaphas turns his attention to Jesus.

Jesus looks up at him stoically.

JESUS

Do you wish to deny any of these charges?

Jesus stares at him and says nothing.

Caiaphas gets out of his chair.

He walks up to Jesus and grabs him by the chin so that they are face to face.

CAIAPHAS

Are you the son of God? The Christ? If I hear it from your lips I may believe you, and this inquiry may take a sharp turn in your favor...Speak!

JESUS

It is you who says this. Nevertheless, I tell you, after this you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power.

Caiaphas stares at him blankly for a moment and then frowns.

He slaps Jesus across the face.

CAIAPHAS
His blasphemy is plain to see.

Caiaphas rips Jesus' clothes.

CAIAPHAS
Certainly he is worthy of death.

Caiaphas spits in Jesus' face.

CAIAPHAS
Guards!

Some Temple Guards come in.

CAIAPHAS
Rough him up a little bit before we
go see the Governor.

The Temple Guards walk up to Jesus and pick him up from his chair.

Then they toss him to the ground.

Caiaphas pours himself some wine and starts to drink it. As this goes on the guards kick Jesus.

Caiaphas stands sipping his wine, smiling as the temple guards beat Jesus. We hear the Temple Guards say things like "where's your messiah now?" and "if you are God then stop us from beating you."

EXT. CAIAPHAS' HOUSE- NIGHT

The Temple Guards walk Jesus out of the house, followed behind by Caiaphas and the other priests, pharisees, and scribes. The Rauschmonstrum is some ways in front of them walking and talking to the CAMERA.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM
Since the Priests don't have the authority to execute anyone they need to take Jesus before Pontius Pilate, the military governor of Judea and ask for his approval. He's a real sharp character, I think you'll like him.

INT. PILATE'S COURT- DAWN

PILATE wears an elegant cloak, sitting in an elegant chair, drinking water from an elegant chalice.

PILATE'S ADVISOR comes in.

PILATE'S ADVISOR
Pilate, the Jewish Sanhedrin is
here.

Pilate sighs.

PILATE
Last night was Passover, don't they
have anything better to do?

PILATE'S ADVISOR
They've brought with them a
prisoner they want you to sentence
to death.

Pilate gives a dismissive hand wave.

PILATE
Tell them to go away.

PILATE'S ADVISOR
I did sir, but they threatened to
go to your superiors if you do not
accept them. They say their
prisoner is a danger to both the
security of the Jewish people as
well as to Rome.

Pilate shakes his head.

PILATE
Of course they did... Alright send
them in.

Pilate's Advisor scuffles off to the door, and opens it.

Caiaphas, the priests, the Pharisees, and the scribes all enter, leading in Jesus, who is all bloodied and bruised.

Caiaphas walks up to where Pilate sits.

CAIAPHAS
Most honorable Pontius Pilate,
hello.

PILATE

Caiaphas, I won't pretend I'm happy to see you. The chief priest who preceded you never brought me any prisoners he wanted executed, while this is all you do.

CAIAPHAS

Sir, this man we have brought you must be put to death.

PILATE

What has he done.

Caiaphas looks towards Jesus, then turns back to Pilate.

CAIAPHAS

If this man were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered him up to you.

PILATE

So you've brought me a prisoner without any specific charges. Well, that isn't the first time you've done that. Don't waste my time.

Pilate takes a sip from his chalice and motions for them to leave.

CAIAPHAS

But Governor, this man has indeed committed crimes.

PILATE

(insisting)

What has he done?!

CAIAPHAS

He has publicly declared himself a prophet and King of the Jews.

PILATE

Hmmm

Pilate gets out of his seat and walks over to Jesus.

PILATE

What is your name?

Jesus stands silent.

Pilate turns to Caiaphas.

CAIAPHAS
Jesus, his name is Jesus.

PILATE
Jesus...

Pilate turns back to face Jesus.

PILATE
Well Jesus, is what they say true?
Do you claim to be the king of the
Jews?

JESUS
You say so.

Pilate gives a look of confusion.

PILATE
What does that mean?

Pilate turns to Caiaphas.

CAIAPHAS
I think you'll find that when he
responds, which he seldom does, he
gives ambiguous answers.

PILATE
Perfect, someone who speaks in
riddles. You really know how to dig
these people up Caiaphas. But tell
me, what specifically has he done?

CAIAPHAS
He said he would tear down the
great temple and rebuild it in
three days.

PILATE
Again, just words! I have several
friends who make claims more
outrageous than that over a round
of drinking. Am I to execute all of
them? What has he actually done?!

CAIAPHAS
He has ignored the Sabbath and
encouraged others to do so. He also
violates our rules on fasting.

PILATE

Am I a Jew? I do not care about your laws, and will not have a man executed only for breaking them. I'm sure there isn't a Jew alive who hasn't broken them some of the time.

CAIAPHAS

He stirs up the people, teaching all over Judea, starting from Nazareth as far as this place.

PILATE

Nazareth, you say? Then he is a Galilean. Well, in that case he is not in my jurisdiction. Send him to Herod.

Pilate's Advisor walks up to him.

PILATE'S ADVISOR

Oh, uh...that's not going to work?

PILATE

And why not?

PILATE'S ADVISOR

I meant to tell you this before, Herod died during the night.

PILATE

What? How?

PILATE'S ADVISOR

One of his drunken orgies, his heart finally gave out.

PILATE

Damn it! I'm the one who's going to have to replace him, that'll be a chore. Oh well.

Pilate turns to Caiaphas.

PILATE

When he teaches amongst the people, what does he do?

CAIAPHAS

He fraternizes with the undesirables.

PILATE
Half of Judea is undesirables!

CAIAPHAS
The unclean, the prostitutes!

PILATE
I'd hope he does spend some time
with prostitutes if he wandering
the countryside preaching.

Caiaphas gives an annoyed look after hearing this remark.

CAIAPHAS
He claims to have performed many
deeds which are impossible; healing
the sick, and in one
instance...raising the dead.

Pilate's eyebrows perk up.

PILATE
Ah, so a magician.

Pilate sets his sights on Jesus.

PILATE
Did you really bring someone back
from the dead?

Jesus stares back at him, silent.

PILATE
Your own people have brought you to
me for trial. Why? What have you
done? You are not helping your
cause with your silence. I am sure
if you only told me what was on
your mind I would be able to find
you innocent. Let me help you.

JESUS
My Kingdom is not an earthly
kingdom. If it were, my followers
would fight to keep me from being
handed over to you. But my Kingdom
is not of this world.

Pilate looks like he has reached an insight.

PILATE
Ah, ah, you mention a kingdom. So
you are a king?

JESUS

No, you say I am a king. I came into the world to testify the truth. All who know the truth recognize that what I say is true.

Pilate stares at Jesus.

PILATE

(sincerely)

What is truth?

Jesus looks back at Pilate, silent.

Pilate snickers.

He turns back to Caiaphas.

PILATE

You can't expect me to execute this man for minor violations of your law. He is harmless. There are all sorts of preachers around who have ideas different than your dogma. You'll just have to accept it.

CAIAPHAS

You will bring him to justice.

PILATE

Is this all just a negotiation so that I have him whipped? Sure, I'll have him whipped, and then sent away. There's no issue there.

CAIAPHAS

That will not do.

PILATE

And if I tell you I will not be pushed around by the Jewish Sanhedrin, and will let him go free immediately?

CAIAPHAS

That would be a pity...for you.

Caiaphas paces around.

CAIAPHAS

I hear Emperor Tiberius is awfully troubled at the thought of an insurrection. It may be unpleasant

CAIAPHAS
to see what he might do upon
hearing you let go this rebel
rouser.

Pilate laughs.

PILATE
A rebel rouser? No, Barabbas was a
rebel rouser, that's why he's loosed
away. You know of Barabas I assume?

CAIAPHAS
Everyone knows of Barabbas. But
Governor, if you are wrong about
Jesus, and he indeed does go on to
lead a rebellion against Rome, all
will know you had the opportunity
to cut him down this very day.

Pilate bites down on his fist in thought.

LOUD RABBLE is heard from outside.

PILATE
What is that?

CAIAPHAS
We are not the only ones who seek
the death of the Nazarene.

Pilate's frustration is more visible.

PILATE
What is it you have against this
man? Certainly it cannot be because
he breaks a few sabbath rules here
and there, and fraternizes with
prostitutes. You yourself have
broken sabbath rules, and I've seen
many of your own priests in
brothels!

The Priests and Pharisees looks at each other, guilty.

CAIAPHAS
I know not of which you speak.

Pilate paces around in thought.

PILATE
There is a custom, I do believe,
seldom used but still on the books,

PILATE
 that for the Passover holiday Rome sets one prisoner free, chosen by the masses, as a sign of good faith. I will exercise that custom this year. The crowd's choices will be Jesus of Nazareth the wandering preacher, and Barabbas the shame of the nation.

Pilate walks towards the door.

EXT. PILATE'S COURTYARD- MORNING

A large and noisy CROWD has gathered outside the courtyard. Some of them shout things like "Death to Jesus" and "Crucify him."

The Rauschmonstrum stands among them.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM
 I must say I'm a bit confused, many of these same people welcomed Jesus as a king when he first came to Jerusalem, yet they have turned so quickly.

Pilate enters the courtyard, accompanied by Caiaphas, the rest of the Jewish Sanhedrin, and some Roman soldiers who forcibly lead Jesus. The crowd gets louder.

Pilate looks out at the crowd and addresses them.

PILATE
 As is custom for your Passover holiday, I will release to you one prisoner of your choosing.

The crowd ROARS.

PILATE
 This year your choices are-

Pilate points to Jesus.

PILATE
 Jesus of Nazareth, who is currently being held of the accusation of blasphemy for calling himself The King of the Jews.

The crowd BOOS.

PILATE

The other choice is Barabbas, who has been convicted of murder and armed insurrection.

The crowd CHEERS.

Barabbas, a brutish looking man is lead out by soldiers. He has a mischievious grin.

PILATE

Shall I release to you the King of the Jews?

COURTYARD CROWD

(in unison)

No!

Caiaphas smiles.

Pilate is perturbed.

PILATE

You would prefer I release for you Barabbas?

COURTYARD CROWD

(in unison)

Yes, Barabbas!

PILATE

Then what shall I do with Jesus the Nazarene?

COURTYARD CROWD

(in unison)

Crucify him!

Pilate gulps.

PILATE

I will have flogged and then release him.

COURTYARD CROWD

(in unison)

No! Crucify him!

PILATE

Why, what evil has this man done? I have found in him no guilt demanding death

COURTYARD CROWD
 (in unison)
 Crucify him!

PILATE
 (desperatly)
 He has done nothing wrong!

COURTYARD CROWD
 (in unison)
 Crucify him!

Pilate turns to the soldiers with Barabbas.

PILATE
 Release for them Barabbas.

The soldiers let go of Barabbas and motion for him to go.

Gleeful, Barabbas rushes toward the crowd, who cheer for him.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM
 I have given them perhaps the most
 benevolent man who has ever lived,
 and instead they have chosen a
 scoundrel.

The Rauschmonstrum shakes his head.

Pilate goes to Jesus and puts his hands on his shoulders.

PILATE
 This is your last chance Jesus.
 Don't you realize I have the power
 of life and death over you?

JESUS
 Any power you have comes from far
 away. It does not originate within
 you.

Pilate stares at Jesus and pulls him in close to whisper in his ear.

PILATE
 Very well, you'll get what you
 seek.

Pilate motions for a servant boy, carrying a bowl of water, to approach him.

Pilate dips his hands in the bowl and rubs them together. He then send the servant boy away.

PILATE

I am innocent of what will happen
to this righteous person.

Pilate turns to the guards

PILATE

You see to things as you will.

The crowd cheers.

The soldiers who have hold of Jesus push him to the ground.

One man from the crowd runs up to Jesus with a crown of
thorns.

He jams it onto Jesus' head. Jesus HOWLS in pain.

Some soldiers come forward carrying a large wooden cross.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

I have his blood on me.

From the crowd, the Rauschmonstrum sheds a single tear.

EXT. STREETS OF JERUSALEM- DAY

Roman soldiers lead Jesus who struggles to carry his cross.
Crowds stand on the sides, observing.

Jesus looks as though he may collapse any moment.

The Rauschmonstrum walks behind Jesus and the soldiers,
taking in the crowd.

As Jesus walks, some of the people in the crowd heckle
Jesus, saying things like "save yourself" and "smite your
enemies."

One person even spits on Jesus.

Jesus tries to keep a stoic look despite the insults.

Two of the soldiers go into the crowd and grab an onlooker
by his shoulders.

FIRST SOLDIER

You- go help the Nazarene carry his
cross, he's about to fall.

The Rauschmonstrum smiles. Suddenly his appearance changes
so that he is wearing peasants' clothes.

The Rauschmonstrum walks up to the soldiers who are walking the onlooker toward Jesus.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

Excuse me, I will help the Nazarene carry his cross.

The soldiers shrug. They push the onlooker back over to the side with the rest of the crowd.

The Rauschmonstrum walks over to Jesus and goes under the cross to help with lifting the cross.

They keep are walking. Jesus does not recognize him.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

Do you expect this will all work out for you?

JESUS

My son, the father is with me, I have no reason to worry.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

Mmm, but what if he isn't with you.

JESUS

Do not worry my son, I know what you do not.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

Perhaps...tell me, why is it essential that you die?

JESUS

I must die so that you, and everyone else, may live.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

We're all in danger of dying?

JESUS

You all must one day die, but only through my death will you be able to live forever.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

And how is that going to happen?

JESUS

Through my father's will.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

But if it is all to happen through
your father's will, why can't he
just will eternal now, and avoid
your death?

JESUS

Just have faith that it is so.

The Rauschmonstrum rolls his eyes.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

Yes, of course that's your answer.

They walk onward.

EXT. GOLGOTHA- DAY

Jesus walks with his cross, followed by the soldiers.

A crowd stands in place, some looking sad, some brimming
with curiosity. In the background we see men hanging from
crosses.

Amongst the crowd stand the disciples, with downtrodden
looks on their faces.

There is also Lazarus and Mary and Martha who look just as
sad as the disciples.

One soldiers stands in front of Jesus and puts his hand up

FIRST SOLDIER

That's enough.

Jesus lets his cross fall to the ground.

One soldier holds a jug of wine out to Jesus.

Jesus shakes his head.

JESUS

No.

SECOND SOLDIER

Suit yourself. Lay down.

The Rauschmonstrum walks into the scene.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

I would have taken the wine.

Jesus lays down on his cross.

One woman in the crowd bursts into tears.

Jesus looks up at the woman

JESUS
Do not cry for me, cry for your
children.

The woman continues to cry.

Two of the soldiers tie rope around Jesus' arms.

Two PHARISEES snicker amongst themselves

FIRST PHARISSEE
He saved others yet he cannot save
himself.

One soldiers picks up a metal spike.

He places the spike against Jesus' palm.

Jesus breathes heavily, using all of his might to keep a
straight face.

The soldier lines the spike up with a hammer

Jesus waits for the new pain to come.

The soldiers brings the hammer down on the spike.

CUT TO BLACK

We hear the sound of METAL BANGING AGAINST METAL followed by
a SCREAM OF PAIN.

FADE IN

EXT. GOLGOTHA- DAY

Jesus is dead, hanging on the cross. FUNERAL MUSIC plays.

DOLLY BACKWARDS

The Rauschmonstrum is in a tuxedo and a top hat, twirling a
cane, dancing underneath the cross.

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. JESUS' TOMB- DAY

The Rauschmonstrum stands in front of Jesus' tomb, which is a cave with a boulder rolled in front of it.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

Well that was some crucifixion.

The Rauschmonstrum rubs the back of his neck thinking about it.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

Brutal stuff. You wanna know what his last words were? "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me."

The Rauschmonstrum shakes his head.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

I think that right at the end he knew he'd had a trick played on him...anyway this is where he's buried.

The Rauschmonstrum points behind him at the tomb.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

You don't get tombs better than this. Some rich guy who used to hang around with the disciples from time to time paid for it, nice fella...Now you might think that my mission is complete, but it's not. I still have one more thing I need to do.

The Rauschmonstrum walks closer to the tomb.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

If I stop now then maybe Jesus gets to have a minor following in the region for a little while. The disciples will do their best to keep his memory alive, but when *they* die...

The Rauschmonstrum shrugs.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

That'll pretty much be it...However, if Jesus were to somehow make some appearances after death, then the myths about him will never die.

The Rauschmonstrum strokes the boulder in front of the tomb.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

And so, a certain corpse will need
to go missing. And I know just what
to do with it.

EXT. GRAVEYARD- NIGHT

Burial spots are marked by sticks.

The Rauschmonstrum is shoveling dirt on top of a grave. As
he shovels he talks to the CAMERA.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

See after Jesus died, Judas, who
was never much of an intellect,
decided for himself Jesus really
had been telling the truth and went
off and hung himself. He was buried
in here, Akeldama. Spooky place
ain't it? Folks like to call it the
field of blood. In fact he's buried
right over there.

The Rauschmonstrum points over at

JUDAS' GRAVE

Which is marked by a snapped stick.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

I figured since for my purposes
Jesus won't be able to remain in
that nice tomb of his, best he gets
buried next to his old disciple.

The Rauschmonstrum finishes shoveling dirt and puts the
shovel down.

A SMALL WOODEN CROSS

lays on the ground. The Rauschmonstrum picks it up.

The Rauschmonstrum strokes the cross.

He stabs the wooden cross into the top of Jesus' grave.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM

A nice touch if I dare say so
myself.

The Rauschmonstrum looks down at the grave, his eyes showing reflection.

RAUSCHMONSTRUM
Goodnight sweet Messiah.

The Rauschmonstrum remains looking down at the grave for a bit more, then transforms into smoke and floats away.

EXT. JESUS' TOMB- DAY

Mary of Bethany walks towards Jesus' Tomb.

MARY'S POV- JESUS' TOMB

has its protective boulder rolled off to the side.

Mary gives a confused expression.

Mary walks into the tomb. She SCREAMS and runs outside.

MARY
The Master is gone! The Master is
gone! His tomb is empty! The Master
is gone! The Master is gone!

Mary continues to run, as she goes out of sight.

INT. PETER'S HOUSE- DAY

The 11 disciples are all present. Some of them are in chairs and some of the are sprawled out on the floor.

PETER
I don't know what we are to do. Now
that Jesus' body of missing a part
of me fears we will be struck down
as soon as we exit the door.

Peter shakes his head.

THOMAS
Are you all sure you didn't steal
his body while I was away?

PETER
Yes Thomas we're sure!

Thomas lowers his head.

PETER

I just don't know what to do.

JESUS' SHADOW

appears on the wall.

Jesus now stands before the disciples, smiling.

The disciples all look over to him, shocked.

JESUS

Peace Be With You!

Peter gets up, and the other disciples all follow suit.

PETER

Jesus!

Peter walks up to Jesus.

Peter stares in Jesus' eyes. He touches Jesus' shoulders and then his face.

PETER

It can't be you!

Jesus holds up his hands. The wounds from the crucifixion are visible.

JESUS

Touch the wounds on my hands and
you will know it is me.

Hesitantly, Peter brings his hands over to Jesus'

Peter touches the wounds on each of Jesus' hands. His mouth falls agape.

PETER

...It is him!

The disciples all come to Jesus.

Jesus keeps his hands out for them, and one by one the other disciples touch the wounds on his hands, each showing utter amazement.

The disciples then kneel down to prostrate themselves before Jesus.

PETER

Master we are your devoted
servants. Tell us what we must do
next.

Jesus turns to face the CAMERA. He winks, and as he does, he
begins to transform into smoke.

FADE OUT

The End