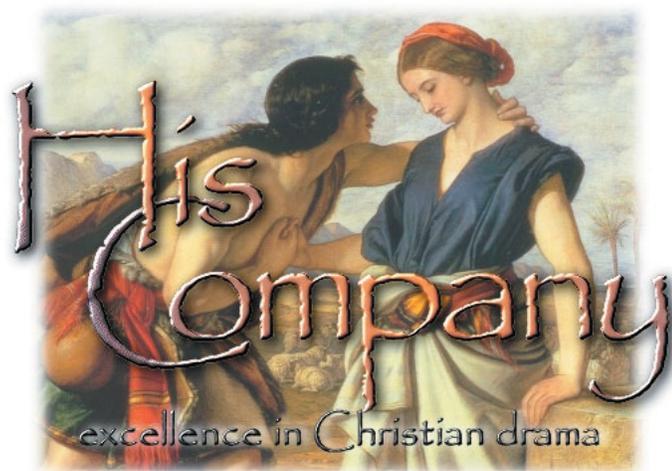


JESUS SHALL REIGN

A MUSICAL

by
David S. Lampel



AUTHOR'S NOTE

5 Jesus Shall Reign is a worship-oriented musical with a strong dramatic element. The drama portion of this musical could be lifted out to stand on its own as a one-act play. The package is a powerful statement of the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and appropriate for Easter or as a general musical. The dramatic dialogue is woven artfully through the music—one element complementing the other, and there are moments of congregational response.

Synopsis: Peter and his son are on an outing, spending some time together during a rare break in the apostle's ministry. Joash has high hopes to grow up just like his famous father. Peter takes the opportunity to teach his son some humility by sharing with him the humility and sacrifice of Christ. In a powerful scene, Peter relives the shame of his denial.

10 Book used in original production: *Jesus Shall Reign* by Cloninger & Rhodes (WORD)

CHARACTERS

The apostle Peter

His son, Joash

15 *Peter and his son, Joash, are enjoying a day together out in the countryside. While the original idea was to have a day alone, the two have, nonetheless, just run into some people who recognized Peter immediately.*

Peter enters, followed by Joash.

Peter

(calling back to his son)

You're lagging behind again, Joash.

Joash

25 But Dad, those people wanted to talk to me.

Peter

And why is that?

Joash

(proudly)

30 Because I'm your son!

Peter

(after a beat)

Is there a punch line to this?

Joash

(impatiently)

They were asking me questions. Like “Did I ever see Jesus?” and “What is your father, Peter, really like?”

40

Peter

(shaking his head with wonder)

What in the world.

Joash

(with mock seriousness)

45

What are you really like, Dad?

Peter

Mostly I’m a kind and understanding sort, who loves to be around children. Then again...

Joash

50

You were a disciple of the Lord! That makes you special.

Peter

Wrong on both counts. I still am a disciple of the Lord, and that does not make me special.

Joash

(proudly)

55

When I grow up I’m going to be just like you.

Peter

I wouldn’t be too quick with that.

Joash

60

I’m going to be a great speaker, respected by crowds of people, loved by all—

Peter

Son—

65

Joash

(carried away with himself)

—worker of miracles, leader of our people—

Peter

70 Joash!

Joash

(innocently)

Yes, Dad?

Peter

(with exaggerated patience)

75 Try, very hard, just this once, to contain yourself.

Joash

Yes, Dad.

Peter

80 I wanted today to be special—just the two of us—just you and me together. You’re growing up too fast. Soon you’ll be a man—and I’ll be an old man, sitting at home, wondering where the time went.

Joash

(nodding his head; seriously)

85 You are getting on.

Peter

Do you understand why my work takes me away from you and the rest of the family?

Joash

90 Sure, Dad. I know it’s important. And soon, when you’re too old to carry on,

(throwing out his chest)

I’ll take over for you.

Peter

95 Uh, if you don’t mind, I’ll be the one to decide my retirement date.

Joash

You know, some fathers don't have a son to carry on the family business.

Peter

100

It's the Lord's business, son, not ours. And what makes you think you're qualified?

Joash

(confidently)

I have a way with people, Dad. They pay attention when I speak. And I've got a lot to say. I do all my lessons and Mother says I'm a fast learner.

105

Peter

But I fear there's one lesson you've not learned.

(pause, considering how to teach his son this lesson)

So, you think you'd like to be just like me when you grow up. Are you sure about that?

110

Joash

Sure!

Peter

Then maybe you're now old enough to learn some of the tougher lessons.

I want you to know what it was like for me during the early days—when

115

Jesus was still here.

Joash

I missed Him by that much.

Peter

You missed Him by that much. Oh Joash, if only you could have met

120

Him. If only you could have been here to learn the lessons firsthand, as I did. He was so much more, But He was still a wonderful teacher. And His life was the greatest lesson of all.

(pause)

We lived together for three years: working, eating, sleeping, teaching His

125

way to anyone who would listen, healing the sick—oh, the miracles—the

wonders He performed. And the people knew it all too. They knew Jesus for who He was. His reputation spread throughout our land like a wildfire. So that when we entered Jerusalem for the last time, it was the coronation of a king!

130 **SONG: “WE CRY HOSANNA LORD”**

Joash

But this has always confused me, Dad. If they loved Him so much, how could they kill Him?

135 **Peter**

Because they only thought they knew Him. They were so desperate for a savior, that the truth about Jesus didn’t matter. They saw only what they had planned for Him to be.

SONG: “IN THE NAME OF THE LORD”

140 *The following dialogue takes place during interlude in “In the Name of the Lord”*

Peter

145 What the people didn’t know was that Jesus was here as God’s representative—no, it was more than that. He was God, here with us.

Joash

Dad, you’re over my head.

Peter

(patiently)

150 Everyone in His service must realize who it is they serve. My master—and yours—was God made physical. Jesus was as warm to the touch as I am to you. But in that body, He held the strength of God. When He worked His miracles it was no magician’s trick! It was the power of Almighty God!

155 **Joash**

But why didn't we love that, too?

Peter

God's strength is a frightening thing—and what we fear, we hate.

Joash

160 *(after pondering a moment)*

Then that means they can also hate those who serve Him.

Peter

(with quiet pride)

You are becoming a man.

165 *(pause)*

But remember this: we also carry in us some of that same strength. In our bodies we carry the power of God and the power of Jesus Christ!

SONG: "IN THE NAME OF THE LORD" CONTINUES

170 **Joash**

I think I'm getting it. Jesus brought the Father's power down to earth and left it behind for us.

Peter

Well, that's one way to look at it.

175 **Joash**

(working through it)

If we believe in Jesus, we have this available to us.

Peter

Right!

180 **Joash**

(with eyes glowing)

So with this power, I can do anything!

Peter

(seeing where this is going)

185

Well, now—

Joash

There's no stopping me! With God's strength, my knowledge, my gift for speaking to people—

190

Peter

Well there you see, you've done it again. You slid right past the point of what I've been telling you.

Joash

(frustrated)

195

Now what?

Peter

Our strength lies in our weakness.

Joash

(aw, come on...)

200

Dad...

Peter

(sternly)

Listen to me. I had to learn the hard way—and you will, too, if you don't pay attention.

205

(pause)

The first thing Jesus taught me was that if God wants you filled with His glory, He'll shape you into the proper vessel. It can go easy, it can go hard—but He'll do it, one way or another.

Joash

(chastened; seriously)

210

I want to know, Dad.

Peter

Jesus left us with more than just stories; He lived the truth of His words.

(nostalgically; a bit sad)

215 And never more so than on that night.

(pause; looking at his son)

We weren't so different from you. Jesus chose as His disciples men so petty as to argue over who shall be where at the Lord's table. We were so full of ourselves. His agony had already begun, and we quarreled like children.

Joash

(knowing what Peter is referring to)

Passover.

Peter

(nodding his head)

225 As usual, I thought I had all the answers. I was sure that I had finally figured out my role as His servant. Suddenly Jesus is kneeling to wash my feet! The very idea of my Lord performing the duty of a slave was offensive to me. "You'll never wash my feet!" I said.

(pause)

230 Joash, if you could have seen the disappointment in His eyes. Jesus had such compassion—but He was also many times exasperated by our stupidity. Time and again He had told us: The first shall be last and the last, first. And here He was giving us that truth in His person, displaying a true and honest humility for us, and I wouldn't let Him. That shows you how smart I am.

Joash

(trying to understand, but confused)

So the Lord wanted you to wash peoples' feet?

Peter

240 The Lord wanted us to love others enough to think nothing of ourselves.

SONG: "THE KIND OF A KINGDOM"

The following Dialogue is during Interlude as Trax continue to roll.

245

Peter

You see, Jesus was only showing us His relationship to the Father. He
 surrendered His rights as the Son of God—He gladly became something
 250 less than what He was—to obey the will of the Father. Before Jesus could
 be our king, He had to be our servant.

SONG: “THE KIND OF A KINGDOM” CONTINUES

SONG: THY WILL

255

Peter is sitting, looking down, almost in tears. Joash, uncertain and just a bit confused, goes to him.

Joash

260

(resting his hand gently on his father’s shoulder)

Dad?

Peter

(slowly looking up; not looking at Joash)

265

He was left all alone. We all ran like rats from a sinking ship. What I didn’t
 realize until later, was that even then—with those pious butchers
 breathing down His neck, slapping Him about—even then, Jesus was in
 control. They asked Him if He was the king of the Jews, and He said, “Yes,
 of course I am.” Jesus was reigning even then—even as they spat His
 name in their hate.

270

(pause)

And He was reigning as I saved my neck by cursing Him before my
 accusers.

275

Joash

(wanting his dad to not feel so badly)

You had to protect yourself.

Peter

(exploding)

280

No! Don't you see? I didn't have to protect myself! Did Jesus protect Himself from the mob of vermin crying for Him to die? Did He back away from the horror of that tree? He designed His own death—could have changed it at anytime.

Joash

285

But then Jesus wouldn't have been our Savior.

Peter

(after a few beats; heavily, subdued)

And He wouldn't have been our King.

SONG: "CROSS OF CALVARY"

290

Peter

In my shame, I watched His body sag under the weight of our sin. heard the loneliness in His voice as He pleaded with His Father. And I wanted to help Him, but knew it was too late for that. He had to die—He had to give Himself.

295

SONG: "THIS LAMB ALONE"

SONG: "FAIREST LORD JESUS" (A CAPPELLA)

300

Joash

(troubled; very seriously)

I don't think I can do it, Dad.

Peter

Do what?

305

Joash

(methodically)

I know He did it for me, but I don't think I can for Him.

Peter looks at Joash, confused.

310

Joash

(continuing; having a hard time saying it)

Be killed. I don't think I can.

Peter

315

Well then, it's a very good thing that you don't have to.

Joash

I don't?

Peter

320

Joash, you're right that Jesus was our example. He became the ultimate servant, and that meant that He had to die—die for our sins.

Joash

(quickly)

I know that part.

Peter

325

But because He died for us, then we don't have to! To be His servant means to obey Him, to worship Him, to seek His will in all things. And it means that He is your Lord. That's not just a word—it's a declaration that Jesus Christ reigns over every part of your life.

SONG: ARISE

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/)

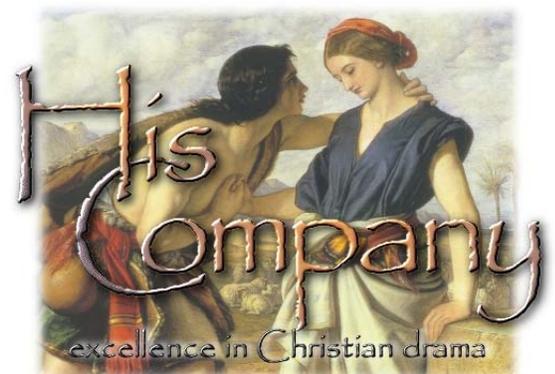
Contributions

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.



His Company logo illustration: *Jacob and Rachel*, by William Dyce
Script Edition: 2004/5