

# Revolutionary

A Play by Roger E. Weaver

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**This play was designed for use as reader's theatre.** In reader's theater, actors "perform" by reading scripts without costumes or props or with a minimum of costumes and props. A character's lines are read, not memorized.

Roger E. Weaver can be contacted at [roger@mellingerchurch.org](mailto:roger@mellingerchurch.org).



# REVOLUTIONARY

Synopsis: During the American Revolution a Mennonite named Jacob gives refuge to a British soldier. Jacob is arrested as a traitor, a crime that carries the death penalty. Through the twist and turns of this story Jacob discovers what he really believes. This story is not meant to be political in any way; it is meant for inner reflection. There is some violence so it may not be suitable for a younger audience.

## SCENE 1

(A single light slowly comes up on a couple sitting at a table reading the Bible under the light of a lamp. A wooden door is directly behind the table.)

Jacob: And Jesus sat down and he began to teach them. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled.

Conrad: (Enters from somewhere in the audience injured, breathless and fearful, obviously on the run.) The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, and he restores my soul.

Jacob: Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

(Crowd of Patriots soldiers enter with lanterns/torches and weapons making a lot of noise searching for the British soldier: Conrad)

Jacob: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Conrad: Though I walk through the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me. (Audience loses sight of him and eventually works his way behind the door)

(Patriots eventually wander out of auditorium)

Jacob: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad for great is your reward in heaven. (Pause) You are the light to the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.(Matt.5:3-12a, 14-16)

(A sudden and urgent knock at the door. Jacob and Lydia are startled. Jacob slowly rises to answer the door)

Jacob: Who's there? (Slowly open the door revealing British soldier)

Conrad: Please in the name of God let me in. Please sir, do not turn me away I need help. Oh dear Jesus help me!

Lydia: Jacob, we can't let him in. We will get into much trouble.

Conrad: Please kind sir I mean you no harm. I just need some help. I am cold and in great need. In God's holy name please help me.

Jacob: (Looks at wife non-verbal as if to say I know but...) Come in and warm yourself by the fire. We just finished our supper and I'm sure we have some left... Right dear? This is my wife Lydia and my name is Jacob what might yours be?

Conrad: Conrad

Jacob: Conrad? I thought your name was perhaps Jesus.

Conrad: What?

Jacob: Oh, there is the story in the Bible, a parable that Jesus tells about judgment day. He describes how he will decide who enters paradise; it was by how he was treated when he appeared unknown to those who claim to follow him. Jesus said that what you done for the least of these brothers of mine you've done for me. Interestingly, he came to them needing water, food, and clothing. (Matt. 25:31-46) Much like you, so I will treat you as if you are Jesus. Please sit at our table.

Conrad: Thank you...(Relaxes a bit and notices the Bible) I see your table is for food for the body and food for the soul. May I read a passage that I was just thinking about?

Jacob: Please

Conrad: I will fear no evil for you are with me; your rod and staff they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of...  
(Ps. 23: 4b-6a)

(Patriots suddenly arrive and start pounding at the door. The British soldier dives under the table.)

Jacob: Coming. Ah, who is there?

Donald: Open the door now, Jacob!

Jacob: (Opens door) Good evening Donald.

Donald: That is Colonel to you.

Jacob: Ah yes, Colonel. What may I ask are you doing out in a night like this? The weather is...

Donald: We are hunting Jacob.

Jacob: It is a bit dark for that

Donald: It is never too dark for catching a red coat. You didn't happen to see any tonight did you.

Jacob: Well I...

Donald: Think about your answer carefully. You can be arrested for harboring the enemy.

Jacob: I have no enemies I...

Donald: (Laughs) I am aware of your strange beliefs, Mennonite (Said with disdain. Looks at floor) So, Jacob did you just get in from the mill?

Jacob: No, I ...

Donald: Then whose wet footprints are these that lead right to the table? (Grab table and flip it over. There is a great struggle between Patriots and Conrad. Speak to Jacob) Just as I thought you are a traitor. Arrest both these men. You say that you do not have any enemies; well I will gladly fulfill that role. I will see to it that you will hang for this

Lydia: No!! Please no! Oh, dear Jesus!

(As the lights darken everyone exit, only sound is Lydia wailing)

## SCENE 2

(Lights come up on a jail scene: Jacob is behind bars and Captain Randal approaches, Jacob is in fervent prayer)

Randal: So you are a Mennonite?

Jacob: I am a Christian.

Randal: As am I.

Jacob: You know that Conrad the British soldier you captured is too? Strange is it not that even though we serve the same God only one of us is not imprisoned?

Randal: Not all who call on the Lord are true servants of his. As the scriptures say; on judgment day many will tell me, 'Lord, Lord, we prophesied in your name and drove out demons in your name and performed many miracles.' But, the Lord will reply, I never knew you. Depart from me. (Matt. 7:21-23)

Jacob: I see that you know the scriptures.

Randal: More than you know, I believe they are God's very words

Jacob: As do I

Randal: (This draws a slight smile) As a Mennonite you are most likely of German decent?

(Jacob nods)

Randal: So then you probably understand this. (Hand him some scraps of paper)

Jacob: (Surprised) This is a portion of the Martyrs Mirror. How, where did you get this?

Randal: There is a printing press in Lancaster Pennsylvania, I believe in Ephrata. It is run by a small group of Anabaptist called the Cloisters. They are a strange group. Do you know that they forgo all comforts of this modern age? They use wooden blocks as pillows, (Laugh) at least you are treated better in here. They are strange. A few weeks back an order came through to confiscate large quantities of books to use as wadding in our rifles. As one who does not fight the wadding is what we use to help seat the bullets in our barrels.

Jacob: I am familiar with a rifle. I enjoy venison and a mug of ale as much as the next man.

Randal: Good then I will not bore you with the fine art of marksmanship. My company was given orders to start cutting up these books in preparation for battle. One of the soldiers under me, a German fellow who is usually quite outspoken as most Germans are, he becomes really quiet. I inquire of his silence and he says nothing other than asking if he could be assigned to another detail. I know there is something in this book. I want you to read it to me.

Jacob: This book is a record of the Christians who decided long ago that to follow Christ is a choice made by an adult. It is not made for you by your family or by the government. They believed that the Bible was meant to be read by everyone and not just by the priests. They took to heart Jesus words and tried to live them out as much as they were able. Many perished for their beliefs. This is their story.

Randal: Read

(A Patriot soldier enters interrupting the dialogue bringing in Conrad)

Private: Captain, we are done questioning him and I was sent to relieve you of duty.(Puts Conrad in the cell with Jacob)

Randal: Thank you private. (Salute the private turn to Jacob as if to say something but catches himself then exit)

(As Randal walks the scene could be changed or he could move to a different part of the stage where there is a pub scene)

### SCENE 3

(Pub scene should have a fiddle player playing dancing music there should be a loud boisterous dance and song blocked. Very light hearted and fun for a few minutes. Randal enters)

Donald: (Drunk) There you are, my boy, captain (Salutes) I should say!

Randal: Good evening Colonel. I see that you are in quite high spirits.

Donald: And why not? Do you know that redcoat we caught tonight is an officer! We will all get accommodated! (Turns to the crowd) Did I tell you about our famous capture tonight?

Crowd #1: (Shouted from the back of the crowd) Only half a dozen times!

Donald: Well, I will tell it again anyway. There we were under intense fire. We were outnumbered and running out of ammo. But we out foxed those scoundrels. We set up a decoy line and flanked around the right side and took them by surprise. Then we overpowered them with our fine swordsmanship (Act it out)

(Crowd cheers)

Private: This story keeps getting better as the night goes on.

Crowd #1: What really happened?

Private: We were on patrol and stumbled on this British officer who somehow got separated from his company.

Donald: Drinks on the house!

Crowd #2: I like his version better.

Private: Me too!

Donald: Captain, how is our other prisoner?

Randal: He is frightened but otherwise okay.

Donald: Good. I'm drawing up the papers to prosecute him for treason.

Randal: Treason? Sir that is punishable by death. I'm not certain that what he did could draw the distinction of treason.

Donald: Of course it is! The man is a traitor if he were given the chance he would help all our enemies. You know he refused to serve in the army.

Randal: Well I'm sure that he paid the tax to absolve him from serving. I think he believes he was following God's Word, sir.

Donald: Then he and I are not reading the same Bible. He not only is a traitor but a heretic! He will hang for it, I will see to it! (Change tone) And when the sheriff puts his mill up for sale I will be the first in line. (Winks at Randal)

Randal: I know that you wanted to buy Jacobs mill for a long time but...

Donald: Let me remind you that we are servants of the law and Jacob has chosen his fate if others benefit from his poor choices then so be it. He is in the hands of God.

Randal: Aren't we all, sir?

Donald: Aye (Raise glass as if to toast)

(As Randal exits he observes a man pulling a woman out of the bar against her will, she pulls back)

Private: Come on girl I've seen that look before.

Woman #1: Let go of me!

Private: You are coming with me whether you want to or not!

Randal: No she is not



Private: (Not seeing Randal at first) Why don't you get lost (Turns to see Randal) ...  
Captain?

Randal: Private, What in the name of all that is decent do you think you are doing?

Private: Sir she was...

Randal: No. there is no excuse for your behavior. You are a soldier fighting for freedom, standing up for what is right. And here you are about to take away someone else's freedom. Go back to the barracks, private. I will deal with you later.

(Private and woman exit. Randal goes to side of the stage)

#### SCENE 4

Randal: (Walking then stops and looks up to heaven) Dear God, you know that I have always sought your will. I have always stood up for the poor and abandoned. I have always sought your justice in all things. Sin always seems to rear its ugly head even in the most noble of tasks. This cause, the freedom of the oppressed, seems to be tainted by the very things that we fight against. Greed and the seduction of power have infiltrated even the Sons of Freedom. Show me your will oh Father.

Randal & Jacob: (Lights come up on Jacob. Quick transition) Show me your will, oh Father. (Lights Fade on Randal. He exits)

Jacob: Oh God I know that your hand is on me because you gave me a portion of Martyrs Mirror. I thank you for this encouragement. May I have even just a little faith like my forefathers. (Sigh) But Father I am scared. I don't feel as courageous as they were.

Conrad: (Speaks though he appeared to be sleeping) Perhaps they were just as scared as you are?

Jacob: Oh, I thought you were sleeping.

Conrad: Are you trying to be funny? Who could sleep in here?

Jacob: (Smiling) Yes this is certainly not as nice as my straw mattress.

Conrad: (Smiles then turns serious) Thank you for trying to help me.

Jacob: I'm afraid I was not much help.

Conrad: No, your kindness is of more help than you know. (Pause) My father is a large land owner back home. I am sure that he would be more than willing to post your bail.

Jacob: No, that is not necessary I believe that is God's will for me to be here right now.

Conrad: How can you being in prison be God's will?

Jacob: Well, I suppose it boils down to choices. I chose to help you then Donald, the colonel, made a choice to put me into prison. I cannot control what others choose to do, but I will do what I believe is right. I made my choice and I would not change it.

Conrad: But, are you going to deny me the chance to return kindness for kindness? Maybe I believe that it is God's will for me to get you out of here.

Jacob: (Smiles) I cannot stop you from making your choice, (Turns and says to self) but somehow I do not think that is how this will end. (Lights fade)

## SCENE 5

(Lights come up somewhere outside the prison)

Randal: I know you are not pleased with me but there consequences for your choices last night private.

Private: But she is... (Realizes he is out of line) May I speak freely- Sir.

Randal: Permission granted.

Private: Sir, she is just a whore.

Randal: So then there was an agreement on the price?

Soldier#1: She was asking too much so I ...

Randal: So not only are you admitting that you were going to commit adultery and prostitution but possibly rape! Soldier, you are the one who should be in prison! Now go and clean out the privy before I change my mind. (Randal exits)

Donald: (Enters from opposite direction) Lad, I hear you got latrine duty. Sorry to hear that. I never like to see a man punished for just being a man.

Private: Sir you were there, you can understand the situation?

Donald: Absolutely. She certainly led you along. Yes it is too bad. What a shame.

Private: Sir, you are the ranking officer, you could change that.

Donald: (Pats soldier on shoulder) Your right. Let me see what I can do. But in the mean time you need to obey your orders.

Private: Thank you, sir. I just wish that 'righteous Randal' was as understanding as you are. (Exits)

Donald: (To self) Yes, my boy I am understanding. I understand people and the power of resentment. (Exits)

## SCENE 6

(Lights come up in prison. Conrad looking out the 'window'. A guard sitting at a desk)

Jacob: You seem nervous is something wrong?

Conrad: (Distracted) Ah, no it is just... I mean who would not be nervous being captured by the enemy.

Jacob: True.

Randal: (Enters) Good morning 'gentlemen'. I have a few questions I would like to ask...

Conrad: Like I told your men last night, I am not going to tell you anything!

Randal: Actually I meant Jacob.

Conrad: (Confused) Oh

Donald: (Bursts in) What a splendid morning! I trust you all slept well in our wonderful accommodations? (Mocking bow)

Conrad: (Sarcastic) I can't remember a more restful night.

Donald: (British accent) Brilliant! Then I am sure that you will enjoy our famous chef Pierre's paste, I mean porridge.

Conrad: I can't wait.

Randal: You probably do.

Donald: I have good news to report that your stay will be extended due to the fact the local magistrate is out of town. So your treason trial will have to wait, Jacob.

Randal: Sir, do you think...

Donald: (Sharp) Captain! We already discussed this issue. Jacob made his choice...

Conrad: (Interrupting) Sir he is innocent because I forced my way in. I threatened him and his wife.

Donald: Nice try but you had no weapon and he could have bolted his door. And it was obvious that he was hiding you because he could have easily directed us to you. (To Jacob) You will get your justice God will see to it!

Conrad: God will? How can you invoke God's name? (To the Patriots) All of you are the ones guilty treason and disobeying God's word! The Bible is clear that we are to submit to the king. (1 Peter 2: 13, 14)

Donald: Don't you dare quote scripture to me! This war was brought on by 'your' king and his parliament when they had those innocent people slaughtered in Boston Massacre. The king and his puppets are leeches sucking the life out of this land. We are fighting against this oppressive regime not unlike the children of Israel did in the Old Testament. God is surely on our side. You are fortunate that you are an officer and have some value or I would kill you were you stand now. (Pause then exit)

Conrad: (Looking again out the window seeming nervous then speaks to Randal) You don't believe that do you?

Randal: He has a point. How can we serve a king who taxes us into poverty?

Conrad: Are we not supposed to give to Caesar what is Caesar's as the Bible says? (Matt. 22:21)

Randal: Yes, but are we to give allegiance to a King who kills innocent people. As Peter said in the Bible, "We must obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29)

Conrad: I heard that the so called Boston Massacre was brought on by the people who were rioting.

Randal: I'm sure that your government made sure that is what you heard in order to justify their actions.

Conrad: The same could be said of you.

(Pause with Conrad and Randal staring at each other)

Jacob: Brothers, I believe it is the desire of all of us to serve God but do you think that we are to do that with guns and swords?

Randal: Throughout the Bible God has used war to bring justice and peace.

Conrad: Yes!

Jacob: But when I read Jesus words in the Sermon on the Mount and the beatitudes (Matt. 5) I cannot believe that this war is Gods desire.

Randal: Hebrews 13:8 says that, 'Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever.' He used the sword in the past and he will continue to bring about justice and freedom for the oppressed.

(Conrad suddenly covers Jacob and there is an explosion that creates an opening in the prison war and injures Randal)

Conrad: Come on Jacob this is our chance! (Start to exit)

Jacob: (Sees that Randal and guard are hurt and is conflicted between escaping or helping) Go on without me! (He goes over to the guard)

Conrad: Come on!

(Conrad sees Donald and Private enter and he exits. Private is carrying a gun)

Donald: (Yells to Private) Shoot him he is escaping! (Pointing at Jacob)

(Jacob reacts and covers his head)

Randal: (Comes to and sees Private taking aim at Jacob and rushes in to stop) No!! Don't shoot he is not escaping. Go after the British soldier!

(Private is confused)

Donald: (Changing his mind angrily) You heard him! Go don't let that red coat escape!

(Private exits and lights fade)

## **SCENE 7**

(Lights come up with Lydia kneeling in prayer with a Bible in her lap)

Lydia: (Sighs looks heavenward) The earth is the Lords and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. (Ps. 24:1) Father I know that you are in control of all things but right now I feel that everything is out of control. I know I need to trust you please help me over come my fear. Please stay close to Jacob, give him strength to remain faithful. I thank you that you have spared his life, even during the prison break. I know it may seem selfish but please bring him home to his family. I need him... (Humbly submit) I know- I need you. (Stand) Thank you for the prayers of your people and the help that they have offered those far to our family. I will take courage in the scripture that you gave to this morning. (Read from Bible) Psalms 102: 18-22. Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the Lord: The Lord looked down from on high, from heaven he viewed the earth, to hear the groans of the prisoners and release those condemned to death. So the name of the Lord will be declared in Zion and his praise in Jerusalem when the peoples and kingdoms assemble to worship the Lord.

(Lights fade)

## **SCENE 8**

(Lights come up on Jacob at another location. Quick transition so that Lydia and Jacobs words follow each other)

Jacob: Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he, who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. (Ps. 100: 2-3) Thank you Lord, thank you for the encouragement that you gave me through your scriptures and through this portion of the Martyrs Mirror. There are many stories of those who faced even more torment than I and you gave them the strength to be faithful even until death. Lord, I must be honest I am still scared but I sense a deep peace, your peace that comforts my inmost. (Kneel and bow) Thank you. Thank for a peace that passes all understanding. (Php. 4:7) Thank you...

(Song? Lights fade after song)

## **SCENE 9**

(Lights come up on Lydia inside her house. Donald and Private enter stage and approach the house)

Donald: You stay here and keep watch. I will go in and interrogate Jacobs's wife. I believe that the whole family is cahoots with the British. Keep a sharp eye; sharpen than you did when you failed to track that officer who escaped from our prison.

Private: It was an organized attack, sir. They got away on horseback there was no way that...

Donald: Look private, I'm not asking for excuses. I know you are the best marksman of our unit but if you want to move up in rank you need to make good choices and follow orders.

Private: Yes sir. (Salute)

Donald: (Knocks on door) This is the Continental Army please open the door.

Lydia: (Scared slowly opens the door. She keeps eyes down) Yes, Donald... I mean Colonel, how may I help you?

Donald: (Shuts the door and changes to a soft tone of voice) Dear Lydia, I came to inform you that we have just got word from the magistrate that he is going to follow through with Jacob's treason trial. This is very serious. Now I know that I said some harsh words the night that he was arrested but I think you understand that everyone's emotions were a quite high.

Lydia: I suppose...

Donald: I do have some good news the magistrate indicated that he will forgo the trial if Jacob pays the fine.

Lydia: (Brighter) Really what might that be?

Donald: It is rather expensive, around (Market value of a mill in the mid 1700's).

Lydia: Oh my... We don't have that kind of money

Donald: That's too bad. (Pause) Wait you know your property is probably worth that. I'm sure there would be plenty of interested buyers.

Lydia: But that is our livelihood. I'm sure that Jacob would never want me to sell this land. The only way for us to sustain our family is through our mill. If we sold it we would have nothing

Donald: (Firmer) You are banking Jacobs's life on it.

Lydia: I need to talk to Jacob. We should pray about it.

Donald: There is no time because the magistrate is requiring us to bring Jacob to him since he is tied up with business.

Lydia: This doesn't feel right. It seems so sudden. I feel that I need to trust God.

Donald: You don't have to do any trusting if you sold it you would have Jacob. So what is your answer?

Lydia: I suppose. (pause close eyes take a deep breath in) No. (Kneels in prayer as Donald leaves)

Donald: Fine. Good day (Bows and exits house. Then speaks to Private) It was just as I suspected the whole family is in league with the enemy.

Private: Then we should arrest them all!

Donald: No, we don't have enough proof. You've seen, first hand, how the enemy has got a foothold in this town. Jacob is probably the ringleader. If only the magistrate was here then Jacob would hang. The sooner this is done the better.

Private: You say the sooner it is done the better?

Donald: That's right; we all know that he is going to die for his crimes anyway. And the longer he is around the more dangerous it is for everyone.

Private: Sir what if we take care of him before they attack us again.

Donald: Yes, that is an excellent idea. (Act as if this is a new thought) Why don't we make a decision to take him to the magistrate tonight and you can make sure he never arrives. We can make it look like an ambush. You go get set up on the hillside on the road leading outside of town and I will bring you a target Mr. Marksman. Mr. Sergeant.

Private: (Excited) Sergeant? Yes sir! (Exit)

Donald: (Looks back at the house) We will see how long she can hold onto this property when her husband is dead (Exit)

(Lights fade)

## **SCENE 10**

(Lights come up in temporary/repared prison. This scene should be done as two people who respect each other not as a heated argument)

Jacob: (Singing a song from the time period not very well)

Randal: (Enters) Your singing?

Jacob: Well the Bible does say, 'make a joyful noise'. (Ps. 98:4 KJV)

Randal: Then you are succeeding unless my ears are damaged from the blast.



Jacob: I'm sure your hearing is just fine. It's good that God listens to my heart more than voice.

Randal: (Laughing) Jacob you are a peculiar person. (Serious) Why didn't you escape when you had a chance?

Jacob: It had a lot to do with the Martyrs Mirror you gave me.

Randal: How so?

Jacob: There is a story in there of Dirk Willems who was arrested as a re-baptizer but he was able to escape. He ran and made it across a newly frozen river but his pursuer did not. Dirk heard the thief catcher's cries for help and even though he was free he turned around and ventured out on the thin ice again. He risked his life to save his pursuer. After Dirk pulled the man to safety he was taken into custody. For his act of kindness he was later burned at the stake.

Randal: (Turns and looks off in the distance) No greater love has a man than this that he lay down his life. (Jn. 15:13)

Jacob: Jesus' words.

Randal: Yes, words that I hold very dear

Jacob: Me too.

Randal: I know that Jesus was talking about himself and his death but I think there is a broader meaning to 'laying down life'. I think it could mean more than just dying. No greater love has someone who sacrifices for the sake of others. That is what I am doing I am giving up everything to make this land free. (Pause) But according to you what I am doing is wrong.

Jacob: I do not doubt that it is your heart's desire to serve God. I suppose what I am uncertain about is the necessity of violence.

Randal: Violence is throughout the scriptures. War is like the poor it will always be among us. There are consequences for evil choices. How can you read it any other way?

Jacob: I read everything through Christ's words. Jesus is God so I take his words seriously.

Randal: Hold on. The Bible says that 'All scripture is God breathed'. All scripture is inspired by God. What you are saying is that some portions are more important than others. That sounds a lot like heresy to me.

Jacob: No, I agree that all scripture is 'God breathed'. I'm not sure how to explain it. (Thinking) The Bible is a complete story and the story of God's redemption is main theme. The Old Testament prophecies and points to Jesus and the New Testament helps to direct us to the risen Lord. Both point to Jesus. (Gesture with hands creating a point) I guess it's like Jesus is the top of the mountain and everything flows down from there. When I read scripture I always think about how it fits in with Jesus.

Randal: Interesting. (Pause) Then what do you do with a verse like the one where Jesus says, "Do you think that I came to bring peace? No but division." (Lk. 12:51)

Jacob: In that passage I believe Jesus is warning us that when we choose to follow him other people, even loved ones, will oppose that choice. In this life not everyone will be pleased by our decisions. And Jesus teaches us to love them even if they align themselves as our enemy and persecute us. Jesus said, "You have heard it said: Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I tell you to love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you that you may be sons of your Father in heaven." (Matt. 5:43-45a)

Randal: (Pause looking off in the distance) I can't help but feel that you are picking out portions of scripture that support your beliefs and ignore the rest.

Jacob: I pray not. It is my desire to live out Jesus words.

Randal: You said all scripture points to Jesus but what about the book of Revelation. You know that in that book Jesus is described as a warrior who dispenses God's wrath. Revelation is full of violence most of which is brought about by God himself.

Jacob: God is God. He is perfect, he alone can judge. He will reward or condemn people for their choices.

Randal: What if God wants to bring his justice through you?

Jacob: No, I...

Randal: The scriptures are clear that God has put into place authorities to punish those who do wrong. (Peter 2: 14) Do you have a problem with those who prevent and punish evil?

Jacob: No

Randal: Then why is it wrong to serve in the military?

Jacob: For me, I could not take a man's life.

Randal: But what if it is Gods judgment?

Jacob: If I were to end a man's life I end his chance to make himself right with God. I remove redemption.

Randal: Everyone has an appointed time to enter eternity. It is God who would as you say remove redemption and he may bring it about through you.

Jacob: NO! It can't come through me that would be a sin.

Randal: So I am a sinner?

Jacob: That is not what I am saying. (Pause) Please I am not saying these things in arrogance. Romans 14 says, "Accept him whose faith is weak without passing judgment on disputable matters." (Kneeling) Please accept me as the weaker brother because for me it would be a sin.

Randal: (Soft) Jacob, I don't claim to have all the answers, I am not necessarily the strong brother. I think we have much that we can learn from each other. (Reach down and offer Jacob a hand and help him to rise to his feet) We are brothers.

(Donald and a soldier burst in. While Donald speaks the soldier ties up Jacob)

Donald: Let's move out! Here are the papers for Jacob's trial. (Hand to Randal) We are going to the magistrate since he is too tied up to make the journey here.

Randal: Tonight?

Donald: Yes, now.

Randal: But it's getting dark.

Donald: Then we better hurry. Come on traitor let's go.

(Jacob and soldier exit)

Donald: What were you doing shaking his hand? Don't let that man corrupt you thinking.

Randal: True corruption begins when a person becomes focused on himself. When they believe they deserve the world and they reject any knowledge other than their own.

(Both exit)

## **SCENE 11**

(Donald leads the group through audience. Donald has a rifle and the soldier is carrying a lantern)

Randal: Sir, why are we going this way? The British have been known to patrol this road.

Donald: It's the fastest way and besides I'm sure since the escape they will be laying low for awhile.

(Private is seen by audience in a 'hidden' location preparing to be a sniper. When it appears that he is going to shoot a gunshot is heard but not from him. Private is fact the one who is hit. Everyone ducks looking around to see where the shot came from. Randal draws his sword.)

Donald: Attack! (He sees that Jacob is not hit after multiple shots fired he realizes it is in fact an attack) It really is an attack! Defend yourselves!

(Soldier drops lantern runs away)

Donald: (sees soldier run) Coward! (He sees everything spinning out of control so he takes aim at Jacob) Careful don't get caught in the crossfire!

(Jacob sees Donald taking aim at him and tries to cover himself but Donald gets shot. Randal is protecting Jacob when someone charges from the rear of the auditorium. Randal rises to meet the challenger. On center stage they meet, it is Conrad.)

Randal: Conrad? (His sword lowers a bit)

(Another clear shot is heard and Randal is hit dropping him to the floor.)

Conrad: (Notices Jacob) Jacob? (Yells to an unseen person) Hold you fire!

Jacob: Randal, Randal are you okay?

Randal: Jacob, Jesus said that those who draw the sword will die by the sword. (Matt. 26:52) I choose this. I am giving so that others may live. (Labored breathing)

Jacob: No greater love, my brother.

(Randal dies)

Conrad: (Sighs) He was an honorable man. Here let me help you with this. (Cuts ropes off hand then notices something on Randal) What is this? (Pulls papers from Randal's hands and looks at them. The papers have blood on them) It appears these are your conviction papers. But where are your accusers? (Look around) I guess this means you are a free man. (Hands papers to Jacob and then exits)

## SCENE 11

(Single spot on Jacob with a soft but building musical underscore)

Jacob: (Stand looking at papers) A free man but at what cost? These papers are stained with blood. And because of this blood I am free. (Sighs) Why most blood be spilt? Every land everywhere is stained with blood. Why since Jesus sacrificed once and for all (Heb. 9:26) is there any need for more blood? This world's thirst for blood is unquenchable. (Pause) I know the everlasting peace that I wish to see will only be found when we enter into the eternal presence of God. (Pause) But until that time I am here on this earth and by my choices and Gods leading I am where I am. The question before me is: Will I shine the light. Regardless where I find myself will I find the courage to shine that light of Jesus? Will I show the world that there is a peace, a deep inner peace, one that transforms from the inside out; one that can change the world? Jesus says in Matthew 5: 14, "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on a stand, (Picks up lantern dropped by the soldier) and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." No matter where you find yourself- Shine the light!

(Suddenly there is a groaning coming from the 'dead')

Donald: Help, someone please help me...

Jacob: (Jacob realizes Donald is still alive and is torn whether to run or come to his aid. He then turns and goes to Donald and knells beside him and looks out to the audience and speaks with uncertainty) I am here.

(Lights fade)

