

On A Hill Far Away

Book, Music and Lyrics by Gloria Emmerich

CAST OF CHARACTERS:

JAMES (John's brother)

JOHN (James' brother)

PETER

JESUS

ZACCHEUS (*pronounced Zack-KEE-us*) [*Can be double cast with PETER*]

JARA (*pronounced JAR-uh*) (Peter's mother-in-law)

MARY MAGDALENE

LEORA (*pronounced Lee-OR-uh*) (the woman with the "issue of blood.")

LIST OF SONGS:

ACT ONE:

1. Joy Unspeakable..... Company
2. Teach Me, Lord..... Jesus & Company
3. A Stone's Throw Away..... Mary
4. Cleansed, Healed, Delivered..... Mary, Jara, Leora
5. Do You Believe in Me..... Jesus & Company
6. Everlasting Life..... Jesus & Company

ACT TWO:

7. A Servant's Prayer..... Jesus & Company
8. Father, Oh Father..... Jesus
9. Lament..... Company
10. My Risen Savior!..... Company
11. There's Nothing I Can Do..... Peter, James, John
12. Finale:
 1. What He's Done For Me..... Company
 2. I Am the Resurrection!..... Jesus
13. Curtain Call - Joy Unspeakable..... Company

Published by Emmerich Publications, Edenton, NC
No portion of this musical work may be reproduced by any means
without specific permission in writing from the publisher.

ACT ONE SC 1: *Outside the gates of a village, JESUS meets each character one by one.*

SONG #1 - JOY UNSPEAKABLE Company

JESUS: *(To PETER, JAMES, JOHN.)* Come, follow me; and I'll make you fishers of men!

PET/JMS/JN: Right from the start He was no typical stranger.
Meeting Jesus was a total life-changer,
It's a joy unspeakable; unspeakable joy, joy!

JESUS: Who touched me?

PETER: Lord, we're surrounded by people who press in on you at every turn.

JESUS: Someone has touched me, for I felt power go out from Me.

LEORA: It was I, my Lord! I knew if I could just touch the hem of your garment I would be well!

JESUS: Go in peace, my daughter. Your faith has made you whole.

PTR/JM/JN/LEOR: And everybody has a different story;
So many empty lives now full of glory,
It's a joy unspeakable; unspeakable joy, joy, joy!

PETER: Lord, my mother-in-law Jara has been sick all day with a fever.

JESUS: *(Takes her hand.)* Arise, Jara, and be healed.

JARA: *(Rises and embraces JESUS.)* Let me serve you, Lord.

COMPANY: A crippled man now walking; healed of dumbness, she can't stop talking.
The blind can see, the deaf can hear, and the lost are found.
The sick, the lame, the broken, healed by a touch or a word He's spoken.
After meeting the Master, you'll be passing the joy all around!

(If role of PETER is also ZACCHEUS, PETER exits to become ZACCHEUS)

MARY: *(Enters, hysterical. She falls at their feet and screams.)* Help me! Please, someone save me. They want to stone me!

JESUS: Woman, what is your sin?

MARY: *(Full of guilt.)* My sins are many, Lord. But I don't want to die! Please save me! I know I was wrong...but don't let them kill me! *(Collapses and weeps.)*

JESUS: James, go speak to the people who are after this woman. *(As JAMES exits JESUS turns to the woman.)* What is your name?

MARY: Mary Magdalene, Lord.

LEORA: *(Approaches MARY to wipe the blood off her forehead; but MARY stops her.)* You're bleeding, Mary. I was only trying to wipe away the blood.

MARY: *(Embarrassed, she snaps at LEORA then turns away.)* It's none of your concern! I'm...I'm not worthy of your kindness.

JARA: *(Takes the cloth from LEORA.)* None of us are worthy, Mary. *(She holds the cloth out to MARY who quickly takes it and dabs her forehead, embarrassed.)*

JAMES: *(Enters, going up to JESUS.)* They say she's possessed of many demons, Lord and she was caught in the very act of adultery.

JOHN: The Law of Moses says she must be stoned...to death. I don't think they can be talked out of it...they're very angry. What should we do, Lord?

JESUS: *(Squats to write in the sand, then stands and speaks to the mob offstage.)* Is there a man among you, holy and blameless; who is without sin? *(Pauses for*

a response but gets none so continues.) If so, let him cast the first stone at this woman. *(Getting no response, He leans down again to write in the sand.)*

JAMES: *(To JOHN.)* Look; they're all turning away. They're leaving!

JOHN: Lord, all of her accusers have left!

JESUS: *(Stops writing; lifts her chin and looks in her eyes.)* Where are your accusers?

MARY: *(Amazed, she looks to see that those waiting to stone her are gone. She turns to JESUS, speaking with trembling voice.)* They...they've all gone, my Lord.

JESUS: *(Never taking His eyes off MARY.)* No man condemns you...and neither do I. *(Smiling, he takes her hand and helps her to her feet.)* Go, and sin no more.

COMPANY: Right from the start He was no typical stranger.
Meeting Jesus was a total life-changer,
It's a joy unspeakable; unspeakable joy, joy!

JESUS: *(To ZACCHEUS.)* Zaccheus! Come down, for today I'm staying in your house.

COMPANY: And everybody has a different story;
So many empty lives now full of glory,
It's a joy unspeakable; unspeakable joy, joy, joy! *(KEY CHANGE)*

ZACCH: Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I've cheated anyone of anything, I'll give back *four times* as much!

JESUS: Today salvation has come to your house, Zaccheus; for I've come to seek and to save that which was lost.

COMPANY: Right from the start He was no typical stranger.
Meeting Jesus was a total life-changer,
It's a joy unspeakable; unspeakable joy, joy!
And everybody has a different story;
So many empty lives now full of glory,
It's a joy unspeakable; unspeakable joy, joy, joy!
Yes, it's a joy unspeakable; unspeakable joy, joy, joy!
Yes, it's a joy unspeakable; unspeakable - - joy!

(BLACKOUT)

ACT ONE SC 2: *The home of LEORA. JARA & LEORA sit at the table talking.*

LEORA: It must be wonderful for you, Jara, living with Peter and your daughter.

JARA: *(Makes a face.)* Wonderful? I wouldn't have picked *that* word to describe it.

LEORA: What? You...you don't like living there?

JARA: Well, yes...of course. It has its "wonderful" moments...but living with Peter can also be a pain in the neck!

LEORA: *(Laughs.)* Ohhh....I suppose that could be tough at times, living with the in-laws. Speaking of Peter, where is he? I don't think I've seen him since early yesterday morning. Did he leave?

JARA: Yes, he wanted to visit Anna...and I suspect he didn't want *ME* tagging along with him. So he left right after he knew I was settled in yesterday morning.

LEORA: Ohh...well that's understandable. Peter's probably away from his wife more than usual. It must get very lonely for Anna. *(MARY enters and joins them.)*

JARA: I don't know about that. My daughter knows Peter even better than I do so she knows how ornery and belligerent he can be. I wouldn't doubt for a minute that she enjoys a little reprieve from his bullheaded temperament! He can be so *annoying!*

MARY: Jara; are you talking about your son-in-law again?

JARA: Yes, and he's as obnoxious as ever! Whoever came up with the "in-law" phrase didn't know Peter! They should have called it "out-law!" (*She laughs and after the initial shock the other ladies join in as well.*)

LEORA: (*Still giggling but pretends to reprimand JARA.*) Jara! Do you *always* say whatever comes into your head?!

JARA: (*Stops laughing and gives her a look.*) Why of course not, Leora. I'm no fool. I only say what I know I can get away with! Hee, hee!

LEORA: (*Laughs again.*) Watch out, Mary. She's a bad influence!

JARA: What? Pay attention Mary Magdalene...and you just might learn something worthwhile! *And*, from what I've heard, Leora, you pretty much speak your mind when you want to...same as me!

LEORA: Yes, but I don't get away with it like you do Jara. You will definitely have to teach me how to do it!

MARY: And me too!

JARA: That part comes with age, my dears. The older you get...the more things you get away with! (*They all laugh.*)

JESUS: (*Enters with JAMES and JOHN.*) Thank you once again, Leora, for your generosity. I know our Father in Heaven is pleased and will bless you for all the kindness you have shown Me.

LEORA: Everything I have is Yours, Lord; and I know it isn't much. *I'm* the one who's blessed, Jesus. I'm humbled and honored to have you in my home.

JAMES: Did you like the fish, Lord?

JESUS: (*Smiles, knowingly.*) Yes, James. They were delicious. Thank you.

JAMES: (*Beaming.*) Caught them myself, Jesus; just this morning.

JOHN: Stop boasting, James. I caught some of them too.

JAMES: Yes, but I caught the biggest ones, brother...remember?

JARA: (*Aside to MARY.*) Here they go again...

LEORA: (*Being the peacemaker.*) Now John, James...*all* the fish were good, both big and small. It's not worth arguing over.

JESUS: Leora's right.

JOHN: (*Slaps the back of JAMES' head.*) Well! Did you hear that, James?

JAMES: (*Rubs his head.*) Ow! Yes, I heard! (*Slugs JOHN'S arm.*) Did you?!

JOHN/JMS: (*Both look at JESUS, confused.*) Right about what?

JESUS: (*Chuckles.*) That *ALL* the fish were good. The great...*and* the small. God doesn't just care for the great and ignore the small. In fact, many times it's quite the opposite.

JAMES: What do you mean, Lord?

JOHN: (*Standing up tall.*) He means, just because you're *smaller* than me, *little* brother, God still cares about you!

JARA: Shall I go find a nice branch to whip some sense into these boys, Lord?

JESUS: (*Laughs.*) I...appreciate your concern, Jara; but I'm not sure that would help.

JARA: (*Glaring at the boys.*) I'm just saying...

JESUS: (*Puts a hand on JAMES' and JOHN'S shoulders.*) Well...God takes it a little further than that, my "Sons of Thunder." What's great in the eyes of man may not always be what's great in God's eyes. Remember when I told you that God uses the simple to confound the wise? Well, sometimes it's the

simplest, smallest things that are great in God's kingdom; and things that are great in man's eyes will be brought down, become small; insignificant.

JOHN: *(Getting back at JAMES.)* I see. So the small shall be great...and the great shall become small...? Are you hearing this, James? Looks like the roles are reversed, *little brother!*

JAMES: Well then, if now *you're* great and I'm small they'd just get reversed again! So, Lord, how does that work? We'd just keep going back and forth.

MARY M: *(Rather innocently comments.)* If that's the case, James, then it shouldn't matter *which* one of you is small *or* great.

LEORA: *(Laughs.)* Good for you, Mary!

JARA: That's the way to speak your mind, girl!

JOHN: *(Joins in the laughter and gives JAMES a shove.)* Ha! Guess she told *YOU!*

JAMES: *(Shoves JOHN right back.)* Told *YOU, too!*

JESUS: *(Laughing as well.)* Thank you, Mary.

JOHN: *(Speaks privately to JESUS.)* Lord, since we're sort of on the subject of the small becoming great, have you given any thought to our mother's request?

JAMES: *(Pushes JOHN.)* Yes, Lord, about *me* sitting on Your right in Your kingdom...?

JOHN: I thought maybe *I* could sit on Your right, Lord. I think *I'd* be *perfect* for the job! *(Getting caught up in their request neither notices JESUS' expression has changed from amused to serious.)*

JAMES: Perhaps *I* could help You with important decisions...or serious issues that come up...what do You think, Lord? *Me* sitting on Your right...?

JOHN: Actually, I thought you'd take the left side...

JAMES: Me?! *You* take the left.

JOHN: Why should *I* sit on the left?

JAMES: Why should *I*?

BOTH: Because you're the one that's....

JARA: I told you they needed a whipping, Lord!

JESUS: *(Sadly shakes his head.)* You don't know what you're asking.

JOHN: *(Confused.)* Lord...?

JESUS: *(Looks at the boys.)* Are you able to drink the cup that *I* am about to drink?

JMS/JHN: Yes, Lord.

JESUS: And be baptized in the baptism in which *I* am baptized?

JMS/JHN? *(They look at each other then at JESUS and boldly answer.)* Yes, Lord; we are.

JESUS: *(Sadly looks at them.)* You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized in the baptism that I am baptized with...but, to sit at my right or my left hand is not Mine to give. It is prepared by My Father in Heaven for those that He has chosen. *(JAMES and JOHN are now embarrassed.)*

JAMES: Forgive me, Lord! I've been so foolish...so selfish.

JOHN: *(Joins JAMES, putting an arm around his shoulder.)* So have I, Lord. We both just want to be like You: a servant to all.

LEORA: Deep down in our hearts, Lord, that's all any of us want: to be more like You.

JARA: Help us to do that, Jesus.

JESUS: You know the rulers of the Gentiles lord over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so with you. Whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave. And, whoever desires to be great among you, let him be a servant of all...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.

MARY: I've come to You, Lord, to learn everything I can. So that my weary, thirsty soul could be filled with Your words of love and peace.

JESUS: Come unto me, all of you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

JARA: Thank You, Lord...

PETER: *(Enters with a good catch of fish on a line.)* I'm back!

JARA: And Lord...speaking of burdens....

LEO/MRY: Jara...! *(JESUS raises an eyebrow but smiles all the same.)*

PETER: *(Holding up the fish.)* And I've caught quite a load of fish for us while visiting Capernaum!

JOHN: Why those are nearly as big as the ones I caught!

LADIES: John!

JAMES: And mine!

LADIES: James!

JMS/JHN: We're just kidding! *(They all laugh except PETER who looks puzzled.)*

PETER: *(Puzzled by their laughter, he ignores them and plops his catch down on the table in front of the women.)* So here's my contribution to tonight's supper, Ladies! What do you think about that?

JARA: *(Ornery as ever, she stands and rolls up her sleeves.)* Step out back and I'll show you what I think! *(The other ladies restrain her. JARA picks up the fish and starts to exit, mumbling.)*

LEORA: Jara, do you want me to help you?

JARA: No, I'll take care of these and be right back...after I calm down *(Glares at PETER.)* ...in about a week!

PETER: *(Scratching his head.)* Now what's the matter with *her*?!

JESUS: *(Smiling.)* She's learning to be a servant to all, Peter. And, it's not always easy to do. *(Gives a knowing smile to the women and they smile in return.)*

PETER: You can say that again! I had to deal with the most obnoxious man at the market yesterday! Didn't matter what I said he just couldn't be nice. And then he tries to sell me some rotten fruit! It's no wonder I was the only one customer there: with an attitude like *that* who'd want to buy from him?! And trying to cheat people like that? It's a wonder he even has a...

JOHN: Is that the same man who tried to cheat us last week? That's where we got those foul vegetables! He *was* a cheat!

JESUS: Judge not lest you be judged, John, Peter; for you will be judged by the way you criticize others; the measure you *give* shall be the measure you *receive*.

JOHN: Yes, Lord; I'm sorry.

PETER: But Lord, how can we just let people walk all...

JESUS: Peter, why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and fail to notice the log in your own?

PETER: *(Embarrassed.)* What Lord?

JESUS: How can you say to your brother, "Let me get the speck out of your eye" when there is a log in your own eye? That makes you a hypocrite, Peter! Take the log out of your own eye first, and then you can see clearly enough to remove your brother's speck.

PETER: I'm sorry, Lord. I wasn't thinking...I was only trying to get fresh fruit for us with what little money I had. Is that too much to ask?

JESUS: Ask, and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. *(Begins to teach.)* Now, what person is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf of bread, would give him a stone?

LEORA: I would never do that!

JESUS: Or if he asks for a fish, you wouldn't give him a snake, would you?

JARA: *(To MARY.)* What if it's a son-in-LAW...? *(She giggles. PETER gives her a look.)*

JESUS: Jara...?

JARA: *(Jumps when He speaks.)* Sorry, Lord; just a little "in-law" humor. *(Chuckles.)*

JESUS: *(Smiles at JARA.)* Then, if you, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give what is good to those who ask Him? So, in every situation, every circumstance, treat others the same way you want them to treat you.

LEORA: We will try, Lord, to do what's right.

JESUS: Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does them, is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Likewise, everyone who hears these words of Mine and does *not* do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell...and great was its fall.

PETER: Teach us, Lord. We want to understand all of Your ways.

MARY: Yes, Lord; help us.

JOHN: We need Your guidance, Jesus.

JAMES: We want to learn everything You have for us.

SONG # 2 - TEACH ME, LORD Company

COMPANY: Teach me, Lord, to understand Your Ways.
 Help me, Lord, to know just what to do.
 Teach me, Lord; I'm learning day by day.
 Help me, Lord, to follow after You.
(JESUS & Company sing at the same time.)

COMPANY:
 Lead me, Lord, to lost and weary souls.
 Guide me, Lord, to those who just can't see.
 Lead me, Lord; please take complete control.
 Guide me, Lord; I serve You willingly.
 Oh Lord, our love is strong.
 Help us know right from wrong.
 We remember what You've taught.
 Your name shall not be forgot.
 Teach me, Lord, to understand Your Ways.
 Help me, Lord, to know just what to do.
 Teach me, Lord; I'm learning day by day.
 Help me, Lord, to follow after You.
 Help me, Lord, to follow after You.
 I love You, Lord; I'll always follow You.

JESUS:
 Father, there's so much they still don't know.
 It's almost time for Me to go.
 Let them see just why My life I give.
 I die so they might live.
 Father in Heaven, their love is strong.
 Soon they'll be tested to know right from wrong.
 Will they remember Me? the things they've been taught?
 I am the Truth, the Life, the Way.
 There is so much for you to do.
 Use My words; apply them every day.
 Follow Me; I'll take good care of you.
 Follow Me; I'll take good care of you.
 I will lead and guide you; I love you.

(BLACKOUT.)

ACT ONE SC 3: *LEORE'S house. MARY is snapping beans into a bowl. JARA enters.*

- JARA:** *(Enters with a bowl to help MARY.)* Looks like you're up to your elbows in beans, Mary. Here, let me help you. *(Starts walking over to MARY.)*
- MARY:** *(Slightly aloof, withdrawn.)* No, no. That's all right, JARA. I can do it. I'm sure you have other things to do...
- JARA:** *(Ignores her comment and goes over anyway.)* Now, personally I don't care if you like me or not, Mary; but I'm *still* going to help you!
- MARY:** *(Shocked JARA would think that.)* I *do* like you! Why would you think that?
- JARA:** Because every time I try to help you with something you refuse my help! Have I done something to offend you...other than act like a foolish old mother-in-law, of course? I know I've offended *everyone* with my orneriness! *(Chuckles.)*
- MARY:** *(Smiles and lets down her guard.)* And everyone knows you don't always mean what you say. You just like to pretend that you're ornery!
- JARA:** Oh, well there...you've figured me out! Now don't you go telling the others! *(Chuckles again.)*
- MARY:** *(Smiles.)* I won't, promise!
- JARA:** *(Grabs a handful of beans from the bowl and begins snapping.)* Well...? You going to answer my question?
- MARY:** *(Hoping to avoid the question.)* What..?
- JARA:** Have *I* offended you?! Come on, I'm a big girl, I can take it!
- MARY:** *(Glances at JARA then stares at her bowl of beans.)* Of course not, Jara. No one has offended me. I'm just...offensive to myself, I guess.
- JARA:** And what's *that* supposed to mean?
- MARY:** I'm not like you...or anyone else here, for that matter. I was a horrible, sinful person, Jara. I wouldn't blame any of you for shunning me.
- JARA:** *(Laughs.)* Mary, *every last one of us* is a "horrible, sinful person!" *You're* no different than me or any of the others who follow Jesus.
- MARY:** *(Stops working and looks at JARA, serious.)* Were *you* demon possessed?
- JARA:** *(Refusing to react, she continues working and answers quickly.)* No.
- MARY:** Before you came to Jesus were you committing...well...you know...?
- JARA:** No, I was not committing *adultery*. *(MARY winces at the word. JARA pats her hand.)* Mary, you remember what Jesus said? No one's sin is greater than anyone else's. My sins are just as bad as yours, or James', or John's or even that annoying son-in-law of mine!
- MARY:** That's easy for *you* to say, Jara; *YOU* didn't do what I did, opening yourself up to evil spirits, letting them take control...*No* one here did that.
- JARA:** Now, Mary; stop being so hard on yourself. Jesus forgave you, whatever it was you did. It's all in the past, forgotten...at least, forgotten by Him. I know it's hard to forget what we did before we met Him. We're only human, after all. But, isn't it comforting to know that God has forgotten?
- MARY:** *(A little comforted.)* Well, I think so; I mean...yes, it is.
- JARA:** Think of it, Mary! It's as if *all* the sins in our life that were written down have been erased! They've completely disappeared and we have a brand new empty page in front of us so we can start over! And hopefully we'll *keep* it empty...of sin, that is.

MARY: Doesn't your sin ever...ever *haunt* you, Jara?

JARA: Good heavens, yes! But I tend to think of it as a 'gentle reminder,' instead of a 'horrible haunting!'

MARY: (*Chuckles.*) What does *that* mean?

JARA: When those memories come back to "haunt" me, as you say, it really just shows me how far I've come and reminds me of what I know I shouldn't do. There's no way on God's green earth that I would *ever* want to repeat those sins again, would you?

MARY: (*Shakes her head violently.*) NEVER!

JARA: (*Softens.*) You must have had a terrible life, Mary.

MARY: It wasn't terrible in the beginning. I was doing quite well for myself. My father left me some money and I had a very profitable business going; acres of land, workers who farmed it and took care of planting, harvesting, selling at the market. I never really wanted for anything. But, even with all that I was so empty inside. I searched for something, *anything* to fill that emptiness. So, I opened myself up for evil spirits to enter that void and take over my life. I became wild, out of control; nearly lost my land, my business. Many of my farm hands left and those who stayed took advantage of my "insanity" by stealing from me and treating me horribly, knowing I would never do a thing about it. In fact, most the time I didn't know *what* was going on around me.

JARA: He really saved you from a fate worse than death, didn't He? Just think of it, Mary! Why...you're a miracle!

MARY: (*Nods in agreement.*) I...I guess you *could* call it a miracle, couldn't you?

JARA: Well...I just did, silly! I suppose each one of us is a miracle. We've been given a second chance at life; a life of serving the Master.

MARY: A second chance...yes. That's definitely what it was. I can still feel Jesus' eyes looking at me with such love and pity that day I thought I was going to be stoned to death. I couldn't even look at Him for the longest time. I was afraid He'd turn on me at any moment, like the others had, and strike me.

JARA: Mary; He would never have hit you!

MARY: Oh I know that *now*. But, when you've been through what I have, you just expect that everyone wants to hurt you. I had come to accept it.

JARA: (*Pats her hand.*) You poor dear. You must've been frightened most the time.

MARY: I was. Frightened, angry, desperate. In fact, that very day I almost welcomed death. I knew I deserved it.

JARA: Until you met Jesus.

MARY: Yes. That miraculous meeting changed everything...

JARA: (*Gathering up the bowls.*) Here; I'll take these back to Leora. She's as busy as a bee in springtime! I'll call if we need you, dear. (*Starts to exit, then turns back.*) And remember: You're a miracle, Mary! Don't you forget that!

SONG #3 - A STONE'S THROW AWAY - Mary

MARY M: Lying broken on the ground; a lost soul just waiting to be found.
 My life a shattered, empty shell; no way to escape this living hell.
 But when I ran away that day, I fell at Jesus' feet,
 Not caring what this stranger would say.
 I thought He bowed His head to pray, while at His feet I lay,
 Knowing that my fate was just a stone's throw away._____

Those voices screaming in my head, were gone the moment Jesus said,
“No one condemns you, and neither do I.”
“So go; sin no more.” And I started to cry.
I felt deep down within my soul,
His overwhelming love for me was truly making me whole.
At last, I finally was free; those demons inside me,
Because of Jesus, now had to flee. I was free!_____

Now, looking back, I’d say, my fate was just a stone’s throw away.
I guess that all I can say, my fate was just a stone’s throw away.
My fate was just a stone’s throw away.
My fate was just a stone’s_____throw away._____

- JARA:** (*Enters with LEORA, ranting about PETER.*) I’m telling you, Leora, he does that on purpose! Throwing all those fish down at our feet like a pompous baboon! *Mimics PETER.*) Here, Jara...see how fast you can clean *these* for dinner! Heh, heh, heh! Ohhhhhh! (*Raises a fist.*)
- LEORA:** (*Laughing.*) Now, Jara; we can’t be complaining about fish for dinner! It’s free food! We’d best be accepting whatever the men bring home.
- JARA:** (*Glares at LEORA.*) I’m not complaining about the food, my dear...it’s that so called “son-in-law” that gets me riled up and wanting to give him a good smack on the back of his head!
- MARY:** (*Exchanging a look with LEORA, they both stifle a giggle.*) Peter was probably just proud of the fact that he caught so many fish for supper, Jara.
- LEORA:** You should see how many, Mary! We could feed an army with all of them!
- JARA:** Haven’t you figured out by now that Peter eats like an army all by himself?!
- MARY:** (*She and LEORA laugh.*) Well then, Jara; it’s a good thing he brought back so many! We’d better get to work cleaning them all.
- LEORA:** And we’d better clean up out here too. Things get so dirty and I have to dust nearly every day!
- MARY:** But I love this courtyard, Leora! It’s so, so...*welcoming!* (*Laughs at the word she used.*) I mean, I feel so comfortable and at home here. It’s beautiful.
- JARA:** And that’s the truth, Leora. Every morning when I stay here, I come outside and take a good long breath of fresh air...hmmmmm, honeysuckle, jasmine, lilies.....helps me forget the bad times of yesterday and face the new day with a spring in my step! (*She does a little jig and the others laugh.*)
- LEORA:** (*Remembering.*) I was so consumed with my illness before, I gave no thought to anything else: the flowers, the trees, the beautiful blue skies, the refreshing thunderstorms...I missed so many years of my life...worrying.
- MARY:** I missed so many of mine hiding and being afraid. That’s why I love it here.
- JARA:** Well, you’re both young enough...you have many more years ahead of you for making new memories that you’ll cherish forever. At my age...I like to drink in everything I see and hear all day long.
- LEORA:** (*Unable to resist.*) Even seeing and hearing Peter coming up the path...?
- JARA:** (*Gives her a look.*) Thank you, Leora! You just ruined *this* memory! (*All three laugh.*) The truth is, we all have a lot to be grateful for, don’t we? Why, just look at the three of us: (*Points to LEORA.*) Cleansed, (*Then herself.*) healed, (*Then MARY.*) and delivered...all by the power of Jesus Christ! Now, that’s my most favorite memory of all.

SONG # 4 - CLEANSED, HEALED, DELIVERED

Mary, Leora, Jara,

MARY: Condemned and desp'rate, until He came to me.
I was delivered. His grace and love set me free.
LEORA: The crowd was pressing. I tried to reach for Him;
Touching His garment, He cleansed my soul, made me whole.
JARA: I had a fever, was sick in bed; a stabbing pain inside my head.

DO NOT COPY