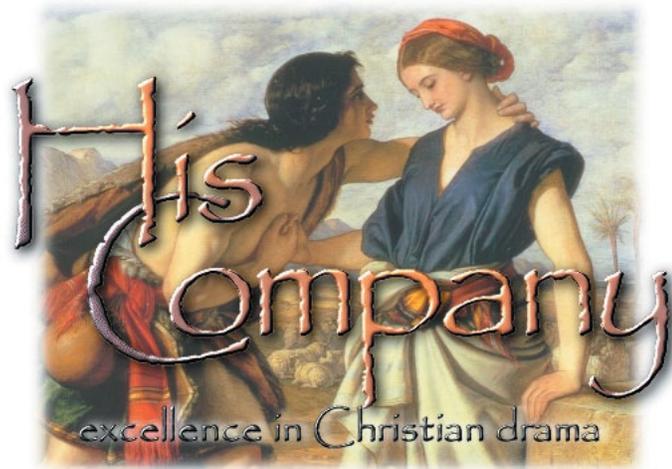


THE SWORD CONQUERED BY LOVE

FROM *THE TWELVE*

by
David S. Lampel



AUTHOR'S NOTE

5 **Simon, the Zealot**, was driven by a fervor of dangerous proportions. His party, the Cananaeans, fought against the Roman possession of their land with passion and the sword. Jesus didn't extinguish Simon's passion; He just redirected it—and changed his choice of weapons.

If you are performing all the sketches from *The Twelve*, this is a good last choice in the sequence, because Simon mentions each of the other disciples in his monologue.

SCENE

10 *The Time: Just after Pentecost*
The Place: Jerusalem

House lights down.
Stage lights up.

15 *Simon, the Zealot, enters surreptitiously, almost backing in. He is an energetic man, of bubbly spirit. He addresses the audience directly.*

Simon

20 Did you see that soldier?! Boy, was that close!

(slapping his forehead)

Ah, I keep forgetting. I'm no longer in the party.

(grinning)

25 Still, it never hurts to stay clear of a soldier of Rome. They are not known for their courtesy. And besides, though I'm no longer a Zealot, my present affiliation is no more popular with them.

(exasperated)

30 Why must I always be at odds with the powers that be! I'm destined to be forever looking over my shoulder, passing through darkened alleyways, knocking on hidden doors with secret signals...

(calmer)

35 Jesus chose a motley group of followers. It had to be part of His plan. First there were the fishermen: Andrew, John. They brought their brothers, Peter and James. Sturdy fellows, strong and brave. Quick to anger—quick to love. Then Philip joined, bringing with him the dreamer, Nathanael. I

think Jesus really liked Nathanael—his honesty, his skepticism that turned to adoration.

Thomas was next. Good Thomas—the only one courageous enough to voice his doubts.

40 *(more serious)*

Then Jesus called Matthew, the richest one of the bunch.

(getting angry)

Only his wealth was stained by the sweat and blood of our people. Backs broken under the burden of Roman tyranny! He robbed his own people.

45 Took away their pride. Took away their respect!

(stopping himself; reciting, with his eyes closed)

“If you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.”

50 *(once he is settled down)*

Then came James and Thaddaeus—steady, dependable Thaddaeus. His quiet countenance held a faith that never wavered. Of course, there was Judas. In the beginning I felt almost a kinship to the Judean. We both shared a fierce resolve for our people—and an equally fierce hatred of the Romans. But somewhere along the way things turned sour for Judas. He abandoned whatever faith he had had

55 *(sadly)*

and we could no longer be friends.

I suppose while Judas was losing his faith I was gaining mine. At first I thought Jesus wanted me for my sword. Certainly if He was the Messiah, He would need my help—and the help of others in my Cananaean party. He would need our... distinctive talents for doing away with undesirables.

60 *(getting excited)*

65 As our king, He couldn't release us from the Roman bondage without revolutionaries! I was ready! I would have died for Him—fighting till the last!

(quieter)

70 I may still die for Him—but not with my sword in hand. Somewhere along the way I lost my taste for Roman blood. I lost my appetite for killing. But I didn't lose the fire within me. It still burns, unquenched by the waters of failure. Yes, the Romans still hold our land. And I still hate the way they tax us and treat our people. I still champion the cause—but my weapons have changed. My sword has been replaced by—

75 *(notices his arms out)*

—arms that embrace friend and foe.

80 My Lord, Jesus, taught us that instead of the old way of “loving our neighbor and hating our enemy” we were to “love our enemies, and pray for those who persecute” us. Yes, it took awhile to sink in; it didn't come naturally to me.

(with building intensity)

85 But with the beautiful example set by Jesus, and with the powerful Spirit of God within me, love has conquered my sword. And now I champion the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God! My fire burns on, pushing me into foreign lands, to spread the word of His gracious salvation!

He exits with a flourish on final line.

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.

