

# *Paul - Fearless Lion of God*

*A Musical Drama in Two Acts*

*By Gloria L. Emmerich*

## CAST OF CHARACTERS:

### Male:

SAUL/PAUL	SOLDIER	PHILIP
BARNABAS	SILAS	GUARD
LUCIUS	HIGH PRIEST	ANANIAS
LUKE (the Physician)	DAVID	STEPHEN
JOHN MARK		

### Female:

DAPHNE (Paul's sister)	PRISCILLA
TRYPHAENA (Daphne's daughter)	LYDIA
SERVANT GIRL	ALEXA

(Optional Male and Female Chorus)

## SONG ASSIGNMENTS:

### ACT ONE:

1. *STONE HIM! (STEPHEN)* ..... Company
2. *BLIND TO GOD'S TRUTH* ..... SAUL
3. *ONLY JESUS CAN SET THE CAPTIVE FREE* ..... ANANIAS & SAUL
4. *WHO HAS DECEIVED YOU?* ..... DAPHNE & SAUL
5. *NEVER GIVE UP* ..... PAUL & TRYPHAENA
6. *SENT FORTH* ..... Company except DAPHNE
7. *OPEN YOUR EYES* ..... BARNABAS & DAPHNE
8. *STONE HIM! (PAUL)* ..... Company

### ACT TWO:

9. *LOVE WILL GO ON* ..... TRYPHAENA & DAPHNE
10. *A SECOND CHANCE* ..... BARNABAS & PAUL
11. *YOU'LL FIND THE ANSWERS* ..... DAPHNE/LYDIA/PRISCILLA/TRYPHAENA
12. *JOURNEY TO ROME* ..... (instrumental)
13. *THERE IS VICTORY* ..... PAUL
14. *TRIBUTE TO SCRIPTURE* ..... Company
15. *I PRESS ON TOWARD THE MARK* ..... Company

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## **ACT ONE**

**ACT ONE SC 1:** *The stoning of STEPHEN. Everyone (Entire Cast) is furious about STEPHEN'S "heresy." The crowd's faces are concealed from the audience.*

**VILLAGER1:** This man speaks nothing but blasphemies!

**VILLAGER2:** Everything he says is a lie!

**VILLAGER3:** Jesus was a carpenter and a thief, but this man claims Jesus was the *SON OF GOD!*

**VILLAGER4:** He is planning to demolish the temple and rewrite the law of Moses!

**VILLAGER5:** I heard him say *JESUS* is the *CHRIST*, and that *HE* is raising up an army that will take over the world!

**VILLAGERS:** *(The others all join in furiously ranting and raving, until SAUL silences them.)* Son of God?! Blasphemer! Liar! Ludicrous! Etc.

**SAUL:** *(Raises his hand to silence the crowd, then looks at STEPHEN.)* What do you have to say about these allegations that have been levied against you? *(No response.)* Are any of these claims true? *(Still STEPHEN doesn't respond.)* How do you *explain* yourself, Stephen?

**STEPHEN:** God on high does not live in houses built by men. The Lord says: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house could *you* build for *me*? What place could you build for my rest? Did not I, the Lord, make *ALL THESE THINGS?*"  
*(The crowd becomes outraged at STEPHEN'S words and begins ranting and raving again. They die down when they see SAUL raise his hand once more.)*

**SAUL:** Then everything they say is true! You have heard him with your own ears so now let your hearts decide!

**STEPHEN:** *(Points an accusing finger at SAUL, nearly cutting off his last words.)* How dogmatic and obstinate you are, always disregarding the Spirit of God! Can you name a single prophet our ancestors did not persecute? In the past they killed those who prophesied about the coming of our Savior; *(Pointing at the whole crowd.)* but now all of *YOU* have become *BETRAYERS!!* You who had God's laws delivered to you by angels, are the *SAME ONES* who have not *KEPT* God's law!!

**VILLAGERS:** Lies! Kill him! Stone him! Blasphemer!! Etc.

**SAUL:** *(Again SAUL silences the crowd, and looks at STEPHEN with contempt.)* You have all witnessed his blasphemies! Carry out the sentence! (\*)

**SONG 1 - STONE HIM! (Stephen) COMPANY**

**VILLAGERS:** Tear him! Tear him! Blasphemer! Blasphemer!  
Kill him! Kill him! Stone him! Stone him!  
**STEPHEN:** I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man,  
Sitting at the right hand of God. Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!  
**VILLAGERS:** Tear him! Tear him! Blasphemer! Blasphemer!  
Kill him! Kill him! Stone him! Stone him!  
**STEPHEN:** Lord Jesus, do not hold this sin \_\_\_\_\_ against them! \_\_\_\_\_  
**VILLAGERS:** Tear him! Tear him! Blasphemer! Blasphemer!  
Kill him! Kill him! Stone him! Stone him! DIE! \_\_\_\_\_

*At song's end STEPHEN dies; the villagers exit leaving SAUL alone.*

**SAUL:** *(With a cynical smile he takes center stage and looks down at Stephen's dead body, then out to the audience.) One less heretic! (Exits.)*

**(BLACKOUT)**

**ACT ONE SC 2:** *Saul stands before the High Priest in Jerusalem.*

**HIGH PR:** Well, it all sounds very impressive, Saul. Now that those Jesus worshipping Jews have witnessed their beloved "golden boy" Stephen stoned to death, perhaps they'll be scattered to the wind and we'll have no more of these blasphemous outbursts! *(Let out a long sigh.)* It's so tiresome talking about it — they've caused nothing but trouble in Jerusalem.

**SAUL:** I doubt we'll hear anymore from them.

**HIGH PR:** *(Smirking, quite pleased with it all.)* There was quite a large crowd looking on. I noticed your sister Daphne was there and your niece as well... *Tryphaena*, isn't it? A lovely child. *(Chuckles)* Saul, they are nearly as zealous as you to rid the world of these followers of Jesus.

**SAUL:** Yes. Daphne and her late husband have always supported me in my zeal to uphold the Law of God. *(He begins to pace, quite agitated with something.)*

**HIGH PR:** Well, God has blessed you with a loving, supportive family, Saul. *(Notices Saul is irritated.)* Now, what is it that has you so agitated *again*, my friend? You've gone from house to house for weeks now arresting every follower of this Jesus. What more can you *do*?

**SAUL:** *(Continues pacing.)* I tell you, there are many more in Damascus, both men and women who believe in Him! And they too must be stopped! *(Slams a fist into the palm of his hand.)*

**HIGH PR:** *(Speaks calmly, almost snake-like.)* And what can I do to help you rid us of these...these.... *pests*?

**SAUL:** *(At the HIGH PRIEST'S offer, SAUL rushes over to him with determination.)* Give me warrants for their arrests that I can take to the synagogues in Damascus.

**HIGH PR:** *(Leans forward closer to SAUL.)* And then what?

**SAUL:** *(SAUL leans in as well, very close to the HIGH PRIEST'S face.)* Anyone found there belonging to "The Way" I will arrest and drag back to Jerusalem to be imprisoned.

**HIGH PR:** *(Slowly leans back, crossing his arms.)* When will you go?

**SAUL:** *(Straightens up, but stays close.)* Now.

**HIGH PR:** *(Slow, deliberate movements, he picks lint off his shoulder and arm.)* What else do you need?

**SAUL:** *(Begins pacing again, this time excited.)* One, maybe two men to travel with me. And, provisions for the trip there. Everything else will be taken care of once I arrive in Damascus.

**HIGH PR:** *(Watches SAUL pace, waiting until he is facing him.)* Then go — you have my approval. I'll have the arrest warrants ready for you in the morning. I want no more lunatics like Stephen ranting and raving against God and His Law! It's time to stop these blasphemers once and for all!

**SAUL:** *(Bows slightly and gestures before exiting.)* And with God's help, I shall personally see that they are silenced — for good! *(Exits quickly as lights fade to black.)*

**(BLACKOUT)**

**ACT ONE SC 3:** *Saul and his traveling companions, PHILIP and DAVID, are carrying sacks, bags, and parcels. They've stopped for a rest on the road to Damascus. SAUL hands his cup to PHILIP.*

**PHILIP:** *(Takes the cup from SAUL.)* Would you like more?

**SAUL:** No... no. And we've rested long enough. I want to arrive in Damascus before the sun sets. So, let's quicken our pace. I have much to do when I get there. *(SAUL immediately sets out, putting some space between himself and the other two men. Suddenly a blinding light appears. The two men fall back bewildered, hearing a voice but not seeing anyone. They hide their eyes from the bright light. SAUL Immediately falls to the ground.)* Aahh! What is this?! *(He tries but fails to shield his eyes from the brilliant light.)*

**JESUS:** *(Prerecorded. (\*))* Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?

**SAUL:** Who.....who are you?!

**JESUS:** *(Prerecorded.)* I am Jesus — the One you are persecuting.

**SAUL:** Wha...what do you want with me, my Lord?

**JESUS:** *(Prerecorded.)* Arise, Saul, and go into the city and you will be told what to do there. *(The bright light fades, everything returns to normal lighting.)*

**PHILIP:** *(He and DAVID slowly uncover their eyes and talk to each other as they go over to help SAUL get up.)* Did you hear it? A voice from nowhere!

**DAVID:** But I didn't see anyone there! Did you?

**PHILIP:** No, but what was that bright light? I couldn't keep my eyes open! *(As they help SAUL up they suddenly realize that something is wrong. SAUL stumbles, clutches his walking stick, and stares blankly out in front of himself.)*

**DAVID:** Are you all right?

**PHILIP:** What's wrong, Saul?

**SAUL:** I'm.....I'm fine, fine. *(Relieved to hear SAUL is fine they start to turn away.)* However, I am most definitely blind... *(The two men turn quickly and just stare at SAUL.)* I must get to the city...to Damascus. *(He holds out his arms*

*for help.) You must take me there.....I, I can't see..... I.....can't see..... (SAUL slowly stumbles offstage while the two men help guide him.)*

**(BLACKOUT)**

**ACT ONE SC 4:** SAUL alone in a small room sitting on a cot. (\*)

**SONG 2 - BLIND TO GOD'S TRUTH SAUL**

**SAUL:** All these years I've been wrong, what a fool I was;  
In my zeal I've been persecuting God.  
I would just turn my back on the Lord and all because,  
I was proud, I was blind to the Truth.  
All the men and the women I committed,  
Were imprisoned or stoned at my command;  
But I've now seen the light, I've seen His face, I admit it,  
And in spite of my sins, I'm in His hands.

Oh how could I be so blind, I would not see.  
I'm ashamed of all the harm that I've done, for now,  
I know You are God's Son.

In my mind I can see the face of Jesus,  
And His voice still is ringing in my ears.  
I was blind to the Truth, now my heart's torn in pieces.  
I'm a fool for wasting all these years.

Oh how could I be so blind, I would not see.  
I'm ashamed of all the harm that I've done, for now,  
I know You are God's Son.  
Jesus, forgive me for the things I have done.  
I believe You are God's Son.  
Jesus, You are God's Son.

**SERVGIRL:** *Quietly, nervously she enters with a tray and sets it next to SAUL. Still facing him, she begins to exit, afraid to turn her back on him. Then, she bumps into ANANIAS.)* Oh! Sorry sir, you frightened me.

**ANANIAS:** There, there. *(Chuckles, amused at her fear of SAUL.)* He won't bite you, dear. How's he doing?

**SERVGIRL:** I'm not sure; but I know he's hungry because he hasn't eaten a thing since he arrived.

**ANANIAS:** Well, I need to speak with him so you're free to go. *(She nods and hurries off. ANANIAS quietly approaches SAUL and stands in front of him. Although blind, SAUL is very intimidating. ANANIAS checks to make sure the girl is gone: He too is nervous, not quite sure if he believes SAUL is blind - almost expecting SAUL to attack like a lion at any moment. He makes gestures in front of SAUL to "test" his sight two/three times he silently turns his back then reels around to "scare" SAUL but gets no response. Finally, SAUL senses someone is there and speaks.)*

**SAUL:** *(Speaks nervously, a little frightened; not at all like himself.)* Who is it? Is someone there?

**ANANIAS:** *(Nearly jumps out of his skin when SAUL speaks. His voice is squeaky at first.)* Yes.....Ahem! Yes, I am Ananias. *(Stares at the pitiful man then speaks matter-of-factly.)* And...you are Saul.

**SAUL:** But, how do you know me? I don't recognize your voice....yet, while I was praying I had a vision of a man coming to visit me. Are...are you that man?

**ANANIAS:** Yes, Saul. That same Jesus who appeared to you on the Damascus Road told me to come to this house and pray for a man called Saul, who is blind, so he would receive his sight. *(Chuckles.)* Jesus Christ has wonderful plans for you, my brother!

**SAUL:** Jesus? He told you I was here? He led you to me?

**ANANIAS:** Well, yes. But I was...reluctant to come at first. *(Chuckles again.)* You've got quite a reputation throughout all Judea, "Saul, the persecutor!"

**SAUL:** *(Buries his face in his hands.)* All this time I've been so blind!!

**ANANIAS:** *(Thinking SAUL is making a joke about being blind, he gives out a big laugh.)* Ha! Blind! I get it! Verrry good. At least you've kept your sense of humor through all of this! HA! *(Then he sees SAUL is not laughing and in fact looks very forlorn.)* Oh, er.....Ahem! Well, yes, you *are* quite blind, aren't you? Well.....that's why I'm here, Saul. *(He now smiles tenderly at SAUL and gently pats him on the shoulder.)* The Lord has called you to reach the Gentiles for *Him*. There are so many others just like *you*, brother, who need

**SAUL:** Jesus Christ. The Lord can use you to witness to others — to open blind eyes — to lead them from darkness into His glorious light! (\*)  
But, Ananias, after all the harm I've done to God's people? *I should be stoned for the evil I've done. I was wrong...so very wrong... (He again buries his face in his hands and weeps.)*

### SONG 3 - ONLY JESUS CAN SET THE CAPTIVE FREE ANANIAS & SAUL

**ANANIAS:** It doesn't matter what you've done in the past.  
It's what you've done today that counts; that will last.  
There's no one worthy of God's mercy and grace.  
Once you accept Him, all the sin is gone, and in its place,  
I see the Son of God shining on your face. \_\_\_\_\_

**SAUL:** Ananias, when I met Him the sadness in His eyes  
Was too much for me to bear.  
I fell down to the ground; I cried out to the Lord in despair.  
His forgiveness and love was poured out there.

**ANANIAS:** Now let God's promise unto you be fulfilled.  
God's Spirit brought me here to you, to be healed.

**BOTH:** Holy Spirit, come to me and open wide these eyes, let them see;  
Only Jesus can set the captive free. \_\_\_\_\_  
Only Jesus can set the captive free. \_\_\_\_\_

*(As the music continues, ANANIAS lays his fingers across SAUL'S eyes. SAUL flutters his eyelids and rubs them as if wiping scales from his eyes. He sees ANANIAS for the first time. They embrace - ANANIAS praising God and SAUL weeping for joy.)*

**SAUL:** I can see! Thank you, Jesus! I can see again! *(The lights slowly fade to black as music swells.)*

**(BLACKOUT)**

**ACT ONE SC 5:** *Back in Jerusalem at the house of SAUL'S sister, DAPHNE. DAPHNE is folding clothes at the table when her brother, SAUL, enters. When she first sees him she is startled, excited, and starts to smile. She then abruptly stops herself and returns to folding clothes with much more vigor than before.*

**DAPHNE:** *(Continues to fold clothes, not looking at SAUL.)* So, is it true? Have you lost your mind and now preach this, this.....*JESUS*, in the synagogues of Damascus?!

**SAUL:** *(Chuckles softly, wanting to ease the tension before he goes on.)* Now Daphne, my *dearest* of all sisters, why...I thought you knew better than to listen to rumors?

**DAPHNE:** Don't you "*dearest of sisters*" me! I'm your *ONLY dearest* sister! And you did *not* answer my question!

**SAUL:** Of course I have not lost my mind, Daphne. Do I look as though I have?

**DAPHNE:** *(Stops folding and looks at him, then rushes to embrace her brother.)* Oh Saul! Saul! *(She laughs but Saul looks sad because of what he knows he must tell her.)* I knew the rumors were false! I knew you'd be true to God's Law.

**SAUL:** *(Still holding her in his arms.)* I will always be true to God's law, my dear sister. And that is why I now believe and preach that Jesus Christ is the risen son of God.

**DAPHNE:** *(She stiffens and pulls away from him.)* What?!

**SAUL:** Daphne, listen to me.....

**DAPHNE:** You *ARE* mad! You've lost your mind!

**SAUL:** Daphne, I've met Him! Well, I mean, there was a bright light — He...He appeared to me, spoke to me — on the road before I got to Damascus...

**DAPHNE:** *(Interrupting him.)* Can you *HEAR YOURSELF?? HE* spoke to you?! You hear "*a voice*" and you say it's this *JESUS?* Saul, you are deceived!

**SAUL:** *(Now losing his calm.)* No! *YOU* are deceived!

**DAPHNE:** *(She spins around and glares at him.)* *WHAT?!*

**SAUL:** *(Trying to calm down again.)* I was wrong, Daphne — so wrong! Jesus Christ *IS* the Son of God; the Messiah! He suffered and died on the cross so that all of us could have eternal...

**DAPHNE:** *(Covering her ears.)* Stop! Stop it I say! How dare you blaspheme in my house! *(She abruptly calms down as if in a state of shock.)* Where is my beloved brother? Where is Saul the zealot — the man who would take on Satan himself trying to keep God's kingdom pure by wiping out the followers of "The Way?" You sat at the feet of the great scholar Gamaliel and studied the Torah. Upholding the Law of God has always been the most important thing in your whole life. *(With each phrase she has gotten closer and closer to SAUL. Finally, she brushes a strand of hair from his brow. Her voice nearly breaks as she speaks.)* Where is that Saul now?

**SAUL:** *(He gently takes her hand from his forehead and holds it.)* He is dead, Daphne. I've been reborn. I have a new life in Christ Jesus....

**DAPHNE:** *(Pulls away again.)* No! You're wrong! You've been deceived, Saul! Who's done this to you?! (\*)

**SONG 4 - WHO HAS DECEIVED YOU? SAUL & DAPHNE**

**DAPHNE:** Who has deceived you, Saul?  
I can't believe that you'd be fool enough to fall for something such as this!

**SAUL:** *(Spoken)* Daphne, you don't understand...

**DAPHNE:** You see a bright light, you hear a voice and claim it's the Messiah!  
Oh, can't you see that something is amiss!

**SAUL:** There is nothing wrong with my belief in this man;  
He is the Savior, the Son of God!  
If you had met Him...

**DAPH:** *(Spoken)* He's a ghost!

**SAUL:** You'd not forget Him.

**DAPH:** *(Spoken)* He's dead!

**SAUL:** He is the Christ! And Daphne, He is real\_\_\_\_\_

**DAPHNE:** You've been deceived!

**SAUL:** Because I feel\_\_\_\_\_

**DAPHNE:** I can't believe!

**SAUL:** That Jesus Christ is alive\_\_\_\_\_ deep down in my soul!\_\_\_\_\_

**DAPHNE:** You're speaking blasphemy! Saul, this is heresy!  
Oh, how can you turn your back on God?!

**SAUL:** How can *YOU* turn your back on God?!  
I've one more thing to say, that Jesus is the Way,  
The Truth and the Life! Without Him *YOU* have gone astray!\_\_\_\_\_

**DAPHNE:** *ENOUGH!* I will *not* hear any more of this! Get out! Get out of my house!  
*(SAUL starts to leave but turns back at her parting words.)* *YOU* are a lost cause!

**SAUL:** *(Slowly raises his arm and points his finger.)* No, Daphne! *YOU* are the one who is *LOST!!* *(He storms out of the house nearly knocking DAPHNE'S daughter TRYPHAENA down as she enters.)*

**TRYPH:** Was that Uncle Saul? *(She giggles.)* He was off in such a huff, he never even *SAW* me! *(She teases her mother.)* Did you two argue again? Honestly, Mama, you and your brother are both such hot heads! I just don't know about...

**DAPHNE:** My brother is dead.

**TRYPH:** *(She sets her laundry down, shocked at her mother's statement.)* What?

**DAPHNE:** He is dead!

**TRYPH:** *(Pointing to where she just saw her uncle.)* But, Uncle Saul was just...

**DAPHNE:** You *HAVE* no Uncle Saul - do you hear me?! He is dead to us!

**TRYPH:** *(Going over to her mother and gently putting her hand on her arm and speaking softly.)* Wha... what do you mean, Mama?

**DAPHNE:** He's one of *THEM!* A follower of *JESUS!*

**TRYPH:** *(Shocked at the news, she still tries to console DAPHNE.)* But Mama....he's still your brother...

**DAPHNE:** No! I said he is dead. I have no brother. You have no Uncle! Don't *ever* speak of him again — don't ever let him in this house, and you will never....*never* see him again — do you understand me?! *NEVER!* *(Overcome*

with sorrow and shock TRYPHAENA slowly backs away from her mother and begins to weep softly as she turns and exits. DAPHNE remains alone.)

**DAPHNE:** (Looking out.) Oh, Saul...WHY??!! (Buries her face in her hands and sobs.)

**(BLACKOUT)**

**ACT ONE SC 6:** *Christian believers are gathered in a room and are all talking at the same time about PAUL. LUCIUS, ANANIAS, LYDIA, PRISCILLA, ALEXA and BARNABAS are there.*

**LUCIUS:** A bright light? How do we know it was God's voice?! How can we trust him? It could be a trap!

**ANANIAS:** It's *not* a trap I tell you. Give him a chance to explain.

**LYDIA:** Why should we meet with *him*?

**LUCIUS:** The High Priest probably sent him!

**ANANIAS:** No, no! *God* sent him, if you'd just let me explain...

**LYDIA:** We'll be arrested! What could he possibly want with us?

**PRISCILLA:** Remember, he had Stephen stoned!

**ALEXA:** I don't believe his story! He's lying!

**PRISCILLA:** Jesus would *never* choose this man!

**BARNAB:** *(Tries to speak but can't get a word in. He tries to calm them, shush them, plead with them to listen but gets nowhere. He finally goes to the door and lets SAUL, who now uses the Roman counterpart of his name, PAUL, into the room. Instantly they all fall silent.)* Let our brother...

**LUCIUS:** *(Interrupting.)* He is *not* our brother!

**BARNAB:** *(Holding up his hands to stop JOHN MARK and any others who might speak out.)* I've known Paul for many years. We were both students of Gameliel, the great scholar. He's an honest man and speaks nothing but the truth. *(Gives them all a look.)* And yes, he is now our *brother!* *(They begin grumbling again so that BARNABAS once more must quiet them before continuing.)* After you hear him speak you can decide for yourselves. *(He*

*looks around.)* Agreed? *(They mumble under their breath before nodding agreement, then settle down to listen. BARNABAS nods to PAUL to take courage and speak.)*

**PAUL:** *(He's amazed that they agree to hear him out.)* You show more grace toward me than I have ever shown to your brothers and sisters. And I know I don't deserve it.

**BARNAB:** *(He pauses so long that BARNABAS clears his throat and motions to him to continue, knowing that this is very difficult for PAUL.)* Go on, brother.

**PAUL:** It's true, I went to Damascus with arrest warrants from the High Priest to take as many believers as I could find back to Jerusalem to be imprisoned. But just a day's journey from Damascus, I was forced to the ground by a blinding light and a voice that asked me, "Why do you persecute me, Saul?" At the time I didn't know who was speaking so I asked who it was. He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting." *(They all gasp, whisper, etc. BARNABAS hushes them again so PAUL can continue.)* He told me to go into the city and I'd be told what to do. I was blinded from the light so my

companions had to lead me there. While waiting at Judas' house a man came to me — Ananias. *(Again they gasp and whisper, then ANANIAS stands, smiles, and walks forward, goes straight to PAUL and embraces him. This surprises them even more.)*

**ANANIAS:** It's true my brothers and sisters. God told me to quickly go to Straight Street and find this man Saul...*(he turns aside to BARNABAS)* You know, Barnabas, I prefer the roman counterpart of his name, Paul. *(BARNABAS turns him back to the others to continue.)* Now, where was I...oh, yes! God told me to find *Paul* and to pray with him to receive his sight. The Lord spoke and said Paul is called to preach the gospel to the gentiles and that He had a great work for him to do. And believe me, he's been out preaching every chance he gets! *(Giggles)* You should see the looks on people's faces when they hear "Saul, the persecutor" preaching salvation in Jesus Christ! *(He slaps his leg and laughs so heartily he nearly topples over. PAUL and BARNABAS catch him before he falls over completely.)*

**BARNAB:** Now, what did I tell you? He is one of us! He has seen the light and heard the call of our Master Jesus Christ. What more proof do you need? *(They begin to lighten up; some stare at PAUL in utter amazement.)*

**PAUL:** *(Waits till they settle down again.)* I humbly ask your forgiveness, for all my past deeds. I can understand your trepidation...and disbelief. I know that perhaps it will take some time for you to accept me as a believer. But, I tell you the truth: since my encounter with the Master on the road to Damascus, I am, and shall always be, a true servant of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*(BARNABAS, proud as can be stands beside PAUL patting him on the back. ANANIAS stands to the other side of PAUL encouraging everyone to come forward and greet PAUL. He chuckles practically the whole time, excited about PAUL'S acceptance by the others. Gradually the others stand and come forward, some embrace PAUL, others shake his hand, etc.)*

**(BLACKOUT)**