

COME FLY WITH ME

SEASON 8: COME FLY WITH ME

"BREATH OF GOD"

EPISODE #71

(FIVE BENEFACTRESSES - Doubts)

Written by

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Based *They Met Jesus*

A TRUE STORY

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- LAST SEASON (#7). SHADOW OF DEATH
61. *Deserters.* Power in the Breaking
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SEASON #8. COME FLY WITH ME

EPISODE #71. FIVE BENEFACTRESSES. BREATH OF GOD

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. HILL TOP WITH THREE CROSSES AND BODIES ON IT - DUSK

Debris is everywhere due to the earthquake two hours earlier.

SUPER: EXECUTION HILL, JERUSALEM, JUDEA, PALESTINE,
THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 5:00 PM

Friends, enemies, sensationalist, curious have all gone home. All but six women who linger, unwilling to leave their savior, even in death.

The women, all in clothes of the wealthy, look up at the cross of the one they each love in a different way.

Jesus' hair is matted and blotched where hairs were pulled out in torture. His eyes are swelled closed. Teeth are missing.

Blood is matted in his beard and on his forehead from the thorns. Blood streams down his arms from the nails in his wrist.

His chest and legs solid blood. It is hard to tell he is a human except the skin on his arms and legs and part of his face are still intact.

And the crown of thorns? The bougainvillea flowers are half wilted and askance on his bowed head.

MARY (46) has black hair with gray at the roots with a slight dip at the top of her forehead forming a "widow's peak".

Mary looks calm while her eyes focus far away in another world. She has her arms around Sister Salome and Susannah.

MARY

Your work is done. Rest now, my son.

JOANNA (33) is the youngest of the five benefactresses. She has dainty facial features and black hair held in place with a copper band.

Joanna looks away from the crosses gradually fading as the red sun slips away. Her eyes rest momentarily on the now empty hill side.

JOANNA

I guess we're the last.

All eyes are back on the cross of Jesus.

SUSANNAH (36) has unusual blond hair. She has long fingers and often hums to herself.

SUSANNAH

How can we leave him? He never left us.

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI (47) is the oldest of the five women. She is very tall with dark Ethiopian skin. Her black hair is tied together at her crown, letting the curls fall where they may.

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI

Someone has to scare off the vultures.

SISTER SALOME (43) has reddish-brown hair which she keeps in ringlets and wears bright colored clothes.

SISTER SALOME

How could he have let this happen? He was supposed to be our king by now.

MARY MAGDALENE (39) has a tiny frame. She has fine black hair that tangles easily.

MARY MAGDALENE

He will always be my king. I will never leave him. I can never leave my rabbi king.

The women see an ox-drawn wagon amble up the hill and over to the center cross.

A man on a white mule follows. They are both elegantly dressed with long pale tunics, tapestry robes, and large turbans on their heads.

They hoist two ladders to the top of the middle cross and each pulls Jesus' wrists through the nails.

The men each put one of Jesus' lifeless arms over his shoulder and they step slowly to the ground.

They lay the body whose skin not already covered by blood, has turned blue from lack of oxygen.

They lay what is left of their savior on a straw bed in the wagon, then lay their fine robes on top of him.

The men walk over to the women.

RABBI NICODEMUS (40) has heavy bags under his eyes and streaks from his eyes down his cheeks and across to his ears.

His long beard is black and disheveled. He and his clothes are covered with dark blood and human waste.

RABBI NICODEMUS

You are his friends, are you not?
And are you his mother? Do not worry about any abuse to his body. My friend and I are wealthy. We will take proper care of him.

JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA has dignified salt-pepper hair and long gray beard. His eyes are swelled and red with bags under them, and heavy eyelids.

He and his clothes are covered with dark blood and human waste.

JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA

We will take him over to my new tomb in the garden across the road. I have Pilate's permission not to leave him up so the vul...well...

SISTER SALOME

Uh, sir, may we go with you? We just want to know where you're burying him.

RABBI NICODEMUS

Indeed, you may. And, for what it's worth, we are sorry. You have no idea how sorry we are.

EXT. PATH THROUGH GARDEN - DUSK

SUPER: GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 6:00 PM

Jesus' funeral process wends its way through the edge of the garden. First the ox, wagon, Joseph, a torch, and Jesus' body.

Second, Nicodemus sitting straight and dignified on his white mule as an honor guard. Next Mary.

Finally the other five women -- all in as dignified single file as possible.

INT. INSIDE OF TOMB - NIGHT

Joseph lights torches on the cave wall.

Jesus' body is on a stone bed. He is still matted with blood.

Nicodemus picks up two large copper bowls sitting on one of the ledges.

Two of the women take the bowls from him.

EXT. SPRING IN GARDEN - DUSK

The two women fill their bowls with water and hand them to the men at the opening to the cave.

The other women step out of the cave. They find concrete benches across from the cave and sit.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

SUPER: HIS FUNERAL. 7:00 PM

Joseph stands at the entrance of the cave.

JOSEPH OF ARAMATHEA
 He's ready. You may come in now.
 We've wrapped 75 pounds of spices
 next to his body.

INT. INSIDE OF TOMB - NIGHT

Jesus' body is fat with all the spices wrapped in it. The distortions of his face from all the beatings still show.

The men have placed two large blue sapphires over his swelled eyelids.

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI
 Good-bye, Jesus.

JOANNA
 You did not deserve this.

SISTER SALOME
 You deserved so much better.

SUSANNAH
 You never did anything but good,
 Lord Jesus.

MARY MAGDALENE
 Please, let us see you again in
 heaven. Please. If you can forgive
 us.

MARY
 I am so proud of you, my son. Now I
 will share you with the world.

The others look over at Mary with brows lowered and creased. What does she mean?

Rabbi Joseph takes the special elongated burial napkin and wraps it carefully and gently around Jesus' head several times.

NICODEMUS
 Seems like we should sing a psalm.

In the hush of the cave opening, a moon shares its glow and sings with them.

The Lo-rd's my she-pherd,
 I'll never wa-nt.
 He lets me lie down.

Melancholy voices mingle in utter pathos, drifting through the stone walls to graves nearby.

To pas-tures gre-en he le-ads me.
To peace-ful wa-ters.
To qui-et wa-ters.

Disconsolate voices struggle in despondency, floating among the twilight stars of heaven.

JOSEPH OF ARAMATHEA

Jesus, forgive us. We didn't even try to stop them.

NICODEMUS

Jesus, we needed to love you. We did not know how -- not until now.

MARY

Jesus, rest now. Sweet dreams.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

SUPER: 8:00 PM

The women sit in the wagon where Jesus had laid. The straw is gone. They sit on benches built into each side of it.

EXT. CLOSED CITY GATE OF JERUSALEM - NIGHT

Both blue-uniformed Herodian soldiers and black-uniformed Levitical temple guards stand at the gate.

TALL LEVITICAL TEMPLE GUARD

Halt!

Joseph pulls on the reigns of the ox.

SHORT LEVITICAL TEMPLE GUARD

Who are all these people? Why are you out here at night?

JOSEPH OF ARAMATHEA

The ladies have just been to a funeral. We just need to go home and rest.

Tall guard holds his torch next to the women.

SHORT LEVITICAL TEMPLE GUARD

Oh, women. Go home and lock your doors. We have warrants out for the arrest of eleven men. And rewards. We're getting eleven crosses ready for them.

The women's eyes are large with shock. They suck in their breath. Their bodies jerk back. Theirs foreheads crease. They look at each other. They grasp each other's hands.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

SUPER: JERUSALEM, PALESTINE - SUNDAY, APRIL 17, AD 30, 2:30 AM

INT - ROOM - NIGHT

The five women are in a large rented room at an elite hostel for the upper class.

There are five beds with tapestry bedspreads. Next to each bed is a table with a wash bowl, pitcher and goblet in fine decorated porcelain. Under the table is a large basket.

On the other side of each bed is a writing table and gilded chair with an always-lit a brass oil lamp.

On these tables are a small stack of clay writing tablets and a small stack of small scrolls. An alabaster jar of ink is between them.

On the wall behind each table is a mirror made of glassy brass. There is a peg on each side of each mirror to hang clothes on.

The floor is colorfully tiled. Each bed has a small Persian rug on each side of it.

In the middle of the room is a large Persian rug. On each side of the door are benches on which to set luggage.

The women wear long pastel night turbans with long sleeves.

Lighted oil lamps provide a low light around the women in bed.

JOANNA

Is anyone asleep?

SUSANNAH

How can we sleep? Our world has just been taken from us.

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI

How is his mother handling it all? At least I have a husband to stand by me. I wonder if Alphaeus has kept our Matthew, James safe.

SISTER SALOME

Oh, how I wish my Zebedee was still here. He'd die before handing over my James and John -- and the others.

Barefooted, Mary Magdalene sits on the side of her bed, puts her head in her hands and once more sobs aloud.

Barefooted Susanna takes a fresh handkerchief to Mary and puts her arm around her. They cry together.

MOS

Barefooted Salome takes some clothes thrown in the floor at the end of her bed, and aimlessly tries to smooth them out.

Mary Magdalene stands and takes the sheets off her bed, then stops and stares at the bare straw.

MARY MAGDALENE

Oh, look what I've done. Why did I do that? What am I supposed to sleep on now?

Mary bundles the sheets up in her arms and rocks them back and forth, then sits on the floor with them. She rocks there too. And sobs.

Joanna takes her money pouch out of her basket on the floor and counts the coins.

She whispers, but her voice is shrill.

JOANNA

His funeral was so pitiful. Jesus needs a nice tapestry to be laid over him. I want to buy it for him.

SUSANNAH

And more spices. He needs more spices. Spikenard. He liked spikenard. And cinnamon. He liked cinnamon incense too.

Mary Levi is still in bed but propped up.

MARY EVIL

What time is it?

SUPER: 3:00 AM

MARY MAGDALENE

It's the middle of the night. And the world has been turned upside down with hatred for the best man who ever lived.

SISTER SALOME

Well, I don't hear any activity out in the street. It must still be the middle of the night. Why?

JOANNA

I'm going to town.

SUSANNA

I'm going with you.

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI

But no shops are open before dawn. You know that. And the temple is on the hunt for his aides.

JOANNA

They're men. We're women. I know a tapestry maker who could use the extra money for medicine. And, if he doesn't have what we want, some of the other shops will be getting their stock out soon.

Moments later they are ready. They cannot bring themselves to do any more than run a comb through their hair and put on clean but plain clothes.

They light their torches and close the door quietly

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Five torches on the still-darkened streets. Five torches lighting the way for five women with souls heavy with grief.

They stay close together and search everywhere for possible danger. Tears are always near.

Joanna leads the way. Blocks from the hostel, they turn and head toward the market.

The women pass Roman legionnaires on patrol. The legionnaires see the small group of women and do not stop them. But they call to them.

TALL LEGIONNAIRE
Ladies! You need to go home.

The ladies pass the market and turn into a residential neighborhood.

EXT. FRONT OF A TWO-STORIED HOME WITH COPPER GATES.

JOANNA
This is it. I was right. See the
light in that upper room?

Joanna knocks on the gate while the other women look around for any signs of danger.

An old man wearing a long-sleeved night tunic and night cap opens the shutters of his upstairs room and leans out.

KALMAN
Who's out there?

JOANNA
Kalman, it's Joanna from Capernaum
up in Galilee.

KALMAN
Yes, I remember you. But it's not
even daylight yet.

JOANNA
I have some lady friends with me.
May we come in?

INT - KALMAN'S COURTYARD - NIGHT

There is a rattle on the other side of the gate. It opens.

Kalman, a portly man in his fifties, is in his nightshirt and holding the bar for the gate. A lamp sits on a nearby table.

The women file in. He quickly closes the gate and bars it. The women keep their torches lit.

JOANNA

I hope we didn't disturb you.

KALMAN

I was up anyway. Is there something you want?

JOANNA

It's for Jesus.

Kalman looks at the tiles underfoot and shakes his head.

KALMAN

Too bad what happened to him. He was a good man. He didn't deserve the torture of that cross. Didn't deserve to die at all.

JOANNA

He didn't really have a funeral. He died too late in the day. We want to have a funeral for him. I'd like to buy a tapestry to put over his body. The finest you have.

KALMAN

Just a moment. I'll be right back with some samples for you.

The women wait in the courtyard. Mary Levi lowers her shawl.

Susanna looks up at the dark sky and hums a sad tune. Salome joins her.

Mary Magdalene goes to a corner and leans on the wall, her petite form blending in with the shadows that were already there.

JOANNA

He used to have a finely carved stone table over in that corner. Maybe he sold it to pay medical bills for his wife.

Kalman brings out some samples of tapestry.

KALMAN

These four I just completed and have not taken to my shop yet.

(MORE)

KALMAN (CONT'D)

These two I had in my shop several weeks but they did not sell.

SUSANNAH

I like that one over there.

MARY LEVVI

I like this one.

SISTER SALOME

Which one do you like, Joanna?

JOANNA

Do I detect gold threads in this one?

KALMAN

No, I'm sorry. My finest ones are over at my shop.

JOANNA

Well, I'll take this one.

Joanna takes out her silk coin pouch and pours some coins into Kalman's hand.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

Will that be sufficient?

KALMAN

Yes, thank you.

JOANNA

Is it your wife you were sitting up with when we arrived?

KALMAN

Yes. I think I hear her calling me.

EXT. MARKET AREA - NIGHT

JOANNA

I wanted to get Jesus better than this -- like that seamless robe I bought him once.

SISTER SALOME

You were lucky to get him to wear it. You know he didn't much go in for fancy clothes.

A Roman legionnaire walks toward them.

SHORT LEGIONNAIRE

You ladies should not be out this
time of night. Go on home.

The ladies smile and proceed.

SUSANNAH

Joanna, do you know where any spice
shops are? It'll be dawn soon.

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI

Try turning right up at the next
corner.

SISTER SALOME

Aren't we a sight? Five lost
bawling women out roaming Jerusalem
in the middle of the night looking
for cinnamon!

Susanna walks to the edge of the street and leans against a
wall. She is in tears again. A half-hearted laugh escapes her
lips.

The others wait for her. She wipes her eyes with the edge of
her shawl and joins her friends again.

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI

Do you think we'll get mugged?

SISTER SALOME

With this many crazy, bawling
women? Not a chance.

Their laughter mingles with tears in this momentary reprieve
from their grief.

All except for Mary Magdalene who is hugging herself and
withdrawing.

Over another street, they detect a light in the back of a
shop.

JOANNA

I think that's one up ahead of us.

Susanna hands her torch to Mary Levi, and Salome hands hers
to Joanna. The two women go inside.

Mary Levi and Joanna put their arms around Mary Magdalene,
but say nothing.

A few moments later, Susanna and Mary Levi come back out to the street with one large coffer and one small bottle of spices.

SUSANNAH

This is the best we could do. We'll have to go to the inn to mix them.

The torches of the women are low now.

TALL LEGIONNAIRE

You women still out here? I'll follow you to make sure you are not harassed on the way.

EXT. FRONT GATE OF ELITE HOSTEL - NIGHT

Torches are lit along the wall and on each of the two wide gates into the hostel.

SUPER: 4:00 AM

Two finely-dressed gate keepers open wide the gate. Four of the women begin to enter, then look back.

SUSANNAH

Come on inside with the rest of us.

MARY MAGDALENE

I can't...

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SISTER SALOME

Oh, Mary, sweet Mary. Do you want
to go back to his grave?

Susannah goes into the hostel alone.

MARY MAGDALENE

Yes. I need to do that. You're such
a good friend. You understand me.

Mary Magdalene's tears flood her eyes again.

SISTER SALOME

He was the best friend we ever had.
Oops! Don't start crying again.
Come on, honey.

Susannah returns to the other ladies with a fresh and bright
torch. She hands it to Mary Magdalene.

SUSANNAH

You'll need this fresh torch.

JOANNA

God go with you.

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI

Stay safe. You don't know who out
there may be dangerous.

SUSANNAH

We'll pray for your safety. The
sun will be up soon.

EXT - STREET - NIGHT

Slowly Mary turns to leave her friends as though in a daze.

She passes two men and reality returns to her. She looks back
to see if they have turned around. They haven't.

Still, she decides she must not linger. She picks up speed,
her petite feet moving in a flutter like wounded hummingbird
wings.

She puts her head down and holds her handkerchief over the
lower half of her face.

She holds her torch high and continually moves her eyes to see if there is anyone nearby, while at the same time her tears return in a torrent.

As fast as she can, Mary makes her way toward the gate of Jerusalem.

The Herodian and temple guards are changing shifts and she knows they will soon open the gates.

MARY MAGDALENE (V.O.)

Oh, God. I must get to his grave. I need to be closer to my rabbi. Keep me safe.

HERODIAN SOLDIER

Halt! Who approaches?

Mary lowers her shawl enough they can see she is a woman.

MARY MAGDALENE

I need to leave the city.

HERODIAN SOLDIER

We will open the gates as soon as all the guards have changed shifts.

MARY MAGDALENE

No. It can't wait.

HERODIAN SOLDIER

You'll just have to wait or go out by the smaller side gate.

MARY MAGDALENE

Thank you. I'll go out the side gate.

HERODIAN SOLDIER

Are you okay, ma'am? Are you in danger? Is someone after you?

EXT - HIGHWAY WITH EXECUTION HILL ON LEFT, CEMETERY ON RIGHT

Mary Magdalene walks out of the holy city.

The sky, light gray now in the eastern horizon, hangs heavy over her.

No birds sing their pre-dawn songs. No crickets sneak in their last chirps of the night. No frogs croak out their last declaration of supremacy.

Closer she walks to the garden of death. Still holding her torch high and walking slower than she had in the city.

Mary arrives at the base of execution hill. She looks up and sees a slight silhouette. Three crosses, two bodies.

A rumble. A roar. The bushes around her shake. The palm trees sway. The rocks break loose. Everything trembles.

Mary temporarily loses her balance. She stops where she is. When she does, she realizes the ground is still moving.

A flash across the sky! A star falling! Its brilliance is blinding.

Mary shades her eyes as she follows its terrifying path. As soon as it touches earth, it is gone.

Still the rocking and swaying and shuddering of the restless, uncertain earth beneath her.

Mary looks around for safety. Where in the predawn shadows can safety be?

In her frenzy, she stumbles, falls, and the torch flies out of her hand.

Before she can find anything to hang on to beside the road, something hits a tree near her, then another and another.

Rocks. Tumbling rocks. She tries to run out of the way, but where can she go?

Mary falls to the ground, clings to a bush, and screams.

MARY MAGDALENE

What is happening? Everything is going wrong. Oh, God. Are you back to punish the whole world? And me? I didn't go to his trial. None of us did. I could have testified. I was a coward. Go ahead and punish me, God. I deserve it.

The bush uproots and rolls away. A rock rolls in her direction. She puts her hands over her head. The rock stops just before it reaches her. She clings to the rock.

Still the rumbling of the ground. The trees uprooting. The smaller rocks pelting their victims.

Then the rain. The hail. The blustery wind.

MOS

Mary Magdalene looks futilely into the haze between darkness and daylight. Nothing. No movement.

She stands to try continuing without her torch and spots a flicker on the other side of a slanted rock that has sheltered her.

It is her torch. She picks it up and blows on it. The ember sputters, then turns into a small flame.

EXT. GARDEN OF JESUS' TOMB - DAWN

As Mary completes the partial circle to the garden gate she sees ahead of her a light. It is coming from inside the garden.

MARY MAGDALENE

That light! Jesus, I failed you before. I'm coming. I'll protect you from the light.

She hears men shouting.

SHORT LEVITICAL TEMPLE GUARD

I'm getting outa here.

FOUR LEVITICAL TEMPLE GUARDS run out through the gate ahead and toward her. They pass without pausing.

Mary arrives at the gate in time to see two more guards run past her.

TALL LEVITICAL TEMPLE GUARD

Lady, I wouldn't go in there!

Mary hurries toward the light. The light in the direction of Jesus' tomb disappears.

Slowly she walks through the gate.

She stops cold. The stone across the entrance to the cave has flown off its track and is ten feet from the entrance.

Mary stumbles into a half run, tears rushing in torrents down her face.

She arrives at Jesus' burial cave and looks in.

EXT. GARDEN OF JESUS' TOMB - PRE-DAWN

MARY MAGDALENE

No! No! Don't take his body from us too! Please! Not that! It's all we had left of him. Please, not his body too....Get help. I need to get help Maybe they haven't gotten very far yet. Peter. I need to find Peter. And John.

In her shock, Mary leaves behind her torch, but the sky is now gray on the horizon.

She rushes back out the garden gate, up the hill, and back toward the city.

She runs the best she can between uprooted trees across the road, and rocks of all sizes that are scattered everywhere.

EXT - STREET - PRE-DAWN

SUPER: 5:00 AM

The city gate is now open. She rushes through and heads toward the house where Jesus' aides are hiding. Frantically, she knocks on their gate.

MARY MAGDALENE

Peter! Peter! Get up! He's gone!
Peter! John! Get up!

JOHN (O.C.)

Mary Magdalene, is that you?

PETER (O.C.)

Be quiet. No one is supposed to know where we are.

The gate opens and two disheveled men wearing clothes they wore three days earlier and having had hardly any sleep greet Mary.

JOHN

Mary, come on in. Hurry.

INT. COURTYARD - PRE-DAWN

PETER

What's going on? What do you mean, he's gone?

MARY MAGDALENE

They've taken him out of his tomb.
There's no sign of the grave
robbers. What are we going to do?

They stare at her. They have no answers.

Oh, Peter... John. This can't be
happening.

Peter goes to the corner of the courtyard the eleven have
occupied and grabs up his wrinkled robe now in a bundle.

MARY MAGDALENE (CONT'D)

I have to go back now. Just in
case.

They take the bar back off the gate, but do not open it.

JOHN

Are you going to be okay? It's
still kind of dark. Wait until we
can go with you.

John turns and looks around for his robe.

MARY MAGDALENE

No. I must get back. It's the last
place Jesus laid his head. Maybe
they thought of it as a joke. Maybe
they'll return him.

PETER

We'll meet you at the cemetery.

John opens the gate and Mary slips out. She rushes back
toward the city gate.

EXT. HIGHWAY - PRE-DAWN

Peddlers make their way back into the city. Men traveling
alone. Men on mules. Children on burros. A chariot passes her
by. Rich men. Poor men.

As she goes through the city gate, Peter and John pass her in
a run.

Back down the road, back past execution hill, back down in
the little valley path where the cemetery is.

EXT. GARDEN OF JESUS' TOMB - PRE-DAWN

Mary reaches the garden gate and pauses, allowing herself once more to catch her breath and let flow the eternal tears.

She makes her way through the gate and sees the empty tomb ahead of her. Stark and empty and full of nothing.

Breathing hard, Mary sits on a decorative concrete garden bench outside the cave. To grieve. To weep, Her head hides in her hands.

MARY MAGDALENE

Oh, Rabbi, this cannot be. Come back
to us. Jesus, I miss you so. I
can't stand it. Please come back.

She hears voices coming from inside the burial cave. She recognizes them.

John comes out of the cave grinning. He calls over to Mary.

JOHN

He did it!

Mary squints her eyes, trying half-heartedly to understand what was John saying. She sways back and forth.

MARY MAGDALENE

Jesus. Where are you? What have
they taken our rabbi?

John climbs to the top of the stone, grinning. He stands with arms held out and shouts.

JOHN

He did it, world. He did it!

Mary still does not understand what John is saying. She remains on her bench weeping.

Peter comes out of the burial cave shaking his head. He shuffles over to Mary and gives her a sad smile. He sits next to her and she leans her head on his shoulder.

John climbs back down from on top of the stone and joins them.

JOHN (CONT'D)

We're going back to town, Mary. Why
don't you go with us?

MARY MAGDALENE

No, I'll stay here. I'll be okay
There's some light now.

She smiles faintly for their sakes. John and Peter leave.

Mary sits back down on her garden bench and stares at the large stone that had been guarding the way into Jesus' tomb.

This time she notices the chains on the ground and the broken pieces of concrete all around the entrance.

Mary looks up into the gray and gold sky.

MARY MAGDALENE (CONT'D)

Oh, God. How could you let
something like this happen? How
could you let them kill him?

Mary weeps yet again and amidst her tears.

MARY MAGDALENE (CONT'D)

And then steal his body -- all that
we have left.

She lifts her head and shouts to the sky.

MARY MAGDALENE (CONT'D)

He said you were his Father. Oh,
God. He trusted you. He told us to
trust you. How can we trust you
now?

Mary looks again at the empty tomb.

MARY MAGDALENE (CONT'D)

He's gone. Oh, Jesus, come back.
Please. You were too young. Please,
Rabbi. How can I go on living? How
can I face another day without you?
I miss you so.

She stands and walks around and, for the first time, notices an uprooted tree in the garden of death.

She looks up into the sky with a few stars still in the west. But now a glimmer of red sun makes its way up from the horizon.

MARY MAGDALENE (CONT'D)

If I could just do everything over
again. If I could just keep you
from coming here.

(MORE)

MARY MAGDALENE (CONT'D)

If I would have just hired a body guard for you. If I could just...

Mary sits back on her garden bench. She is quiet. But the quiet frightens her.

She tries to hear Jesus' voice, the voice she knows she will never hear again. She tries to see into his eyes, the eyes she knows she will never look into again.

MARY MAGDALENE (CONT'D)

Oh, Rabbi. I want you back. I'm so empty. So terribly, terribly empty. Please, don't go away and leave me all alone. Why did they have to take your body too? Why?

She rises again. She wanders over to the empty cave. She stands at the entrance.

MARY MAGDALENE (CONT'D)

(thinking)

Huh? It looks like someone is inside. Did they return his body? What's going on?

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

Mary's eyes gradually adjust to the dim cave and she realizes there are two people inside.

TALL ANGEL

Miss, why are you crying so?

Inside the cave is still too dark to make out anything other than silhouettes.

MARY MAGDALENE

They took my rabbi's body away. I have no idea where they took it.

The angels do not answer. Instead, they smile.

They turn their attention away from Mary to something beyond her.

Mary turns and sees a third man standing near her.

She looks back and forth confused. It is so hard to see. It's still half dark. What's going on?

Mary's tears are back. But never are they very far away. She flips her hands in a gesture for everyone to go away. She walks away from all of them.

She puts her head in her hands and sobs. In the midst of her sobs, she faintly hears the third man say something to her.

SUPER: 6:00 AM

Jesus, having been naked when they put him in his tomb, is now dressed in a gardener's brown tunic.

GOD-KING JESUS

Miss, why are you crying? What's wrong? Are you looking for someone? Anyone in particular?

MARY MAGDALENE

Please. Are you the ones who took him away? Why can't you just bring his body back? Please. It won't do you any good. Leave us something. Just tell me where he is and I'll go get him myself. Please. Don't do this to us.

Mary turns back toward the gardener.

GOD-KING JESUS

Mary.

Mary raises her head slightly off her hands.

MARY MAGDALENE

(thinking)

No. Don't do this to me. No. It's
cruel. It's not real. No!

She glances quickly at Jesus, then turns away.

She hugs herself with her arms.

She looks up in the sky, turning in a circle and staring
above the man's head.

She turns her back to him.

She sneaks a quick glance.

She breaths hard.

She touches her trembling lips.

Mary looks up at the man. Her eyes strain in the dawn. Strain
and struggle without knowing.

Tears again.

Her sobs mingle with laughter against her will.

She shakes her head, not knowing what else to do.

Laughter against her will.

Her hands tremble. She trembles all over. She reaches out for
him. She stumbled to Jesus.

He lets her.

Mary touches Jesus' arms.

Jesus smiles.

He does not move. He smiles.

Still trembling, Mary slips down to the ground. She lays her
wet cheek on his feet and holds on to his ankles.

MARY MAGDALENE (CONT'D)

My rabbi! My holy rabbi! Jesus,
it's you. It really is you!

Jesus bends over, takes hold of her elbows, and gently lifts her back up. He smiles still.

GOD-KING JESUS

You don't have to hang on to me so tightly. I'm not going back to my Father quite yet.

MARY MAGDALENE

But you were... you were...

GOD-KING JESUS

Yes, my body was dead. I have brought it back to life, just as I promised I would. I keep my promises.

Mary continues to stare at Jesus. The light of the full dawning sun has reached the horizon.

GOD-KING JESUS (CONT'D)

Mary, I need you to go see my men. Tell them I'm going to return to my Father but now he's their Father too.

MARY MAGDALENE

I can't leave you, Jesus.

JESUS

You must. Go. Tell them.

His voice -- that authoritative yet gentle voice. She knows she must deliver the message for him.

Mary looks over at the gate leading out of the cemetery, then quickly back at Jesus. He is still there.

She walks backward to the gate. She does not want to leave him. She must. It is her assignment.

As she heads to the road, she smiles, blows her nose, takes down her shawl, and hums a psalm of rejoicing.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Mary does not notice her lady friends pass her on the highway.

Sometimes the tears come back, but they are tears of joy.
Sometimes she skips

When she arrives at the city gate, she calls out to the
guards.

MARY MAGDALENE
Beautiful day, isn't it?

SUPER: 7:00 AM

Mary's four lady friends pass her, but they do not realize
it.

Fallen rocks, fallen trees clutter the highway. Uprooted
bushes blow around and block their view. And their tears

SISTER SALOME
Who was that we just passed?
Running like she was late?

SUSANNAH
So, who is going to move that heavy
stone for us when we get there?

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI
Oh, we forgot that. We could have
brought a donkey and rope to pull
it out of the way for us.

They grow quiet when they pass execution hill. Salome and
Joanna look up at the now empty cross in front. Mary Levi and
Susanna do not.

For all, tears flow anew. They leave the highway and slowly
make their way down the path to the garden gate. The garden
of death.

SISTER SALOME
Well, maybe all four of us can. And
maybe Mary can help too.

EXT. GARDEN OF JESUS' TOMB - DAWN

SUPER: 7:00 AM

JOANNA
Mary, we're here!

SUSANNAH
Mary, where are you?

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI

Hey, where is she? She isn't
answering? Was she attacked on the
street alone?

Joanna, Susanna, Salome and Mary Levi set down their bundles
of spices for the body and the tapestry to give it a little
dignity, even in death.

Salome takes a deep breath.

SISTER SALOME

Maybe she went back to join the
men. Well, are we ready for this?

They stare at each other, eyes still swollen from the
relentless tears. They nod yes.

The women walk through the gate into the cemetery.

Salome stops and stares. As the others enter the area, they
too stop and stare.

The stone is out of the track and ten feet from the entrance.

Sitting on the stone is a bright and dazzling being. With
lightning dancing around him.

The women back up in fear. They tremble. Is God about to
punish them?

They fall to their knees, still shaking. Tears of fear.

SUSANNAH

We deserve your punishment. We
should have pooled our money for
bribes or a good lawyer. We
confess. We turned our back on
him.

OUTSIDE ANGEL

Don't be so frightened, ladies! I'm
not going to hurt you.

He stands on the rock and puts his hands on each side of his
waist.

OUTSIDE ANGEL (CONT'D)

I've come to bring you tidings of
great joy!

He forms a wide grin.

OUTSIDE ANGEL (CONT'D)

You're looking for Jesus who was executed three days ago, aren't you? Well, he does not need his grave any more.

He raises his arms heavenward.

OUTSIDE ANGEL (CONT'D)

He has come back to life!

Joanna shades her eyes and stares at the bright star-like man.

Susanna looks over at the tomb and back at the dazzling man.

Mary Levi looks in the empty cave and rejoins her friends.

Salome remembers her sister's story.

VISION

Shepherds look up.

Angels declaring in unison.

HOST OF ANGELS

Tidings of great joy! The Prince of Peace! The God-King. He has been born this night in Bethlehem.

The shepherds morph into the women.

BACK TO PRESENT

Outside angel points to the death cave.

OUTSIDE ANGEL

Go on in and see for yourself.
Where you saw him laid three days ago is now empty.

SUSANNAH

Are you an angel?

The man dressed in brightness smiles in affirmation.

The women glance quickly at the cave, then back at the angel who remains on the stone and continues to smile.

They look back over at the cave.

JOANNA

Is it true?

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI

Could it possibly be true?

SUSANNAH

Has he actually come back to life?

SISTER SALOME

In our travels with him, we saw
Jesus bring people back to life.
Has he now performed it on himself?

INT - INSIDE DEATH CAVE - DAY

In slow motion, the four women walk toward the cave.
Trembling.

One by one, they walk through the entrance. They stare at the
empty stone table where they had sung for him one last time
three days earlier.

Two men in the death cave with them are just like the one
sitting on the stone outside. One walks over and sits at the
end where Jesus' head had laid. The other sits at the end
where Jesus' feet had laid.

More angels? They draw closer to the women. The women drop to
their knees.

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI

Please, don't hurt us.

JOANNA

We're sorry we didn't defend him
more.

SUSANAH

We'll spend the rest of our lives
regretting it.

SISTER SALOME

Please don't hurt us.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

Tall angel grins.

TALL ANGEL

Don't be afraid of us, ladies. We know who you're looking for.

SHORT ANGEL

You're looking in the wrong place. You're looking for the living among the dead. He has come back to life!

They women hesitantly stand.

TALL ANGEL

Remember how he said while all of you were still up north that he would be crucified, then come back to life the third day?

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI

He's right.

SUSANNAH

We heard him say it.

SISTER SALOME

Lots of times he said it.

JOANNA

Could it have really happened, sir?

SHORT ANGEL

Go back and tell his aides and the others with them. Especially Peter.

TALL ANGEL

Tell them to escape up north. Go back to Galilee where it is safe. They won't be in danger there. That's where Jesus will meet them.

The women weep again. This time with tears of hope. Overwhelming exhilaration. Uncontainable elation.

Joanna is the first.

JOANNA

He did it!

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI

He came back to life like he said
he would!

SUSANNAH

Ladies, he's back! We've got to
tell the others.

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI

He came back to life like he said
he would!

SUSANNAH

Ladies, he's back! We've got to
tell the others.

Joanna leaves the little cave of death, runs past the angel
still sitting on the stone, and toward the garden gate. The
other three follow close and catch up with her.

JOANNA

Wait 'till they hear!

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI

I can't wait to see their faces!

SUSANNAH

This is unbelievable!

SISTER SALOME

I feel like an angel myself. Look
at the message we're delivering!

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI

What if they don't believe us?

SUPER: 8:00 AM

They progress a little way past the garden gate. But a
strange man blocks their path.

SUSANNAH

Not now. We've got the best news in
the world, and some man gets in our
way.

SALOME

Hey, you. Move.

The women stop. They stare at the unmoving stranger. They
squint their eyes.

They remain motionless except for the trembling.

GOD-KING JESUS
Hey! Hello there!

Jesus smiles and holds out his arms for them.

SUSANNAH
Jesus. Is that you?

They rush forward

JOANNA
Thank God.

GOD-KING JESUS
You're welcome!

SISTER SALOME
You came back. We should have
known.

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI
Jesus, how we missed you.

They fall at his feet

SISTER SALOME
We deserted you just like everyone
else.

JOANNA
We are so sorry.

SUSANNAH
How can you ever forgive us?

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI
We deserve to be stricken dead.

Tears of love and guilt, joy and shame. Tears mixed with
laughter and back to tears.

GOD-KING JESUS
You don't have to be afraid of me.
I'm not going to hurt you.

One by one he helps the four women rise to their feet.

SISTER SALOME
Oh, Jesus, you came back to us.

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI
We could hardly stand it.

SUSANNAH
We haven't eaten or slept since you died.

JOANNA
How did you...

GOD-KING JESUS
I need you to do something for me.
Go back to the city and tell my
brothers to go back up north.
They'll be safe there. I'll see
them there. Now go tell them.

Slowly the women break away from their Lord. Slowly they go back up the garden path, not wanting to take their eyes off him. They turn to begin their assignment, then look back once more. He is gone.

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI
Did everyone see what I saw?

JOANNA
You bet we did.

SISTER SALOME
He was real all right.

SUSANNAH
Hurry! We've got to tell them.
We've got to tell the whole world!

They break into a run. They leave everything behind. The spices that will lose their aroma some day. The tapestry that will crumble some day. The empty grave. The now deserted cemetery. They are not needed anymore. The funeral has turned into a re-birth celebration.

JOANNA
Slow down!

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI
No, hurry!

EXT. HIGHWAY WITH EXECUTION HILL ON RIGHT, CEMETERY ON LEFT -
DAY

SUSANNAH
Why are we keeping it a secret?

Susannah turns in the highway and shouts to travelers on the other side.

SUSANNAH (CONT'D)

He did it! He came back to life!

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI

Susanna, what are you doing?

SUSANNAH

We've got to spread the word!

JOANNA

We can't.

SUSANNAH

Why not?

SISTER SALOME

If we tell everyone, the word will get to the officials and they'll have us all arrested for sure. And we'll jeopardize the men's lives.

SUSANNAH

I never thought of that.

SISTER SALOME

So, what do we do?

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI

We have to tell the men back at the house.

JOANNA

We were told twice -- once by the angel and once by Jesus himself.

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI

Okay, everyone. We stay calm.

The ladies hurry toward the city. They run a little farther, then slow their pace to a fast walk.

SUSANNAH

Hurry!

The excitement is back.

JOANNA

I can't wait to see their eyes!
Salome, you're crying again!

SISTER SALOME
I can't help it. I'm so happy!

The women see ahead the house where they know Jesus aides are hiding. Once again in a run.

Joanna bangs on the gate.

SISTER SALOME (CONT'D)
He's back!

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI
Shhhh. Do you want someone out on the street to hear you?

Matthew opens the gate and the women rush in.

EXT. COURTYARD OF HIDEOUT - DAY

SUPER: 9:00 AM

SUSANNAH
Matthew, he's back!

INDIAN THOMAS
Who's back?

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI
Jesus! He's back! Alive!

JAMES
What are you talking about?

JOANNA
We saw him ourselves! And all the angels.

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI
He said for everyone to go back up north where it is safe and he'd meet you there.

ANDREW
That's a disgusting way to try cheering us up. Lay off.

SUSANNAH
But we're telling you the truth.

SYRIAN THADDEUS
No! Now stop talking like you're deranged. He's dead and gone, and we all had a part in killing him.

JOANNA

Listen to us! We saw him ourselves!

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

You're sick. Really sick.

NATHANIEL

Must have been someone in disguise.

ETHIOPIAN MATTHEW LEVI

Did anyone follow you? They're trying to arrest us all.

SISTER SALOME

No! But he's alive...

SUSANNAH

Please. He's alive...

JOANNAH

He's back. We saw him...

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI

We all saw him.

MOS

The ladies stop and look at the men in disbelief. The men look back at the women in disbelief.

Mary Magdalene leaves the kitchen area and joins the eleven men and four women.

MARY MAGDALENE

Hey, what's going on here?

Mary walks over to Salome and embraces her. Salome notices the smile on Mary's face.

SISTER SALOME

(whispering)

Did you see him too, Mary? Did you see Jesus?

MARY MAGDALENE

Yes. I saw him too.

They embrace once more. Mary Magdalene turns to her other lady friends and shrugs.

MARY MAGDALENE (CONT'D)

I've tried to convince them. It's no use. They will have to see Jesus for themselves.

ETHIOPIAN MARY LEVI

So, are they packing to go back north or not?

MARY MAGDALENE

No. They don't believe he'll be up in Galilee either. They simply will not believe anything anyone tells them.

SUSANNAH

Well, we'll have to leave it up to Jesus to prove it to them himself.

Joanna grins and winks at the men.

JOANNA

Oh, ye, of little faith.

Andrew growls at them.

ANDREW

Ladies, we haven't slept in three nights, we don't know which way is up, and you come in with this prank. How about just fixing us some breakfast?

INT. KITCHEN AREA. DAY

Jesus shows himself to the five women. They form a line and walk arm in arm with their rabbi. The kitchen area 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 #71

REMAINING EPISODES IN THE EIGHTTH AND FINAL SEASON:

72. **Salome.** *Sister, Aunt, Forever Friend*
73. **Peter.** *Torch Flight*
74. **Little James & Alphaeus.** *Desert of Sighs*
75. **Ten Apostles.** *Whispering Hope*
76. **Thomas.** *Flag Ship Forever*
77. **Seven Apostles.** *Grasping Glory*
78. **Eleven Apostles.** *Magnificent Soaring.*
79. **Five Hundred.** *Power Surge.*
80. **Brother James.** *Thunder Struck.*
81. **Eleven Apostles.** *Son Rise*
82. **Ruling Sadducees.** *Prayers and Palaces*
83. **Lebbeus Thaddeus** - *Quest in the Great Beyond*
- 84, **Sinners and Saints.** *Come Up to Me.*