

COME FLY WITH ME

SEASON 7: PROMISE KEEPER

"POWER IN THE BREAKING"

PILOT EPISODE #61

(Deserters - Cowardice)

Written by

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Based on *They Met Jesus*

A TRUE STORY

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LAST SEASON (#6). PROMISE KEEPER

51. **Martha.** *Chasing Rainbows*
52. **Lazarus.** *Portals of Paradise*
53. **Chief Priests.** *True Colors*
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SEASON #7. PROMISE KEEPER

EPISODE #61. DESERTERS. POWER IN THE BREAKING

TITLE SEQUENCE

BLACK

OUTER SPACE

A shooting star streaks through the sky and lands on planet earth.

EXT. EARTH - DAY

Angry waves churn, then calm to circling ripples. A crown rises out of the baptismal water.

MUSIC similar to *Army of Kings* or Handel's *Zadoc the Priest*.

Next rising out of the water is his head, shoulders, torso.

GOD-KING JESUS (30) has black eyes and hair to his shoulders and a short beard. He looks Middle-Eastern.

He is muscular like the lumberjack and carpenter he is. He wears a sparkling gold robe and holds a diamond-tipped gold scepter.

He continues to grow until his head is among the stars.

UGLY EVIL ONE looks down at him from a top corner of the sky.

God-King Jesus points his scepter at him.

GOD-KING JESUS
I will destroy you!

Lightning flashes out of his scepter.

He lowers the scepter and shrinks down until he is normal human size.

Tall trees surround him. He hangs his robe and crown on one of the branches.

He picks up an ax, finishes felling a tree, hoists it (minus its branches) onto one shoulder, and heads out of the grove of trees with it.

FADE OUT.

Episode #61 - "POWER IN THE BREAKING"

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. COBBLESTONE STREET OF JERUSALEM - NIGHT

SUPER: JERUSALEM, JUDEA PROVINCE, PALESTINE, WEDNESDAY,
APRIL 13, AD 30, 8:00 PM

The SOUND OF MARCHING footsteps and clanging weapons and shields

INT. A ROOM - NIGHT

PETER
Never will we let you die.

STREET

At the back of the procession are ten LEVITICAL TEMPLE GUARDS in black uniforms and round helmets with spear-like points at the crown. They keep one hand on sheathed swords and hold torches with the other hand.

ROOM

ANDREW
You're going to die an old man.

STREET

Just ahead of the ten Levitical temple guards are ten more of the same.

ROOM

JAMES

We'll protect you.

EXT. JERUSALEM CITY GATE - NIGHT

Just ahead of the 20 Levitical temple guards are ten official temple accusers.

The RICH SADDUCEES wearing bright tunics, tapestry robes and large brightly-colored turbans. They each carry a club in one hand and torch in the other.

ROOM

JOHN

You're going to be our king.

CITY GATE

Just ahead of the rich Sadducees are the other official temple accusers.

The CHIEF PRIESTS wear black tunics and robes with white prayer shawls trimmed in black on their heads. They each carry a club and torch.

ROOM

EGYPTIAN PHILIP

No one wanting to get to you will have to go through us first.

EXT. VALLEY WITH BROOK AND NO BRIDGE - NIGHT

Just ahead of the 20 temple guards and 20 Sadducees and chief priests are 100 ROMAN LEGIONNAIRES in their red uniforms, each carrying a spear in one hand and torch in the other.

ROOM

NATHANIEL

You have powers. You will not let anyone get you.

VALLEY

Just ahead of the first 100 Roman legionnaires are another 100.

ROOM

ETHIOPIAN MATTHEW LEVI
You will outsmart them.

EXT. HILL - NIGHT

In front of the first 100 are another 100 Roman legionnaires

ROOM

ETHIOPIAN LITTLE JAMES LEVI
We'll die to keep you alive.

HILL

In front of the 200 Roman legionnaires are a third 100.

ROOM

SYRIAN THADDEUS
You will outsmart them. You always
have.

EXT. LEVEL HILLTOP - NIGHT

In front of the 300 Roman legionnaires are a fourth 100.

ROOM

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON
Where's Judas?

LEVEL HILLTOP

In front of the 400 Roman legionnaires are a fifth and final 100.

ROOM

INDIAN THOMAS
Where's Judas?

In front of the temple guards, official temple accusers, and 500 Roman legionnaires is a chariot with a ROMAN CENTURION wearing his finest. In one hand is a sword.

Behind him is MALCHUS (40) holding a torch. Malchus wears a yellow tunic and green robe.

Next to the Roman Centurion is JUDAS (36) wearing his usual toga in light green and a cloak of dark green.

EXT. ENCAMPMENT - NIGHT

SUPER - GETHSEMANE GARDEN, Mount of olives, 8:30 pm

Peter, James and John are asleep at the edge of grove of trees.

Farther from the grove of trees are Andrew, Philip, Nathaniel, Matthew, Little James, Thaddeus, Simon and Thomas. They are asleep around a bonfire.

ANGEL GABRIEL, Negro wearing white, hovers over the grove of trees.

Jesus stands in front of the grove of trees. He wears a white tunic and red robe.

His hair is matted. His white tunic is half covered with dirt. His robe hangs half off one shoulder.

Jesus takes a deep breath, clenches his fists, sticks out his chin straightens his robe, and marches forward.

He approaches Peter, James, and John just a few feet ahead of him. They are asleep. He kicks them lightly.

GOD-KING JESUS
Wake up, men! It's time.

Jesus walks twenty more feet to the other eight apostles and kicks Andrew.

GOD-KING JESUS (CONT'D)
Wake up. My betrayal. Stand up and
face them like men

The enemy procession of soldiers and accusers is now on the other side of the clearing.

The eleven rouse and shade their eyes from the overpowering glare of 542 torches.

Jesus squares off in front of his eleven and marches defiantly toward the enemy.

NATHANIEL
Huh? What's...

ETHIOPIAN MATTHEW LEVI
Where's Jesus? Where'd he go?

Jesus draws closer to his enemies. His eleven run toward him.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON
Come on guys. Surround him!
Surround Jesus! Shield him! Shield
him!

His eleven are almost upon Jesus.

Jesus is almost upon his enemies.

CENTURION
Halt! Do not advance further.

The eleven stop in their tracks, shock and terror on their faces.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

EXT. GETHSEMANE GARDEN - NIGHT

CENTURION

Halt! Do not advance further!

Jesus takes a few more steps forward.

His eleven stay behind. Their faces reflect fear, anger, shame. Their muscles tighten, hands form into fists.

Simon breaks ranks and runs between Jesus and the enemy.

Peter and Thomas rush up and join Simon.

The three stand boldly between Jesus and his enemies, arms outstretched like a dragnet.

James and John run up and cover the flanks, arms outstretched.

ETHIOPIAN MATTHEW LEVI

Where's Jesus?

Jesus is suddenly between his eleven and the enemy.

CENTURION

Raise your hands above your head!
You there in front! Stop! Do not
advance further! Halt! We are
heavily armed! You do not have a
chance! Halt!

The twenty Levitical temple guards move forward and form a line of defence on each side of the chariot, swords directed at the heart of their savior.

Official temple accusers, clubs still in their hands, move forward and stand just behind the Levitical temple guards.

GOD-KING JESUS

Who is it you want?

He has spoken first before his accusers. He is in charge.

CENTURION

Jesus of Nazareth!

GOD-KING JESUS

I am he!

TALL LEGIONNAIRE
That's him?

SHORT LEGIONNAIRE
What do we do?

BALD LEGIONNAIRE
Judas said he can cause storms and earthquakes with a hand wave.

BEARDED LEGIONNAIRE
He's going to strike us dead!

SKINNY LEGIONNAIRE
No, don't, Jesus. We didn't mean it!

PORTLY LEGIONNAIRE
We were just following orders. Please don't.

Most of the legionnaires duck, the temple guards and official temple accusers run behind bushes and boulders.

Judas steps out of the chariot. But he remains by the chariot and the lights hiding his identity.

CHIEF PRIEST SHLOMO
Get over here, Judas! Protect yourself! Are you crazy?

Judas calls out to Jesus.

JUDAS
Now. Do it now, Jesus! Wave your hand and destroy your enemies. Show them.

Judas waits, a large grin on his face. Jesus does not move.

JUDAS (CONT'D)
Well, how about calling ten thousand of your angels down?

Judas looks around in gleeful anticipation.

JUDAS (CONT'D)
Indeed, Jesus. If you can feed ten thousand people with almost nothing, this would be easy for you.

Jesus' enemies behind Judas look around with guarded expressions so their comrades do not detect their fear.

JUDAS (CONT'D)
Balls of fire?

Judas forces a smile and looks up in the sky.

JUDAS (CONT'D)
Indeed, it was nothing for you to
stop that storm. Do it. Make them
sorry for disrespecting you.

Still Jesus does not move.

TALL LEGIONNAIRE
Huh. He didn't do it.

SHORT LEGIONNAIRE
We're still alive.

BALD LEGIONNAIRE
He can't do it.

BEARDED LEGIONNAIRE
He's a fraud.

SKINNY LEGIONNAIRE
A fake.

PORTLY LEGIONNAIRE
A fool. A weak fool.

TALL LEGIONNAIRE
Maybe he's not really Jesus. Maybe
he's a decoy. Maybe Jesus is one of
the other men.

Slowly the hiding accusers and soldiers return to formation.

CENTURION
Which one of you is the leader?

Still the bright lights of hundreds of torches hide their
identity to those still in the dark.

Jesus shouts into the blinding light.

GOD-KING JESUS
Who is it you want?

CENTURION
Jesus of Nazareth!

GOD-KING JESUS
I told you, I am he!

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

Ha! The greatest army in the world
and they are afraid of him.

Jesus' aides return to protect Jesus. Grinning, swaggering,
flipping their knives in the air festively.

Jesus signals for them to stay back. They grow serious again.

ETHIOPIAN MATTHEW LEVI

No! We're going to defend you!

ETHIOPIAN LITTLE JAMES LEVI

You've got to live.

Jesus bellows to his enemies.

JESUS

If you are looking for me, then let
these men go!

Confusion behind enemy lines.

Soldiers and official temple accusers alternate smiling and
shrugging and glaring in the hatred they're trained to
reflect.

Judas steps around the official temple accusers and Levitical
temple guards.

He faces Jesus the marches defiantly to the one he only
thinks he loves.

SYRIAN THADDEUS

Who is that?

NATHANIEL

It can't be.

EGYPTIAN PHILIP

No!

ANDREW

Not you!

PETER

Judas? What are you doing?

JAMES

Judas! Get over here with us! Help
us, Judas!

JUDAS

I am helping you.

JUDAS (CONT'D)

I'm making it easier for Jesus to be king. You'll be glad.

GOD-KING JESUS

My friend. Do what you came to do.

JUDAS

What's wrong with you, Jesus? Use your powers. I'm out of the way now. Be the king you were destined to be. Now is your chance. Do it.

Judas looks behind him for a destroyed army that remains alive.

JUDAS (CONT'D)

Okay, Jesus. We shall do it your way. Long live the king.

Judas puts both hands on Jesus' shoulders and kisses him on both cheeks, the kiss of friendship.

GOD-KING JESUS

Judas, are you betraying the Son of Mankind with a kiss?

Judas waits. Silence. He looks behind him and walks back toward the enemy lines.

The official temple accusers step away from the Levitical temple guards.

CHIEF PRIEST SHLOMO

Arrest that man!

The Levitical temple guards rush forward with their swords followed close by the Roman legionnaires with their spears.

The hilt of a sword rams into Jesus' head. He staggers. Another blow to the other side of his head.

Jesus reels the other way. They wrestle Jesus to the ground, grab his arms and legs, and pin them down.

Jesus' eleven rush forward.

JOHN

Noooooooooo!

ETHIOPIAN LITTLE JAMES LEVI

Dooooooooon'tttt!

ETHIOPIAN MATTHEW LEVI
Stoooooppppppp!

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

The Levitical temple guards kick Jesus in the side, then lock shackles to his ankles.

Jesus' eleven glance over to their master, terror in their eyes.

Revolutionary Simon pulls his large dagger from its sheath on his thigh.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

Are we going to take this?

Simon rushes defiantly to his master's captors.

A priestly club is shoved into his middle.

EGYPTIAN PHILIP

There are too many!

Another club is brandished across Philip's back.

Simon slashes at Jesus' enemies.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

Do something!

NATHANIEL

They outnumber us!

A Roman guard raises his spear and thrusts it as Simon. Simon ducks.

The other ten stand like statues, freezing in indecision.

Simon turns and shouts at the other ten.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

"Defend him!"

Peter pulls out the sword. Before anyone knows it, he is charging at the Levitical temple guards.

PETER

"You will not take him!"

John too, draws his sword. He swings it at a Roman legionnaire and cuts his spear in half.

JOHN

You will never take Jesus!

John looks around.

JOHN (CONT'D)

You hypocrite priests. Where are
you hiding? You cowards!

John turns toward another temple guard but a second one sees him and tackles him to the ground.

Simon, too, is grabbed by two Roman legionnaires who wrestle him down. They twist the dagger out of his hand.

He pounds on the ground until they pull his arms behind his back.

Peter turns toward Malchus who is standing over Jesus.

PETER

Oh, no you don't! Stay away from
him!

He swings at the head of the civilian. The civilian ducks but not in time.

LEVITICAL TEMPLE GUARD

Grab him! Grab that man!

Two Roman legionnaires rush at Peter, pull his arms behind his back and wrench his bloody sword from him.

PETER

Nooooo!

MALCHUS

"I'm wounded!

The guards standing over Jesus see what has just happened, and force Jesus on his feet.

Blood down Malchus' back, his shoulder, the side of his robe. His hand full of blood.

Malchus drops to his knees

Jesus momentarily breaks from the unsuspecting guard's hold and bends down.

LEVITICAL TEMPLE GUARD

Stop him!

Jesus sees and crawls toward Malchus, his hands shackled behind his back and his feet tethered.

GOD-KING JESUS
Stop! Peter, stop!"

MALCHUS
My ear! That's my ear! They cut my
ear off!

Jesus tumbles over a few times but finally reaches Malchus.

He touches the ear to the side of the Malchus' bloody head.

In slow motion, the blood gradually disappears and his ear is
back on as before.

ROMAN LEGIONNAIRE
What?

LEVITICAL TEMPLE GUARD
Huh?

CHIEF PRIEST SCHLOMO
The blood! It's gone!

CAPTAIN OF TEMPLE GUARD
What's going on here?

TALL TEMPLE GUARD
Control your men or you're dead.

CHIEF PRIEST ITAMAR
His ear! It's back!

Guards back up in fear.

Judas has stepped aside to watch.

JUDAS
That's it, Jesus. Perform a
miracle. I thought you'd given up.
You're back. Now do another one.
Show them who's king.

Jesus looks at his defenders. His voice is calm.

GOD-KING JESUS
Peter, come on now. Put your sword
away. You too, John. Simon, put
your dagger away.

PETER
No, Jesus. Don't make me do it.

Jesus turns to the soldiers.

GOD-KING JESUS

Everyone who carries a weapon will
die by that same weapon!

JUDAS

Don't stop now!

CAPTAIN OF THE TEMPLE GUARD

Lower your weapons, men.

Chief Priest Itamar stands and leads the last of the official
temple accusers from behind the bushes.

CHIEF PRIEST ITAMAR

That's better.

CHIEF PRIEST YECHIEL

Get your men under control, Jesus,
and we might be persuaded to let
them go free.

GOD-KING JESUS

Do you think I'm helpless? Don't
you realize by now that I could
just say the word and my Father
would send me a full cohort of
fiery angels to strike you down?

Silence. Once again Jesus has silenced the enemy. He turns
and his eyes shoot daggers at the official temple accusers.

GOD-KING JESUS (CONT'D)

And you hypocrites. Am I rebelling
against the temple or the kingdom?
Am I so dangerous to you that you
have to come after me with swords
and clubs at night to arrest me?

Blood trickles down the side of Jesus' head from the arrest.

GOD-KING JESUS (CONT'D)

Every day I went to the temple and
taught. You never tried to arrest
me when all those people were
around and it was daylight.

Chief Priest Schlomo throws his hands up and turns back
toward the road.

Judas looks at Jesus with disbelief. His eyes squint, he
shakes his head, he clenches his teeth.

JUDAS

Why didn't you do it? Why?

GOD-KING JESUS

All that has happened -- all that has happened tonight -- it was you fulfilling prophecies written about you centuries ago!

The captain of the Levitical temple guard walks toward Jesus' eleven, his sword drawn.

They back up.

CAPTAIN OF LEVITICAL TEMPLE GUARD

Let these other guys go. We got what we came for. I don't think we'll have any more trouble out of them.

Swords, spears, and bows are lowered. The Levitical temple guards step back. The Roman legionnaires step back. They all wander away.

The eleven now standing closer to the grove of trees look toward their master shuffling away from them in his shackles.

All with tears. From the biggest, most brutish among them to the physically smallest and weakest.

They grit their teeth and watch as their master disappears below the crest of the hill.

They watch until all the distant torch light fades away and leaves them in darkness.

SUPER: 9:00 PM

Rustling in among bushes. Footsteps running on hard earth.

EXT. SIDE OF MOUNTAIN - NIGHT

In the darkness, two shadows follow the path where their master and the light had disappeared.

JOHN

(Loud Whisper)
Peter, is that you?

PETER

(Loud Whisper)
I'm following them.

JOHN

Not without me. I can get us closer
with my family connections.

PETER

Hurry, John. They're getting too
far ahead of us.

SUPER: WEST SIDE OF OLIVE MOUNTAIN

Guided by faint moonlight, Nathaniel, Little James, and
Thaddeus walk one by one down the other side of the mountain.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Nathaniel, Little James, and Thaddeus arrive at a road. They
see a sign and arrow pointing to Jerusalem.

They turn the other way and keep their distance from each
other, hoods up to hide under.

EXT. GETHSEMANE GARDEN - NIGHT

Andrew, James, Philip, Thomas, Simon and Matthew huddle cross-
legged on the ground just inside the olive grove and watch
their earlier bonfire go out.

Peter and John arrive at a road. A road sign points to
Jerusalem. They head for Jerusalem.

EXT - ROAD INTO JERUSALEM - NIGHT

JOHN

Where do you think they're taking
him?

PETER

Don't know. Maybe the temple.

JOHN

No, too public. Dissenting priests
and guards would see it. They've
got to keep him out of sight.

Ahead is a slight sound of marching and moving shadows.

PETER

There they are. We've caught up
with them.

JOHN

Don't get too close or they'll spot us.

PETER

With Jesus' ankles shackled, they're not going to make progress very fast.

EXT - STREET OF JERUSALEM - NIGHT

SUPER: 9:30 PM

The Roman cohort marches straight toward the fort and disappear in the shadows of the night.

The grand white marble temple high on its mountain glows amidst the many candlesticks.

The twenty official temple accusers turn right and mount the grand incline up to the temple.

The twenty temple guards are all that remain to guard Jesus and deliver him into custody.

JOHN

They're headed for the high priest's palace.

John and Peter turn left and continue following those enemies who act like they are stronger than Jesus.

They arrive at the high priestly palace with all the glory of any palace in the kingdom.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Okay. When they're inside, we'll walk to the front gate and pretend we don't know what's going on.

PETER

We're out late at night. What excuse will we give them?

JOHN

I'll think of something.

EXT - GATE INTO PALACE - NIGHT

SUPER: HIGH PRIEST'S PALACE, JERUSALEM, JUDEA PROVINCE, 10:00 PM

John and Peter approach the HERODIAN GUARD on duty. The guard wears a light blue uniform.

JOHN

Is this High Priest Caiaphas' palace?

GATE GUARD

No, it's his father-in-law, Ananus's -- the senior high priest.

WOMAN OF GUARDHOUSE

Why'd you go and tell him that?

Peter leans toward John.

PETER

(Whispering)

Looks like they're starting at the top. Whatever High Priest Ananas says is law.

John pretends Peter had not said anything to him.

JOHN

May I please speak with the palace steward?

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

The guard turns and opens up a peek hole in the large double gate behind him.

PALACE STEWARD

What do they need in here in the middle of the night?

The guard steps aside and John talks into the peek hole.

JOHN

Sir, I am John of Capernaum, Zebedee's son. My friend and I have just arrived in town. We want to be first in line to watch the high priest come out in the morning and go to the temple. Yeah, we know the Passover ceremonies don't start until tomorrow at dusk, but we'd like to watch the grand ceremony as he leaves his palace in the morning.

PALACE STEWARD

John, is that you?

JOHN

Yes, let us in. Can my friend come in too? We're partners in a fishing business up in Bethsaida.

PALACE STEWARD

I don't know. There's a lot going on here tonight.

JOHN

A late party?

PALACE STEWARD

We don't know what it is yet. Can't let any strangers in. Well, just you.

JOHN

I've known Peter all my life. I can vouch for him.

PALACE STEWARD

Well, I'm taking a chance. But okay. You can both come in.

The steward closes the peek hole and orders the gate unbolted.

EXT. PALACE AND COURTYARD - NIGHT.

By the time John and Peter walk in, the steward has disappeared.

The expansive courtyard has several smaller buildings off the outer wall.

It has an unusual number of people milling around, considering the lateness.

The palace itself is nearly dark except for lights in one small section and loud talking

JOHN

Careful now, Peter. We don't want anyone to recognize us.

PETER

How about the steward?

JOHN

Oh, he'll keep his mouth shut.

Herodian soldiers are everywhere.

John and Peter walk in the shadows as close to the palace itself as they dare.

They stop just before the Levitical temple guard muster.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Uh, oh. Those temple guards will recognize us.

PETER

No, they won't. It's too dark.

JOHN

Just the same, let's separate.

PETER

Still got your sword, John?

JOHN

Yes, but we're not supposed to use it. Remember what he said. We'll just see what's going on so we can tell the others and run a rescue operation in a couple days.

PETER

Right.

The two men separate. Peter stays in the shadows as close to the temple guards as he dare.

TALL TEMPLE GUARD

He's a dead man.

Peter looks up. Has he been recognized? The guard isn't looking at him.

SHORT TEMPLE GUARD

I'll be surprised if he lasts till morning.

BALD TEMPLE GUARD

They'll transfer him somewhere else. They don't have us on standby for nothing. It won't take them long.

Peter edges closer to the palace and the window with the light. It is a warm night. The shutters are open.

SUPER: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 11:00 PM

HIGH PRIEST ANANUS (O.C.)

Who are your co-conspirators? What about our religion? Why are you telling people they can celebrate holy feasts without being approved by the priests in accordance with our creed?

Silence. Then a slap and a grunt.

PETER

(thinking)
Oh Jesus. No.

HIGH PRIEST ANANUS (O.C.)

What's this about telling people it's not a sin if they give their temple donation to needy parents?

Silence, a fist in his middle and a grunt.

HIGH PRIEST ANANUS (O.C.) (CONT'D)

Are you actually telling people to read the scriptures without the interpretation of our priests?

PETER

(thinking)

Oh, God, Don't let him die! Please, God. I believe he's your Son. Don't let this happen. He says he has to obey you. Please, give him back to us. Don't let Jesus die.

Peter raises his head slightly and lifts his eyes to comprehend the disposition of the heavy moment.

Heavy. Each booted military footstep. Heavy and moving through the low night air.

Gloom. He sees each flicker of the yellow lights.

Another slap. Another grunt.

Brooding over each cry of pain that seeps out of the windows of an unholy world.

ANANUS' GUARD

More ale!

ALE MAID

Hold on. It's coming. I can't serve you all at once.

The troops stand, stoop, pace or sit sprawled on the tiled courtyard floor.

The maid picks up a tray loaded with mugs and works her way through the crowd.

She trips on an outstretched foot and swerves to maintain control of her cargo of drinks. Right into Peter.

Peter stands to help her regain her balance.

ALE MAID (CONT'D)

Oops! Thanks.

The ale maid takes a second look at Peter. She peers closely at him.

ALE MAID (CONT'D)

Do I know you?

PETER

Uh...

Peter clears his throat and sits back down, his head quickly bowed once more.

ALE MAID

Over at the temple. I'm sure I
bumped into you over there.

Peter remains unmoved, his eyes closed tightly.

ALE MAID (CONT'D)

"Look at me!"

She sets her tray down and puts her hand under Peter's chin.

ALE MAID (CONT'D)

Look at me! Yeah! I'm sure I saw
you!

She grows louder.

Peter refuses to look at her but does anyway. Desperation
shows on his face.

ALE MAID (CONT'D)

You're one of this rebel leader's
stooges!

PETER

(thinking)

Don't say anything. Don't give
anything away. Don't lie. Don't go
talking too much again. You know
that's your downfall every time.
Don't talk. Keep your mouth shut.

Peter forces himself to respond to her, but he looks away
from her when he does.

PETER (CONT'D)

You're wrong. I have no idea what
you're talking about!

Peter jumps up, swerves around the maid and the outer edge of
the courtyard, and heads back toward the gate away from the
crowd.

PETER (CONT'D)

(thinking)

Calm down now, Peter. No one pays
any attention to a maid. She's not
a trained informant. Her testimony
would mean nothing.

Drawing closer to the gate, he slows down.

Now in its shadow against the outer wall, he leans back and slides down to the pavement in the safety of solitude.

Distant laughter of troops and girls.

Vague shouting coming from the open palace window.

Peter's mind transcends the darkness.

VISION

Jesus is bound before the priest.

Jesus is on a cross.

Guards are laughing.

BACK TO PRESENT

SUPER: 11:00 PM

Peter's eyes dart everywhere.

PETER (CONT'D)
(thinking)
Buy some time. Figure out how to
help Jesus escape.

A continuum of Levitical temple guards marches through a gate in the center of the courtyard. They march slow as though escorting someone with shackled feet.

Looking over the wall he sees another palace.

PETER (CONT'D)
(thinking)
Good. You're keeping track of
everything. Think of a plan. An
escape plan.

He waits for the guards to disappear, looks around to see if anyone is watching, and slips over to the other side of the expansive regal courtyard.

Peter sees a spot in the shadows near the other palace and sits on the ground.

As the torch lights flicker, Peter's eyes do too.

SUPER: 11:30 pm

DREAM

Peter sees three men bound with chains standing on the portico of the temple -- himself, Jesus, and John.

CROWD

Death to Jesus.
Death to Peter.
Death to John.

HIGH PRIEST ANANUS

The cross is too good for you three. You could have destroyed our kingdom. Our religion.

CROWD

Death! Death! Death!

BACK TO PRESENT

Peter opens his eyes and looks at the crack in the wall. A little grass where it doesn't belong. Like Peter in this courtyard. Like the temple. And ants scooting around it as though nothing else matters but the scooting.

Peter's muscles tighten. He realizes his back is aching from the stooping and hiding.

PETER

(thinking)

It wasn't supposed to be this way. Why did we fall asleep on guard duty? Why didn't you use your powers, Jesus? God, help John and me figure out a way to rescue him. Is there some way to scale the wall with Jesus? What can we try?

Peter looks up and surveys the high brick wall that surrounds the palace.

He looks at the gate. He stares at the lone figure in the guardhouse. The figure stares back.

He jerks his head back down on his knees. Maybe it was a figment. Just keep calm.

Don't say anything. Stick it out, Peter. Don't desert a sinking ship. Stay cool.

PETER (CONT'D)

(thinking)

Oh, God. Help Jesus!! Send those angels to free him!!

Peter wraps his cloak closer around him. He looks up at the stars twinkling in the cold night air.

PETER (CONT'D)

(thinking)

The middle of the night and I'm still awake. Why couldn't I have done this earlier? Why couldn't I have stayed awake then? It was just past supper time. Why couldn't I have believed Jesus and done what I was told -- keep watch. Such a simple command. If I had only stayed awake, all this wouldn't be happening now. If I'd only stayed awake. If only.

Peter's chin sinks deeper into his chest as he senses the dew descending on him in the night air like a torrent.

He shivers and folds his arms tighter as though trying to comfort himself.

O.C. Guards walking toward Peter laughing and blustering.

The guards each carry their mug of ale. They do not even see Peter. He is safe.

A woman who had been in the guard house walks over and greets the men.

WOMAN OF GUARDHOUSE

Hi ya, men.

BALD GUARD

Hi!! Got an ale for me?

BEARDLESS GUARD

Hey, when we get off, there are some races down...

Peter turns his head and lowers it more.

He becomes aware of a face down close to his and takes a quick glance.

WOMAN OF GUARDHOUSE

Look at me! You're one of that traitor's men. I saw you with him in that parade a few days ago.

PETER

I don't know who the guy is! I
never laid eyes on whoever you're
talking about. I swear it!

Peter bolts away into other shadows of the courtyard closer to the other palace.

EXT - COURTYARD OF CAIAPHAS' PALACE - NIGHT

Peter re-enters the first courtyard, glances around, and sees John sitting where he'd left him. He quickly looks away.

Peter walks over to the brick ledge of an elevated flower bed, one fairly secluded from others, and sits on it. He turns himself around sideways and puts his feet up on the ledge too. He puts his forehead on his raised knees. And remains there.

SUPER: THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 12:00 MIDNIGHT

PETER

(thinking)

God, do something. Don't
let them hurt Jesus any
more. Help him burst
through the rooftop and
declare himself Master of
the universe. Don't
desert him now.

Laughter. Hideous laughter. Coming from the direction of the other palace. Peter walks over there. Not as many troops there anyway.

Maybe he can figure out an escape route for Jesus.

Peter finds himself back in the second courtyard, a continuation of the first and between two palaces.

He seeks out a spot on the ground on the edge of some torch lights. Torch lights to keep the enemy away.

He lowers his chin onto his chest and hopes for anonymity.

More going on over in this courtyard. Now and then he hears banging on a back gate. Private temple guards escort a man into the palace. The door closes.

As at the other palace, the shutters are left open.

HIGH PRIEST CAIAPHAS (O.C.)
We've finally got Jesus. Keep
looking for witnesses against him
if it takes all night.

PETER
(thinking)
God! Help me figure out a way to
free Jesus. He's the best friend I
ever had. I've got to free him!
Help me, God! Help me think! I've
got to find a way...

Continually the back door of the palace opens and closes, the
back gate to the alley way eases open and shuts.

Witnesses whisked in and out again. Dressed helter-skelter
some of them. Dressed in night-on-the-town clothes some of
them. In their night tunics some of them.

HIGH PRIEST CAIAPHAS (O.C.)
That's not good enough! Knock on
more doors! What about our
informants? Have they all been
contacted? I don't care what time
it is! Get them over here...
You! Jesus!

PETER
(thinking)
Hang on, Jesus. We'll get you out
of there yet. I'm working on a
plan. You're going to live. Do you
hear that? You're going to live to
rule over them all. The dream's not
lost yet. Hang on, Jesus. Hang on.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

Peter stands, his muscles tightened and ready for battle. He instinctively rams his fist onto a tree on the edge of the flower bed.

Back to his senses, he looks around and realizes he has drawn too much attention to himself.

He looks farther back and moves over by a bush.

He goes back over to an urn on the other side of the flower bed, sits on the ground, and leans on it, his back to the everyone.

SUPER: 1:00 AM

HIGH PRIEST CAIAPHAS (O.C.)

Talk, you Jesus! Are you planning to lead troops to destroy the temple, then dupe the worshippers into believing you'll actually rebuild it in three days? Talk!

O.C. SOUND of a slap. Sound of a groan.

PETER

(thinking)

Oh, God, help him.

Peter sighs in exhaustion. He lifts his head, then drops it. He lifts his hands. Then drop them.

PETER (CONT'D)

(thinking)

What if they execute him?

Peter's eyes dart everywhere. His breath comes fast.

PETER (CONT'D)

(thinking)

Don't even think that.

SUPER: 2:00 AM

TALL GUARD

Hey, here comes Malchus!

Peter looks up and sees at the other side of the courtyard the man he had sliced with his sword earlier in the evening.

Peter lowers his head until his chin touches his chest.

SHORT GUARD

Hey, Malchus. Is it true? Did you get your ear cut off?

MALCHUS

Lay off. Forget you ever heard anything.

BALD GUARD

Well, what happened?

TALL GUARD

I said drop it! I don't want to talk about it.

Peter hears an undercurrent of chuckles and guffaws.

MALCHUS

I don't want to talk about it.

SHORT GUARD

C'm on. Was it a miracle or not?

MALCHUS

It never happened.

BALD GUARD

You've got blood on your robe. What's that from?

MALCHUS

I roughed up one of Jesus' cronies. That's all.

Moments later, Peter sneaks a peak at his surroundings. Malchus is gone.

Once more Peter hides.

PETER

(thinking)

We had so many plans. Jesus the king and his twelve princes. Twelve? No! When I find Judas, I'm going to strangle him with my bare hands.

Peter shifts.

PETER (CONT'D)

(thinking)

Judas! How could you betray our leader like that?

(MORE)

PETER (CONT'D)

How could you deny him? We all thought we could trust you. You were the most optimistic of any of us about Jesus taking over the world. Oh Judas. Oh Jesus. Oh God.

GOD-KING JESUS (O.C.)

You're going to see it with your own eyes.

Peter looks up with a start. It's Jesus' own voice. Peter dares a slight smile.

PETER

(thinking)

It's starting, Jesus is about to break free. I knew it! He's about to burst through the roof right there in front of them. Didn't he just say they'd see it themselves?

Peter sits up a little straighter.

GOD-KING JESUS

You will all see me seated on the very throne of God.

HIGH PRIEST CAIAPHAS

Shut him up!

CHIEF PRIEST SHLOMO

How dare he!

CHIEF PRIEST ITAMAR

Strike him!

PETER

(thinking)

Please, God. Free him. You've got to. Please...

SUPER: 2:00 AM

WOMAN OF GUARDHOUSE

Hey, Jokthan! You're Malchus' cousin. You were out there. Did it happen the way they say?

Jokthan (40 and well dressed) looks up, his forehead creased and eyes slitted. He looks over at Peter.

WOMAN OF GUARDHOUSE (CONT'D)
 Hey, Jokthan. What're you staring
 at?

JOKTHAN
 See that guy? He looks familiar.

WOMAN OF GUARDHOUSE
 He was out by the guardhouse a
 while ago. I thought he looked a
 little suspicious. I questioned
 him, but he denied ever even having
 heard of Jesus.

JOKTHAN
 Yeah?

WOMAN OF GUARDHOUSE
 I almost had to laugh, though.
 Can't trust people with northern
 accents.

JOKTHAN
 Northern accent, you say?

WOMAN OF GUARDHOUSE
 Yeah. Why? Do you think...

Jockthan kicks at Peter.

JOKTHAN
 Hey, you! Hey! You heard me! Stand
 up! I saw you at the orchard
 tonight, didn't I? You were one of
 them with Jesus. You were one of
 them with a sword.

PETER
 I have no idea who that Jesus is.

Peter looks from side to side, glancing back at all the eyes
 trained on him.

Men everywhere put their hands on their swords.

PETER (CONT'D)
 Honest! I'm just here in town to
 get a judgment from the high priest
 on a local matter. That's all. I
 never heard of this Jesus before
 now. I swear! It's no lie!"

A rooster crows loud and long and clear.

Peter looks toward the sound and, in a panic, cries out.

PETER (CONT'D)
No! No! Not that. I promised.

His face contorts. He throws his hands up to the sides of his face. He turns in circles in place.

PETER (CONT'D)
NO!

CAPTAIN OF LEVITICAL TEMPLE GUARD
'tention!!

The guards in the courtyard look toward the back door of the palace and stand at attention.

CAPTAIN OF LEVITICAL TEMPLE GUARD
(CONT'D)
We're ready to move out. We're transporting the criminal over to the temple for his sentencing.

Peter swings around. His eyes are riveted on someone behind the commander.

It's Jesus with the blood running down the side of his face. His tunic ripped half off. His eyes swollen nearly shut.

They bring Jesus out, bloodied from questioning. Jesus locks eyes with Peter.

PETER
(thinking)
He knows. He knows.

Peter sucks air in. He gasps. He breathe fast and hard. He chokes. He clenches his teeth and shakes his head.

PETER (CONT'D)
No! No! No! Please, Jesus! I didn't mean it! I didn't mean it! I'm just so scared. Soooo scared.

They stare at each other. Both hearts crushed.

SKINNY GUARD
Keep going, you scum!

SUPER: 3:00 AM

EXT - COMBINED COURTYARD BETWEEN PALACES - NIGHT

PETER

No! I didn't mean it!

Taking advantage of the moment when the guards are otherwise occupied, Peter runs through the second courtyard to the other side, past the first palace, and up toward the main gate.

He runs past John but does not realize it. John has remained quiet and unnoticed. No talking. No movement.

The gate out into the street is opened for the guards and their prisoner.

While the guards are looking elsewhere, Peter slips out into the darkness and runs down the street.

EXT - STREETS OF JERUSALEM - NIGHT

He stumbles. He falls. He stands and staggers down the street. He stops and crouches in the gateway of an unknown building.

His sobs are interrupted with tramping of feet.

He looks up in his agony and sees coming toward him the procession of Herodian soldiers, Levitical temple guards, the temple elite and Jesus.

PETER

It's them! Hide!

He jumps up and heads for a tree. He reaches it in time to hide behind it as they pass. Once they are gone, he proceeds, trying to remember where the city gate is.

PETER (CONT'D)

I'm a worthless miserable coward. A
betrayed...

Peter no longer moves. It is the street that is moving. The walls of houses stumbling. The trees rushing past him.

Tears. He cannot see. Blinded. Instinctively he knows when he arrives at the city gate. It is still open.

EXT. ROAD OUT OF JERUSALEM - NIGHT

Peter somehow stumbles through the gate. Back into the shadows on the same road his Jesus had walked earlier.

PETER

Jesus? Oh, Jesus, I am so worthless! I am a miserable coward. A slimy traitor. A betrayer not worth even the time spent crushing a cockroach."

Peter stumbles on a protruding rock and stays down, his arms outstretched, his face in the dirt.

He pounds on the rocky ground.

PETER (CONT'D)

Jesus! Can you hear me? Oh, God! Tell him... Tell him... No, don't. Don't remind him of me! I'm a nothing. A miserable coward. I've made a mess of everything.

Peter sits up in a panic and looks around for enemies.

PETER (CONT'D)

All Jesus said was watch with me one. One hour"! That's all he needed! If I could just take back that hour...

He slams his fist into the dark, dark dirt.

PETER (CONT'D)

Jesus, forgive me. No, don't. I'm not worth it. You could never forgive me. I turned on you. I slithered like a snake.

Peter picks himself up and looks out into the nothingness of the black world.

The moon reveals Peter's robe is full of stains and rips, his hair in his swollen eyes.

His sleeve and side of his face are spattered with the blood of Malchus.

He shouts at the sky.

PETER (CONT'D)

Tell me this is a dream!! Oh, God, help me take it back! Tell me it never happened. My best friend. I've betrayed a man I've known all my life. I've betrayed my Lord

FLASHBACK

-- Victory march into Jerusalem with cheering crowds.

BACK TO PRESENT

PETER (CONT'D)

All for nothing. All because of me.
He's going to die. God, don't let
him die. Don't let him die. Kill me
instead. Not Jesus.

Peter falls prostrate once again onto the road.

He lays momentarily on the ground, then looks up at some
clouds covering the moon in the agonizing darkness

PETER (CONT'D)

Oh, Jesus. I'm afraid to die.
Forgive me. How can you forgive me?
I hurt so bad.

Peter rolls over onto his front, reaches around, and covers
his head with his big hands.

You never did anything but love me.
How can I run from you? You are
everywhere. You are in all I think
and do. How can I escape you? You
are in my heart. I can't get you
out.

He sits up a moment.

Oh, Jesus, my soul has collapsed.
Help me. You can't help me now. No
one can.

He is on his back now, A growl emits from deep in his throat.

PETER (CONT'D)

Please come back, Jesus. Make
things the way they were.

A swirl of star dust gently descends to Peter.

Come back... Come back...Please.
I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

Peter is now in a mist. Jesus comes to him the way he had
done in earlier times. He puts his arm over Peter's
shoulder.

They turn toward the side of the road and walk together. As
they do, the road gradually morphs into a field.

They are joined by the previous ones Jesus encountered in previous episodes.

Ugly Evil One stands to one side.

UGLY EVIL ONE

Noooo!

The sands of the field sparkle like diamonds. Sun rays slide down the heavens onto the three men.

Jesus is back in his sparkling robe and crown.

At the end of each future episode, one more person will walk away with the God-King until he has his hundred.

FADE OUT.

END OF EPISODE #61