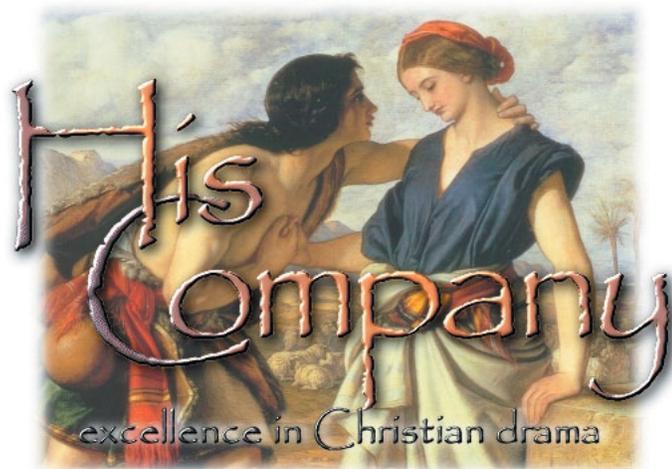


I NEVER CALLED HIM LORD

FROM *THE TWELVE*

by
David S. Lampel



AUTHOR'S NOTE

5 The tortured remains of Judas Iscariot cry out from their eternity. The devil's pawn. His best man. Once paid handsomely for his deceit, he now is paying with his soul in torment. Hear the voice of one who made the wrong choice. Heed his wisdom.

Production Note: Judas should be dressed in ragged, almost shredded, clothing. He should have a grave-like pallor. (Don't just slap Clown White on his face; use an under layer of Forest Green for a green-around-the-gills look.)

SCENE

10 *The Time: Eternity*
The Place: Hell

House lights down.
Stage lights up.

15 *Judas Iscariot bursts in. As he comes through the door he is screaming at someone—or something—behind him. Note: Judas should have a pale and harried look; within reason, give him an appearance that shows the torment he has been going through.*

20 **Judas**

(to something on the other side of the door)

Get away from me! Leave me alone! For once, just leave me alone!

In a paranoid panic, he stumbles to center stage, furtively glancing behind him, his back to the audience. He senses their presence and slowly, cringingly, turns.

25 **Judas**

(stammering)

Why are you looking at— Stop staring at me! Were you there?!

(pause; giggling insanely)

30 What's the matter? Do you feel uncomfortable in my presence?

(with contempt)

I'm nothing more than those things you keep hidden—nothing less than those things you choose to reveal.

(more calmly; conversationally)

35 I could just as easily have gone the other way, you know. If I am, indeed, the worst it only means I had the potential to be the best.

*(the voices in his head begin building again, building, building;
in anguish; screaming in reply)*

I know! I know I crucified Him!

40 *(back to the tormentor behind the door)*

I might as well have driven the nails into Him myself.

(with disgust)

Worse. I hadn't the courage to see it that far. I took the easy way out—
before He even reached the cross.

45 *(to the audience)*

Go ahead. I deserve your contempt. But be careful; if you condemn me
you run the risk of condemning yourself. And remember: In your times of
deepest shame, you have not approached the remorse I felt that morning.

(quieter; exhausted)

50 There's no explanation you'll understand. I know the explanation and I
don't understand.

(fearfully)

Where I live now

(furtively glancing back at the door)

55 there is no understanding. There's no reasoning.

(pause)

But I tell you this: The options I had then are still available to you. You,
too, can go either way.

(intimately)

60 At first I blamed it all on Satan—and it's true, he came into me and
pressed me into his service. But who opened the door to my heart? Who
made the choice?

(pause)

65 Don't make me into some hideous monster. Don't make me darker than I
really am—some image of evil incarnate. I was only a man—flesh and
blood like you. I held no secret power of evil. I just let evil have its power
over me.

(pause)

70 I was only a man. Jesus called me along with the others. I was one of the twelve. But I thought myself smarter than the rest. More

(with clipped diction)

in-tel-lec-tual. I felt I was above all this

(with arrogance)

75 silly adoration of someone who was, after all, only a man...

(long pause; with great sadness)

I never called Him “Lord.” My highest praise for Him was “Rabbi.”

(pause)

I never gave Him control over my life, my being. I always held some back.

80 *(building to a high pitch)*

And by holding some back I gave entrance to Satan himself! My pride would not allow me to give it all to Jesus—to let Him be my Lord.

(darker; subdued)

So Satan became my Lord—he took over the emptiness in my heart.

85 *(building again)*

He filled me with his evil—and took away my heart.

(running out; screaming)

Don’t let him have yours! Don’t let it happen to you!

90 *Screaming, Judas runs off the stage toward the door through which he entered. He jerks it open, hesitates, then returns to his personal hell.*

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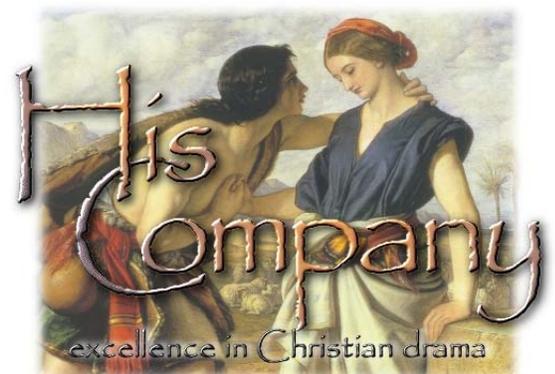
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