

# **THE CARPENTER'S SON**

*The Story of a Boy Called Jesus*

*Book, Music and Lyrics by  
Albert T. Viola*

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**STORY OF THE PLAY**

Ideal for production in the Chancel or Sanctuary. A perfect piece for a limited budget and limited rehearsal time. (However, it can be produced by those with a budget!) This is a sensitive and insightful treatment of the boyhood of Jesus; a plausible near-history. Jesus is a happy but sometimes lonely 12 year old boy; lonely because he is different from others. He is happy because he understands his God. He confides often in his mother the pains in his heart, his uncertainty. The story centers around his family's trip to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. On their way there Jesus performs a miracle, to aid another child, and the pains in his heart melt away with a new understanding of his place in the world. When the family arrives in Jerusalem, Jesus turns up "missing". They finally find him in the Temple, instructing and amazing his elders with profound truth and insight. This is a moving and imaginative story with a lovely and memorable score for any audience. It has been produced in religious and non-religious venues with equal success. "The Carpenter's Son" is a one of a kind experience about an unforgettable boy. About 45-60 minutes.

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**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(In order of appearance)*

Narrator  
Joseph  
Mary  
Barnabus  
Jesus  
Simeon  
Samuel  
David  
Joachim  
Pilgrims  
Boaz  
Anna  
Jacob  
Maricon  
First Scholar  
Doctor of Science  
Doctor of Science and Philosophy  
Doctor of Religion  
Another Doctor

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**SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS**

SCENE 1 - An Empty Stage

Musical #1 - THE BALLAD OF A BOY CALLED JESUS -

SCENE 2 - NAZARETH

Musical #2 - GOING TO JERUSALEM

SCENE 3 - ROAD TO JERUSALEM

Musical # 3 - HOW CAN I TELL HIM?

SCENE 4 - BANK OF THE RIVER JORDAN

Musical #4 - ROUND

Musical #5 - WHAT ARE THESE THINGS?

SCENE 5 - ROAD TO JERUSALEM

SCENE 6 - OUTSIDE THE CITY OF JERUSALEM:

Musical #6 - LULLABYE

SCENE 7 - JERUSALEM: The Temple

Musical #7 - HE IS LOVE

Musical # 8 - MY FATHER'S BUSINESS

Optional Musical #9 - BALLAD OF A BOY CALLED JESUS  
(REPRISE)

**SCENE 1**

**MUSICAL #1 - THE BALLAD OF A BOY CALLED JESUS**

*(AT RISE: An empty stage. Enter NARRATOR.)*

NARRATOR: *(Singing.)*

THIS IS THE STORY OF A VERY SPECIAL BOY  
WHO LIVED LONG AGO IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL  
JOSEPH HIS FATHER MARY, JOSEPH'S WIFE  
JESUS WAS HIS NAME. LET ME TELL YOU OF HIS LIFE  
HE WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM  
BENEATH THE EASTERN STAR  
WISE MEN THREE ARRIVED WITH GIFTS  
COME TO ADORE HIM FROM AFAR  
THOUGH WRAPPED IN SWADDLING CLOTHES  
HIS CRIB A SIMPLE MANGER BED  
HE WAS A KING. THE SON OF GOD  
THE SON OF GOD. THE SON OF GOD  
THERE WAS A RULER AND HEROD WAS HIS NAME  
HE WAS TOLD A CHILD WOULD TAKE AWAY HIS THRONE  
SO HE GAVE AN ORDER BOYS AGED UNDER TWO  
WOULD BE PUT TO THE SWORD. HOW SAD, BUT TRUE  
JESUS, JOSEPH AND MARY TO EGYPT DID GO  
HEROD DIED WITHIN A YEAR.  
THE SCRIPTURES TELL US SO  
THE BOY RETURNED TO NAZARETH  
A SIMPLE CARPENTER'S SON  
BUT MARY KNEW WITHIN HER HEART  
HE WAS THE SON OF GOD  
THE SON OF GOD. THE SON OF GOD

NARRATOR: And so our story begins. There is little known about the boy called Jesus. However, we do know that at the age of twelve his mother and father took him to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover Feast. This is the story of that journey. Of what you will hear and see, nothing is written. But we would like to believe that it happened just this way. Our story begins on the morning of the first day. *(LIGHTS Fade.)*

END OF SCENE

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SCENE 2

*(LIGHTS up on the home of Mary and Joseph in NAZARETH. A table with stools are discovered CS. Enter JOSEPH.)*

JOSEPH: Mary, where are the new sandals I was going to wear to Jerusalem?

MARY: They are on your feet, Joseph.

*(JOSEPH looks down at his feet. MARY takes the basket of her head and places it on the table and begins to wipe the fruit and puts the fruit into the bowl.)*

MARY: *(Cont'd)* Now we will have some nice fruit for our journey.

JOSEPH: Where are my old sandals?

MARY: I gave them to Simeon.

JOSEPH: Simeon, the beggar?

MARY: Yes.

JOSEPH: But Mary, I was going to wear them on the journey.

MARY: Simeon has no sandals.

JOSEPH: Then let him buy his own. He earns more in a month begging than I do in a year working as a carpenter.

MARY: Simeon is slow of thinking and cannot learn a trade. We must all care for him. He is a good soul. *(Finishes clearing the fruit.)*

JOSEPH: And a rich one!

MARY: Joseph!

JOSEPH: *(Looks up towards the heavens.)* Forgive me.

MARY: The fruit is ready to be packed. *(Takes the fruit to Joseph.)*

JOSEPH: Figs! Mary, why do you bring figs when you know I hate figs ... especially dried figs.

MARY: Because they are good for you.

BARNABUS: *(Enters.)* Joseph, we must begin our journey.

JOSEPH: I'm coming...I'm coming. Have some figs. They are good for you. *(BARNABUS waves off Joseph.)*

## **End of Freeview**

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