

Through the Eyes of Faith

By Tammy Madden

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DEDICATION

To my wonderful husband and partner, Tim; to my father and mother, Charles and Mary; and to my sons T.J. and Tyler. Thank you for believing in me and for always encouraging me to use the gifts God gave me!

STORY OF THE PLAY

Simon was made to carry the cross, but in this touching play, we see how Christ's life, death, and resurrection directly affect Simon's family. It is the time of Passover and Jesus has just re-entered the city. The city bustles as people flock to meet their Messiah and to witness Him healing the sick and the crippled. Simon, who has lost his faith in God, rejects claims that Jesus is the Messiah. Instead, Simon stays home, consumed with worry as a long drought threatens the crops he sells. But Simon's blind son, Alexander, ventures into the crowded streets to meet his Savior and to restore his father's faith in the Lord. When Jesus lays His hands upon Alexander's eyes, Alexander finds that he is no longer blind. Simon, however, is blind to this miracle, and his lack of faith keeps him from truly "seeing" the glory of the Heavenly Father until he witnesses Jesus' crucifixion. It is then that Simon finally sees in Jesus' eyes the meaning of love, forgiveness, and faith.

ORIGINAL CAST

Greenlee Baptist Church, Marion, NC

SIMON: Carey Woody	STEVEN: Tim Corey
MIRIAM: Rilla Wisor	JONATHAN: Andrew Huskins
RUFUS: John Justice	MIRANDA: Mary Ann Doran
SARAH: Raquel Corey	PRIEST #1: John Cone
HANNAH: Jeanna Justice	PRIEST #2: David Bradshaw
ALEXANDER: T.J. Madden	CAIAPHAS: Charlie Ledford
PRISCILLA: Deborah Webb	JESUS: Tim Madden

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(9 m, 5 w, 3 children, extras)

Through the Eyes of Faith

3

SIMON: The grumpy, gruff father.

MIRIAM: The lovely, long-suffering mother.

RUFUS: Their oldest son, 19 years old, stubborn like his father.

SARAH: Their oldest daughter, sweet and naïve.

HANNAH: Their youngest daughter, 14 years old, funny and outgoing.

ALEXANDER: Their youngest son, 12 years old, who is blind.

PRISCILLA: Grandmother, Miriam's mother, 60 years old.

STEVEN: Sarah's fiancé. Sweet, but strong, 20 years old.

JONATHAN: Steven's friend, 20 years old.

MIRANDA: Sarah's best friend, 16 years old.

PRIEST #1

PRIEST #2

CAIAPHAS: Role can be doubled with Pilate.

PILATE: Role can be doubled with Caiaphas.

SOLDIER #1

CHILD #1

CHILD #2

JESUS

EXTRAS, as desired.

Performance time: 45 minutes.

SETTING

The setting is Jerusalem. It is the time of Passover. Jesus has just re-entered the city at the beginning of the week. Much of the action takes place in the home of Simon and Miriam, in the small living/kitchen area consisting of a wooden table and benches. Other scenes, on the street, at the temple, etc., do not require special furniture or set pieces.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene 1: Home, morning.

Scene 2: Streets of the city, later that morning.

Scene 3: Home, later that day.

Scene 4: Home, that evening.

Scene 5: Temple, next morning.

Scene 6: Home, two days later, afternoon.

Scene 7: Street, short time later at Caiaphas' house.

Scene 8: Home, later that night.

Scene 9: Streets, at the front of Pilate's Hall, next morning.

Scene 10: Home, later that day.

Scene 11: Home, third day.

PROPS

Table and chairs

Stool or bench

Dishes of food

Dinnerware

Crown of thorns

Bloody frock

Cross

Sword

White robe

Flowers (optional)

SPECIAL EFFECTS

Fog (optional)

Scene 1

(AT RISE: It is morning; MIRIAM is in the small living/kitchen area preparing for breakfast. RUFUS ENTERS from the inside door.)

RUFUS: Good morning, Mother.

MIRIAM: Good morning, Rufus. Did you sleep well?

RUFUS: No, not really. I was thinking all night. *(Pause.)* I found out something at the coast yesterday.

MIRIAM: What?

RUFUS: I was chosen for an apprenticeship on one of the governor's sailing vessels.

MIRIAM: Oh, this is what you have been wanting.

RUFUS: Yes, it is. I am very happy, but I am also worried.

MIRIAM: I know it will be difficult for your father to accept. You know how much he wants you to take over the family business.

RUFUS: Mother, I love you and father very much, but I cannot bear to live my life as a merchant. I cannot bear to think of standing in that crowded marketplace all day yelling at people to buy my goods.

MIRIAM: You must decide for yourself. You are a man now. Your father will get used to the idea. Still, you must be prepared for his anger.

(The scene becomes quiet as MIRIAM begins to put food on the table. SIMON ENTERS the room in a grumpy mood as usual.)

SIMON: Is breakfast ready yet?

MIRIAM: Yes, dear. Did you have a restful night?

SIMON: No! I did not! All I could think about was the small crops that will come this fall if this spring drought continues. And we all know, if there are small crops, there will be small profits.

MIRIAM: I know you're worried, dear. But, we must have faith in our Heavenly Father. He will take care of us.

SIMON: Humph! Faith this and faith that. I trust in what I can touch. How can you believe in what I cannot see?

(There is a silence as RUFUS gathers his confidence to speak.)

RUFUS: Father, please, I must speak to you. I need to –

SIMON: Did you find any fruit at the coast yesterday? Or did you spend the day dreaming as usual?

RUFUS: I did as you asked me. The merchandise is in the front of our home. But that is not what I wanted to speak to you about.

SIMON: Well, what then?

RUFUS: I have made an adult decision.

SIMON: Ha, Ha! Adult? How can a child make an adult decision?

RUFUS: I am not a child. I am 19 years old. At my age, you were married and working in the marketplace already.

SIMON: Ah, yes, and we can see what a good thing that was. Just look at where it has brought me--poor as a beggar.

MIRIAM: Simon, we have many blessings.

RUFUS: We have little money. What else matters?

SIMON: I am taking an apprenticeship on one of the governor's ships.

(There is silence.)

RUFUS: Did you hear me?

SIMON: I hear only the mindless chatter of a young boy.

RUFUS: Father, you are impossible!

SIMON: And you are a dreamer.

RUFUS: You know it has always been my dream to work on the ocean.

SIMON: It is a silly dream. You should come to work with me in the marketplace. It is a job that will at least put food on the table, if not much else.

RUFUS: This apprenticeship is a great opportunity. I will work on one of the governor's ships for two years learning all of the ways of sailing a ship.

End of Freeview

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