

ALL

(variously)

GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE!
 GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE!
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(At the very end of the song, JESUS leaps onto the table, completing a stage picture with the OTHERS who are already perched on the table.)

[NOTE: From this point on, the actor playing JOHN THE BAPTIST will be referred to as JUDAS. This is for convenience sake. In GODSPELL, the characters of John and Judas are combined into one role, that of Jesus's right-hand man who ultimately betrays him. The fact that they have the preceding early one-on-one scene between them helps to establish their special relationship and differentiate it from JESUS' relationships with the other disciples.]

(During the following, JUDAS gets a cardboard shoebox containing tubes of colorful greasepaint and gives it to JESUS. JESUS takes one of the tubes and paints a couple of symbols onto JUDAS' face. In the original, the symbols were lightning bolts, but the specifics are unimportant. The OTHERS watch, and then JESUS indicates that he would like them to follow suit. THEY all paint each other's faces.)

[NOTE: While it is not necessary to follow this direction literally, it is important that, at JESUS' instigation, ALL don some sort of symbol that shows that they have separated themselves from society and that they are members of a tribe following this particular leader. In lieu of make-up, it could be a piece of clothing or a badge or whatever. In the 2012 Broadway revival, bright red bows were passed out, which were pinned on their costumes. But the symbolic point must be made. Towards the end of the Second Act, this make-up or badge or special piece of clothing or whatever will be removed.]

JESUS

Now, do not suppose that I have come to abolish the Law and the prophets. I did not come to abolish, but to complete. I tell you this: so long as heaven and earth endure not a letter, not a stroke, will disappear from the Law until all that must happen has happened. Therefore, whoever sets aside even the least of the Law's demands will have the lowest place in the kingdom of Heaven. But whoever keeps the law and teaches others so will have the highest place in the kingdom of Heaven.

(By now, the face-painting is complete.)

Unless you show yourselves far better men than the Pharisees and the doctors of the Law...

PARTS

JESUS

UZO

TELLY

MORGAN

CELISSE

LINDSAY

NICK

ANNA-MARIA

GEORGE

START
HERE

UZO

(Jumping up and imitating a self-important personage)

Harrumph, harrumph, harrumph.

[NOTE: This can be any sound or snippet of speech of the actor's choosing, so long as it illustrates the appropriate character]

JESUS

(Admonishing her character)

...You shall never enter the kingdom of Heaven.

(JESUS now starts singing a circus rhythm, which the OTHERS pick up. They form a sort of human calliope on and around the table.)

Oompah-pah
Oompah-pah
Oompah-pah
Oompah-PAH

ALL

La-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la.
LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA

JESUS

There once was a judge...

(Since UZO was brave enough to enact a character, JESUS now selects her to enact the judge. Delighted, she scampers downstage right.)

OTHERS

La-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la.

JESUS

...Who cared nothing for God nor man.

OTHERS

LA-LA.

JESUS

And in the same town there was a widow...

(JESUS now selects another disciple to help him illustrate the story – MORGAN. She crosses down to UZO and falls to her knees before her as JESUS continues the story.)

...who constantly came before him demanding justice against her rival.

COMPANY

LA-LA.

JESUS

For a long time he refused, but in the end he said to himself...

OTHERS

(Holding note throughout the following)

LA...

UZO

(Enacting a magisterial-style judge)

"True, I care nothing for God nor man. But this widow is so great a nuisance, I will see her righted before she wears me out with her persistence."

OTHERS

LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA!

JESUS

(Jumps on table)

You hear what the unjust judge says: and will not God vindicate his chosen, who cry out to him day and night while he sits listening patiently to them?

OTHERS

(Moving in on table)

Will he, Jesus? Will he, will he?

JESUS

I tell you, he will vindicate them, soon enough.

OTHERS

(Cheering)

Yay! *(etc.)*

JESUS

(Cuts them off)

But, when the son of man comes, will he find faith on earth?

(The OTHERS are not sure of the answer and murmur thoughtfully to one another, as one disciple, TELLY – not the brightest bulb in the string of lights – says to Jesus:)

TELLY

Oh, I'm glad you brought that up... *(or "Is that a rhetorical question?" or some other interjection.)*

(But JESUS has already moved on to the next lesson. He plucks MORGAN out of the group and brings her up onto the table.)

[NOTE: In the 2012 Broadway Revival, this next section was performed as a wrestling match for WWJD. The text as given is what was performed in the original production.]

MORGAN

(Quieting the OTHERS)

Shhh!

(And she begins to "preach" in a revivalist meeting style)

Gather 'round, brothers and sisters!

(The OTHERS immediately begin to participate in this new "prayer meeting" game.)

Because two men – I said two men...

OTHERS

Hallelujah!!

MORGAN

...Went off to the temple to pray. One, a Pharisee,...

(CELISSE, perhaps nudged by JESUS, decides to portray the Pharisee. She runs DSL and assumes a self-aggrandizing stance.)

OTHERS

(Showing general derision for the Pharisee)

Boo! *(etc.)*

MORGAN

...and the other a tax gatherer.

(NICK somersaults off table and becomes the Tax Gatherer, DSR.)

OTHERS

(Showing inexplicable sympathy for the Tax Gatherer)

Ahhh!

MORGAN

The Pharisee, why he just stood right on up, and pra-a-a-a-yed thus:

CELISSE

(As the Pharisee, immensely pleased with herself)

"I thank thee, O God, that I am not like other men, greedy, dishonest, adulterous, or, for that matter, like that tax gatherer."

(She points scornfully at NICK.)

"I pray twice a week – get that? Twice a week!! And pay taxes on all that I get."

(General derision directed at CELISSE. She responds by looking haughtier than ever.)

MORGAN

But the other kept his distance and would not even raise his eyes to the good Lord in Heaven.

(To LINDSAY)

I said the good Lord in Heaven, Chile.

LINDSAY

Amen, sister!

MORGAN

But beat upon his breast, saying:

NICK

"Oh, God, have mercy on me, sinner that I am!"

ALL

Hallelujah! Amen! *(etc.)*

JESUS

(Crossing DR to NICK)

And it was this man, I tell you...

CELISSE

Oh, you've got to be kidding!

JESUS

(Crossing to CELISSE)

...and not the other who went off and quitted of his sins.
For every man who exalts himself...

(CELISSE does a leap.)

...shall be humbled:

(He taps her on the shoulder and she collapses.)

But...

(JESUS crosses to NICK.)

...Every man who humbles himself, shall be exalted.

(JESUS attempts to raise NICK from his knees, but NICK proves a bit heavier than he had anticipated and he fails. JESUS mutters under his breath:)

Father in Heaven...

(... and tries again to lift NICK up to a standing position. This time he succeeds.)

Shall be exalted!

(ALL cheer. JESUS starts to cross to others, and immediately, NICK loses his balance and falls. He scrambles up and scampers over to join the group.)

JESUS

You have learned that they were told: Do not commit murder.

(TELLY mimes shooting CELISSE)

CELISSE

Do not!

TELLY

Anyone who commits murder must be brought to judgment. But what I tell you is this: Anyone who nurses anger against his brother must be brought to judgment. So, he who . .

(Suddenly turning on them and shouting, like a horror-movie shock)

...abuses...

(ALL jump in terror.)

...his brother must answer for it in the court. But, he who sneers at his brother must answer for it before the throne of God.

(JESUS quickly moves on to the next game and lesson...)

Now. What if you are bringing a gift to the altar, and...

(OTHERS immediately form themselves into an elaborate altar SC on the table. JESUS meanwhile has selected LINDSAY to play a role. She picks up an old sneaker as her "gift" and starts with it towards the "altar.")

...you suddenly remember your brother has a grievance against you?

(During the above, TELLY, playing the aggrieved brother, positions himself below the altar with a sour expression on his face.)

LINDSAY

(Giving a karate chop to sneaker)

Hai-yah.

JESUS

(To UZO)

No, you leave your gift where it is, before the altar.

(UZO is hesitant.)

Leave it!

LINDSAY

(Putting down the sneaker somewhat reluctantly)

O.K.

JESUS

First, go and make a peace with your brother.

(LINDSAY crosses to TELLY sitting under the table and perfunctorily pats his head. She starts to cross away, but is stopped by general disapproval from the others. She goes back to "make peace" again, leans down toward TELLY ... and pinches his nose! Amused with herself, she once again starts to leave and once again is stopped by sounds of general disapproval. Finally she bends down and gives him a kiss on the cheek. General approval from everyone.)

Now go and offer your gift.

(LINDSAY takes sneaker to altar and presents it. The altar accepts the gift, with a little vocal reaction for punctuation)

OTHERS

(As "altar")

Woo woo woo!

(JESUS begins clapping a rhythm which is picked up by ALL. NICK crosses down left and grabs a microphone as ALL stand in places, clap hands to rhythm.)

NICK

(In rhythm)

There once was a king...

(CELISSE jumps on the table, portraying the king.)

ALL

Yeah, yeah!

NICK

...Who decided to settle accounts with the men who served him.

ALL

Yeah, yeah, yeah!

NICK

Well, at the outset there appeared before the master a man whose debt ran into the millions.

(ANNA MARIA, portraying the debtor, crawls out from under the table to DSC)

ALL

What?

NICK

I said the millions!

ALL

Whoa!!

NICK

Since the man had no means of paying the money, the master ordered him to be sold to meet the debt with his wife...

ALL

No!

NICK

...And his child...

ALL

Whoa!

NICK

...And everything he had. Well, the man threw himself down at the master's feet and went:

ALL

Unh!

[NOTE. Depending on the style of the chant, the above "unh" can be anything from rap-style noises to "Ooh-bop-a-loo-bop-a-wop-bam-boo." Whatever, it serve as the musical button for the chant.]

ANNA MARIA

(Clings to CELISSE's legs, on table)

"Oh, be patient with me..."

NICK

. .He said,...

ANNA MARIA

"...and I will pay you in full."

(In the original, ANNA MARIA added "Just as soon they give me my check.")

NICK

(No longer talking in rhythm)

And so moved with pity was the master, that he decided to free the man and remit the debt and let's hear it for the master!

ALL

(To each other and audience)

Yay! Huzzah! What a great master!! *(etc.)*

JUDAS

Wait a minute! That's not the end of the story. No sooner had the man gone out than he met a fellow servant who owed him a few dollars. He gripped him by the throat and said:

(UZO crosses right, encounters GEORGE and collars him)

ANNA MARIA

"Pay me what you owe me!"

JUDAS

The man threw himself at his fellow servant's feet and begged him, saying:

GEORGE

(Falls to his knees)

"B-b-b-b-be patient with me and I shall p-p-pay you."

LINDSAY

But he refused and had him jailed until he should pay the debt.

(UZO "kicks" GEORGE and he crawls under the table into the "jail")

TELLY

Well! The other servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened.

(ALL jump)

They ran and they told their master the whole story!

(Jump twice)

Accordingly he sent for...

(Those near the table beat on it in a crescendo like a drum roll.)

...The Man!!!

(ANNA MARIA throws herself to the ground in front of CELISSE.)

CELISSE

(In the original, this was performed as a Shirley Temple imitation. The choice of what kind of voice and personality to choose for this character is up to the actor)

"You scoundrel!"

TELLY

...He said to him.

CELISSE

"I remitted the whole of your debt when you appealed to me. Were you not bound to show your fellow servant the same pity I showed you?"

(In the original, CELISSE punctuated this speech with a brief time-step and a salute. Depending on what character the actor chooses, an appropriate punctuation for the speech may be found.)

NICK

(In the original, this was performed as a Peter Lorre imitation. Once again, the actor is free to choose, though it's probably good to keep it someone "scary" and associated with horror movies, like Bela Lugosi or Vincent Price.)

And so angry was the master that he condemned the man to torture until he could pay the debt in full.

(ALL leaning threateningly over table towards ANNA MARIA)

ALL

Unh-unh-unh.

(MORGAN bangs a pair of finger cymbals to signal the end of the parable. JESUS stands up and gently delivers the moral to the OTHERS.)

JESUS

And that is how my Heavenly Father will deal with you, unless you each forgive your brothers from your hearts.

END

#5 – Day By Day

(At this point, ANNA MARIA shyly comes forward and faces JESUS. She becomes the first disciple to declare her loyalty.)

ANNA MARIA

Master...

DAY BY DAY,
DAY BY DAY,
OH, DEAR LORD THREE THINGS I PRAY:
TO SEE THEE MORE CLEARLY,
LOVE THEE MORE DEARLY,
FOLLOW THEE MORE NEARLY,
DAY BY DAY.

(Slowly the OTHERS join in, singing "Ahh" in background harmonies as ANNA MARIA continues.)