

# *FOR GOD SO LOVED...*

*Book, Music & Lyrics by Gloria Emmerich*

## CAST OF CHARACTERS:

MARY (Martha's sister)  
JULIA (The woman at the well)  
JESUS  
JOHN (the Beloved)  
JAMES (John's brother)  
MARTHA  
PETER

## LIST OF SONGS:

### ACT ONE:

1. What He's Done for Me.....Julia & Company
2. Teach Me, Lord.....Company
3. Busy Bees, Joyfully!..... Martha, Mary & Julia
4. A Servant's Prayer..... Jesus & Company
5. Everlasting Life!.....Company

### ACT TWO:

6. Your Will Be Done..... Jesus
7. O Sacred Head, Now Wounded.....Company
8. Surely He Hath Borne Our Griefs.....Company
9. Calvary's Cry..... Jesus & Company
10. I Am the Resurrection!..... Jesus & Angel Choir
11. There's Nothing I Can Do.....Peter
12. Finale Reprise.....Company
  1. I Am the Resurrection!
  2. What He's Done for Me

## ACT ONE

### Overture

**ACT ONE SC 1:** *At Jacob's well near the Samaritan village of Sychar. MARTHA, MARY, the disciples, & JESUS stop to rest from their long journey across the plains of Shechem on their way to Galilee, using the Samaritan Road.*

**PETER:** Lord, why did you choose this route? Most Jews don't take the Samaritan Road to Galilee.

**JESUS:** Why is that, Peter? There's nothing wrong with this road.

**PETER:** *(Looks uncomfortable, not sure what to say.)* Well...yes, it is a good road, Lord; but surely you know of the hatred between us and the Samaritans.

**MARTHA:** That's why we haven't *seen* anyone, Jesus; not many use this road anymore.

**JESUS:** This hatred you speak of Peter, when did it begin?

**MARY:** What do you mean, Lord? It's *always* been...I can't remember when we didn't hate each other, can you Martha?

**MARTHA:** No. Lazarus told me about it even before you were born, Mary. He told me never to use this road. He said the Samaritans were evil, wretched people and to stay away from them.

**JOHN:** It all started with the Assyrian conquest.

**JAMES:** They intermarried with the Israelites that were left behind.

**PETER:** Then they built their own temple on Mt. Gerizim *(Points out.)* to mock the temple in Jerusalem. The Jews were furious and there's been animosity between us ever since.

**JESUS:** Do you hate the Samaritans, Peter?

**PETER:** *(Taken aback at JESUS.)* Well, I...*no*, Lord; I...I don't hate them personally...

**MARTHA:** Our parents and grandparents told us to hate them, Lord.

**MARY:** We were taught to hate the Samaritans, Jesus. How could we know not to?

**JOHN:** That's right, Lord; it's always been that way since I can remember.

**JESUS:** Has *any* Samaritan done evil to you or harmed you in any way to justify such hatred?

**PETER:** *(They exchange looks, slightly baffled.)* I've never actually met a Samaritan.

**JOHN:** Nor I, My Lord.

**JAMES:** Me neither.

**MARTHA:** I've never even spoken to one, have you Mary?

**MARY:** Papa told us not to, Martha...you know that. And Lazarus too.

**JESUS:** That temple has long since been torn down, hasn't it? Why do you hold on to mistakes made in the past? Why would you hate people you don't know, people you've never even spoken to? How can you hold a grudge against people who lived before you were born? *(Embarrassed, no one responds. They look away, confused.)* Brothers, sisters, I came for *all* people, not just for the Jews. Samaritans need salvation, a new life just as much as *you* do. Their sins are no greater than yours, that I cannot forgive them.

**PETER:** But Lord, they're...they're *dirty; unclean*. You told us to stay away from unclean things.

**JESUS:** Yes Peter...unclean *things*. I'm talking about a life, a soul, a human being. *You* were once unclean, dirty...*all* of you...until I came and washed you white as snow. You were just like the poor, wretched Samaritan: hungry,

thirsty, engrossed in your sins. Yet, I saw past all of that. I saw your soul, your spirit, your heart...your needs. I reached out to you and made you clean. I satisfied your soul and quenched your thirst with the waters of everlasting life.

**MARTHA:** Forgive us, Lord. We've been wrong.

**PETER:** You're right, Jesus; our hatred for the Samaritans is completely unjustified.

**MARY:** They're people with needs just like us. We should be reaching out to them and helping, instead of shunning them.

**JOHN:** Stay here and rest, my Lord. We'll go into the village to buy food.

**PETER:** *(Looks off.)* My Lord, someone's coming. Should I stay here with you?

**JESUS:** No, Peter. Go with the others. There's no need for you to stay. *(He looks toward the stranger approaching.)* It's only someone who thirsts... *(All of them exit except JESUS who is sitting at the well praying. JULIA enters, wary of the stranger, but her need for water draws her to the well. She lowers her jar into the well and begins to draw water. As she pulls it up, JESUS speaks.)*

**JESUS:** *(Speaking without turning to face her.)* Give me a drink of water.

**JULIA:** *(Startled, she looks around to see if he is speaking to someone else. Realizing she is the only one there, she looks at the stranger and answers.)* Why is a Jew asking *me*, a woman of Samaria, for a drink of water? The Jews won't have anything to do with Samaritans.

**JESUS:** If you knew the gift of God and who it is who asks you, you would have asked *Him* for a drink, and He would have given you living water.

**JULIA:** Sir, you have nothing to draw with and the well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? *(Dips a ladle into the water she's just drawn.)* Are you greater than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and all their flocks and herds? *(Gives him the ladle.)*

**JESUS:** *(Takes the ladle and drinks.)* Anyone who drinks *this* water will thirst again. But, whoever drinks the water that *I* give him will never thirst. The water I give you will become a spring of water inside you welling up to eternal life.

**JULIA:** *(Slowly takes the ladle, looking hopefully up at JESUS.)* Kind sir, give *me* this water so I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.

**JESUS:** *(Knowing it is unacceptable to speak to her without her husband present, He baits her with His response.)* Then go; find your husband and come back.

**JULIA:** *(Answers with half-truths, not to reveal too much.)* I...I have no husband...

**JESUS:** *(Looks into her eyes.)* You are right when you say you have no husband. In fact, you have had five, and the man you live with now is not your husband. So, what you've just said is true.

**JULIA:** *(Shocked that He knew this.)* I...I see that you are a prophet. Tell me; why do the Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mt. Gerizim, where our ancestors worshiped?

**JESUS:** Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain *nor* in Jerusalem. The Samaritans don't fully understand and worship blindly; but the Jews know whom they worship; for salvation comes to the world through the Jews. Yet, a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. They are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

**JULIA:** *(Smiles.)* Well...I *do* know that Messiah, the Christ, is coming. When *He* comes, *He* will explain all these things.

**JESUS:** I am He, the one now speaking to you.

**JULIA:** (*She gasps in astonishment, speaking her thoughts aloud.*) Can this be the Christ...? (*Sees the others coming, so talks quickly, eager to return to the village.*) I must go tell the others, then we'll return! (*She turns and runs off.*)

**JAMES:** My Lord, were you talking to that Samaritan woman?

**MARTHA:** (*Looks around.*) She came to the well alone?

**JESUS:** Yes, Martha. She came in the heat of the day so no one would see her.

**MARY:** She left her water jar, Lord. Isn't that why she came out here...to get water?

**JESUS:** I think she decided that what I had was better, Mary. I offered her living water so she would never thirst again.

**JOHN:** She'll probably be back after she sees we've gone away.

**MARY:** Maybe we should take it to her, John. We could fill the jar with water and return it to her in the village.

**JESUS:** That's very kind of you, Mary; but she'll be back soon...with other villagers. There are many like her in Sychar who thirst for eternal life.

**PETER:** You *spoke* to the woman? What did she want?

**MARTHA:** (*Chuckles.*) Peter! You are such a *busybody*! (*The women giggle, amused.*)

**PETER:** (*Slightly defensive, but knows she is right.*) No, I'm not. It's just that she's...I mean...well...all right, *yes*...I *am* a busybody, Martha. (*They all laugh.*) But you know as well as I do that Samaritans don't talk to us any more than we talk to them. I just wondered what a Samaritan had to say to a Jew.

**JESUS:** Actually Peter, I started the conversation. I asked her for a drink of water. And, like you, she wondered why a Jew was speaking to her.

**MARY:** Was she mean, my Lord?

**JESUS:** Not at all, Mary. She was searching for answers just like you were. I told her that if she had asked Me for a drink I would have given her living water.

**JOHN:** Jesus, do you think she understood what you were saying...about living water, eternal life?

**JESUS:** Yes, John, I do. Her parched soul was crying out to me before she even reached the well. That's why I know she'll return. She too desires to drink of Me and never thirst again.

**JAMES:** What if the villagers get angry, Lord?

**PETER:** They could start a riot if they don't like what they hear. You know how they are...I've seen the Samaritans cause all kinds of trouble and...

**JESUS:** Why are you so quick to judge them, Peter? Judge not, lest you be judged. They'll come because they hunger and thirst for the Truth...and the truth will set them free, just as all of you were set free when you found the Truth. Samaritans are no different from any of you.

**PETER:** I'm sorry, my Lord.

**MARY:** It's hard to *unlearn* prejudice when it's been *ingrained* in you since birth.

**MARTHA:** But, we're willing to try, my Lord. We *want* to love all people as *You* do.

**JESUS:** This is my commandment, that you love one another, as I have loved you, so that your joy may be full. Love *all* of mankind, Peter. No one has greater love than this that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you keep my commandments.

**JOHN:** We are your servants, Lord. You know we will keep your commandments.

**JESUS:** I no longer call you servants, John. A servant doesn't know his master's business. Instead, I call you friends, for everything I learned from My Father I've given to you. *You* did not choose Me; I chose *you* and appointed you to

go and bear fruit...fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you all that you ask in My name. Love one another. Samaritans, Jews, *all* mankind. Open your eyes and look to the fields; for they are white with harvest.

**JULIA:** *(Enters breathless.)* My Lord! Many of the villagers are on their way here to meet you. I told them you knew everything about me, everything I ever did and...and that *you* must be the Christ! They want to see for themselves.

**JESUS:** What is your name?

**JULIA:** Julia, my Lord.

**JESUS:** And what is it you seek, Julia?

**JULIA:** The Messiah; the Christ.

**JESUS:** You have found Him. *All* who come to Me shall *never* hunger or thirst, but have eternal life.

**JULIA:** The Messiah... *(Overwhelmed, she covers her face with her hands and softly weeps. JESUS gently takes her hands away and smiles.)*

### SONG # 1 - WHAT HE'S DONE FOR ME Julia & Company

**JULIA:** Drowning in my loneliness and sorrow,  
I struggle through the day, dreading tomorrow.  
My life is on a downward spiral to nowhere;  
Surely there's a way, a new life somewhere.  
There must be more than this, some purpose that I've missed;  
A better world out there; someone who cares!

**SECTION 1 ALL:** Suddenly, Jesus saw my need; suddenly!  
**(CHORUS)** Loving me completely, guaranteed; suddenly!  
Jesus filled the void, suddenly,  
Now I'm overjoyed...suddenly!  
Of all my sins and bondage, I've been freed!

**SECTION 2 ALL:** He will do for you what He's done for me.  
He will wash away your sins and He'll set you free.  
For His love is reaching out, deep inside your soul,  
To heal the broken hearted and make you whole!  
He can fill the void, then you'll be overjoyed!  
He can do for you what He's done for me! *[2<sup>nd</sup>X go to SECTION 2]*  
He can do for you what He's done for me! *[1<sup>st</sup> X Repeat SECTION 1 & 2]*

**SECTION 3 ALL:** He will do for you what He's done for me.  
He will wash away your sins and He'll set you free.  
For His love is reaching out, deep inside your soul,  
To heal the broken hearted and make you whole!  
He can fill the void, then you'll be overjoyed!  
He can do for you what He's done for me!  
Suddenly! Loving me! Suddenly!  
He can do for you what He's done for me!  
Suddenly! Loving me! Suddenly!  
He can do for you what He's done for me!  
Suddenly! Loving me! Suddenly!  
He can do for you, He can do for you,  
Yes, He can do for you \_\_\_\_\_ what He's done for me!  
What He's done for me! \_\_\_\_\_

**(BLACKOUT)**

**ACT ONE SC 2:** *MARY, JULIA, and MARTHA are at MARY & MARTHA'S house in Bethany.*

**JULIA:** I don't know why you're so nervous, Mary. I'm sure everything will be fine.

**MARY:** You don't know my sister! Martha's a wonderful cook. She's never ruined a single meal in her life! I was just trying to be nice when I said I'd make supper. I never dreamed she'd take me up on the offer! And I don't dare ask her to help; she *thinks* I want to do it myself! What if it tastes horrible?

**JULIA:** Nothing's going to taste horrible, Mary. Do you mean to tell me that you've never cooked anything before tonight?

**MARY:** (*Overly confident.*) Well...of course I have...I mean, I've helped Martha...she made me pluck a chicken once. (*Pauses, remembering.*) Ohhhh! It was awful! And I always set the table, pour the water...take the bread out of the oven...

**JULIA:** So, you really *haven't* cooked anything before tonight, *have you*...?

**MARY:** (*Deflated, she plops down on a bench and props her head up with her hands.*) No...Oh Julia! I'll just *die* if anything goes wrong with the meal. Jesus will be here with John and Peter...and you know, Peter's wife is a great cook too! *Oohh*, why did I say I'd do this!?

**JULIA:** (*Laughs.*) Calm down, Mary. I'm sure it will taste wonderful. Is everything ready? The meat's cooked, you baked the bread...?

**MARY:** (*Suddenly jumps up.*) Oh no! I forgot to take the bread out of the oven!

**JULIA:** Maybe it'll be all right...how long ago *did* you put it in the oven?

**MARY:** (*Heads offstage.*) I don't know! I can't remember! Don't tell Martha, please?! (*Starts to exit but runs into MARTHA.*)

**MARTHA:** (*Nearly run over by MARY.*) Don't tell Martha what? (*Laughs.*) Mary, where are you off to in such a rush? Is something wrong, do you need my help?

**MARY:** (*Trying to hide her hysteria...to no avail.*) No! I mean, nothing...*nothing's* wrong! And I don't need any help...everything is *fine*...just fine...(*runs off.*)

**MARTHA:** (*Laughs.*) I've never seen Mary so excited. (*Digging.*) Now...what is it you're not supposed to tell me, Julia..?

**JULIA:** Oh...uh...it's a surprise...

**MARTHA:** I'll tell you what a surprise is: Mary offering to make supper tonight! She's *never* done that before and it couldn't have happened at a better time. I've been so busy with cleaning and getting everything ready for Jesus to stay with us, I don't know how I would have had time to cook on top of all that.

**JULIA:** Hm, I know Mary's been working hard all day preparing something...special.

**MARTHA:** (*Makes sure they are alone then leans in to JULIA.*) Well, between you and me, I don't care what she's prepared. I'm going to eat it whether it's good or not. I wouldn't have the heart to tell her if it turns out badly. She's never cooked anything before, so I'm not sure what to expect.

**JULIA:** I'm with you, Martha. I'll eat it too, regardless of the taste...as long as it's not raw fish! I don't think I could choke that down.

**MARTHA:** (*Laughs.*) I don't think Peter would be able to either. His wife has spoiled him with her good cooking. She can make *any* fish taste heavenly.

**PETER:** (*Enters with JAMES, JOHN, and JESUS.*) Ahhh, you're talking about my *favorite* subject: FOOD! Right, John?

**JOHN:** Most definitely!

**JULIA:** (*Offers JESUS a seat.*) Martha was just bragging about your wife, Peter.

**MARTHA:** I was telling Julia how Anna has spoiled you with her good cooking. *And*, if you were doubting me... (*Pats PETER'S belly.*) *here's* the proof! (*All laugh.*)

**PETER:** Well, that's funny you should mention Anna's cooking... (*Holds up a parcel.*) ...because she sent some of her famous *fish cakes* for all of us to enjoy!

**MARTHA:** Ohhhh! Peter, that's wonderful!

**JOHN:** *(Grabs the parcel and tosses it to JAMES.)* Well, what are we waiting for?!

**JAMES:** Right! Let's eat!

**MARTHA:** *(Takes the parcel from JAMES.)* No! We have to save them for tomorrow because Mary made supper for us tonight.

**PETER:** *(Shocked, he starts to grumble.)* What?! Mary? But she can't mmmmpf...!

**MARTHA:** *(Quickly puts a hand over PETER'S mouth.)* Don't you *dare* say a word, Simon Peter! Mary's worked hard all day and it was her idea to do this to help me out, so *whatever* she brings to this table you'd better eat like it's the best thing you ever tasted in your life! *Please?!*

**JESUS:** *(Watches them, amused.)* Now Martha, have you ever seen Peter *NOT* enjoy eating? *(They all laugh.)* I'm sure we'll all love the wonderful meal Mary has prepared for us. I know it was a sacrifice for her to do this for you, Martha.

**MARTHA:** Oh yes, Lord; and I've told her that many times already. I was so shocked when she offered, I was speechless.

**PETER:** Seeing *YOU* speechless would shock *ME!* *(He laughs until MARTHA pushes him down in the seat next to JESUS.)* I was only teasing, Martha. *(He waits till she is across the table from him before adding another comment.)* Everyone here *knows* it would take one of Jesus' miracles to make *you* speechless! *(Laughs again, amused with himself. JAMES and JOHN join in.)*

**MARTHA:** Well, I can see that "*brotherly love*" is just *pouring* out of you tonight, Peter.

**JESUS:** *(Enjoying their joking.)* You keep this up, Peter and it will take a miracle to get you out of this house alive, right Martha?

**JULIA:** Hmm, sounds prophetic to me.

**MARTHA:** I was thinking the same thing, Julia. *(They all look at PETER.)*

**PETER:** *(Puts hands up in surrender.)* All right, all right. I can see I'm out numbered.

**MARTHA:** *(All laugh.)* All right, that's enough. Now I know Jesus would *never* say an unkind word, but please, the rest of you mustn't say *one bad thing* about the food! And for heaven's sake, if you can't think of anything nice, at least tell her you appreciate her making supper. *(Sternly.)* Peter...you promise...?

**PETER:** *(Chuckles.)* Don't worry, Martha; I'll behave.

**MARTHA:** John...James...?

**JAMES:** What...me?!

**JOHN:** Now Martha, you *know* I'm not a big mouth like Peter is!

**PETER:** Thanks a lot, brother! *(PETER smacks the back of JOHN'S head as they all sit at the table. Then MARY slowly enters with a large tray carrying their dinner. She sets a plate down in front of each of them. Everything is burnt to a crisp. She doesn't look at anyone and each person just stares at their food when they get it. No one looks up until MARY is seated and she speaks.)*

**MARY:** I...I know how much you love fish, Peter, so I hope you like it...all of you.

**PETER:** *(Looks at MARY and then back at the food then back to MARY.)* *THIS* is fish...?

**MARTHA:** *(Coughs loudly.)* Oh! Excuse me. Must've choked on a gnat or something...

**JOHN:** *(Slapping the back of PETER'S head at the same time.)* Hmm, yes...I think there was one on Peter's head... *(Gives PETER a look that says, "Be quiet!")*

**JESUS:** *(Ever polite.)* Thank you, Mary.

**MARY:** Would you like to bless the meal, Lord?

**JESUS:** *(Turns to PETER.)* I think Peter would like to say the blessing tonight, Mary. Is that all right?

**MARY:** *(Smiles at PETER, pleased.)* Why yes, that's fine; thank you, Peter.

**PETER:** *(Starts to protest as the others bow their heads, then his eyes meet JESUS'. JESUS just smiles and nods for PETER to start, then bows HIS own head, waiting. JOHN snickers at PETER, who raises his hand as if to strike JOHN, then slowly stands to say the blessing.)* Father, we thank You for Your many blessings to us and for keeping us all safe. Thank You for providing for us daily and meeting all of our needs. And...thank You, Father God, for this meal today. Please bless this food and sanctify it to the nourishment of our bodies. And keep us all healthy Father, letting nothing... *(Looks down at the burnt fish.)* ...nothing harm us in any way...And, uh, bless the dear hands that prepared this meal for us...Amen. *(They all fiddle with their plates making idle comments, etc., finally raising the fish to take a bite.)*

**MARY:** *(Unable to stand it any longer, she jumps up, frantic.)* Stop! Please! *(Everyone but JESUS instantly jumps and drops their fish.)* I can't bear to watch you eat that. I'd never forgive myself if any of you got sick. *(All breathe a sigh of relief.)* Peter, where'd you put Anna's fishcakes? *(Everyone jumps in at once.)*

**PETER:** I think James has them.

**MARTHA:** Let's take them to the kitchen, Mary, and I'll prepare them for us.

**JULIA:** I'll help you take these plates away, Mary. *(Grabs some plates and heads off.)*

**JAMES:** Hallelujah! Here's mine!

**JOHN:** *(Quickly responds to JULIA.)* Here! Don't forget the brick...er...I mean bread!

**PETER:** Anna made enough for an *entire meal!*

**MARY:** There's bread left over from this morning's meal isn't there, Martha? *(Exits.)*

**PETER:** *(The ladies have all left leaving just the men. PETER lets out a sigh of relief.)* Whew! That was a close one, wasn't it, Lord? *(The three suppress a laugh.)*

**JESUS:** *(Smiles, patting PETER'S shoulder.)* That was a very noble prayer, Peter. *(The disciples burst into laughter as PETER holds a burnt fish up by the tail. JESUS gives them a stoic look, instantly stopping their laughter. His last look is at JAMES.)*

**JAMES:** *(Stops laughing, serious.)* I...I like charcoal. *(The others stare, incredulous.)* What??

**(BLACKOUT)**

**ACT ONE SC 3:** *Same as Scene 2, after supper. Everyone's laughing as lights come up.*

**MARY:** Now Peter, you must tell Anna how her fishcakes saved the day.

**JOHN:** Saved the day? They saved our lives, Mary! *(They all laugh again.)*

**PETER:** That's right. I think Anna will be even *more* thrilled that we didn't all *die* from charcoal poisoning! *(More laughter.)*

**MARTHA:** Peter, you have to give Mary some credit here. She did her very best and I *truly* appreciate the gesture. It's not often Mary offers to cook for us.

**JULIA:** *(Teasing.)* Maybe next time volunteer to just wash the dishes, Mary.

**PETER:** Or better yet, offer to stay **OUT** of the kitchen! *(Laughter.)*

**MARY:** *(Joking as well.)* Oh well. I should've known better than to "attempt" the impossible in the kitchen. I tried to do something I knew I didn't do very well. You're right, Julia; next time...I'll volunteer to wash the dishes!

**JOHN:** Awww, don't feel too bad, Mary. It wasn't a total waste.

**JAMES:** That's right...because I mashed up the burnt fish and threw it in Martha's garden for fertilizer!

**MARTHA:** *(Repulsed.)* Eww! Thanks a lot, James! *(The three men laugh.)*



**JESUS:** I know it was an offer that came from your heart, Mary.

**MARTHA:** I know it was too, Mary. *(She hugs MARY.)* And I really do appreciate it. And thank you, Peter, for being so brave saying the blessing like you did.

**PETER:** *(Looks at JESUS.)* Well, I didn't have much choice now, did I? I just forged ahead and prayed the best I could under the circumstances.

**JOHN:** Ha! Sounded more like a plea of desperation to me!

**JAMES:** *(Jumps up and mimics PETER praying.)* "...keep us all healthy, Father... letting nothing...*NOTHING* harm us in any way..!" *(They all laugh. PETER feigns anger and slugs JAMES.)*

**JESUS:** *(Chuckles.)* You showed *great strength*, Peter; like a rock. You stood your ground, prayed in faith...why, I truly believe if you'd eaten Mary's meal you wouldn't have been harmed in any way.

**PETER:** Hmmm! I'm just relieved I wasn't put to the test! Thanks for stopping us in the nick of time, Mary! *(They all laugh.)*

**JESUS:** All of you were very gracious; you've learned to show mercy and grace to others. *(Everyone calms down, eager to listen to JESUS speak.)*

**JULIA:** Speak to us, Jesus. Teach us more of Your word.

**MARY:** Yes, Lord. We want to know how to be more like You.

**JESUS:** *(He smiles.)* Ahh, another parable, perhaps?

**PETER:** Jesus, the parable of the sower...that you shared with the people yesterday; what did it mean?

**JAMES:** And why do you speak to them in parables, Lord? Some of them looked like they didn't understand.

**JESUS:** Knowledge for the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever *has* will be given more...and he will have great abundance. Whoever does *not* have, even what he has will be taken from him. This is why I speak to them in parables: Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not understand.

**JULIA:** What does that mean, Lord? They see but *don't* see; they hear but don't understand?

**JESUS:** In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: They will be ever hearing but never understand; ever seeing, but never perceive. Their hearts have become calloused. They've covered their ears, and closed their eyes. If they would open their eyes to see, and their ears to hear, they would understand with their hearts and turn to Me, and then I would heal them.

**PETER:** But *our* ears and eyes are open, Lord, to receive everything you say.

**MARY:** We've opened our hearts to You, Lord.

**JESUS:** Blessed are *your* eyes because they see, and *your* ears because they hear. For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you have seen and hear what you now hear.

**MARTHA:** Then tell us, Lord. Tell us the meaning of the parable of the sower. When the farmer went out to sow his seed and some fell along the path, You said the birds came and ate it all up.

**JESUS:** The seed sown is the word of God, Martha. When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and doesn't understand, the evil one snatches away what was sown in his heart. *That* is the seed sown along the path.

**MARY:** Then what about the seed that fell on the rocky places where there wasn't enough soil? You said it sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow.

**JESUS:** *(Smiles, pleased that MARY was so attentive.)* You listen very well, Mary.

**MARY:** *(She continues.)* But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered...because they had no roots?

**JESUS:** That's right. The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and receives it at once with joy. But, since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When troubles or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away.

**JOHN:** What about the seeds among the thorns that grew up and choked the plants?

**JESUS:** The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth come up to choke the plant, making it unfruitful.

**PETER:** I think I'll take the seed that fell on the good soil, Lord. It produced up to one hundred times what was sown.

**JESUS:** *(Chuckles.)* A wise choice, Peter. For the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop yielding, thirty, sixty or a hundred times what was sown. Those who have eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts to understand will sow My word and reap a hundredfold.

**JULIA:** Teach us more, Lord.

**JAMES:** So we'll know what to do.

**MARTHA:** Yes! We need Your guidance, Jesus.

**PETER:** There's so much we need to learn, Lord.

**JOHN:** Teach us Your ways.

**MARY:** Help us to better serve You, Lord.

## SONG # 2 - TEACH ME, LORD    **Company**

**PJJMMJ:**     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.  
                   Lead me, Lord, to lost and weary souls.

**JESUS:**        Father, there's so much they still don't know.

**PJJMMJ:**     Guide me, Lord, to those who just can't see.

**JESUS:**        It's almost time for Me to go.

**PJJMMJ:**     Lead me, Lord; please take complete control.

**JESUS:**        Let them see just why My life I give. I die so they might live.

**PJJMMJ:**     Guide me, Lord; I serve You willingly.

**JESUS:**        Father in Heaven, their love is strong.

**PJJMMJ:**     Oh Lord, our love is strong. Help us know right from wrong.

**JESUS:**        Soon they'll be tested to know right from wrong.  
                   Will they remember Me...the things they've been taught?

**PJJMMJ:**     We remember what You've taught. Your name shall not be forgot.  
                   Teach me, Lord, to understand Your Ways.

**JESUS:**        I am the Truth, the Life, the Way. There is so much for you to do.

**PJJMMJ:**     Help me, Lord, to know just what to do.  
                   Teach me, Lord; I'm learning day by day.

**JESUS:**        Use My words; apply them every day.

**PJJMMJ:**     Help me, Lord, to follow after You. Help me, Lord, to follow after You.

**JESUS:**        Follow Me; I'll take good care of you.  
                   Follow Me; I'll take good care of you.

**PJJMMJ:**     I love You, Lord; I'll always follow You.

**JESUS:**        I will lead and guide you; I love you.

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