

SEARCHER:
A PLAY IN SIX ACTS

by Jesse Brogan
DISCIPLE

INTRODUCTION

There is a large pseudo-hebraic portion of the Christian church which is more firmly wedded to the Hebraic doctrines which are in the scriptures than the person and witness of our Lord. In part, this is due to our educational system which focusses heavily on the wonderful stories of faith from the old testament.

This work is designed for evangelistic inreach to those who have not graduated fully into the witness of God in the new testament.

To that end, the play focusses on the fulfillment of promise instead of promises for the future. It addresses what God is doing today for His own, instead of what He will do at some time in the future. It addresses the importance of people to God above any importance for sin. It addresses Christian living in terms of faith instead of deeds. It addresses the victory of Christ over death and evil, instead of the fight to overcome the enemy.

There are those who will be greatly offended in this work, not because it is wrong, but because they do not like the spiritual direction taken, and the assumption that God loves us as He has witnessed to us.

By focussing on the importance of Christ and the witness of God, the work slights the (Hebraic doctrine) importance of scripture as the truth. There will be dissent to the presentation of the work, even though it is carefully prepared so that it is most difficult to find any detail within it which can be attacked as discordant with what is in scripture.

CHARACTERS:

GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SPIRIT: A voice from the darkness, perhaps from a darkened and raised platform. God is not to be seen by the characters in the play, but the face may be dimly visible to the audience.

God is presented as one who is uniformly calm and direct. The character shows emotion only when speaking of love for persons, and is to be given a specific intonation and pattern of speaking as developed by the director.

IMMANUEL - JESUS: A man in a white robe; the only one in the intense brightness of the spotlight.

Jesus is presented by the one who wears the bright white robe and the one who is always spotlighted (contrasting light level with men). The actor speaks with the same intonation and pattern of speaking as that used for God.

THE SEARCHER - The one in modern dress. The person on the left.

The Searcher is smart, well educated in the scriptures, and very interested. The Searcher is curious, and yet fearful of anything new or different. The Searcher feels that he/she is traveling in a good direction, and is more interested in continuing than in turning to some new direction.

HEBREW RELIGIOUS LEADER, PHARISEE - Person in a robe with Purple border & prayer shawl.

COMMON PERSON - Person in a solid colored robe. These are common Hebrews (tradesmen, fishermen, etc), and generally not the religious elite.

PROPHET, APOSTLE - Person in a coat of many colors. These are the religious leadership outside of the Hebraic church - those chosen by God in one way or another.

STAGE/SETTING:

Dark flat background, probably gray or black. If God is provided with a platform, it may be raised a few steps, but is also flat and dark. The background should be the same color as God's costume.

Left Stage: Small Area, Searcher's setting. Gel lighting.

Right Stage: Demonstration/experiential setting. Gel lighting for the area, movable spot for Jesus. The gel lights should be colored to be soft lighting, making a contrast with the white light of the spot, and they should be on two reostats, one for the dim and one for the brighter lights.

God's station is equipped with a microphone and speakers (at least) on either wing of the stage. God always speaks softly and yet is heard clearly.

The stage is bare, with the possible exception of a raised area for God.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE PRESENTATION:

The story is one of an encounter between the Searcher and the living Spirit, which is provided with voice.

Each Act begins with a question or situation which begs a question. Each question area addresses an element of doctrine to which the presentation may witness.

The actors and actresses change robes often, playing different parts upon the stage. The only static part is the Searcher, and this too can be varied at the discretion of the Director. If variation is desirable, it is recommended that there be a standard costume which can be worn by all of those who play the part. Costume changes are made on stage and in full view of the audience.

The audience is provided with an introduction to the characters and how to tell who they are. This can be a formal introduction on stage prior to the play, the handout, or both.

ACT #1: - I AM

Left Area lighted, two actors come into area. The two actors bow briefly to the audience. One becomes God, the other the searcher.

Searcher: *A declaration, "I feel an emptiness, something is missing."*

God: *after a brief pause, "Searcher."*

Searcher spins around several times, looking for the one who called, but makes no answer.

God: "Searcher."

Searcher: *still looking around, "Who is that? Where are you?"*

God: "I AM"

Searcher: *obviously puzzled, and after a pause, "You are who?"*

God: "I AM.

"I am the God of the living, the one to whom the scriptures witness. I am the Comforter who has been sent to dwell with you, and to guide you to all truth."

Searcher: *querulously, "A lot of people would like to lead me; how will I know if you are who you say you are?"*

God: "Search the scriptures, for in them you think you have the truth, and they are they which witness to Me. It is written that there are none like unto Me. When you have found Me, you will know the Truth, and that Truth will set you free.

"All therefore that you seek, I AM"

Searcher: "I cannot see you, you are not even real."

God: "I AM.

"You do not see me because you are not looking where I am. I AM spirit, and I AM life.

Searcher: *with challenge, "If you are who you say you are, what will you do to show me? Will you raise someone from the dead?"*

God: *with patience, "I AM life; when you believe in Me, you will be my witness of resurrection.*

"I am the God of the scriptures, and the witness of the scriptures is witness to Me. If you would believe the witness of scripture, you will believe in Me.

"As Jesus taught you in the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, If you will not believe in the prophets and the witness of scripture, you would not believe though you saw one rise from the dead."

Searcher: *still with challenge*, "Well then, if you would be my guide, how will you guide me? I am prepared to follow where you lead until you lead me falsely, or try to lead somewhere I know better than to go."

Change of Actors: Another actor, in plain sight of the audience, takes the place of the one playing God. Preferably there is a change of sex or marked change of voice.

God: "I have promised you, if you search for Me, then you will find."

Searcher: "Who are you? I don't know your voice."

God: "I AM.

"I am the God who has spoken in many voices, for I have spoken through the prophets.

"I am spirit, not voice. You can not know Me as you know a man, for I am not a man. No man is like unto Me but Him who came from Me.

"If you would know Me, you must know Me by the spirit, for I am Spirit and life. I am not a voice. Listen with your heart and with your mind. Do not be distracted by the world, but listen through your faith in the witness of scripture, and I will be your guide."

Searcher: "How will I know you if you are constantly changing. If you have no voice of your own, how will I know that some other is not speaking to me, and leading me to destruction?"

God: "I AM.

"There is no change in me, and will be no change in me. Before you were, I AM. At the last day, I AM.

"Do not be deceived by the world, for I am Spirit and I am life. There is none like to Me; and if you search for Me, you will find Me."

"I am not a voice that you can find Me in a voice. You must search for me where I AM, and not where you would want to find Me.

Searcher: *obviously uneasy with the situation*, "I don't know about this, but I'll give it a try, even if I can't see you or know you by your voice."

In a challenging voice, "I'll try it as long as I see no falsity in you. How will you lead me now, do I look for you in the Scriptures?"

God: "If you look for me in the scriptures, you will not find Me, for I am not made of words and pages. If you would find Me, you must search for Me where I am. Have faith.
"The scriptures witness to Me, and there you will find a witness that you can believe. You can come to know Me through that witness."

Searcher: *with unbelief*, "I have read the holy scriptures, what then will you show me that is new or different?"

God: "I am your Father in Heaven, and Jesus has witnessed to Me through the parable of the prodigal son.

"I am the one who has seen you turn to search for me a long way off. I am the one who has come to you, and I throw myself before you to serve as your guide. I am the one who has come to place the ring upon your finger, and the cloak upon your back, and to bid you welcome."

Searcher: *after a pause*, "What is this. You are not guiding me in the scriptures, how do you tell me that you will guide me, and give me this sort of teaching."

God: "I am not in the scriptures, but they witness to Me.

"Are you offended that I am real and alive. Are you offended that I am come to you with a love which I witness through being with you and through being your servant?"

"Jesus taught you this; that He is not come to be served, but to serve and be a ransom for many. Have faith, and believe in the gospel."

Searcher: *obviously perplexed*, "What is this teaching? This is not scripture, for I have learned much of scripture and have memorized many passages and know many more.

"How is what you have said the scriptures?"

God: *without change in voice*, "I have called the teachings of Jesus to remembrance; are you offended by His words?"

"How much better to accept the truth of what your Lord has spoken, and to learn from Him. Believe in Him, and in the gospel which He has spoken for you."

Searcher: *after a pause for introspection*, "You have spoken truly of what Jesus taught, but you have not taught me scripture. I do not understand this teaching."

God: *with patience*, "Did the Jews understand the teaching of Jesus when He walked the earth, or were they amazed? What does it say in scripture?"

"Even as my presence proclaims my love for you, so the scriptures proclaim that Jesus is the witness of my love for you. I have come to you in His promise that He would send the comforter. He and I are one.

"How would you know me but that I came to you as it is witnessed in the scriptures? Believe in the scriptures, and you will believe in Me, that I am now with you."

Searcher: "This is getting terribly confusing. Can't we start somewhere else?"

God: *first show of emotion - then conviction*, "My love for you is the beginning. Without My love, there is nothing. Begin where you will, and you will go no further but through acceptance of the Love I bear you. Jesus is that love, He is the truth which came down from Heaven."

Searcher: *with triumph in the voice*, "Good. Then you don't care where we start."
"My choice is that we start with the four Gospels."

God: "I AM the God who is witnessed in the Scriptures.
"I am one God, and there is no other."
"I have one Gospel which I gave to you, and no other."

Searcher: *argumentative*, "Unfair, you are arguing semantics with me. I did not speak of your doctrine, but of the books of the scriptures. These are the books which witness most strongly of Jesus. Isn't that a good place to start?"

Lights on in the right side, four actors come on carrying robes, they don robes, one becoming Jesus, one becoming a Jewish leader, and two others becoming disciples. The disciples stand behind Jesus, who speaks with the leader"

Jewish Leader: "Tell me, Teacher; what is the greatest commandment.

Jesus: *same emotional level and same conviction as God above*, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Light dims, Actor playing leader changes robe and becomes Jesus, and the actor playing Jesus becomes a common Jew. All sit as an audience at Jesus feet. Light returns to brightness.

Jesus: "No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

Lights dim, Actor playing Jesus changes robe with another who becomes Jesus. All stand facing Jesus who teaches his disciples. Light returns to full brightness.

Jesus: *same intonation and patience as God*, "If ye love Me, keep my commandments; and I will pray the Father and He shall give you another comforter that He may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of Truth whom the World cannot receive because it

seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him. But ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you and shall be in you."

Searcher: *speaks to God - obviously upset*, "Wait a minute. You can't do this to me again. I hear the words of the Lord, but there are more than one person speaking them.

Jesus turns to the searcher:

Jesus: "At the feast of the dedication, the Jews came to Me, asking if I am Christ. I answered them, "I told you and ye believed not; the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of Me. But ye believe not because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice and I know them; and they follow Me; and I give unto them eternal life. And they shall never perish; neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them Me is greater than all, and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one.

"If my Father is not known by His voice, how then will you know Me by mine?"

Searcher: *still upset*, "Ok, Ok. If I can stand it with the one, I can live with the other as well.

"But you are inconsistent. You are jumping around in the scriptures like some sort of bouncing ball."

Fade to dim on the right.

God: "I am one God; I have one doctrine which is the same throughout the scriptures, even as it is the same throughout all time."

Searcher: *beginning to show frustration*, "I was talking about the first four books of the New Testament, what does this have to do with what you are showing me?"

God: "How long will you be my guide, and bid Me help you search where you wish to search?"

Searcher: "I guess I asked for that. Where should we start."

God: "Start at the beginning. What is the witness?"

Searcher: *Smart-alecky tone - opening the Bible to the first page*, "In the beginning, God created the Heaven and the Earth."

God: *flat delivery*, "Why would I make the earth, it has no particular value or use to me?"

Searcher: *disbelief*, "What?"

God: "What is the witness, for whom was the earth made? To whom was it given?"

Searcher: "You mean in Genesis?" When there is no reply, "In Genesis 1:26 the witness is that man is given dominion over all the earth."

God: "So is the witness of the love I bear you; that I would create you, and give all this to you.

"This is the witness of scripture, the witness from the first until the last.

"If I would do this for you, what is there that is beyond my love for you, or too great for me to do?"

Searcher: *looking in the book*, "But then you set aside the sabbath to be holy, a day when you make us into your servants."

Right side lights up again, showing Jesus talking to two Pharisees. Left side dims.

Pharisee: *challenging Jesus*, "Your men have plucked corn as you came through the field, and this is unlawful to do on the Sabbath. Why would you sin this way?"

Jesus: *showing patience of God*, "Have ye never read what David did when he had need and was an hungred, he and they that were with him. How he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest and did eat the shew bread which is not lawful to eat but for the priests, and gave also to them which were with him?"

"The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is lord also of the sabbath."

Left side lights again, and right side dims.

Searcher: *voicing unbelief*, "What does this mean. Are we then free of obligations on Sundays?"

God: "I witness my love for you by being here. The scripture witnesses My love for you by proclaiming the gift of the Sabbath to you. How is it that you would reject this witness?"

Searcher: *defensively*, "I have rejected nothing, but I find no answer to what I asked. Are we free of obligations on Sunday?"

God: "I have not come to answer, but to guide, and I can only guide you if you will follow where I lead.

"I have not bound you, nor would I wish your spirit to be in bondage. I have come to find those who were lost, and to free those who are in bondage."

Searcher: *obviously disappointed*, "Why don't you answer me. All I asked was if I was free on the Sabbath."

Change of robes, Jesus with a woman who is bent over and can't straighten up, and two pharisees.

Pharisee: *in aside to the other*, "If this man dares to heal on the sabbath, we know he is not from God for he does not keep God's laws."

Jesus: "Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity."

Jesus lays hands on her and she straightens up.

Pharisee: *announcing to all*, "This is not rightly done on the sabbath."

Jesus: "Doth not each of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall and lead him away to watering. And ought not this woman being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound lo these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day."

Light dims on right, and people change places. The Jewess is replaced by a Jew with a withered hand. Light returns to brightness.

Pharisee: *in aside to the other*, "If this man dares to heal on the sabbath, we know he is not from God for he does not keep God's laws."

Jesus: *to the man*, "Stand forth."

Jesus: *to the Pharisees*, "Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil; to save life, or to kill?" When they do not answer Him, "Stretch forth thine hand."

The Jew: *in amazement*, "It is healed! It is healed! It is like my other hand."

God: "I have given you the gift of the sabbath as a day of rest. It is not my teaching that this day should be a burden upon you, and not by my will that you are burdened."

Searcher: *sounding perplexed*, "What is this doctrine, a denial of the Sabbath? Would you teach me false doctrine?"

Jesus crosses over into the left side, and stands apart from the Searcher.

Jesus: "At the feast in Jerusalem, when the Jews marveled at My learning; I told them, 'My doctrine is not mine, but His that sent Me. If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God or whether I speak of Myself. He that

speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory; but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true and no unrighteousness is in him.'

"I have spoken truly, and it was well recorded."

Searcher: *disturbed and perplexed*, "But what of the law."

Jesus: "I have revealed to you the doctrine of God, and how it is recorded in the scriptures. Who are these others who you would follow?"

Jesus turns back, and returns to the dim light on the right.

Searcher: *lecturing tone*, "I'm hardly one to argue with that, but what of the prophet Moses and the Law. In Exodus 35:1-2, Moses gathered the people and told him the words that the Lord commanded, that "Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day there shall be to you an holy day, a Sabbath of rest to the Lord; whosoever doeth work therein shall be put to death."

God: *showing patience*, "Jesus taught you to follow Him, not to follow any other. My teachings are not like the teachings of any other."

Searcher: "This seems well enough, but what of prophesy, your words through the prophets."

God: "I am one God, and I have one doctrine. You may be sure that there is no falseness in prophesy, and no prophesy which is different than my word and my witness.

"That which is different than my word and my witness is not prophesy, no matter what any other may witness."

Searcher: "I can buy that, but it puts a searcher in a difficult position." Voice becoming challenging, "How am I to know which is God's doctrine and which is not. Am I to put my trust in a voice which I can not recognize, who then tells me what I am to believe."

God: "I have told you to put your faith in God as witnessed in the scriptures. The guidance I have given you is true."

Searcher: *continuing the challenge*, "This can't be right, you are saying that you are not in agreement with all scripture."

God: "I am in agreement with myself, and the scriptures witness this. Many speak in scripture, even Satan himself; but they do not speak my doctrine, nor agree with my doctrine. I am not like any other, and my doctrine is not like the doctrine of any other. My word is spirit, and my word is life."

Searcher: *sounding resigned*, "I don't think I can follow you any farther if you continue this doctrine. The scriptures are all that I have that I know are from God, and I will not have them discredited by anyone."

God: "I have never witnessed to you that the scriptures are the truth which came down from Me, only that Jesus was from Me, and that the prophets were from Me, and that I will guide you to the truth. Who is it that has told you otherwise?"

If you will not follow the witness of your Lord, what witness will you follow. He alone has the words of life."

Searcher: *returning to challenge*, "If your witness is different than the scriptures, why would I want to follow you."

God: "Have I told you to abandon the scriptures, or to accept the witness to Me that is in them? It is you who reject Me, that I should guide you; not I who reject you."

With emotion, "And yet, you have turned to search for Me. Know that I will never leave you alone from this time to eternity."

Searcher: "What are you saying? This is double-talk. Either you have faith in the scriptures or you do not."

The right side lights up, with Jesus alone. He crosses into the left side."

Jesus: *showing patience*, "How is it that you have not learned from me, my lessons were clear enough. I told you to follow me, and I never directed you to follow any other. I directed you to have faith in Me; I never directed you to have faith in any other."

Would you reject my teachings?"

Searcher: *with challenge*, "I'm just following..." After a pause - and delivered very carefully, "I am following what your Apostles record of your life and ministry prior to your ascension."

Jesus: *continuing with patience*, "I directed only to follow me, not to follow my Apostles or disciples. Search the scriptures, for they witness to me. My directions were clear, that you should follow me."

God: *continuing in the same intonation*, "My directions were clear, that you would worship only Me, and serve no other."

"Do you worship the book which witnesses to Me, or do you worship Me, to whom the book witnesses."

Searcher: *beginning to show confusion*, "What is this? Do you tell me to have faith in the scriptures, or in you? How can you tell me that I should believe in the scriptures but have faith only in you? This is getting confusing again."

God: *continuing in patience*, "How is it that you can not hear me. I have told you over and over again that if you believe in the scriptures, you believe in the witness to Me.

"I did not tell you to worship the scriptures, but only God. I did not ask you to believe in all that is said in scripture, but only to have faith in Me, for I am witnessed to in the scriptures.

"The confusion, you have learned from others, whose doctrine is not mine. My doctrine is not like the doctrine of others, there are none like Me.

"Look into the scriptures, and you will find other doctrines than my own; and they are not like Me or near to Me.

Searcher: "You are confusing, and difficult to understand, but I will try. I don't know where you are leading, but I will follow as closely as my faith will allow.

"Your doctrine is a strange doctrine, but it is directed to God, and I have faith that pursuing God will not lead me astray."

End of Act 1, Lights fade to dim; actors remove robes and leave stage to move into the audience for a few minutes intermission.

ACT #2: - Sin and Forgiveness

Stage is returned as before. The searcher and God return to their places at the left of the stage. The left lights brighten.

Searcher: *Looking all around and up,* "Are you still here?"

God: "As I promised, I will never leave you, but will serve you in your search."

Searcher: "I'd say that its good to hear your voice, but it never seems to be the same twice in a row."

God: "Look within your heart; do you doubt that you can recognize me?"

Searcher: *Laughs, and then continues,* "Indeed you are unique; and, whoever you are, there is no one like you.

Then more seriously, "On that one point, I give up. You have convinced me that I can know you without knowing your form or voice."

God: "Look into the scriptures, and you will find that this is a major step in finding what you seek. Jesus taught that the sheep of His fold know His voice, and will follow Him. They will not follow a stranger.

"As you witness to yourself, I am no more a stranger to you."

Searcher: "I still have some reservations about whether you are God, but I admit that you have made yourself known to me.

"Now I will place a challenge to you. Tell me, what is sin."

God: *with patience,* "Why would you ask me this - even as the Pharisees questioned Jesus concerning the giving of taxes - but to seek an end which is not my own. I am with you to guide you to the truth, not to better your understanding of the world.

"But as those legalists were answered by Jesus in His ministry, so will you be answered. Sin is a word to describe that which is offensive to Me."

Searcher: *challenging tone of voice,* "Tell me then, what offends you?"

God: *with patience,* "To answer this, you must understand the law that I gave you."

Searcher: *with some derision,* "I bet you're going to tell me that your law isn't the scriptures."

God: "You come to know Me without even knowing how you know, and this is the way of The Spirit, as Jesus witnessed this to you.

"My law and my doctrine are one. What I told you through the commandments is my law. What I told you through the prophets is my law. What Jesus taught you is my law. You will know me by the Spirit which stands behind the law."

Searcher: *opening the Bible*, "I find confusion. I find in your law that a man should not Kill, and I find you ordering men to kill one another. How can this be one doctrine."

God: "I am not the word, but the spirit which stands behind the word. I am not the one who taught you to seek for some ultimate truth in words, but I taught you always to seek truth in Jesus."

Searcher: challenging, "How then is one to know your law? Would you simply tell me what it is; or is that too much to hope?"

God: "The spirit of your questions are growing, but you still resist. I tell you to seek in Jesus for the answer, and I will be your guide."

The light comes up on the right to show Jesus, teaching the Pharisee.

Jewish Leader: *same intonation as the Searcher*, "Tell me, Teacher; what is the greatest commandment."

Jesus: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

The light dims again.

Searcher: *frustration showing in voice*, "Again, you don't really speak to what I pointed out in scripture. Your law is that a man should not kill, and you issue instructions to kill."

God: "I told you from the first, you can not learn of me unless you start with the love I bear you. Accept the witness of My being here with you now. Then you can learn."

Searcher: *frustration evident in voice*, "What has that got to do with it?"

God: *continued patience*, "My law is the witness of the love I bear you, even as I am a witness of this same love."

"Who is this man that I ordered you to kill? Describe Him."

Searcher: *back to being a challenge*, "You ordered us to kill a man who curses his father or his mother. You ordered us to kill a man who does work on the Sabbath."

The right side of the stage lights up, Jesus is teaching Hebrews who are about His feet.

Jesus: "Judge not, that ye be not judged, for with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

"And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, 'let me pull out the mote out of thine eye,' and behold a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Lights dim, New person takes over as Jesus. All Hebrews stand around Jesus.

One speaks to Jesus: "What shall we do about the one who betrayed you?"

Jesus: *with patience of God,* "If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? Follow thou Me."

Light dims again.

Searcher: *frustration growing,* "You speak to me of judgment, not of killing or of sin."

God: "How will you know which man to kill and which to spare?"

Searcher: *increasing in challenge,* "That seems like a back door out of the question, what of your order to Saul to kill all the Amelekites. What judgment was made there; were they all such sinners that they earned death?"

God: *unchanging in delivery,* "You answer your own question. I am to be the judge. If you were to judge another, you would deny Me that I should be a judge over them."

Searcher: *obvious frustration,* "How long will you refuse to answer me. Did you judge all the Amelekites, and find each of their sins so great that none of them could be left alive?"

God: "Who knows why I do what I do but I myself? Where do I witness that they were killed because of their sins?"

Searcher: *accusatory tone with frustration,* "You're doing it again, You're the one who ordered them to be destroyed; You tell me why you did it?"

God: "You have answered your own question, it was my judgment that they should be destroyed, and not any man's. You should not kill on your own decision because you would deny my judgment. I will be your God.

"I am not a man that you should judge Me. It is enough for you to know how great a love I bear for you."

Searcher: *somewhat mollified*, "You are maddening. You tell me that no man should kill, and the law tells me when it is right to kill. How do I know what is the truth?"

God: "I am the truth.

"I have one doctrine which is witnessed in the scriptures, and I have no other. When you know Me, you will know My doctrine. There is no other like to it."

Searcher: *argumentative*, "You are talking in circles, how will I know your doctrine?"

The right side of the stage lights up, Jesus is there alone.

Jesus: *patience of God*, "How is it that you have not learned from Me, for I taught the lesson most clearly when I taught the great commandments of God. First love God, then love one another. On this rests all the law and the prophets."

Searcher: *frustration*, "This does not answer me, I asked about killing and about sin."

The right side of the stage dims again.

God: "Sin is what I find to be an offense, not what others do not like."

Searcher: *challenge*, "Is it a sin to kill?"

God: "It is an offense against Me to reject the love I bear you. It is an offense against Me to deny love for others who I love. This was the witness from the first until now, and will be the witness on the last day.

"I do not change, I have but one doctrine."

Searcher: *with some derision in his voice*, "Then you would have me believe that it is not the sin of killing which offends you, but that it denies love for the other person or for you?"

God: *with patience*, "Even in that tone, you have spoken in accord with a right spirit. This is the witness in the scriptures."

Searcher: *challenging*, "I have heard precious little scripture in this, even though you told me that you would guide me to the truth which is witnessed in scripture."

God: "I am the truth which is witnessed in scripture, and I have been guiding you to Me, and to knowledge of Me. It is the witness of scripture that you will not be taught by scripture, but will be taught of God; and that the law will be written upon your heart.

"The scripture is not a truth that I teach, but a witness to the truth that I am."

Searcher: *a note of warning in the voice*, "That is coming terribly close to denying the divinity of scripture."

God: "If the scriptures witness against themselves in the way that you are trying to understand them, perhaps you are not looking at them properly."

Searcher: "That's not much in the way of guidance."

God: "I do you no wrong, and I guide you truly as I told you that I would. It is you who insist on judging my witness in the scriptures by your understanding.

"A man who is already sure that he knows the final truth has little room to learn."

Searcher: *make statement with finality*, "That is the nub of it. The doctrine that you are teaching is not the doctrine of scripture. It is different, and that difference is why I doubt you."

The right side of the stage lights up; Jesus is teaching Hebrews gathered around his feet.

Jesus: *teaches*, "No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse. Neither do men put new wine into old bottles; else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish. But they put new wine into new bottles and both are preserved."

Searcher: "What is the old? What is the new?"

Jesus: "That which is old is the doctrines of men in the Hebrew teachings; that which is of God is always new."

The light on the right dims again.

Searcher: *calling to fading figure*, "Wait, don't go yet."

God: "I am here. As I have promised, I will never leave you."

Searcher: *with some challenge*, "Do you claim that there are two doctrines in scripture. How can you say this?"

God: "I have called to remembrance the words of your Lord, and He has witnessed to you what was written. This is as I told you from the first.

"I will guide you to the truth as it is witnessed. I will be true to the promises I have made."

Searcher: *matter of factly*, "We have drifted pretty far from sin and killing."

God: "Would you be my guide again?"

Searcher: *After a pause to consolidate thoughts*, "Not a guide, just an insistent learner. What would you call to remembrance concerning sin and killing?"

God: "I would call you to follow me, and not others whose doctrine is not my own. You have heard the witness of your Lord on my law.
"Is there greater witness of this?"

Searcher: *showing minor irritation*, "That is not an answer."

God: "Do you consider yourself a sinner, Searcher?"

Searcher: *warily*, "Would you suddenly have me be a guide for you?"

God: "And yet I am here with you. What does this witness to you of the effectiveness of your sins in keeping us apart."

Searcher: "Is that an answer?"

God: "As I told you, unless you start with My love for you, you will not come to the answer which is true. My love for you is greater than any offense I have for sin."
"This also is the witness in scripture, for Jesus was sent to call the sinner to repentance, not the righteous to judgment."

Searcher: *as an unfocussed question*, "What?"

God: "It is the witness of scripture. I would not abandon Adam and Eve and their children, but was with them. I was not apart from the Hebrews, but came to them time and again with prophets. I was not apart from mankind, but came to you as Jesus. And I am with you now.
"This is my witness to you."

Searcher: *with open irritation*, "But how will I recognize sin?"

God: "You would be wrong to seek to recognize it. I will judge."

Searcher: *with irritation and insistence*, "But how will I avoid sin?"

God: *patience*, "Who is your teacher who tells you the importance of avoiding sin?"
"Jesus taught you what to do, and that was to follow Him."

Searcher: *as a statement*, "Jesus told an adulteress that she should go and sin no more."

God: "My law is not made of words and regulations to be interpreted by men, but it is spirit. If you proceed in the spirit of the teachings of Jesus, you will be in full accord with the law."

Searcher: "And what of those who break this law?"

God: "I came to be with you when you only knew that something was missing. This is my witness.

"If you know my love for you, you know of my law."

Searcher: *challenging*, "If this is so, why is sin so important?"

God: "To whom is it important?"

"Is it my witness that it is important to me, or is it the witness of those who do not share my doctrine?"

Searcher: *making a statement*, "In scripture, Jesus is the one who forgives sins."

Light comes up on right side. Jesus by himself.

Jesus: "What price did I ask of a man before I would heal him and forgive his sins?"

Searcher: *after a pause to think*, "None that I can think of."

Jesus: "You still do not understand.

"I asked faith, and that was all. The price was in repentance of the spirit, a turning to faith that I am in authority to forgive and to heal."

Searcher: suspiciously, "I guess I stand corrected."

Jesus: "This is the price. If you believe in me, you shall live eternally. If you do not believe, you shall die in your sins."

Searcher: *making a statement*, "Then the wages of sin is death."

God: "You must learn from the witness. If you are right in faith, your sins are not death, nor will they cause death. If you are wrong in faith, even great righteousness will not save you from death.

"Judgment to life is not by sin, but by faith."

Searcher: *suspicion remains*, "Then what is all this to-do about sin?"

God: "I have witnessed to you in the scriptures.

"I am Spirit. Life eternal is spirit. What I ask of you as the price of life eternal is spirit. Focus your heart upon Jesus, and all will be yours."

Searcher: *suspicion remains*, "Why then was there so much emphasis on the forgiving of sins."

God: "The emphasis of my witness is not on forgiving sins. Consider the witness through Isaiah."

Right area lights to show single Hebrew who addresses audience.

Isaiah: *Intonation of God*, "Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before my eyes. Cease to do evil; learn to do well. Seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

"Come now, and let us reason together. Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land; but if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword."

Right area dims again.

God: "This is not a lesson of forgiveness, but of not judging those who are willing and obedient to my law; and these are the ones who take care of one another.

"Your Lord teaches also in scriptures:"

Right area lights again, with Jesus standing, and Hebrews at his feet to be taught.

Jesus: "Whosoever therefore shall break one of the least commandments, and shall teach men so; he shall be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven. For I say unto you, that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall in no case enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Light dims on the right. Light returns with Jesus talking to one Disciple.

Jesus: "And I will give unto thee the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt bind on Earth shall be bound in Heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on Earth shall be loosed in Heaven."

Searcher: *almost introspectively*, "I had forgotten about that for a moment. This is witness that man is to judge."

Jesus: *maintaining godly intonation*, "Why do you resist what I have taught. What I witness is that sin is so important to God that He will forgive who you forgive, and hold liable for sin those you hold liable."

"This is not a statement of how important sin is, but how important you are. It is not you who will be judged by sin and atonement, but I have placed the government of sin into your hands."

God: "It is as I told you from the first; If you would learn, you must start with the love I bear you. If you start anywhere else, you can not find your way to the truth."

Searcher: *mollified*, "This surely is the doctrine you guided me to concerning knowing you. What is your doctrine for sin?"

God: "I am one God, and I have one doctrine. It is not a doctrine for sin, but for life."

"It is the doctrine of Men which can be split into parts and can be reassembled, but not the doctrine of the Spirit. There is one Spirit, and it is inherent in the law. The law is from the Spirit, and the Spirit continues within the law."

Searcher: "This is getting confusing again."

"What I want to know is how I can recognize sin, so that I can keep away from it."

God: "I have already told you. If you proceed in accord with my law, your sins are not important."

Searcher: "Lets say that I still want to know for my own peace of mind."

God: "My doctrine is the same. It is not through knowledge that you come to know Me or my doctrine, but through acceptance of the Spirit. You are My child by the spirit which is within you; not by your thoughts and understanding. You will live by the Spirit, not by sin, atonement, or righteousness."

Searcher: *with irritation*, "That is not an answer, it evades answering me."

God: "You have the answer. Sin is that which is offensive to Me."

"I have told you what is offensive to Me, and I have showed you the witness that is in scripture concerning this."

"What is it that you feel that you lack?"

Searcher: *open irritation*, "What I lack is satisfaction. You haven't given me what I want."

God: "I did not promise to fulfill your wants, but to guide you. Have faith, and this will be sufficient."

Searcher: *showing some anger*, "I will have faith in God. I am still leery of some of the doctrine you put forth."

God: "That too is sufficient. The truth will grow in you."

The lights on the stage dims. The cast removes robes, and move again into the audience for a break.

ACT#3: - REPENTANCE & THE KINGDOM

Stage is returned as before. The searcher and God return to their places at the left of the stage. The left brightens.

Searcher: "I've been doing some reading and some thinking."

When there is no immediate reply, "If sin is such a small part of your doctrine, what does Jesus call us to repent of."

God: "You do well to look to the witness. I feel joy that you look for Me."

"You have read the witness, what does your Lord witness?"

Searcher: "It seems pretty vague. Jesus does not tell us what to repent of, but only to repent."

"I ask again, what should I repent of."

God: "You have grown in your faith, and I have joy for this. You have truly looked to the witness and not to the truths of other men."

There is a time of silence, where the Searcher is waiting for more, but gets none. After a time, he speaks again.

Searcher: "I do not understand."

God: "Why do you doubt the accuracy of the witness?"

Searcher: some irritation creeping in, "I don't understand the witness, how can I doubt what I don't understand?"

God: "It is because you doubt, that you do not understand. The witness is clear enough; and you have read it in the spirit of honestly reading what is written."

"Why would you think it is insufficient? Who has told you that it is incomplete or lacking?"

There is a pause where the Searcher seems to be trying to assimilate this.

God: "What was the purpose of John the Baptist, what is the witness of the prophets?"

Searcher: "It was to prepare the way for the Lord, to smooth the path before him."

God: "And the baptism which John Provided?"

Searcher: "It was a baptism. What else is there to know?"

God: "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face which shall prepare thy way before thee.

Right stage lights up to show the Prophet John standing in a children's swimming pool and beckoning others Jews and one Pharisee to come in.

Pharisee: *challenging*, "You say that you are not the Christ, and not a resurrected prophet. Then by what authority do you baptize these people?"

John: *statement of truth*, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance; but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear. He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire."

The light on the right dims

Searcher: *after a pause to assimilate*, "I think I see what you're aiming at. John also did not tell people to repent of anything, but only to repent.

"By this, I see that you are consistent; as you have taken pains to tell me over and over. I still don't understand?"

God: "Understanding comes only with acceptance of the love that I bear you."

Searcher: *some irritation creeping in*, "Something to do with the love you witness through creation, through Jesus, and through being here with me now?"

God: "You have learned the words, but you have not let them sink into your heart. You still resist the truth."

Searcher: *irritation in voice*, "That sounds very wise, I'm sure; but it does not help me to understand what you mean by repentance."

God: "I speak of the relationship between Myself and you. In the life of men, it is most like the relationship within the family.

After a pause, "Do you remember the witness, 'For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife, and the twain shall be one flesh.'"

Searcher: *minor irritation in voice*, "Of course I remember. I don't see how I can apply it to the situation at hand."

The light on the right comes up, Jesus standing with disciples.

Jesus: "Think not that I am come to send peace on Earth; I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter at

variance against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

"He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he that loveth son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after Me is not worthy of Me."

The light dims, and then rises again to show the disciples and Jesus sitting together.

Disciple: *puzzled*, "We don't know where you are going; how will we know the way to follow after you?"

Jesus: "I am the way, the Truth and the life. No man commeth unto the Father but by Me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also; and from henceforth ye know Him and have seen Him."

Other disciple: "Show us the Father, and that will be enough."

Jesus: "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip?"

"He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, 'shew us the Father?'"

"Believest thou not that I am in the Father and the Father in Me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself; but the Father that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works."

The light dims again.

Searcher: *minor irritation in voice*, "I don't know what you are trying to teach. Does this have something to do with repentance?"

God: "You are resisting the obvious.

"To join with a wife, the man must turn from his father and his mother, repenting from his relation as the child of the family.

"Those who repent of unrighteousness only turn to righteousness; and they can not find Me through righteousness."

Searcher: "This is strange doctrine."

God: "Those who seek Me must turn to Me through Jesus. To repent of one thing in the world only turns to another thing in the world; but I am not of the world.

"To find Me, you must turn to Me where I am, you must turn to the Spirit, and away from all the world."

Searcher: *introspection*, "That is a strange doctrine, but it does make some sort of sense when it is presented that way."

God: "This is the lesson which is witnessed in scripture. If you would find Me, you must repent of all the world, and follow your Lord only.

"This is why you can make no graven image to Me, for I am not like to anything in the world. To worship anything in the world is to reject Me, for I am not in the world, but in the Spirit."

"This is why you can not love both God and Mammon. There is nothing of Mammon which is like to God."

Searcher: *statement of truth*, "Your doctrine is consistent, I'll give you that.

"My Lord did not, however, simply urge repentance, but tied it to the Kingdom of God."

God: "Indeed, the presence of the Kingdom was given as a reason to repent."

"The witness in scripture is well preserved and accurate."

Searcher: "Where is the Kingdom, or where will it be."

The light at the right returns to brightness. Jesus is with several Jews and a Pharisee.

Pharisee: *Announcing to the others*, "He casts out devils by the authority of Satan."

Jesus: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand. And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?"

"And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges.

"But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God is come unto you.

The light dims again.

Searcher: "I would interpret this to say that the Kingdom of God is wherever the authority of God is present. Are you sure that this is what you want me to know?"

God: "This is the lesson of scripture."

The light on the right raises again. Several Jews are ready to cast invisible stones at a man in prophet's robes. A Pharisee is also there.

Pharisee: *accusingly to the prophet*, "Steven, it is by your own testimony that you are condemned. Let your blasphemy carry you to your reward.

Others throw the stones, Prophet falls, but sees something above and reaches out to it.

Steven: *witness to vision*, "Behold, I see the Heavens opened and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God."

Others: *crying out and covering their ears*, "Blasphemy, blasphemy."

The prophet crumbles to the floor. The light is snapped off on the right.

Searcher: "What am I to learn from this?"

God: "I am in my Kingdom. Where I am, there is my Kingdom. When you find Me, you will find my Kingdom. When you find my Kingdom, you will find Me."

Searcher: *minor irritation in voice*, "So what. How is this of any importance?"

God: "Your Lord directed you to repent. Your Lord directed you to seek for the Kingdom.

"I bring this to mind so that you might do as your Lord directs in scripture.

"I guide you to have faith in Jesus and the witness in scripture."

Searcher: with suspicion in the voice, "Oh, I see. It's a package deal. I get it all or I get nothing.

"Is that the message?"

God: "You can not hear because you do not want to hear. I am not trying to sell you anything, but to give you all.

"What I ask in return, is that you accept the value offered. It is free, and I ask nothing in return but that you continue in your faith in God; which you say you want to do anyway.

"Why do you hold back, why are you suspicious and doubting?"

Searcher: *suspicion in the voice*, "You're telling me that I either accept it or I get nothing."

God: "You do not understand the magnitude of your own question.

"If you have faith in God, you have life eternal. If you do not, you aren't even really alive. If you have faith, you will inherit the Kingdom; and if you have none, you will be cast out with those who are not God's people.

It's not a matter of rejecting faith and getting nothing; if you reject faith, you are nothing."

Searcher: *with suspicion*, "I don't like the sound of that threat."

God: "What threat?"

"Do you forget what I have promised; I will be with you because you have sought for me. That, my child, is repentance unto life. You have already paid the price and all that I have is offered to you. It is you who are wondering how to pay a price which has already been paid by another."

Searcher: *irritation in voice*, "Then why are we going through this. Why do I suspect that there is something wrong?"

God: "Suspicion is the cost of living for the values of the world, which are purchased by a dear price.

"You can not earn what I offer to you with painful efforts and great deeds on my behalf. I would hurt to see you suffer or to be in want, and I will not love any man for causing harm to My own.

"I am the good Father, who gives value to His own, heaping good upon good, value upon value. I am the good Father, who has greater wealth to give than all the world, and who distributes it freely to those who will be children in the family."

Searcher: *suspicion in voice*, "If all this is so, and you are indeed God, then why are we going through this search at all. You made the world, why wouldn't you make it the way it should be?"

God: "We have spoken before about your judgment of Me; and need to speak about it no more. It is enough that this is recalled to your mind. I have made what I have made for my own purposes; and I have not wrought in error.

"The greatest pleasure of a Father's life is to see his children grow and become productive. The fact that it is uncomfortable to grow does not take away from this, but is a part of it."

Searcher: *suspicion & hostility*, "You claim all the discomfort you cause me is to make you feel better?"

God: "Who teaches you these things. To be alive in the spirit is to grow. To repent is to recognize a new direction and to grow. It is my pleasure that you become more, and have more, and bring forth fruit worthy of the best."

Searcher: *hostility*, "Does a good father harvest his own family."

God: *with patience*, "Do you try to lack understanding. Through your Lord, I came to you and was one with you. For your benefit, I died and was buried.

"Who is there who knows of your anguish and your pain except Me?"

Searcher: *heavy with suspicion*, "You are very clever."

God: "I am not being clever. I told you from the beginning that you would find nothing unless you started with the love I bear for you. I guide you to the truth.

"If you would learn of me, you must start with the fact that I am here, and that your Lord was real and alive as you are alive.

"Such love can not be ignored or put on the shelf. Either you must live in it, or you must reject it and believe in something else. There is nothing that any man can do which is like unto that witness. I died so that you might live eternally."

Searcher: "I'm getting confused."

God: "I am not the cause of any confusion. Look to my guidance and I have not changed or varied from that which I told you at the beginning. I have not varied from the witness to Me in the scriptures

"As I told you from the beginning, I am a true guide, calling to mind the witness in scripture.

"Seek to understand, look for that which is confusing you."

Searcher: "I have been searching, but there is no clear answer except that I do not trust you. What you teach is strange doctrine, not like what I have read and most unlike what I have learned to trust."

God: "I have also called the witness to mind in scripture that My doctrine is not like the doctrine of others, and will not be like any doctrine of yours. I am alone and unique.

"You can only hold to my doctrine if you are one with Me through your faith in Jesus. This is the witness of scripture."

Searcher: suspicion, "And you say that I am uncomfortable because I have not accepted you as my one and only guide?"

God: "Faith in Christ is the only way, as it is witnessed in scripture. There is no other way, no other faith, which can lead you into the Kingdom."

Searcher: *continued suspicion*, "And also, that you are the only guide who can bring me to that faith."

God: *with quiet patience*, "You are trying to harm yourself. I have only taught you to have faith in the witness of scripture, which you already accept as a basis for living.

"Is this the source of your confusion?"

Searcher: *frustration*, "If I knew the source, I could resolve it."

God: "If I have guided you truly, why do you doubt. If I have called the witness of scripture to mind, why do you question it in your heart?

"Isn't it obvious."

Searcher: *frustration with some irritation*, "If it was obvious, I would have seen it."

God: "It is as I witnessed from the first, my doctrine is not like any other, and not like your own. You can only accept it by accepting the witness of scripture and the immediate presence of Christ in your life. It can not be learned without a guide who resides within your heart.

"It is obvious that what I present is witnessed in scripture, and it is obvious that it is not the doctrine which you learned on your own or from others."

Searcher: *suspicion*, "I suppose this is made to comfort me, that you are able to confuse me through your strange references to scripture."

God: "I told you from the beginning that my doctrine was unique and unlike any other. Why does it disturb you; would you be God, or find a god of flesh and blood?"

Searcher: *statement of fact*, "What you teach is not the doctrine of scripture."

God: "What I guide you to is the witness of your Lord. If His witness is not what you follow, then it is clear that what you follow is something else."

Searcher: *irritation*, "What is it that you want of me?"

God: "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand."

Searcher: *irritation*, "Don't you ever get tired of this?"

God: "I am with you because it is where I wish to be. I am here to guide you because of the love I bear you; my very presence is a witness to this which none other can give to you.

"As I have told you from the first, I will never leave one who repents and searches for Me. There is nothing dearer to me than one of my own."

Searcher: "And if I choose to reject you."

Light comes on at the right, with Jesus kneeling in prayer.

Jesus: "Keep through thine own name those whom Thou hast given Me, that they may be one as We are.

"While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Thy name. Those that Thou gavest Me, I have kept; and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled."

Light dims, and Pharisee and disciples enter. Light regains brightness.

Jesus: *Godly intonation*, "My sheep hear my voice and I know them; and they follow Me; and I give unto them eternal life. And they shall never perish; neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them Me is greater than all, and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one."

God: "Hear the witness. Your Lord does not fail, neither can any take you away from Him. If you seek diligently, you can not fail or be conquered by any foe.
"Hear the witness and believe. Put your trust in Jesus."

Searcher: *challenging*, "And if I should choose not to repent?"

God: "If you had not already repented and sought after the truth, then you might have failed. Now I am with you, and I will not leave you."

Searcher: *challenging - and with irritation*, "So, you think I am a captive."

God: "I think you are coming to freedom, though you resist it heartily and with great diligence. You must accept that only the truth can set you free."

Searcher: *scornful*, "I can hear it already, that Jesus is that truth which came down from Heaven."

God: "He is the only truth, and there is none like to Him.
"You already understand much of the repentance that is necessary, all you lack is acceptance of the Love of God for you with your heart."

Searcher: *challenging*, "And then what? What will you give me if I repent?"

God: "I offer you nothing for your repentance. All that you would receive is already offered in scripture. Trust what is witnessed there, it is sufficient."

"Indeed, you have already begun your repentance, and that is why I am here with you. I saw it in your heart, and I made myself known to you."

Searcher: *challenging*, "Then why should I repent further. All that I might get, I already am assured."

God: "That is the way of the world, to look only for what you might get.
"Consider my alternative. What I have for you is not a cost but a benefit. I do not withhold from you, because I want to give all that I can give you. You can not buy what I have for you, but you can refuse it."

Searcher: *still challenging*, "I might not have the same view of benefit as you. What if I am unhappy with the benefits you want me to have?"

God: "I made you; before you were born, I knew you. I know that only what is offered can fulfill you."

Searcher: "My question remains."

God: "You are the searcher. Tell me what it is that you seek. Then we will see."

Searcher: *sounding tired*, "You have worn me down; and I am tired."
"We will talk again later."

God: "Rest. It is good that you wish to be at your best when you continue your search. I have waited from the beginning, I will gladly wait a little longer.

"That is the witness of my presence. It is the love I bear you that has brought Me to you, and I will not leave you alone."

ACT #4: - JUDGEMENT AND THE LAST DAY

Searcher: "Are you there?"

God: "Of course. There is nowhere more important for Me to be than here with you right now."

Searcher: "I have been reviewing what you have told me, and the guidance you have offered."

God: "Of course. It is necessary that you search on. It is even necessary that you continue to doubt."

Searcher: *challenging*, "Good. Then this might make you happy.

"On review, I find that you have provided me with very little actual guidance in scripture.

"Most importantly, I know no more scripture now than I did when you first called to me."

God: "You forget why I am here. I am not come to be your teacher, providing you new facts and ideas. I am come as a guide, recalling to memory those things which your studies have already revealed to you, so that you can understand them more clearly."

Searcher: "My God is the source of truth and wisdom, not simply a guide service. Who are you?"

God: "I AM; and there is none like to Me.

"I am the one who you recognize without knowing my form or my voice. I am the one who is with you, a witness in fact while you have formerly relied upon the imperfect witness of words.

"I am the one who will never leave you, and who encourages you to continue and to grow in faith. That is who I am."

After a pause, "Searcher, who are you?"

Searcher: *with irrational anger*, "I'm the one whose soul you are playing with by your teachings and your strange doctrine. I'm one who is getting pretty nervous about what I'm hearing."

God: "Do you fear to follow your Lord?"

Searcher: *still angry*, "Not to follow Jesus, but I am very nervous about following the doctrine you present."

God: "The doctrine I present to you is that which is witnessed by Jesus in scripture.
"I am presenting to you the doctrine which He presented to you. I am not misleading you, but calling the teachings of your Lord to your attention."

Searcher: *irritation and anger*, "I know. You claim to be God."

God: "Search the record of Jesus, and you will see Me in Him. I likewise do not teach you of My own authority, but call His teachings to be my witness; even as He called upon the teachings through the prophets and the witness of miracles to be His witness."

Searcher: *anger and irritation*, "There is a disturbing truth in that. You occasionally seem to sound alike."

God: "Search your memory, and you will find your Lord's doctrine in others as well. There are many who are filled with the Spirit."

Searcher: *anger fading, irritation remains*, "That's what makes me so nervous, I'm beginning to recognize you in others."

God: "I am life and I am spirit. Why should it trouble you that there are people who are filled with life and spirit?"

Searcher: *still with irritation*, "It's the strangeness of your doctrine. How will anyone be able to get you out of their head once you bend their minds to thinking like you do."

God: *with patience*, "There are none like Me, or like to Me. There are none who will think as I do unless they are one with Me."

"Consider yourself. How will you ever hold to the doctrine which I have shown to you except that I am with you. Who would be able to guide you on this path but one who dwells within your heart?"

"I am spirit, and there are none like Me."

Searcher: *anger again*, "But it does not feel right. It is so ... so non-biblical. It has no place in the world."

God: "Its place is in your heart, not in the world. I have chosen you out of the world."

Searcher: *anger*, "You're getting clever again, and I don't appreciate it."

God: "I am simply calling the witness of scripture to remembrance."

Searcher: *anger*, "It occurs to me that you are being mighty selective about the scriptures. You guide me only to a very small part of it. You challenge most of what is written.

After a moment of obvious introspection, "That's it. That what has been disturbing me. Your doctrine is too limited, too simple-minded.

"You have singled out one or two things and called them the doctrine of God, while the scriptures contain so much more."

God: *calm & patient*, "Not several witnesses, only one.

"I am one God, and I have only one doctrine. This is in accord with the witness of scripture."

"I am not simple-minded; I am single-minded. It is the witness of scripture that all that is true is founded upon the love I have for you, even as I witnessed to you from the first.

"I have not been failing you, but you have been rejecting the one thing which I have offered to you, My love. I have not sought to satisfy you with words, as others have done; but have come to you in accord with the witness of scripture, and have been with you, as it is recorded that I would be with you.

"Tell me again what it is that troubles you."

Searcher: *irrational anger*, "It's too simple. There is no intelligence in it, no direction for me to take to live."

God: "There is only one direction for life, the narrow path which leads to the Kingdom of Heaven. How can you say that this is not what I have been showing to you."

"Do you feel that I should judge a man by his intelligence, and the diligence of his study in a document?"

Searcher: "It seems a reasonable thing in accord with scripture."

God: *with level patience*, "I am the guide to the truth, not a schoolmaster to give you a grade for your intellectual efforts. You can only come through faith in Jesus, as it is recorded in scripture."

Searcher: *irrational anger again*, "I suppose you would have me teach my children to obey the law as you explained it, which is like not obeying much of anything."

God: "Your words are correct, your attitude is of a wrong spirit. I have not guided you to strict obedience of set demands, but to love God and care for one another - in accordance with the witness of your Lord in scripture.

"Is there something in this lesson by your Lord that offends you?"

Searcher: *irrational anger*, "And at the day of judgment, I suppose that this will be the basis of the judgment."

The light at the right comes on, showing Jesus teaching the disciples.

Jesus: *same intonation as God*, "For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance; but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"When the Son of Man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with Him; then shall He sit upon the throne of his glory, and before Him shall be gathered all nations. And He shall separate them one from another as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats."

The light dims.

Searcher: *irrational anger*, "That's drawn from two separate parables."

God: "I have only one doctrine.

"I call to remembrance that God asks a return on the investment he makes in you."

Searcher: *anger*, "You mean giving me life."

God: "I mean giving you life eternal. The investment is in the spirit, and the return will also be in the spirit. You will bear much fruit."

Searcher: *irrational anger*, "And the judgment of the sheep and the goats?"

God: "They will be judged on the investment made. Those in whom I reside will receive the Kingdom which was prepared. Those in whom I do not reside will be sent away without even what they think that they have."

Searcher: *anger*, "And judgment for sins?"

God: *calm and continuing*, "Can even you confuse a sheep and a goat?"

"The Kingdom was prepared for God's children, not for the righteous or those who might earn a kingdom by their deeds. No stranger will dip his hand in the wealth that I have prepared for my family. And no child of mine will lose his inheritance except by denying Me as his Father."

Searcher: *anger and irritation*, "That tells me what judgment is not. Now what is your judgment for sins?"

The light on the right returns to brightness showing Jesus teaching the people who are around His feet.

Jesus: "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon Earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Searcher: *anger and irritation*, "I don't know how to interpret this."

Jesus: *turning to face the Searcher*, "Repent, turn your heart to God. Do this, and you will have treasures in heaven, where it will await your arrival."

The light dims again, and returns to brightness with Jesus with several of His Disciples.

Peter: "We have given up all and followed you, what shall we receive for this?"

Jesus: "Verily I say unto you, that ye which have followed Me in the regeneration when the Son of Man shall sit in the throne of his glory; ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses or brethren or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold and shall inherit everlasting life."

The light on the right goes off.

Searcher: *anger & suspicion*, "You want me to believe that repentance does not have a price tag on it."

God: "You can not value it by the things of the world, and yet it costs nothing. It is like giving up a battle as lost, only to find that your doing so has won the whole war."

Searcher: *curiosity added*, "Are you speaking of the war between good and evil?"

God: "If you war against evil, you will be defeated because it is stronger than you."

Searcher: *unbelief & sarcasm*, "But if I surrender to it, I win? That doesn't make any sense."

God: *calm and even presentation*, "Indeed it does not; for it fails to understand the witness of scripture.

"Your lord has already risen from the grave. Even death has been defeated already.

"When you repent, and become one with your Lord, you will be one with the winner of the war. You will share in His victory over evil and death.

"It is my guidance that you turn from the battle, and seek the one who has already won. This is repentance indeed."

Searcher: "I have already given my life to the Lord."

God: "Your lips proclaim Him. When will your spirit proclaim Him?"

The light on the right comes up, showing Jesus with pharisees.

Jesus: "Verily, verily, I say unto you; if a man keep my saying, he shall never see death."

Pharisee: same tone as the Searcher, "Do you place yourself above Abraham and the prophets?"

Jesus: "If I honour myself, my honour is nothing. It is my Father that honoureth Me, of whom ye say that He is your God. Yet ye have not known Him, but I know Him. And If I should say, 'I know Him not,' I shall be a liar like unto you. But I know Him and keep his saying. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day; and he saw it and was glad.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you; before Abraham was, I am."

The lights on the right dim, and then return showing Jesus teaching the many Jews.

Jesus: "Not every one that saith unto Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works?' And then will I profess unto them, 'I never knew you.'"

God: "That which is born of the spirit is spirit. It is not the promise which is sought from you, but the fulfillment of repentance. Only by turning to the Spirit can you come to the Kingdom."

Searcher: *irrational anger again*, "What do you want of me?"

God: "I want you to have life and to have it abundantly."

Searcher: *argumentative*, "Jesus taught that it was by faith alone that I would come into the Kingdom."

God: "Without repentance, you will have faith only in the things of the world, not the things of the spirit. Jesus walked the earth, but He was not of the earth."

Searcher: *irrational anger*, "Do you now guide me to mysticism? What are you trying to do?"

The light on the right comes up on the right, Jesus with his disciples, a child in the shadows.

Disciple: "Teach us, which of us will be the greatest when the Kingdom comes?"

Jesus: Jesus beckons to the child, who comes to him. He lays his hand on the child's head, "Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name, receiveth Me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in Me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

God: "You come into the Kingdom only as a child. To be God's child, you must recognize God as your Father; and God is spirit, not flesh and blood. That which is born of the spirit is spirit.

"I do not call you to mysticism, but to be spirit filled."

Searcher: *irrational anger*, "This does not seem right. You do not teach me the scriptures, but pick and choose in them in order to confuse me."

God: "The word which came down from Heaven was Jesus. He is alive"

Searcher: *challenge*, "How is it that you do not teach the law you gave us."

God: "I have only one doctrine and one law. I have proclaimed it from the first, and nothing else."

Searcher: *irrational anger*, "How can any man believe you when you do not teach the scriptures."

God: "To whom did Jesus teach the scriptures; what is the witness? What prophet taught that the scriptures were greater than prophesy, so that the prophet of God could be judged by a knowledge of the scriptures? Who teaches such a doctrine?"

"My guidance is to believe in the witness of scripture, and to put your faith in Jesus. Repent and believe."

Searcher: *irrational anger*, "I'll gladly put my faith in Jesus, but you are telling me that He is not in the scriptures. How would you have me recognize Him."

God: "How do you recognize me, but by my doctrine."

Searcher: "Your doctrine is unique. I have learned to recognize you. How would I come to know Jesus this way?"

God: "You know my doctrine from listening to me. This is also how you will know your Lord's doctrine."

Searcher: "Back to scripture again?"
"You are disturbingly insistent about that."

God: "I guide you as I have from the first. Put your faith in the witness of scripture. The record is sufficient to know your Lord's doctrine, and none are like to Him."

Searcher: *sarcastically*, "Not even you?"

God: "He is unique, and you can only be like to Him if you are one with Him. It is through being one with Him that you share in His doctrine."

Searcher: *sarcastically*, "You make me sorry I asked. I should have suspected that there would be no other answer."

God: "It is the same answer to all questions, as I told you from the first. If you would find the answer, you must start with the love I bear you. My presence here is the undeniable witness of that love."

ACT #5: - WHAT AM I TO DO FOR GOD

Searcher: *demanding*, "I would speak with you."

God: "I am here, I will be with you always."

Searcher: *trying to sound reasonable*, "I have been reviewing our talks, and I have to admit that you have impressed me. You have not guided me by teaching me, but have called upon the words of Jesus. I like that."

God: "It is as your Lord witnessed when He called upon the scriptures to witness to Him, and called upon the miracles to witness to Him. What He did, I do also - He and I AM one."

Searcher: "I want to do what is right and in the will of God. What guidance do you give me?"

The stage lights on the right showing Jesus instructing Jews.

Jew: "What shall we do that we might work the works of God?"

Jesus: "This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent."

Searcher: *questioning*, "I know this saying, but it does not answer me. It directs my faith and not my deeds. What am I to do in the world to do God's will?"

God: "I ask faith of you. It is by your faith that you witness to Me, and not by the deeds of your own hands."

Searcher: *beginning to show some irritation*, "You are the one who directed me in the scriptures that I should let my light so shine before men that they may see my good works and glorify God.

"What I ask is how I can do this?"

God: "What is your light, Searcher? What do you read in scripture?"

Searcher: "It says that Jesus was the light of the world while He was in the world; but He is risen."

Jesus and the apostles on the left.

Jesus: "Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on Earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in Heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

The light fades.

Searcher: *statement of fact*, "Then Jesus is still the light in the world."

God: "I am spirit, and not in the world; but I am with you and within you. Jesus is in the Kingdom at the right hand of God, and the Kingdom is within you."

Searcher: "This is confusing. I'm not sure it makes any sense.
"It would seem to mean that the light is within me."

God: "That has truth. Do you doubt that what is revealed to you in scripture is true?"

Searcher: *confusion*, "What are you doing? I asked what I should be doing to do Your will, and you have me looking for the truth."

God: "It is my will that the light shine forth from you, so that you be a witness to the life that is within you."

Searcher: *irritation becoming apparent*, "We have been here before. You seem to be avoiding what I ask.

"I am not asking what to believe, but what I should do that others will see me and give glory to you. What shall I do? How do I make this light shine from me?"

God: "Why would you do anything but what is witnessed in scripture that you should do? You have read it truly, do in accord with the witness."

Searcher: *irritation continuing*, "I already tithed to the church; would it serve if I would give more, or give all?"

The light on the left raises showing Jesus with the Hebrew leaders.

Pharisees: "Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar?"

Jesus: *keeping the Godly tone*, "Why tempt ye Me, Ye hypocrites?
"Shew Me the tribute money."

They show Him a coin.

Jesus: "Whose is this image and superscription?"

Pharisee: *on the defensive*, "It is a likeness of Caesar"

Jesus: "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's."

The light dims.

Searcher: *sounding confused*, "Didn't Jesus also witness that those who had given all to follow him would have more, and would be placed in charge in the Kingdom?"

God: "When they asked this of your Lord concerning the values of the world, Jesus told them that truly they would receive. Long before they asked this of Him, when He sent the 12 forth in His name, He told them truly of the values of the Spirit. He told them, 'Freely, ye have received, freely give.'"

Searcher: *sounding frustrated*, "You are confusing me, I don't know how to do what you ask? Help me to understand."

God: "Searcher, you are thinking of the things of the world, and not of the Spirit. Consider what you have received; this is what you are called to give to others."

Searcher: *obviously trying to be reasonable*, "I have been receiving guidance that confuses me."

God: "Searcher, how is it that you have forgotten the promise which I made to you."

Searcher: *happy with a conclusion*, "You mean that you will be with me...I think I see. You want me to give You to them."

God: "I have given Myself to you, to be with you all your life. You now know what is asked of you."

Searcher: *sounding a little puzzled*, "But that's crazy. I can't give You away. I don't own You; I don't know how to give You away."

God: "Why are you distressed. Think how I came to you, and I will come to another in the same way. I have not changed."

Searcher: *sounding puzzled*, "But I didn't do anything but look for what is missing in my life. How can any man make another person look for something that is missing from their life?"

There is a time of silence.

God: "Say what is in your heart. It is the witness of scripture that my law shall be written upon your heart."

Searcher: *sounding puzzled*, "You call me back to doing nothing?"

God: "I asked you to have faith, this is enough."

Searcher: *sounding frustrated*, "But what does that witness?"

God: "If you have faith, and your faith is a light to others, then you have witnessed to Me as I have witnessed to you. To those who receive you because of your faith, I will be with them also, witnessing to them as I witness to you."

Searcher: "You're telling me what You will do, and not what I can do to help. I want to do your will in the world. I want to do your will for me."

God: "Your Love for your Lord is noted, but you must do my will and not the will that you might have for serving Me.

"If you do good deeds without faith, what does that witness, but that you are good. This would not be a witness to Me, that I AM. It is not my will that you witness falsely to the Spirit which is within you."

Searcher: "But surely there is something that I can do to help the process, some way to call out to others in your name so that they can receive the witness? What can I do?"

God: "It is your life in the spirit which witnesses to them that something is missing. It is by this that they are called, and not by what you might do to call them.

"So it is witnessed in the scriptures that you shall be my witness."

Searcher: "Isn't it also witnessed that I am to preach the gospel and to bear witness to the truth."

God: "What is the truth to which you would bear witness? What is the gospel? How do you know of truth from scripture?"

Searcher: *after a hesitation*, "I know that you will tell me that the witness is that Jesus is the truth."

God: "And what of the Gospel that you would carry. What is the Witness?"

Searcher: *more hesitation*, "I know that you don't want me to answer about the four gospel books; why don't you really be my guide and let me know what I should answer."

God: "I merely call to mind what is witnessed in scripture. I would not teach you for you would deny Me that I should be an authority over you.

"Teach Me then, what is the Gospel that you would carry in your Lord's name?"

Searcher: "The Gospel is the truth, and the scriptures are the truth. Why wouldn't I carry the Gospel books, this is the witness that You yourself direct me to use?"

God: "What does your Lord witness to be the truth? What does your Lord direct you to witness?"

Searcher: "So we're back to this again?"

God: "As I told you from the first, you can not get anywhere unless you start with the love I bear for you. The gift of Jesus is a witness of that Love, and my presence is a witness of that love.

"What does your Lord witness to be the truth? What is the scriptural direction for what you are to witness?"

Searcher: *with resignation*, "All right, I won't pursue this any further."

God: "What would you do in my name?"

Searcher: *showing irritation*, "I told you I wanted to drop this line of thought."

God: "Searcher.

"Do you love Me?"

Searcher: *with surprise*, "What?"

God: "Do you love Me?"

Searcher: *conviction*, "I love my Lord Jesus. You know this."

God: "Feed my sheep?"

There is a substantial pause after this during which nothing happens on stage.

God: "Searcher.

"Do you Love Me?"

Searcher: *with emotion*, "I have told you. I love my Lord."

God: "Feed my sheep!"

Again there is a substantial pause.

Searcher: *querulously*, "Do you now give me work to do in the world where you denied the same earlier?"

God: "My sheep hunger. I wish you to feed them."

Searcher: *querulously*, "What are you saying, you are switching directions on me when you told me that you would be the same for all time."

God: "Feed my sheep, they are in want."

Searcher: *questioningly*, "You have millions of people, how is anyone to feed so many?"

God: "Even as I have given to you, so you should give to them.
"Feed my sheep, they are in want."

Searcher: "I can only give them what I have, what else can I give to any other?"

God: "You repented and looked for me when you knew you were in want. Are you so different than your brothers?"

Searcher: *querulously* after a pause, "You consider what you have provided me to be food?"

Light on the right comes up showing Jesus with the Pharisees.

Jesus: *teaching*, "Verily, verily, I say unto you. He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life. I am that bread of life.

"Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from Heaven, that a man may eat thereof and not die.

"I am the living bread which came down from Heaven. If any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever. And the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the World."

A Hebrew: *obvious confusion*, "What does this mean, What are you saying?"

Jesus: "Verily, verily, I say unto you. Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, ye have no life in you."

The light dims, and there is a change to another person playing God.

God: "I am food indeed."

Searcher: "I still don't know what I am to be doing. How will I feed you to another person?"

God: "If I am within you, I will flow out from you through your witness that I am within you."

Searcher: "It sounds much the same as what you have told me before, and I still don't understand. What do you want me to do to feed others?"

The light on the right comes up showing Jesus at a well with a gentile woman.

Jesus: *speaking to her,* "Give Me to drink."

Woman: *with curiosity,* "How is it that you will ask something of one who you call unclean?"

Jesus: "If thou knewest the gift of God and who it is that saith to thee, 'Give Me to drink,' thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water."

Woman: "Are you greater than Jacob, who made this well?"

Jesus: "Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again. But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

The light dims again.

Searcher: *puzzled.* "You leave me high and dry again.

"You are telling me that I have to feed and give drink to others, but I don't know how to do this."

God: "Searcher. Are you living water that another shall drink of and live?"

Searcher: *strongly.* "You know that I am not."

There is no immediate answer. There is a quiet pause, a pregnant silence.

Searcher: *somewhat annoyed.* "What do you want of me?"

God: "I want you to be a well of living water, springing up into everlasting life."

Searcher: *obviously annoyed.* "You know that I will do what you ask of me; just ask it."

God: "It is my will that you believe on Him who I have sent."

Searcher: *irritated.* "But this is nothing, I already believe. What else should I do."

God: "Feed my sheep"

Searcher: *obviously irritated.* "We're going around in circles, we aren't getting anywhere.

"What is it that you want, so that we can go forward?"

God: "You can go nowhere unless you start with the love I bear for you."

There is a marked pause.

Searcher: "We're back to this again. How will I know what to do for others by accepting God's love for me?"

God: "Are you so different than your brother, that I should not love him even as I love you?"

Searcher: *after a pause for receiving this.* "You are saying that You will come to them as You did to me, and that this is what is important?"

God: "By whose words and deeds were you called to Me?"

Searcher is unable to answer this, and there is an open-mouthed pause for him to realize this.

God: "It was not by the words or deeds of men that you turn to me, but by the spirit which I AM which is with you."

Searcher: *facial expression showing difficulty in comprehending.* "How did You come to me?"

God: "I saw you turn to Me a long way off, and I came to you. And I give you my guidance that you may come to the truth which I AM."

Searcher: "I have trouble seeing where you want to lead me on this."

God: "I have not come to lead you, but to guide you to the truth by recalling to your mind that which is witnessed in scripture."

Searcher: "In scripture, many are lauded for their efforts on behalf of God. Why do you try to teach something else."

The light on the right raises to show Jesus teaching seated Hebrews.

Jesus: *teaching.* "For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. For every tree is known by his own fruit; for of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil, for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh."

Searcher: *calling out to the other side of the stage.* "Jesus, tell me what I must do."

Jesus: *turning to face the Searcher.* "Become a good tree, for only as you are right in the spirit can you bear good fruit."

The light on the right fades.

God: "This lesson is known to you, why do you doubt what you know to be of your Lord."

Searcher: "I'll have to think about this."

God: "You have walked a long way with Me, it is right that you rest"

The actors remove their robes and the stage lights are dimmed.

ACT #6: - FACING EVIL IN THE WORLD

Searcher: *Calling out.* "I need you"

Voice: "I am here."

Searcher: *questioning.* "I want to know of evil, so that I can avoid it."

Voice: "Evil is all around you and within you. If you would escape from evil, you must come to me."

Searcher: "How do I do this?"

Voice: "Look to the scriptures. There have been holy men who were right standing with me. Follow what is written in scripture, do what they did to live a holy life, do those things which are commanded of you."

Searcher: "This does not seem to be how you have been guiding me before. What is going on?"

Voice: "It is you who have sought me out and asked me. Do you now complain because you get an answer? I guide you to make yourself clean so that you may appear before me."

Searcher: *after a pause for introspection.* "Yes, I find it disturbing that you would change.

"What things would you command me to do?"

Voice: "Learn the scriptures, seek out what you must do in the holy book."

Searcher: *After another pause.* "This is not right. Something is wrong."

Voice: "Would you now be my judge, telling me what is right and wrong?"

Searcher: *groping for words.* "It isn't the teaching which is wrong. It is something else."

Voice: "I am not wrong, nor is the scripture wrong. What then is wrong, Searcher?"

Searcher: "It's not that what you ask is wrong, but your doctrine is not the same as before."

Voice: "If you seek a fault, Searcher, why do you seek outside of yourself. How will you recognize a fault but by your knowledge of what you have been given, the holy scriptures.

"So far, I have carried you, and now you must carry on, taking the burden for which you have been prepared."

Searcher: "I am not comfortable with this doctrine that you teach. There is something terribly wrong here.

"Why would you suddenly put a burden upon me?"

Voice: "What is the doctrine that is in my law? Look to what is written in scripture."

"I have not come to you without cause, but to prepare you for what was ahead. Your childhood in the spirit is passing, and you must shoulder the burden of my people in the world."

Searcher: *with challenge.* "You promised me that you would be the same for all time, and now you are changed. What of your witness to me that I am loved?"

Voice: "You have the scriptures, and it is enough. Now you must learn in them and become worthy of the greatness which will come upon those who serve me.

"Search diligently, and judge fairly. Become a leader of men so that they will look to you, and that you can lead them to find me."

Searcher: *clearly challenging.* "This is different teaching, and you told me that you would be the same on the last day as on the first."

Voice: "Searcher, do you, a sinner, presume to judge me?"

Searcher: "My Lord teaches me not to judge, and so I will not."

Voice: "I have only told you to do in accord with the scriptures. Why do you hesitate?"

There is a marked pause, a time ending with the searcher obviously coming to some conclusion.

Searcher: *with finality.* "My faith is in Jesus Christ

"You are not the one who has come to be with me, but one who denies that he is with me. You are not the one who has come to take the load from me, but to bind me."

"Who are you?"

Voice: "If you would find me, search dilligently in scripture, for I am there."

Searcher: *with anger and finality.* "I don't know you. You are not my guide.

"I do not know your doctrine nor do I know you."

There is a change in the diction, but the voice stays the same.

God: "I am with you, as I promised from the start, and you are answered beyond the question you have asked of Me."

Searcher: "Who are you?"

God: "I AM.

"I am the one who witnesses through being with you and within you to be a guide. I am the one who has allowed another to be seen by you so that you could know who I am more surely."

Searcher: *somewhat disappointed.* "You mean that all this was some sort of test?"

God: "It was no test for me and no test of you, but an undeniable witness for you that you will know me, and that no other will lead you astray.

"It is witness that I am with you, and that no other will take the words of your Lord from you."

Searcher: *anger in the voice.* "You dropped me into the lions den without even letting me know?"

God: "Like Daniel indeed, for you have come through the flames by faith in Jesus Christ; and you have come from the fire untouched by the world.

"Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad, for your Lord is with you and within you."

Searcher: *anger mollified. but not satisfied,* "But you put me in danger."

God: "Fear not, for your Lord is with you and within you."

Light on the right comes up, showing Jesus talking to his disciples, all standing and ready to go as he is sending them.

Jesus: "What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light. And what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops. And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

"Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing, and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Searcher: *speaking to God.* "If you love me like this, why would you put me in danger?"

Jesus: *turning to the Searcher.* "There is one who judges, even God. Only God has authority to hold you safe or to cast you out. There is none other to fear."

Searcher: *to Jesus.* "Yes, but"

God: *interrupting.* "There is no one who shall take you from my hand, and none who shall judge you or be a judge over you while I am with you and within you."

The light on the right goes dim.

Searcher: *with anger still there, but much reduced.* "But what if something had gone wrong, and I had been lead astray."

God: "As I have witnessed from the first, you can go nowhere unless you start with the love I bear you.

"Where others witness to you in words, I witness in deeds. I am with you, a witness that can not be denied by words."

Searcher: *still angry.* "At least I know that it is you. This is your doctrine."

God: "I and my doctrine are one. To recognize my doctrine is to recognize me. To live within my doctrine is to find me within you."

Searcher: *angry.* "But this doesn't go to the point. You have put me into danger."

God: "I witness to you with deeds instead of with words. I did not send you into danger, for I did not leave you. Where you were, there was I also in spirit. You were not alone, for you can not follow my doctrine unless I am with you. My doctrine is not like any other, nor like to any other; and without me you could be lead away.

"But I witness to you in deeds, by being with you, where others would only witness by words."

Searcher: *somewhat mollified.* "You are consistent."

God: "I am true to the promise which was made in scripture. I will not leave you, but will be a true guide."

Searcher: *calmed down.* "I do find you comforting by comparison to what you let me experience with the other spirit."

"Why did you let me experience this. It was an unpleasant and threatening deception after hearing your doctrine. Why was I made to suffer through it?"

God: "It is not by my will that you are made to suffer, but by your own questioning of my doctrine. The witness in scripture is that you are to seek after life: but you seek after the darkness to know it so that you can look away from where it is.

"This is not my doctrine or my teaching."

Searcher: *mildly accusative.* "But you still let it happen. You did not protect me from the experience?"

God: "I am not here to force you to do what I wish, but to guide you to the truth. My direction is clear, and yet you sought another, for this is the way of man.

"Would you have believed that you could reject a wrong spirit because you know Me? Would you have learned faith, or simply have felt cheated that I did not change you to someone who would have no need to fear?"

Searcher: *with a laugh.* "You have a point there. I guess I would not have learned without some such experience. I did not know how much we have covered until it was put to this test.

"But you raise a new question. Why didn't you just give me the strength I needed, making me strong enough to resist all the evil in the world.

"I know you can do this."

God: "All that I have to give to you is offered already, it is you who do not yet choose to accept it all. Through Christ, it was fulfilled.

"It is not who you might be that I love, but you as you are. In witness to this, here I AM; for I witness to you in deeds where others know only words."

Searcher: *querulously.* "This is a strange doctrine that you give to me. How can I, sinner that I am, be worthy?"

"How can you teach this?"

God: "This is the doctrine of your Lord."

"It was the witness of God that He was not apart from the children of Adam and Eve. It was the witness of God that He was not apart from the Hebrews, who did not know Him. It was the witness of God through Jesus that He was not apart from sinners, but comes to them to call them to Himself.

"I return the question to you, Searcher. Who is it that teaches that I am not with a man because he is unworthy, or that I have abandoned anyone?"

Searcher: "I see some wisdom in your teaching, for you indeed teach me only what is in scripture, or is directly witnessed. I can no longer argue against you in this.

"I still, however, will not accept you as God. I will also state that I will follow your guidance as long as you guide me in this way.

"The love you show to me is indeed what I was missing, and I can only thank you for guiding me as You Have."

God: "You attempt to call our session to an end, and it will not be so.

"You can not dismiss me, Searcher. It is the witness of scripture that I will be with you and within you, and that I will abide with you. My guidance will not cease, but I will be in you a well of living water which will pour out of you, and you will be my witness in the world.