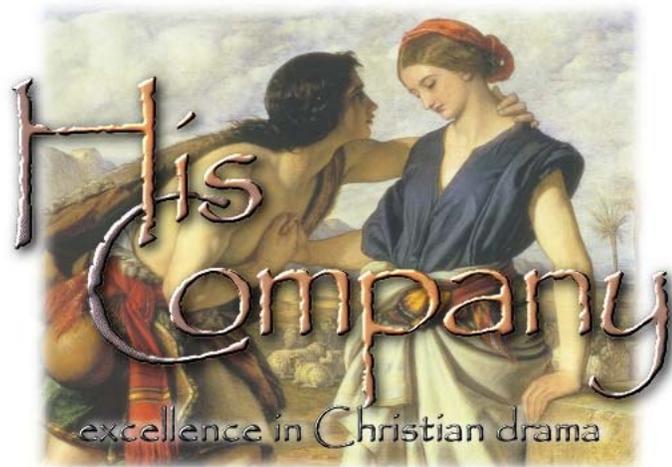


# BLINDERS

## A SKETCH

by  
David S. Lampel



---

**AUTHOR'S NOTE**


---

This sketch lifts two of the more explosively dramatic scenes from *The Essence of His Death*, ties them together with narration, to make a gripping statement about traditions and loyalty.

5 **NOTES**

1. Nicodemus may be substituted for Joseph of Arimethea. The characters and lines would remain the same, except that MALCHIAH and Caiaphas would say "Nicodemus" instead of "Joseph."
2. Matthew 15:1-9.
3. Isaiah 9:2.

---

10 **SCENE ONE**

---

*The Time: Thursday night, before the trial of Jesus*

*The Place: an anteroom off the main council chambers in the home of the Chief Priest, Caiaphas.*

15 *House lights down.  
Stage lights up.*

*Enter the NARRATOR (in modern dress).*

20 **NARRATOR**

It's Thursday night—late. Throughout the city of Jerusalem small, yet eventful dramas are taking place. In a private, upper room, thirteen men share a final meal; somewhere out in the streets a man sells his soul for thirty pieces of silver; and in the palace of the powerful Chief Priest, Caiaphas, a man gathers the courage to announce publicly his allegiance to the one they call Jesus of Nazareth.

*Enter MALCHIAH (Mal-keye'-uh) and JOSEPH<sup>1</sup>, members of the Sanhedrin.*

30 **MALCHIAH**  
*(agitated)*

You're a fool, Joseph! How much longer do you think you can keep this up?

35

---

**JOSEPH***(more calm than his friend)*

Will you now give me away?

**MALCHIAH***(exasperated)*

40

No, I'll not give you away. You're still my friend. But I should turn you in.  
If you persist in this you'll bring us all down with you.

**JOSEPH**

You didn't vote with me.

45

**MALCHIAH**

I'm implicated by your confidence in me. I take a chance by simply  
leaving the council chamber with you.

**JOSEPH**

Then why can't you vote with me? Why can't you see it, Malchiah?

50

**MALCHIAH**

And I would ask you the same, my misguided friend.

**JOSEPH**

You were even with me that day he spoke.

55

**MALCHIAH***(with disgust)*

There have been many days he has spoken. Too many.

**JOSEPH**

Yes, he's given us every opportunity to understand, and still some  
refuse—

60

**MALCHIAH**

There's no need to get personal!

**JOSEPH**

But that's precisely what Jesus has been telling us! Malchiah, are you just  
like the rest? We keep going to him,

65

*(sarcastically)*

we learned men of the Sanhedrin, trying to “debate” Jesus into submission.

**MALCHIAH**

*(insistently)*

70 This man is a disruption!

**JOSEPH**

And what is he disrupting?

**MALCHIAH**

*(flustered)*

75 Well, our way of life, the way we do things here, our—well, our tradition.

**JOSEPH**

*(he has been waiting for that word)*

Yes, our tradition. And I thank God he is disrupting our tradition.

**MALCHIAH**

80 Don’t press your luck, Joseph.

**JOSEPH**

*(slightly subdued; acknowledging his rash behavior)*

It was quite some time ago. A group of us had sought Jesus out to once again argue trivialities.<sup>2</sup> A report had come to the council that the disciples of Jesus had been observed eating without having washed their hands.

85

**MALCHIAH**

*(smugly)*

Now I remember. He refused the challenge, as I recall.

90

**JOSEPH**

Jesus refused to join in our petty bickering.

**MALCHIAH**

“Petty bickering”? It’s the Law!

**JOSEPH**

95 Your memory fails you, Malchiah—as does your scholarship.

*Malchiah is greatly offended.*

**JOSEPH**

*(pressing his point further)*

100 We didn't challenge him on the law. We asked Jesus why his disciples transgress the tradition of the elders.

**MALCHIAH**

*(not seeing the difference)*

Yes...

**JOSEPH**

*(incredulous; sadly)*

105 Well, I see you are still one of them.

**MALCHIAH**

*(alarmed)*

110 One of "them"? Joseph,  
*(gesturing toward where they had entered)*  
you are one of them!

**JOSEPH**

*(with a touch of melancholy)*

115 Not anymore. Not since that day.

**MALCHIAH**

*(firmly; taking Joseph by the shoulders)*

120 Don't take this any further. You are a respected councilor, a member of the Sanhedrin. Don't jeopardize your standing for the ravings of a deranged prophet—an accused blasphemer.

**JOSEPH**

*(pulling away)*

I'm told there is an animal down in Ethiopia that has a habit of hiding its head in the sand when challenged by an adversary.

125 *(pause; pointedly)*

When I heard Jesus that day, I heard the truth—as if for the first time. Don't you feel the hunger, Malchiah? Don't you hunger for the truth?

**Malchiah**

*(stiffly)*

130 I know the truth.

**JOSEPH**

Do you think Jesus serves a God other than ours?

**Malchiah**

*(spitting)*

135 Don't quiz me on the twisted contents of his mind! My faith has been tested by time and was given by the very hand of God.

**JOSEPH**

*(pleading)*

140 But it's those commandments God handed down to us that have become twisted. We have designed for ourselves such a maze of regulations that we have lost sight of who God really is! All Jesus has done is cut through the confusion to show us that our relationship with God must be personal. It cannot be founded on regulations.

**Malchiah**

*(indignantly)*

145 He called us hypocrites!

**JOSEPH**

150 And he backed it up by quoting Isaiah: "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far away from me. In vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men." Tradition, Malchiah. Just empty, selfish tradition.

**Malchiah**

Don't quote the scriptures to me!

**JOSEPH**

*(heatedly)*

155 Why not? You seem to have forgotten them!

**Malchiah**

160 All right! Go follow your miniature God. I'll not stand in your way—and  
I'll not expose you to the rest of the council.

*(with bitterness)*

But I'll not vote with you.

*(pause)*

And I'll not be your friend.

165

*Malchiah exits in a huff. Joseph stares after him, his anger diminishing into a sadness over the loss of his friend. With a heavy sigh, he follows, returning to the council chambers for the next vote against Jesus.*

170

*Enter the Narrator.*

**NARRATOR**

175 After the final vote is tallied, and the call goes out to arrest the man,  
Joseph finds his courage and requests a private audience with Caiaphas  
himself.

*Exit Narrator.*

*Enter Caiaphas and Joseph. Caiaphas is weary from the all-night trial of Jesus.*

180

**CAIAPHAS**

*(still distracted by the Council's debate)*

As if I hadn't enough occupying my mind.

**JOSEPH**

Lord Caiaphas—

185

**CAIAPHAS**

And you think you can successfully plead this man's case where he  
himself failed so miserably?

**JOSEPH**

*(simply)*

190

I can't improve upon his eloquence.

**CAIAPHAS***(how ludicrous)*

Eloquence?

*(quieter)*

195 The man is a buffoon.

**JOSEPH***(what has he got to lose)*

You don't believe that.

**CAIAPHAS***(enraged)*

200 How dare you!

**JOSEPH**

You don't put to death buffoons.

**CAIAPHAS***(uneasily)*

205 No one takes this sad person seriously.

**JOSEPH**

You're afraid of him.

210 *Caiaphas stiffens with indignant alarm.***JOSEPH***(insistent)*

215 You're afraid of him, Caiaphas. He's not a buffoon—he's a threat! A threat to your power.

**CAIAPHAS***(steam coming out his ears)*

How dare you abuse this office so!

**JOSEPH***(gathering his courage)*

220 It no longer matters. I renounce my standing as a member of the Council.

**CAIAPHAS***(stunned)*

You what?

225

**JOSEPH**

I now claim as my master this one you have just consigned to death.

**CAIAPHAS***(incredulous)*

You are not only insulting, but making a very dangerous—and costly—  
mistake.

230

**JOSEPH***(sadly; seeing the futility)*

I was hoping you might see...

**CAIAPHAS***(exasperated)*

Why are you doing this to me?

235

**JOSEPH**

I'm not doing it to you—or anyone else, for that matter. I'm doing it for  
me.

240

**CAIAPHAS***(with quiet, measured menace)*

Joseph. Joseph of Arimathea. I care nothing for you or

*(mockingly)*

your precious new faith. If you choose to believe the blasphemous  
rantings of this man, then proceed—at your own risk. And if there were  
no other considerations, I would run you out of town myself, gladly.

245

*(pause)*

But there are considerations. The Council is much bigger than the  
collection of its members. And the Council is much more important than  
the soiled reputation of one of its members. I will not have this august  
body compromised by your preposterous loyalties.

250

*(pause; with venomous satisfaction)*

I would gladly bring upon you disgrace of the most public kind—but I will not. I will not subject our governing Council to such infamy.

255 *(pause; sneering)*

You represent all that is the worst of your generation! You care nothing for our rich heritage. You so easily discard centuries of tradition for something still in its infancy! You and your kind are never satisfied. And your sedition infects us like a cancer. I detest you. And I detest this Jesus and what he has done to us.

260

**JOSEPH**

*(with stronger conviction)*

You've done it to yourself, Caiaphas. You won't allow yourself to see the truth in what Jesus says. He is the Christ—and you resent the fact that he is without your permission.

265

**CAIAPHAS**

You will regret this, Joseph. You've been blinded!

**JOSEPH**

Yes. I guess I have. Blinded by his light.

270

**CAIAPHAS**

*(furious)*

Get out of here!

**JOSEPH**

*(shaking his head)*

You think you're still in charge. You think all this is your doing.

275

*(pause)*

For once God really is in control. You have just done exactly what He intended. You've just fulfilled the destiny of his Son—and established the end of your meaningless traditions.

280

*JOSEPH exits. In a seething rage, CAIAPHAS exits opposite.*

*Enter Narrator.*

285

**NARRATOR**

290

295

Seven hundred years earlier the prophet Isaiah had warned his people of the change coming. He warned that the house of Israel would stumble over the Son of Man. The fulfillment of their long-awaited Messiah was so complete they were blind to it. And they were so locked into their mindless traditions they feared to let go. But there were some who dared, some who believed, some who rejoiced in His glorious light. “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”<sup>3</sup>

*Exit Narrator.*

300

## HIS COMPANY SCRIPTS

### USE & COPYRIGHT NOTICE

Permission is hereby granted for copies to be made of this His Company script so long as the following conditions are met:

- ☛ All copies will include the script title page with copyright notice.
- ☛ The total number of copies per script will not exceed number of characters, plus director, plus any necessary technical personnel.
- ☛ Copies will not be made for, nor distributed to, other churches. Please recommend that they obtain their own free copy at the His Company web site ([HTTP://DLAMPEL.COM/](http://DLAMPEL.COM/)).
- ☛ The script, or copies thereof, will not be sold or leased to others.

His Company scripts, while distributed at no charge, are copyrighted. We appreciate your cooperation in following these few guidelines. If you have any questions regarding the use of this script, please contact David S. Lampel at 515-462-1971, or leave a message at our *Support Center* at [HTTP://DLAMPEL.COM/SUPPORT/](http://DLAMPEL.COM/SUPPORT/)

### Contributions

Our first priority is to ensure that our resources get into the hands of those who wish to use them—and always for free. We do not charge for any of our resources. Our first and most important payment comes from the Lord—in the privilege we have of serving in His name.

But if the Holy Spirit is speaking to you, and you would like to contribute to this work, we want you to know that your gift will be very much appreciated, and will be put to work covering our expenses. To express our appreciation, we have prepared some special “thank-you” gifts for those who contribute. Visit our *Contribution Page*, at [HTTP://DLAMPEL.COM/CONTRIB.PHP](http://DLAMPEL.COM/CONTRIB.PHP), for details.

### Upholding Your Performance

We would like to hear from you when performances of this His Company script have been scheduled, so that we (and others) can be lifting you and your production up to the throne in prayer. Post as much information as you can about your production at our *Support Center* ([HTTP://DLAMPEL.COM/SUPPORT/](http://DLAMPEL.COM/SUPPORT/))—and may the Lord use this resource for His glory.

