**Zacchaeus: The Musical**

**Cast list**

Jesus Christ

Zacchaeus

Miriam, love interest of Zacchaeus

Rachel, mother of Zacchaeus

Ezra, father of Zacchaeus

Judah the Merchant

Phineas, Jericho’s Chief tax collector

Jachim, tax collector in training

2 Midwives that assist Rachel

Bartimaeus the blind beggar

Debra, daughter of Zacchaeus

Roman soldierTrio, employed by Phineas

Dysmas, repentant Thief on the Cross

Gestas, reviling Thief on the Cross

Mary mother of Jesus

John the Baptizer

Rabbi Samuel

Pharisee quartet

Singing Soldiers

The People of Jericho choir

Women of Jerusalem Choir

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*(Lights up in bedroom scene with two concerned looking midwives tending to a newborn as Rachel, the fatigued mother tries to hear what they are saying about her baby, Zacchaeus, who is sickly, small and not expected to survive.)*

**Song: “Day of Small Beginnings”**

Midwives: Rachel, your son has finally arrived

Without God he would never have survived

He's perfect but so small

A wonder he's here at all

Now we must place him

In the loving hands of God

Rachel: Where is my baby?

Kindle every lamp and bring him into the light

I knew he'd come early

Please ladies tell me now if my son will be alright

Midwives: Rachel he's tiny and he's very pale

Still perfect and right in every detail

Each moment you share

Is an answer to many prayers

Now we must place him

In the loving hands of God

Rachel: Place him in God's hands?

I have only held him for a moment in mine

Don't tell my husband

Just let me be alone with my son and my God for a time

**Song: "Lullaby prayer"**

"Oh my precious baby boy

My heart, my life, my joy

You came too early and now it's too late

For us to wait for a better time

Son of mine, son of mine...

Tiny baby mine

Heaven's work of art

Lying in my arms

Head upon my heart

Singing from my soul

Love in every line

Every song is yours

Tiny son of mine

Let my embrace become your bed

A place to lay down your sweet head

But please don't close your eyes just yet

Look at me, and may the last thing you see

Be my smile

As you sleep for a time

Son of mine

Have mercy on my son and me

Fulfill your righteous decree

May my son, your righteousness proclaim

“Zacchaeus”, that shall be your name

*(pauses, looks at baby...weeps...and then, as if she has had a revelation...)*

**Spoken**: That is what we will name you; "Righteous man”. Zacchaeus. Yes! *(embraces the baby)* Oh...Hear me, my son...you must live and declare the righteousness of God...this shall be your destiny...live and declare the righteousness of God...Zacchaeus!"

*(lights fade out*)

*Play Video Short*

**Description***: Since the sycamore tree is central to the story, we begin with a shot of a sycamore seedling waving in the wind, battered by rain in the night and scorched by sun in the day growing into a sapling. We cut to a few other shots of the area around ancient Jericho, with palm trees and the high walls. Then we hear a large group of people marching. Our POV is at knee level. As the sound of footsteps approach, we suddenly see one sandaled set of feet step directly on the tiny tree, bending it down. Then our POV widens to see hundreds of sandaled feet approaching the walls of Jericho. And then the POV swivels around to show the backs of thousands of Israelites, with the priests about to lift shofars (ram's horns) to their mouths to blow. As they do, the walled fortified city of Jericho begins to shake and the massive structure begins to break apart. The high retaining wall crumbles, creating a ramp of sorts for the Israelites to ascend and conquer the city. We see this all from the POV of the little sycamore tree. The sound of war cries fade as the camera swivels slowly back to the battered little tree. Night and day flash rapidly forward as the sycamore grows larger and larger until it is a mighty tree, the topography changing around it. Our eyes are drawn to the base of the trunk as we hear children laughing and playing. Eventually, some sort of primitive ball (something kids would have played with in Israel circa 5-10AD) rolls against the trunk and kids gather around, laughing, but deliberately excluding a smaller boy. They take his ball, and leave quickly. We see the boy’s dejected face, a tear rolling down his cheek up close. Then the POV changes to a nest of branches looking down at young Zacch, who looks up, wipes away the tears and begins to climb up the tree toward the camera. We see his countenance getting more joyful the higher he climbs. We then see him sitting, high above those who made fun of him, surveying the panoramic view of Jericho, the new Jericho over a thousand years later than when the sycamore was a sapling. He looks at his town, looks at the tree, almost like a newfound friend. The camera pulls back and we see Zacchaeus sitting in the branches which freezes and morphs into the "Zacchaeus: The Musical” logo. The music swells, the logo fades to black and the words 15 years later appear and then fade to black.*

*(lights up on Jericho city street with Ezra and his crew working. There's a flurry of activity with people walking across the stage and bartering for things. Money is exchanging hands, and lots of commerce is happening. There is a cart with a big stack of palm tree logs on it, and one heavier looking one on the ground...it needs to be big. Ezra's work crew of three other men are exhausted as Ezra enters the space.)*

**Song: “Lord Save us now”**

Ezra: We earn our living by the sweat of our brow

Come on men lift the other end

You can't look back with your hand on the plow

We'll be resting when we load the last of them

Judah the Merchant: With King Herod's craving

To build vacation homes here clearly out of control

Such simple appraising

Ezra, you and I will soon be swimming in gold

Ezra: It's a pleasure doing business with you

My old friend, may this never end

But hide your gold before the Romans come through

Or the tax rats will steal it away from you

Judah: speaking of Phineas

I know for a fact he's taking more than his share

He pays off the soldiers

They look the other way as he robs us

but they don't care

Duet: We've been abused more than most could withstand

But when the Messiah at last rules our land

The Romans will cower while Israel stands

All: Lord save us now Lord save us now

Ezra: Until that time keep an eye on your gold

Hold it tight be prepared to fight

God will favor our righteous cause

He will see our plight and restore things aright

Judah: I had such high hopes

For John down by the Jordan preaching right over there

He can't be Messiah

He's baptizing Gentiles and even leads soldiers in prayer

All: When the Messiah comes he'll set us free

The Romans will run and the taxrats will flee

The nations will bow at His righteous decree

Lord save us now Lord save us now

Ezra: When The Messiah comes to THIS town, we'll see the Romans sent back to Hell from whence they came...Along with their best friends...THE TAX COLLECTORS!!! *(cheers go up just before Ezra sings)*

**Song: "Here In Jericho"**

Ezra: Long ago here in Jericho we stared up at fortified walls

They were tall

We were small

And so afraid...

Joshua had commanded us

March 6 days without a sound

All around this whole town

But on the seventh day...

All: The trumpets released the victory sound

That's when the walls came crumbling down

The power of God crushed them to the ground

Here in Jericho! (2x)

Ezra: Once again here in Jericho

We're hemmed in by different walls

They're still tall

And we are small

and so afraid...

Now it's Rome who imprisons us

With taxes and tariffs and tolls

But from old

We've been told

That someday...

All: When the Messiah comes to this town

We'll see the walls come tumbling down

The power of God will crush Rome to the ground

Here in Jericho! (2x)

All: When the Messiah comes to this town

We'll see the walls come tumbling down

The power of God will crush Rome to the ground

Here in Jericho! (2x)

Here in Jericho!

*(Roman war drums begin as soldiers process in, Phineas hobbling with his walking stick confidently behind, smiling and singing. People panic, and quickly put their money behind their backs, and try to act calm, but they are afraid and angry at the same time.)*

**Song: "Here we go”**

Roman soldiers: Ahhhhh here we go, here we go, here we go

It’s tax time here in Jericho (2x)

Phineas: My name is Phineas, I am your servant

I am Jew like you, yet I serve Rome

If you should have some tax related queries

Call on me anytime

Shalom!

If you come my way

You're obliged to pay

The portion that Rome demands today

And if you're so bold

To try to hide your gold

Rome will insure that you'll never grow old

Soldiers: Pay up, pay in, pay out!

Phineas: It is collection time

Soldiers: Rome will not go without!

Phineas: Resistance is a crime

Soldiers: Tax time, without a doubt!

Phineas: Rome will have her due

Phineas: Empty your purses now,

And that means ALL of you! (2x)

Phineas and Soldiers: Here we go, here we go, here we go

It’s tax time here in Jericho

Here we go, here we go, here we go

It’s tax time…

Soldiers: Here in Jericho!

Phineas: You have no right

To fuss or to fight

The bread that you hide

All soldiers: Rome wants a bite

If you have the gall

To not heed the call

We won't take just a bite

All soldiers: We will take it all!

Soldiers: Pay up, pay in, pay out!

Phineas: It is collection time

Soldiers: Rome will not go without!

Phineas: Resistance is a crime

Soldiers: Tax time, without a doubt!

Phineas: Rome will have her due

Phineas: Empty your purses now,

And that means ALL of you!

Phineas: Ladies and Gentlemen here in Jericho

I know to you tax time is unbearable

But as you know, Rome is so incredible

Soldiers: Pax Romana!

Phineas: It’s such a miracle

Rome lends you peace, they need collateral

Rome and Jews, you say,

Ezra and other men: We’re incompatible!

Phineas: Not true Jews, you're just so flammable

But I was one of you so it's understandable

We get concerned when your speech is so cynical, critical, terrible, you're all acting hysterical

Why not confess that Caesar is infallible?

Why get yourself killed? Don't be irrational

Don't you know without Rome you'd all be animals or cannibals?

You Rome-hating radicals!

Time to pay your fair share here we go

It's tax time...here in Jericho!

Phineas and soldiers: Here we go, here we go, here we go

It’s tax time here in Jericho (2x)

No one will fall through the cracks

Everyone must pay their fair share of tax (4x)

Here we go here we go here we go

It's tax time here in Jericho (2x)

*(soldiers leave with their spoils as the people of Jericho mourn)*

**Song: "Serving a new Pharaoh"**

All: Egypt is so far away

We left there long ago

But it feels like we're still slaves today

Serving a new pharaoh

Oh...Ah

*(lights focus on Zach's father, who comes front and center to count what's left of his profits, when Zach enters hurriedly, somewhat out of breath, and a bit clumsily into the scene from the center aisle and up onto the stage)*

**Song: “Go Home”**

Zacchaeus: Sorry that I'm late father,

I came just as soon as I could

Ezra: I don't know why you even bother,

Zacchaeus this is no place for you

Zacch: But every other son works with his father

Ezra: I've told you many times, work with your mother

Zacch: It doesn't feel right,

Why am I always out of sight?

Am I so very different from my brothers left and right? *(points to two young men standing on either side of him, much taller than him)*

Zacch: Every son here helps his father

I'll work even harder than them

Ezra: I almost lost you once Zacchaeus,

I swore it would not happen again

But you're a fine accountant, crunch my numbers

Zacch: Let me use an axe and lift some lumber

Ezra: I may sound impolite

But son, you'll never have the height

My workers must be big,

And these would snap you like a twig

*(snaps a twig in front of Zacch for emphasis)*

Please my son, don’t interfere

The danger present is severe

What about this is unclear?

I do not want to do this here

Zacch: Every day you are distressed

Let me help you get some rest

Father, put me to the test

This is all that I request!

Ezra: Break time is done, listen to me everyone

It's time to get back to work

These trees will not cut themselves

The lumber won't fly to town

or end up on the shelf!

All: It's time to get back to work

Those trees will not cut themselves

The lumber won't fly to town

And get up on the shelf (4x)

Zacch: I want to help

Father won't you listen?

Give me a chance to prove myself! (2x)

Zacch: Every day the same old story

Every day you will ignore me

All we do is fuss and argue

All I want to do is help you

Ezra: You know you could have prevented

What today you have invented

You know I did not invite this

Son you came here to incite this

You could have listened

You could have let me be

Instead you came again

Just to embarrass me!

Go home, get lost!

You're too small, you're too soft!

I can't take this again today,

We have so many bills to pay

Zacch: You're wrong, I can,

I'm strong, I'm a man!

But you never see the good in me

You never let me disagree

All: Go home, get lost!

You're too small, you're too soft!

Go back to your abucus

Men: And wear your sister's pretty dress…hahahahahaha

Zacch: All of my life

Every day every night

You treat me like a refugee

And none of you included me

All: With your father we agree

Your idiosyncrasy is you behave annoyingly

Bring shame upon your family

Ezra: Son, why is it so hard to see your place in our society?

As I’ve explained repeatedly

Don’t come here, you embarrass me!

All: Go home!!!  *(lights down, everyone frozen in tableau*

*(embarrassed and hurt, Zach walks toward stage left staircase that leads up to the sycamore tree...he climbs up as the music intro begins. All is frozen in tableau in subdued light. People unfreeze and commerce continues silently when Zach sings the word "every". People gradually exit the stage until no one is left but Zacch in the tree.)*

**Song: "Something’s gotta change-Thankful for this tree"**

Zacchaeus: "Every day, it's the same thing

This is where I end up when I'm wandering

One place that they can't look down on me

From here I can see it all, this is my tree

From this tree, I see all I'm denied

Here I'm never swept off to the side

No fear, for here I see it all

And I never hear "you're just too small”

This is a place I can spend my day

Sycamore, you never care how long I stay

There is not one who looks down on me

From here I'm above them all, this is my tree

From this tree, I see all I'm denied

Here I'm never swept off to the side

No fear, for here I see it all

and I never hear "you're just too small

*(anger growing)*

Something’s gotta change

Time to rearrange

Gotta lose the chains

I gotta stop the pain

Before I go insane

But it’s not getting any better

My own father treats me like a leper

Feels like I’m everybody’s debtor

Might as well be a beggar in Jericho forever

Despite all that I can see at this height in the light at night my sight is focused back on my plight

And that’s when things are the hardest,

No catharsis here in the darkness

My life fell apart before it even started, without my mother’s prayer, my soul would have departed

I’m the biggest little mistake

That my father ever would make

So, God, I’m mystified

Why did you not let me die?

Things went awry when you heard my mother’s cry

You didn’t see all the times I was victimized?

When I was terrified?

When I was petrified?

Maybe I should finally erase

My father’s daily disgrace

This tree the very last place

I'll force him to look up at my face

This branch is where I'd tie the twine (3x)

And this tree could serve me well for the very last time

This branch is where I'll tie the twine (3x)

And this tree could serve me well for the very last time

Something’s gotta change

Time to rearrange

Gotta lose the chains

I gotta stop the pain

Before I go insane…something’s gotta change *(repeat)*

*(some tears and crying)*

I’m so thankful for this tree,

Gently holding me

And helping me to see

I’ll survive another day

No matter what they say

I'm thankful for this tree...so thankful for this tree

*(Miriam...Zach's love interest watches him singing to the tree and stands out of sight until he finishes)*

**Song: “Talking to the trees”**

Miriam: Are you talking to the trees again?

Zacch: Who's that?

Miriam: Is this the way it with all you men?

Zacch: Where are you at?

Miriam: I certainly hope this won't be happenin' when

You've got a girl to talk with you

Every night and day everything you may say

Will be heard

Every word

But if you disagree

you can spend your life talking to trees

Feel free

Zacch: So how long have you been standing there?

Miriam: Long enough

Zacch: And you were listening to my private prayer

Miriam: pretty rough

Zacch: Feel like I'm standing in my underwear

Miriam: Ew…

Zacch: I so badly needed listening ears

No one listens to you when you are as small as an ant

Unless you're a plant (points to the tree)

You might disagree but I kind like talking to trees

They listen to me

Miriam: I take it something happened with your Dad?

Zacch: That’s right

Miriam: I get the feeling it was really bad?

Zacch: Big fight!

Miriam: I know you hate it when he gets so mad

And he yells at you in front of everyone

But you’ve gotta know

That he loves you so much but he’s stressed

And I think, depressed

But I know someone else who loves you even more,

Can you guess?

Zacchaeus: A mystery lady that you say loves me?

Miriam: You bet

Zacchaeus: Is she related to me currently?

Miriam: Not yet

Zacchaeus: When is she planning to confess to me

That she’ll love me for eternity?

She’s gotta stop delaying,

I need to hear her saying “I do, I love you”

Miriam: She’ll probably hem and haw

Until you become her new son in law

Zacchaeus: What? You were talking about your mom?!

I’m going to try really hard to stay calm

Miriam: Her logic you cannot dispute

She says together you and I look really cute

Zacchaeus: But only your father can make that decree

And I’m really pretty sure that he really hates me

Miriam: My mother will prevail,

With no need to hen peck

You see, My Dad might be the head,

But my mom is the neck…

**Song: "I do"**

Zacchaeus: Do you know what you're getting into?

I do, but do you?

It's hard for my heart to believe you,

But I do, yes, I do

Miriam: Yes our God knows it’s true

Hear me, would I lie to you?

You wonder if I love you

Truly I can say that I do

Zacch: There are so many things I haven't told you

I never dreamed that I would ever get to hold you

I never thought I'd never have what it takes

To forsake and make a break from a

Lifetime of heart ache

It's not you, it's me, see,

I'm scared that we might never be a family

Because of me

'cause in my future I for-see

Me only

Old and lonely

*(Miriam moves closer as if to say, let me reassure you)*

Duet:

Zacchaeus: Do you know what you're getting into?

I do, but do you?

It's hard for my heart to believe you,

But I do, yes, I do

Miriam: Yes our God knows it’s true

Hear me, would I lie to you?

You wonder if I love you

Truly I can say that I do

I do, I do, I do, I do…

*(They end by singing "I do" together and look awkwardly at each other holding hands, until they quickly pull their hands apart when they realize Zacchaeus' father, Ezra is coming back into the scene...they scramble behind and up the tree to hide...the Rabbi begins to measure out coins paying Ezra for a job well done as Phineas the tax collector walks into the scene with his cane flanked by three big Roman soldiers a moment later)*

Rabbi: One two three four

Because you do such good work

I'll give you some more

Five six seven eight

The wood work on our synagogue looks great

Nine ten eleven twelve

Could not have done it better if I’d done it myself

Thirteen fourteen fifteen and done

You know I love you Ezra like my favorite son

Ezra: so nice just to visit with you

It fills my heart with joy

It's a pleasure doing business with you

I love to have my skills employed

Rabbi: Oh, Ezra don’t look now…Phineas

Phineas: I clearly saw your financial transaction

You’re obligated now to give Rome a fraction

Is there something Ezra maybe you forgot?

Take your time now…give it some thought

Ezra: Now that you mention it, I was just thinking

Something very close to me is seriously stinking

Maybe someone over here has forgotten

To dump a chamber pot ‘cause it's getting pretty rotten

A sewage waste disposer

This most disgusting odor

Would make a drunk man sober

The smell is getting closer

Phineas: Ha…flattery will never get you too far friend

I’m just here to tie up some of your loose ends

I know you value brevity

So I'll dispense with pleasantries

and remind you of the penalty

You’ll suffer for avoiding me

This I guarantee

You speak to me dismissively

I’ll use my own authority

And change your life expectancy

Ezra: Just once I'd like to meet you

So pleasantly I’d greet you

So Kindly I would treat you

Then take your cane and beat you

If your friends were not around

No one would hear a sound

Your body never found

They would think that you had drowned

Phineas: Regrettably this meeting, Ezra, is adjourned

I have to say my friend I’m really quite concerned

By now, I thought a smart man like you would have learned

Touch the fire son, and you will burn

Touch the fire son, and you will burn

Touch the fire son, and you will burn

Touch the fire son, and you will burn!

*(The Roman soldiers have put Ezra down on the ground. He is beaten and he knows it. The soldiers laugh, as does Phineas and he hobbles off. Ezra limps away, a broken man, and exits the other side of the stage, as Zacch looks on from the tree with Miriam)*

**Song: “Did you see that?”**

Zacch: Did you see that? How they handled him?

Did you see that?

Miriam: There's nothing we can do

Zacch: Did you see that? How they saddled him?

Did you see that?

Miriam: I know, I hate it too

Zacch: Father was powerless in this scenario

There's no stronger man in the city of Jericho

The tax rat was able to saddle and ride

With two Roman soldiers there by his side

I have to go, I'm sorry Miriam, I have to go

Miriam: And now you're leaving me?

Zacchaeus: I need to go,

Important meeting now, I need to go

Miriam: Perhaps another tree?

Zacchaeus: If you're correct

And your father gives you to me

I need to prove I can do more than climb a tree

I need to show him that I am a man

And now I have a master plan

Don’t worry Angel, I’ll be back before you know it

There’s a golden opportunity in front of me and I’m not gonna blow it

Miriam: Zacchaeus, why are you acting so strange?

Zacch: Finally I see a clear path to real change!

If I can’t make my father proud,

I can make him jealous

If we can’t please the crowd,

We can make them not forget us

No more coming up short

Everything can change if I have your support

Miriam: Of course, of course, of course

This life is fragile

That is reality

Uncertainties and mysteries abound, we agree

You head is filled with doubts

But here’s my guarantee

I’ll meet you here tomorrow

By our favorite tree

Hey! You need to listen to me

If only you could see who you are to me

And stop listening to all those old lies

Please just accept this, Zacchaeus…

You’re perfect in my eyes

*(lights fade to black)*

*(lights up on house left corner where Phineas sits while he and the soldiers eat and drink, only half listening to Zacchaeus as he comes to as for a job)*

**Song: “The Interview”**

Phineas: State your business make it fast

I'm tired and I'm fading fast

Sleeping three hours must suffice

For staying rich I pay this price

Zacchaeus: Sir, Zacchaeus is my name

I'm not rich, I have no fame

But I have one thing that you need

Would you like me to proceed?

Phineas: I have no need of any charity

I'm rather proud of my unpopularity

Zacch: Here is the punchline

I have a gold mine

And I’ll share it if you hire me

Phineas: I would not listen but for this

When I see you I reminisce

God has shorted both of us

But hatred gives us both our guts

But because you’re unsolicited

I am not that interested

Zacch: Wait, wait, please Sir, Just hear me out

Trust me, you will want hear what this is all about

*(The Soldiers stand up to grab him, but he starts singing the next tune to calm them down and they do)*

**Song: "You could use a little help around here"**

Zacchaeus: Pardon me, but I can see

That you're in a bind

If I'm in the mix I can fix

What's way out of line

Hey, I'll admit

It seems a bit

Cheeky and brash

But you are losing cash

'cause everyone in this town has a secret stash

I've been told

You make more gold

The more you can tax

It's all a mess

You can't assess

But I know the facts

So small, this rat

Even a cat

Won't know he's around

They won't hear a sound

And I'll make sure what you've lost will be found

You need me to maximize your bottom line

All I ask is that you compensate me for my time

I'll keep talking just as long as you will lend me your ear

I can see you could use a little help around here

You could use a little help

If you'll allow

Watch me now

And see what I mean

You won't regret

The loot you'll get

It's almost obscene

I can make

The numbers say

Whatever you need

If we are agreed

Put me to work for you and I'll succeed

You need me to maximize your bottom line

All I ask is that you compensate me for my time

I'll keep talking just as long as you will lend me your ear

I can see you could use a little help around here

There's a convenient leak in Jericho's coin purse

I've seen the gold drip from their bags

It finds its way right into their pockets

Gold you're unable, unable, unable to tax

You need me to maximize your bottom line

All I ask is that you compensate me for my time

I'll keep talking just as long as you will lend me your ear

I can see you could use a little help around here *(repeat)*

You could use a little help around here!

**Song: “You’re hired”**

Phineas: I see so much of me in you

This is what I'm willing to do

Tell me who is hiding their gold

And 10 percent of it I'll withhold

This will be for you momentous

I will make you my apprentice

Slither underneath their grass

And untold wealth we will amass

Zacch: For real?

Phineas: It's a deal *(handshake)*

I'll make you rich and you'll make me laugh

Zacch: Why? Is it my size?

Phineas: No, your name means “Righteous man”

Zacch: My name? I see…

My mother gave that name to me

But Jericho so painfully

Took everything away from me

And now I’m going to do the same!

**Song: “Inside Information”**

*(light up on the Jericho city scene while next instrumental plays. We see Zacchaeus describing to Phineas in pantomime where everyone’s secret stash is. Phineas begins to walk toward the people with his soldiers and Zacchaeus moves through the crowd, unseen, like a ghost and points out to Phineas where people are hiding their extra money and he orders his soldiers to find and take their money from them. They leave and the next song begins.)*

**Song: Find the Rat**

People of Jericho: Just when I think my luck is finally turning

Hard as I try to hide my daily earnings

Phineas finds a way of interfering

And all of my gold it seems is disappearing

Somewhere there's the smallest rat

That slips right through the smallest cracks

And takes what's mine and leaves me only crumbs

In the shadows there's a villain

When I find him, I will kill him

Or this city may become a slum

Who gave the right to Rome to drain our wells here?

Rome wins the fight with millions of sharp spears

Lord where are you, when will you send Messiah?

Hatred has filled my heart with one desire

Lord please give me eyes to see

The rat who robs my wealth from me

Shine your light into his hiding place

Help me hear his footsteps when

He sneaks into my house again

Finally I'll see his ugly face

We’ll find him

We’ll grind him

We will stalk and stop him

Track him down and drop him

We’ll slap him

We’ll trap him

We’ll obliterate him

We’ll eviscerate him

We’ll track him

We’ll crack him

We will apprehend him

And then we will end him

We’ll curse him

Disburse him

We will find the rat!

*(Jericho choir suddenly freezes in tableau and lights come up quickly on Zacchaeus in Miriam’s house asking for her hand in marriage from her father)*

**(Song: Zacchaeus proposes to Miriam)**

Zacchaeus: One, two, three, four

This is just the beginning and there's gonna be a whole lot more

Five, six, seven, eight

Sir I have a question, and I'm bursting so it just can't wait

Nine, ten, eleven, twelve

Now that I'm employed I can take care of a wife myself

Thirteen, fourteen, fifteen and done

May I have your daughter? Will you take me as your son?

Oh I will take her by the hand

And let God make the two of us one!

Miriam's father: Yes.

Zacch: Yes?

Miriam: Yes!

Zacch: Yes? Yes!!

*(they embrace quickly…laughter and tears as the lights quickly fade to black and the Jericho choir unfreezes and begins to sing again.)*

Jericho’s will to fight may soon be fractured

If we can’t lure the rat to soon be captured

Rome has us by the throat because of taxes

But, wait til the rat gets sloppy and relaxes

He may spy on our accounts

But we’ll be waiting here to pounce

We’ll lock him up and throw away the key

When we trap this hateful monster

We’ll unmask this great imposter

Then we’ll hang him from the highest tree

*(Fade to black and text on screen says “2 years later”)*

*(Lights up on marriage scene of Zacchaeus and Miriam...they stand under the prayer shawl with the Rabbi in the middle. and all the guests gathered around)*

**Song: "Fire of Love"**

Rabbi: Blessed are you, Lord, our God

King of the universe

You have created us male and female

in your image

God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

Let now your favor rest on the union

Of these, thy servants

Now and always, now and always

May they never cease to walk with thee

Guests: Amen, Amen, Amen (3x)

Zacchaeus and Miriam duet: Love place me like a seal

Now upon thy heart

Faithfully bound to me evermore thou art

Now in God's most holy Name

Kindle now Thy holy flame

In us

Fire of Heaven burning bright

Now consume us holy light

Flame eternal from above

Fire of Heaven seal our love

Love thou art strong as death

Jealousy a flame

Nothing can quench thy fire

Evermore the same

Holy God to thee we call

Holy fire on us fall

Always

Fire of Heaven burning bright

Now consume us holy light

Flame eternal from above

Fire of Heaven seal our love

All: Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen!

*(Zacchaeus and Miriam share a ceremonial glass of wine together as everyone yells Mazeltov!!")*

Rachel: *(spoken)* My son, and my new daughter...it’s time for the Mother’s blessing. *(pointing to Miriam’s mother)* We both sang a blessing over you the day you were born, and now we would like to do it again on this your wedding day.

*(Everyone claps and reacts positively-Ezra is obviously a bit distant, but reluctantly joins in the singing eventually when the dancing begins)*

**Song: "The Blessing"**

Rachel and Miriam’s mother: May the Lord bless and keep you

Guard you, guide you

Walking in His plan

May His face shine upon you

Melt you, mold you

In the Potter’s Hands

May God’s blessings

Never cease

To fall upon you

Bringing perfect peace

May the Lord bless and keep you

Hide you, hold you

Helping you to know His love

*(Everyone sings as they come and place gifts at the feet of the groom and bride, and some hug and greet them warmly as they do. As the tempo shifts faster, the non-dancing guests gather around semi-circle singing and clapping while the dancers dance in a circle around the couple)*

All: May God Almighty bless you

The two becoming one

May God Almighty bless you

And make you ever young

May God Almighty bless you

And make your lives a song

To praise God’s name! (3x)

Praise God’s name! (4x)

*(Everyone laughs and gets another drink, breaking into little groups to laugh and talk, as Zacchaeus and Miriam are lifted down from the platform, laughing...Miriam is grabbed by some of her friends who giggle and talk with her, as Miriam waves Zacchaeus playfully away. He walks downstage mopping his brow, still laughing with joy until he suddenly meets his drunk father, and his smile melts away and morphs into a look of concern and worry.)*

Ezra: Mazeltov! Mazeltov!!

Zacchaeus: You might want to cut back on your drinking some

Ezra: Not enough! I've not had enough!

I'm waiting for your mystery boss to come

I know you told me to never make a fuss

That he prefers to be anonymous

But maybe he's just too good for us?

Mazeltov! Mazeltov! Mazeltov!

Mazeltov! Mazeltov!

I still see clearly, though my vision's blurred

Mazeltov! Mazeltov!

How did you attract such a lovely bird?

And here's another question for you

What exactly is it that you do?

'Cause Rome robs everyone else but you

Mazeltov! Mazeltov! Mazeltov!

Da da da da Zacchaeus has a wonderful announcement today!

He will account publicly for all the money that he has made!

Zacch: Father you’re drunk

You probably should just go home and straight into bed

Please ignore the silly things you’ve heard,

The crazy things that he said

*(Ezra violently throws his drink down and throws off the men who were going to help him exit)*

Ezra: I'm not going anywhere

Not ‘til someone answers me

Zacch: Even on my wedding day

You choose to embarrass me?

Go home, get lost

The last line has been crossed!

I knew you’d make this day a mess

By stomping hard on my success

Go home, get lost

The last line has been crossed

No longer welcome in our home

You made my heart into a stone

Now I hope you’ll die alone

Get out!!

Ezra: I'll drink to that, my son…Mazeltov

Zacch: From now on, I have no father

I never want to see him again!

*(Light out)*

*(Lights up on house left corner where Zacchaeus is supposed to be giving Phineas information in the street, secretively...he takes a scroll nervously out of his bag and gives it quickly to Phineas.)*

**Song: “On my Own”**

Zacch: Why are we here, why are we meeting now?

We are exposed, the danger is clear

Phineas: I've taught you well, now you are stronger than me

But now it's time to face your final fear

I was not always filled with such hatred

I had a wife, a love of my own

Why heaven took her young is a mystery

Since then I've been all alone

Zacch: Please hurry this up

I haven't got all day

Phineas: Ha, I've taught you well

So short but so sharp

Did I ever tell you just how I lost my leg?

Zacch: I do not care, but I know you won't stop

Phineas: I was collecting tax from a butcher

He called me a thief but spoke with his knife

This leg from that day is really quite useless

*(holds up cane)* the only thing I lean on in life

Did I ever tell you the time when I…

Zacch: Oh no, they're not far

We've been seen

There they are

Never call me here again

I might see you now and then

But we are done, this is the end

I'm on my own!

Phineas: *(spoken)* We'll see about that!

*(Zacch exits out one of the back exits as spiritual pilgrims begin to come in...but then after Jesus is baptized and everyone sings God's voice, he comes back in, straining to see, but can't)*

*(Scene begins with five on stage singing acapella, and as music goes on, more file in from the exits. John sings the first chorus himself, then the other four join in and sing to the audience, and the third and fourth time people come in from every exit singing along)*

**Song: “Prepare the Way”**

All: Prepare the way

Prepare the way

Prepare the way

The kingdom of God is at hand!

Prepare the way

Prepare the way

Prepare the way

The kingdom of God is at hand!

*(Everyone entering from exits)*

Prepare the way

Prepare the way

Prepare the way

The kingdom of God is at hand!

Prepare the way

Prepare the way

Prepare the way

The kingdom of God is at hand!

John: In the wilderness one voice cries out, this is the day!

Make the path of the Lord straight and true, prepare the way!

The lowlands will soon be exalted

The mountains shall be brought low

He's coming, Messiah is coming

He's closer than you know!

All: Prepare the way

Prepare the way

Prepare the way

The Kingdom of God is at hand! (2x)

John: After me, there is coming a One greater than I,

(that) the strings of His sandals I'm not fit to untie

I baptize you for repentance

Here in Jordan's mire

but He's coming, Messiah is coming

to baptize you in fire!

John and choir oohing: There's nothing new under the sun

There's nothing your God has not seen

So humble yourselves and repent

And this water will wash your heart clean (2x)

*(John stumbles on his words as Jesus shows up face to face with him)*

You should be baptizing me

You're the one we've been waiting to see

But I will do as you say

It is my joy to obey

Now it is my time to fade

Lord I baptize you today

All: "Behold this my Son

I’m pleased with Him

My beloved One

Behold the Lamb! (2x)

Behold the Lamb!

*Everyone surrounds Jesus and follows him out the center aisle as they join in singing the Father's words to the Son as Zacchaeus comes into the scene struggling to see Jesus as He walks out the center aisle and exits)*

*(Everyone files out the five exits and Zacchaeus is left by himself)*

**Song: "Hostile Takeover"**

I am haunted by the shadow of a man I've never seen

I'm left out in the darkness and debris

Jericho, you've stolen from me for the final time

Now I'll return the favor royally

Just the men that I've been looking for

Phineas pays you, but I will pay you more

I have a wonderful business proposition

I will reward you for your ambition

Let’s make this a smooth transition

All I need is some ammunition...

Come with me

And you will see

You’ll agree

You’re better off working for me

Phineas: Well Zacchaeus, how do you do?

You killed your fears, I'm proud of you

In this very crowded space

Someone's sure to see your face

Zacch: With friends like these I have no fear, but

If I were you, I'd get out of here

Phineas: Someone tell me quick what is really going on

You soldiers are not where you belong

You get paid for watching me!

Zacch: You think you have their loyalty?

Now they are employed by me

Their wages doubled recently, you see

They never really cared for you

But, I can’t blame them, I hate you too

Today this stinking city will know

There’s a new chief publican here in Jericho!

Phineas: I’ve been betrayed, I should have seen it coming

How great your greed grew

Truly stunning

But without me you’re less than nothing

I will end you if you’re only bluffing

Zacch: Phineas, if I were you I would not resist

When my soldiers swing a sword

They never miss

I am removing you like a stubborn cyst

Your days are done here You’re dismissed!

Soldiers: Dismissed! Dismissed! Dismissed! Dismissed!

Zacch: I’m fairly confident you will not be missed

Soldiers: Dismissed! Dismissed! Dismissed! Dismissed!

Zacch and soldiers: Your days are done here…dismissed!

*(brings cane down on leg on the last word ‘dismissed’, and Phineas moans and writhes in pain. He crawls off stage in pain. The track for “I am the Taxrat” kicks in immediately)*

Zacch: *(spoken)* Things are going to change around here in a hurry. *(jumping up on a pedastal)* Good people of Jericho, may I have your kind attention? Can everyone hear me? *(everyone ignores him)* Maybe I haven't made myself clear."

*(Zacchaeus motions for his three guys to go and call six to eight more Roman soldiers to suddenly come into the crowd with their spears and begin to move people into clumps and force them to sit down or kneel. The people comply, scared, surprised, outraged and mystified at Zacchaeus standing in the middle of it all laughing and enjoying every minute.)*

**Song: "I am the Tax Rat"**

Zacchaeus: When I asked for your attention

I sensed your apprehension

I smelled your condescension

Even here in my home

but that will now be changing

My life I'm rearranging

this lie I am exchanging

The truth is, I'm Rome!

This is my office, this tree!

So open up your pockets, pay me!

Spill out the contents like that

I am the Tax rat!

You will not berate me, this time

You will not escape me, you’re mine

Now you gotta pay me, like that

I am the Tax rat!

I am the Tax rat!

Oh, Here we go, here we go, here we go

It’s tax time here in Jericho

Here we go, here we go, here we go

It’s tax time

Soldiers: Here in Jericho!

For modern education

Medication, Irrigation

for safety in this town and in your home

For somewhat free elections

For your roads and for protection

It's time for the collection says Rome

This is my office, this tree

So open up your pockets, pay me

And spill out the contents, like that

I am the Taxrat!

You will not berate me, this time

You cannot escape me, you’re mine

Now you gotta pay me, like that

I am the Taxrat!

I am the Taxrat!

With soldiers: No one will fall through the cracks..

everyone must pay their fair share of tax (2x)

*(repeat chorus)*

Zacch: I am the Taxrat!

Soldiers: This is his place

Zacch: I am the Taxtrat!

Soldiers: Remember his face

Zacch: I am the Taxrat!

Soldiers: You'll get no grace

Zacch: I am the Taxrat!

I’m the Tax rat! I’m the Tax rat!

**Song: “Aftermath”**

Rachel: How can this be?

You made a promise to me

How could you do this?

Why would you lie?

Zacchaeus: I made a choice

And I can never change it

No matter how many tears that you cry

Debra: Father, it's done, and now

Zacchaeus is a publican

They've gone away now

No longer here

Bartimaeus: I'm not afraid, they can't tax beggars who are never paid

losing my family, that's what I fear…

**Song "My Father's Son"**

Bartimaeus: If only I had gold for them to tax

Instead this beggar's cloak alone upon my back

My children's grandfather lives my life

cares for them and dries the tears of my wife

four years since I lost my name

four years and it's still the same

four years and nobody knows

who I am while the darkness grows

I find as my vision fades away fast

memories of me drift into the past

Even my family thinks I am gone

Now I am no one

but my father's son

Every day I disappear a little more

Because I cannot see, no one hears me anymore

But there's no way for me to fight

to take it back to regain my sight

*(he reaches out to a person close by to tell him about what Debra told him earlier)*

Today my Deborah took me by the hand

and while we walked she told me all about some man

that our cousin Levi said

can heal the sick and

even raise the dead

For a moment my faith began to revive

and that's when my daughter started to cry

as she said

Deborah: Oh Daddy I prayed He would come

I know that He's the One

He’s David's promised Son.

Bartimaeus: *(spoken)* "Yes...Please tell me again, Deborah..."

Deborah: There's a Rabbi with fire in His hands coming up the road

And tomorrow He'll walk down this street here in Jericho

This is where you will be waiting for Him

He will hear you somehow

and as the Rabbi walks by you will cry, "Son of David, heal me now!"

He won't pass you by this healing Rabbi Jesus

He will hear your cry, this healing Rabbi Jesus

Duet: He will not pass us by, this healing Rabbi Jesus

He will hear our cry, this healing Rabbi Jesus

Deborah: *(spoken)* Daddy, I’ll be home in a little while, but first I’m going to find a quiet place to talk with God."

*(lights fade as someone else leads Bartimaeus off stage right. Debra walks, stops at the tree, looks up and then ascends into it to pray as the lights go down.*

*Then, stage right, lights up on Zacchaeus talking with Jachim, one of his junior tax collectors)*

**Song: A new apprentice-He will not pass us by**

Zacchaeus: Lying, Jachim you're lying?

Jachim: I swear there's six grandchildren there

with barely food or clothes to wear

Zacch: crying, Jachim, you're crying?

Jachim: I can't watch this family die

and yes, there's something in my eye

are we blinded by our greed

they have seven mouths to feed

Rome has much more than it needs

do we have to make them bleed?

Zacch: Jachim? you bring me nothing?

Jachim: Their father is a beggar you know

he went blind four years ago

Zacch: Jachim, you're paid for one thing

Jachim: Thoroughly we did inspect and

There was nothing to collect

Zacch: You need help, would you agree?

Grab the bag and follow me

I'll find that money, guaranteed

There is someone in my tree

Watch and learn Jachim

Oh little girl, would you come on down?

There's something frightful in this town

Roman soldiers may be coming to kill you

But we can stop them if you will do

us a favor, where is your gold?

This situation can certainly be controlled

if you will do as you've been told

your family and you may still grow old

Well, what do you say?

Debra: Today we have nothing to give you

When my father gets his sight back he'll repay

For there's a healing Rabbi coming here tomorrow

and everything in our lives will be changed

and everything in our lives will be changed

**Song: “Do not pass me by”**

There's a Rabbi with fire in His hands coming up the road

Tomorrow morning He'll walk down this street here in Jericho

My father and I will be waiting for Him...He'll notice us somehow

And Jesus passes by I will cry, "Lord please heal my father now!"

Do not pass me by, healing Rabbi Jesus

Lord, hear my father's cry, heal him Rabbi Jesus

Please, will you come and see, Publican Zacchaeus?

He will not pass us by, this healing Rabbi Jesus

**Song: “So much more”**

Zacch: Have you seen him

This Rabbi?

Debra: No, but a relative of ours named Levi

is His disciple, now Matthew is his name

He was a tax collector like you until he became

one of the twelve that follows the Rabbi

where ever He goes

and that's how he knows

The Rabbi will pass by right here in Jericho

Zacch: Jachim, it’s time to go

Jachim: But sir, you didn't find what you were looking for

Zacch: It's true, I found no gold

but tomorrow I’ll find so much more

so much more!

All: so much more!

*(lights fade to black)*

**END OF ACT ONE**

**Short Intermission**

**ACT TWO**

*(People begin to process in from each of the exits...singing)*

**Song: “Behold His Kingdom Comes”**

All: Behold His Kingdom comes

God's will shall now be done

David's promised Son

God's anointed One (4x)

*(during the fourth repeat of the chorus, Jesus will see Deborah and her father)*

Bartimaeus: Jesus, Son of David,

have mercy on me

I am now blind but I want to see

Jesus Son of David, have mercy on me

and heal me...heal me

Jesus: You know who I am

Your blind eyes can see more than these

Bartimaeus: Would you heal me, please?

Jesus: My son, go your way

Your faith has made these blind eyes to see

For you believed in me

Bartimaeus: I can see! I can see! I can see!

All: Ah…He can see! He can see! He can see! He can see! (2x)

All: Behold His Kingdom comes

God's will shall now be done

David's promised Son

God's anointed One (2x)

Jesus: Zacchaeus, come down...I need to find a place that I can stay

Zacchaeus, my friend, I'm coming to your house today

*(they talk together as Zacchaeus climbs down and faces Jesus)*

**Song: “Repentance and Redemption”**

Zacchaeus: Half of all I own, I give now to the poor

And if I've cheated anyone

I'll pay them four times more

I'm such a sinful man,

but hear me now, oh Lord

I repent for all I've done

*(out of the crowd steps Miriam...slowly, as everyone watches, she approaches Zacchaeus, and embraces him, weeping audibly)*

Jesus: The Scriptures declare that on the mountain of God

The Lord will provide a Lamb

Salvation has come unto this house

For He too is a son of Abraham

(*looking at him*) Zacchaeus, you’re a son of Abraham

**Song: “Too Much”**

All: Too much water flowing under

Burning bridges without number

This is one who cannot learn

Past the point of no return

Chorus: Too far gone to be a son

Of Abraham the Chosen one

For a rat as vile as he

Death would be a luxury (2x)

You’ve double crossed your fellow Jews

We’ve no time for you

You have betrayed all of our trust

Go home

Get lost!

(Repeat chorus)

Death would be a luxury! Luxury! Luxury! Luxury!

**Song: “Seek and Save”**

Jesus: Walls without this town fell long ago

I’ve come so walls within will also go

And I’ll help this man no matter what the cost

The Son of man came to seek and save the lost

*(Lights fade down and then lights up on Zacchaeus' home. People are reclining in circles all over the stage, eating from a common tray, scooping food with bread, drinking out of expensive looking glasses and generally having lively conversation while several servants are busily re-pouring wine into goblets and refilling trays of food)*

**Song: “Introductions”**

Zacchaeus and Miriam:

Friends may we have your attention

No doubt you all have some questions

Thanks for attending this function

Now it's time for introductions

Zacch: Miriam, my wife your gracious hostess

Miriam: You all know my husband Zacchaeus

Duet: No need to wait any longer

We'll introduce our guest of honor

Ladies and gentlemen, Jesus of Nazareth

Zacch: I tried to see you in the desert

Where John the Immerser baptized you

I tried to see you when you healed the blind man

Hard as I tried, no one would let me through

Then when I thought I'd missed you again

Standing there, a faithful friend

Lifted me above the town

And that's where you saw me

That's where you said to come down

Spoken: lift your drinks now...a toast to Rabbi Jesus

All: to Rabbi Jesus!

Jesus: Listen to me friend, I saw you in that tree

I found you BECAUSE you looked for me

I left the 99 to save the one

Yes that's what all good shepherds would have done

Every one of you have tasted condemnation

Served to you by those who always hide their sin

I was sent to share this revelation

The doors of the Kingdom are closed to the proud,

but the humble enter in

Fear not little flock, fear not

The Father holds His hands out to you

Repent of your sin, be born again

And everything will be made new

God has come down to you

Zacchaeus: *(spoken)* Please Rabbi! Tell us more about the Kingdom of God

**Song: "Who is my Neighbor"**

Jesus: Very well, let me tell you a true story

He was on his way to Jericho

To lighten up his load

But the sky turned black so very fast

And he could not see the road

Then suddenly they came at him

Sent to steal his gold

He was grappling with murderers

As terror gripped his soul

They left him there all by himself

Out there in the cold

He lay dying on the road

The road to Jericho

But then at dawn there came a priest

Walking the same way

The poor man's eyes filled up with tears

He thought surely he was saved

But the priest looked down into his eyes

Then quickly walked away

But then he saw another man

No doubt an Israelite

His robes were whipping in the wind

Wearing only white

But he was fading fast when the Levite passed by

On the other side

Who is my neighbor?

I've been asked a time or two

The one that's dying on your road is my reply to you

So stand up for the stranger

Someday it might be true

That when you are in danger

That stranger could be you

All hope had abandoned him

when much to his surprise

A stranger from Samaria

Looked down into his eyes

He wondered if the Lord had sent an angel in disguise

The stranger bandaged up his wounds

And took him to an inn

With his own gold he paid someone

To take good care of him

And when he passed that way on another day

He paid him once again

Oh, who is my neighbor?

I've been asked a time or two

The one that's dying on your road is my reply to you

Stand up for the stranger

Someday it might be true

That when you are in danger

That stranger could be you *(repeat chorus)*

That stranger could be you

You, you, you, you

You you, you, you!

*(Crowd ad libs approval with affirming statements and maybe even applause)*

*(Crowd ad libs "yes, tell us please, we want to hear more etc...")*

Jesus: **Spoken Intro** “Two good sons, two good parents, everything was good, but only in appearance. One son rebelled, the other stayed in residence with his father. The other squandered his inheritance. This is his story, his story is true, listen well because this story is about you…

**Song: “Make yourself at home”**

Lost vagabond he wandered

Far from his father's home

Cursed and confused he wondered

How all his fair-weather friends could leave him all alone

And it hurt so bad

Remembering how he made father so sad

And it pained him so

And then he doubted he would ever make it home

He was too proud to just admit that he had gone astray

He thought a lot about the money he had thrown away

At last he took a job feeding pigs far away

The slop he fed to them was looking better every day

Home, then he thought about home, he thought about home

Every door that he opened shut in his face

So shame-filled and shattered

And deep in disgrace

Oh, gone were the women, the songs and the wine

The food that he longed for, he fed to the swine!

So weak, he could barely stand

A son of Abraham trapped in a foreign land

Just as the wind blows, sifting and shifting sand

The life that he was gripping was slipping and dripping from his hands

The pig pen was where he left his pride

He cried, he died inside but he was still alive

He started stumbling, falling and fumbling

But finally walking to the Father he had walked away from grumbling

Just outside the gate, he was almost dead

Thoughts of his loving father were filling up his head

He rehearsed a verse and this is what it said;

‘Father may I work for you? Just feed me servant’s bread.’

The loving father was scanning the horizon

He saw something that made his teary eyes begin to widen

Before he knew it, he was running, he was flying

His lost son home, cradled in his arms crying!

Ladies with Jesus: Put a robe on his back

Put shoes on his feet

My ring on his finger

For this is my son

No matter what he's done

He was lost now is found

Jesus: The older brother said, ‘your son behaved just like a beast!’

The Father said, ‘we thought your younger brother was deceased.

That we’re celebrating now isn’t wrong in the least.

This is for the both of you

Please come enjoy the feast!’

Then he looked at both of them, but he did not condemn

He poured his heart out in a simple song

And he invited everyone to sing along!

Ladies and Jesus: You'll never be alone

The party's just beginning

So make yourself at home (2x)

*(everyone joins in ‘Hey Jude’ style)*

All: You'll never be alone

The party's just beginning

We finally made it home (10x)

At home, at home, at home, at home, home, home

Welcome home!

Jesus: *(spoken over the last few choruses)*

You are all prodigal sons and daughters here

But my Heavenly Father is waiting to embrace you

He will welcome you into His Kingdom

If you will simply humble yourselves and repent

God has come running to you today!

Welcome home!

*(people who were standing and singing, are dropping to their knees and praying contritely, as others hug each other, praying, and crying together. Jesus lays His hands on each of their heads, blessing them. Eventually, Jesus slips to the side where Zacchaeus and Miriam are watching in amazement, to speak with them privately.)*

**Song: “I must go to Jerusalem”**

Jesus: friend, I must be on my way

Zacch: Please stay a few days or stay as long as you like

Jesus: Salvation came to your house today

Zacch: I know, oh please don't leave now, my Lord

At least stay the night, I insist…

Jesus: I must go to Jerusalem

My Father's will must be done

Zacch: I see…I will follow you anywhere

But first I must finish here what you have begun…I see

Jesus: Soon you will not understand

What befalls the Son of Man

But you must trust my Father's plan

Both: I will see you once again

*(scene fades to black)*

*(Scene where Zacchaeus restores the money he took from the people of Jericho by extortion. He comes with the same Roman soldiers who look intimidating at first, but actually have bags of money with them to distribute to the people as Zacchaeus sings his repentance song to them.)*

**Song: “Good Morning”**

Roman soldier: Attention, I need your attention please!

Attention!

Directions from Chief publican Zacchaeus,

Listen!

Zacch: Good morning, how are you today

Most of you won't listen to what I have to say

But I can’t blame you after all the pain I've put you through

If you hurt me like I hurt you, I'd ignore you too

Debra: Good morning, I came to thank you sir

The Rabbi coming to your house created quite a stir

No one may believe you’re a changed man, not just yet

But we believed when we received your gift that paid our debt

Our family is now debt free

Thanks to a man who likes to climb trees

*(She smiles and Zacchaeus laughs)*

*(curious but guarded, everyone draws closer.)*

**Song: “Change has come”**

Zacchaeus: By your expressions

I see you've not been told

There's been some changes,

I’m not here for your gold

I'm not the same man

That squandered everything that was dear to you

I met a Rabbi, and Jesus is His name

He touched my heart and I'll never be the same

That's why I've come here

Instead of taking I'm going to give to you

You do the math

How much have I cheated you?

Name the amount

And I'll return it times four

Please name your price

And I will make it up to you

Chorus: Change has come and I can't keep it all in

Righteousness has replaced all of my sin

Healings weren't the only miracles here

I have been released from all of my fear

Gone is my frustration

I'm a new creation

Change has come and I can't keep it all in

You who are struggling

This love I have is real

If you are hungry

I'll make you all a meal

That's why I'm happy

I am here 'cause I wanna give to you

I spent a lifetime just thinking of myself

Now I’ve decided to put me on the shelf

Feels so much better

I am here ‘cause I wanna give to you

I am your man if you need a loan today

I am your friend if you just need some cash

I have so much, I want to share it with you now

*(Repeat Chorus)*

Bridge: Jericho hear my solemn vow

Everything, everything will be different now

I am not who I used to be

Love Himself finally set me free

When HE saw me...in this wonderful tree...

*(Repeat Chorus)*

Change has come and I can't keep it all in! (4x)

*(Zacchaeus walks over to the tree as folks are rejoicing over the big change, and all the money they have just received.)*

**Song: "What a Glorious day”**

Miriam: What a glorious day Zacchaeus, what a glorious day!

Finally on our way to follow Jesus, finally on our way!

Both: All the way I want to run to meet Him in Jerusalem

Zacch: Miriam, I'm finally free

Miriam and Zacch: All because (I) you climbed a tree *(laughter)*

**“So thankful for this tree" reprise**

Duet: I’m so thankful for this tree

Gently holding me

And helping me to see

I was lifted to a place

To see Messiah face to face

I’m thankful for this tree

We’re thankful for this tree!

*(Ezra and Rachel come from behind the tree, having watched the tail end of the show of generosity and repentance of Zacchaeus. Ezra sings and he approaches his son. It ends in Zacchaeus and Ezra embracing center stage, and Rachel embracing Miriam and everyone cheering)*

**Song: “We believe”**

Ezra: Forgive me son, I’ve been a sinful man

I’ve filled your life with heartache and pain

I see so plain

Your heart is truly changed

Forgive me, my son

Now I too believe

Ezra and Rachel: We believe, we believe, we believe, we believe

We believe, we believe, we believe, we believe

All: We believe, we believe, we believe, we believe

We believe, we believe, we believe, we believe!

*(Lights fade to black)*

**Transitional video**

*(Lights up, Jesus is carrying His cross and falls to His knee. Simon of Cyrene steadies the cross as Jesus staggers to his feet while the ladies cry and sing the intro. Then He begins to sing…)*

**Song: “Weep not for me”**

Women: (mourning weeping)

Jesus: Weep not for me Daughters of Jerusalem

Weep for yourselves and weep for your children

It shall come to pass that you will say

Jesus and Women of Jerusalem: Blessed are the barren wombs

That never brought forth children

Jesus: And in that day

You shall say

Women of Jerusalem: Fall on us oh mountains!

Cover us, oh hills!

Jesus: For if the people do these things when the tree is green

What will they do when the tree is dry?

*(lights fade out as Jesus takes up His cross and moves house left and off stage. The crucifixion scene will get prepared during the next scene)*

*(lights up on house right area which will be city street in Jerusalem)*

**Song: “Past two o’clock”**

Zacch: Past two o’clock it took so long to get here

Miriam: Where are the people? Such a small crowd

Zacch: Jerusalem our city seems deserted

Miriam: I hear th,e sound of women weeping out loud

Women: Ahhhhhh...

*(from offstage Phineas comes running, no longer in need of a cane)*

Phineas: Help me oh God…can't take it any longer

How could this happen?

How can this be?

Miriam: Oh Phineas, we barely recognize you

Phineas: The blind man and you weren't the only ones Jesus healed

But I can tell you don't know what happened

Zacch: What happened friend? We're both at a loss

Phineas: Jesus arrested, tried and convicted

Since 9 o’clock hanging on a Roman cross

Zacch: What?! No! No!

Zacch and Miriam: Please take us there!

*(They hurry offstage house left as the lights come down on them, musical interlude plays, Jesus gets in place on the cross on the top stage, soldiers in place, Mary and other Mary's house left in place, and all others as mourners come in from every exit weeping softly, but still audibly and take their places on and around the stage looking up at the cross scene)*

**Song: "The Seven Last Words"**

Jesus: Father forgive them, they know not what they do

Father, my Father, forgive them! (4x)

Ladies: You saved so many others, why can you not even save yourself Save yourself, save yourself, since you are the Christ! (3x)

Thief Gestas: If you are Christ, then come down from the cross, save yourself and all of us, save yourself and us, save yourself, if you are the Christ, come down from there! (2x) the cross!

Thief Dysmas: Lord, please remember me when you come, come into your Kingdom, Lord please remember me, Lord please, Lord remember me!

Jesus: *(to Dysmas)* This day you will be with me in Paradise

Truly you will be with me in Paradise

Soldiers: Here is the robe this king wore

We can’t share it or we’ll tear it

I’ve never worn a King’s robe

Let us cast lots for it (2x)

Ladies: This has happened that the scriptures might

be fulfilled that said,

“They divided my clothes among them

and cast lots for my garment.”

Jesus: *(to Mary and John the beloved)* Woman, behold your son

John behold your mother

take good care of her *(John embraces Mary, mother of Jesus)*

Jesus: Elahi Elahi Lama Sabachtani?

My God why have you forsaken me? (2x)

Ladies: You may think He’s calling Elijah

He is quoting David’s psalm

‘They have pierced my hands and feet’

Gestas, Pharisee quartet, singing Soldiers: Let’s see if Elijah helps Him

He said that He trusts in God

Let’s see if His God will rescue Him

For He said He’s the Son of God! (2x)

Jesus: I thirst! (4x)

Jesus and Women of Jerusalem: Ah---Abba Oh my Abba!!

It is finished today!

Abba Oh my Abba

Into your hands I commit my Spirit!

*(Jesus dies and the lighting changes to more of a silhouette as Roman soldier (Longinus) walks up with spear, and pretends to spear Christ in the side. He then sets down his spear and begins to wipe his hands acting as though he had a revelation as he looks back at Jesus, and at his blood-soaked hands as the other soldiers take Him off the cross. The soldiers take Jesus down and lay him on the lap of Mary who is waiting at the foot of the cross off to the house right side. The soldiers throw a purple robe over Jesus body, but not his face)*

Mary: *(Spoken)* Oh my son...my son...my Jesus! *(Mary is weeping as Jesus is lowered onto her lap from the Cross)*

**Song: "Lullaby Prayer Reprise"**

Mary: Oh my precious baby boy

My heart, my life, my joy

You fell asleep early

And now it's too late

For us to wait for a better time

Son of mine

Son of mine

Jesus, Son of mine

Heaven's work of art

Lying in my arms

Head upon my heart

Singing from my soul

Love in every line

Every song is yours

Jesus, Son of mine

Let my embrace become your bed

A place to lay down your sweet head

But please don't close your eyes just yet

Look at me and may the last thing you see

Be my smile as you sleep for a time

Son of mine

*(Mary embraces Jesus and weeps, but the soldiers pick him up and carry him offstage. Mary stands to sing the next song.)*

Mary: *(crying and reaching out to Jesus as He is carried off stage)* "NO! No! Jesus, my son, it can't end like this. Oh, God please, it can't end like this!"

**Song: "Because His Name is Jesus"**

Mary: My heart is broken

How can these things be?

You made a promise

When you named my Son for me

You said He would reign

On King David's throne forever

You said He was your Son

And you called me highly favored

But now my son is gone

The story's at an end

Yet even now there's hope

I'll see Him once again

Because His name is Jesus,

I believe He'll live again

His name means sweet salvation

That is purely heaven sent

Because His name is Jesus

This is not the way it ends

Salvation cannot be destroyed

And My Son will live again

All: Because His name is Jesus,

we believe He'll live again

His name means sweet salvation

That is purely heaven sent

Because His name is Jesus

This is not the way it ends

Salvation cannot be destroyed

And the Son will rise again, rise again, rise again, rise again, rise again!!

Then the Sun's light vanished in the storm

But three days later early Sunday morn

In the darkness of an earthen womb

Light began to shine inside the tomb!

*(huge light out of tomb and fog! And out comes Jesus triumphantly!)*

**Song: “It is Finished”**

Jesus: Adam’s children were imprisoned in depravity

My Father and I heard their cries

And I came here willingly

When human hope had disappeared

And evil held the day

Men and Jesus: Salvation came to Adam’s race

For God had made a way

Yes God has made a way!

All: It is Finished God has made a way

It is Finished Salvation comes today

It is Finished Let all redeemed ones say

It is Finished God has made a way

It is Finished God has made a way

It is Finished Salvation comes today

It is Finished Let all redeemed ones say

It is Finished Our God has made a way (2x)

God has made a way!

God has made a way!

God has made a way!

The Savior's name is Jesus

And today He lives again!

His name means sweet salvation

That is purely Heaven-sent

The Savior's name is Jesus

And today He lives again

Salvation could not be destroyed

And our Savior lives again, lives again, lives again, lives again, lives again!

*(Lights fade to black during applause and Jesus escapes off stage. On screen text appears “I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried…but on the third day…music of the next song begins and the lights come up.)*

**Song: “Resurrection”**

Zacchaeus: What our God has done today is not a small thing,

No it is a not a small thing

Resurrection

And the price He paid for us was not a small thing,

No it ought to make our hearts sing

Resurrection

ALL: Amen! Zacch: The Resurrection!

ALL: Amen! Zacch: It is finished it is done!

ALL: Amen! Zacch: The victory is won!

ALL: Amen! The Resurrection!

Zacchaeus: Today we see the victory of the Holy One

God’s only begotten Son Resurrection

The price He paid was meant to bring us all to the place

Where we can see God face to face Resurrection!

*(Repeat Chorus)*

Zacchaeus and Men: Death and the Grave

Where is your sting?

Freedom has come

Through Jesus our King

Women: Our King!

Zacchaeus: Now He holds His nail scarred hands out to you all today

and there is no one He cannot save Resurrection

Open up your hearts and let His love come on in

He will forgive you of all your sin Resurrection

*(Repeat Chorus)*

Tag: Resurrection! Resurrection! Resurrection!!

*(Jesus appears once again triumphantly)*

*(lights come down as the final instrumental hit happens)*

*(lights transition as the Pastor walks to center stage. Text appears on screen as he gives this short message.*)

Pastor: Let’s show our appreciation for this fantastic cast and crew. *(applause)* They have one more short but very powerful song to share with you, but first, they want me to tell you that one of the best ways you can show your appreciation further is to simply listen attentively to what I am going to say for the next 3 minutes. You know, this production was inspired by the story of Zacchaeus found in the pages of the Bible. The Bible ALSO says;

"All have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

Jesus said; "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to God the Father, except through me." John 14:6

"If you believe in your heart that Jesus arose from the grave, and you confidently proclaim it out loud with your mouth, you shall be saved." Romans 10:9

*(lights slowly fade down and single Spotlight on the Pastor)*

When Jesus saw Zacchaeus in the tree, he said “come down because I'm coming to your house today.” Wouldn't it have been tragic, if for some reason, Zacchaeus decided to stay in the tree, and not invite Jesus into his home?

Consider this: Jesus has come to the door of your heart today through the music and drama of this production, but He will not enter your heart uninvited. I invited Him into my heart many years ago and it’s the best decision I ever made. I'm going to pray, and if the simple prayer that will appear on the screen puts words to the intentions of your heart, then please pray out loud with me and the entire cast." *(Pastor and Cast read the prayer together, leading the audience)*

TEXT ON SCREEN: Lord Jesus

I hear your voice calling me today

And now I am responding

I recognize my need for you, Lord

I repent of all my sin

And I ask for your forgiveness

I believe you died and rose again for me,

Today, I open my heart's door to you

Come in Lord Jesus

Help me to do your will all the days of my life

Amen

Pastor: "These actors and singers are not paid for what they have done, but you could do something that would mean more to them than money or applause. You should have received a comment card when you come in tonight/today. If you misplaced yours, there is one under your seat. There are also pens in the pew pockets in front of you. Please take the next minute to fill out your cards and put them in the offering plates when they are passed to you. Or use your phones and go to zacchaeusmusical.com, *(on screen)* click on the comment card icon and fill it out. If God used this production to touch your heart, then please, take a moment and let us know. It will be a great blessing to all of us. As you fill out your cards by hand or online, we want to let you know that this entire production was livestreamed and will be available for download on the Zacchaeus musical website or to watch on youtube. Just go to Zacchaeusmusical.com and follow the links there. Please message all your friends and send the link to them. In this way, this production of Zacchaeus the Musical will become a gift that keeps on giving. I also need to mention that no formal offering is being received today, but if they want to help us with the costs associated with this production and you’d like to see more productions like this in the future, please consider helping us by;

1. Giving a financial offering to an usher waiting with an offering plate by the exits, (if you’re making out check, make it payable to “Valley Christian Church” *(church name on screen)*
2. Or simply go to the Zacchaeus website and donate online by clicking on the paypal icon *(zacchaeusmusical.com on screen)*

Pastor: The ushers are coming now to collect the cards. If you need more time to fill them out, take your time and hand the completed cards to an usher on your way out. May God richly bless you. Thank you for joining us here today. And now, here is the final song of Zacchaeus the Musical.

*(Pastor exits stage as lights come up on the cast on final time)*

**Song: “He never once looked down on me”**

Zacchaeus: I could not see, I climbed a tree,

I looked for him, as He looked for me,

He looked up, as I looked down,

Saw only me, with thousands all around,

He helped me down, out of the tree,

He took my hand and said to me,

“A son of Abraham are you,

I'm coming home to dine with you",

My Savior also climbed a tree

He waited there so patiently

He saw me from Calvary

But He never once looked down on me

Never once looked down on me

Under my roof, He spoke to me,

I felt His love, it set me free,

He called me down out of that tree,

But He never once looked down on me

My Savior also climbed a tree

He waited there so patiently

He saw me from Calvary

All: But He never once looked down on me

Never once looked down on me

Never once looked down on me

**Song: “Thankful for This Tree-Reprise”**

Zacchaeus and Miriam: Had it not been for this tree

Gently holding me

And helping me to see *(Zacchaeus looks at sycamore as Cross appears on screen)*

I'd have never seen the one

Jesus, God's own Son

I'm thankful for this tree

All: So thankful for this tree!

*(Instrumental version of “Resurrection” plays as the cast does the rehearsed curtain call during applause. The order of the curtain call will be the opposite order of the Cast list found at the beginning of this script. Then the final lighting cue. Lights fade to black and house lights come up. On screen in large letters as people exit is zacchaeusmusical.com as an instrumental version of one of the Zacchaeus musical songs is played lightly in the background.)*

**THE END**