

THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

by Carol Dulmes



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**THIS DO IN
REMEMBRANCE OF ME**

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

NARRATOR

PETER

JOHN

JESUS

MATTHEW

JAMES

JUDAS

ANDREW

SIMON

JAMES, THE LESSER

PHILIP

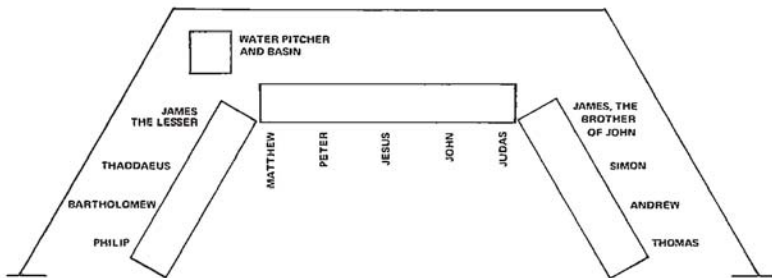
BARTHOLOMEW

THADDEUS and THOMAS — Non-speaking parts

SETTING AND PROPS

The table should be U-shaped and large enough to accommodate the twelve disciples and Jesus. See the diagram for seating arrangements. The table should have a white covering and be well-set, remembering the Passover was an important feast and only the best was used. Plates, goblets, a wine carafe, herbs, a dish of sauce, bread and a lamb roast or paper mache imitation should all appear on the table as well. The bread must appear flat and unleavened. It is advisable to have flatware and food that can be picked up to eat present on the table, for it will help to relieve tension. The communion tables for the congregation will be set off to the side.

STAGE SETTING



Another table or the regular communion table should be set for the congregation and be off to one side or on a lower level. Use loaves of bread to be passed and torn by the individual, rather than the pre-cut pieces.

1 (PETER and JOHN are getting the table set up to
2 celebrate the Passover with JESUS and the rest of
3 the disciples.)

4 NARRATOR: "Then came the day of unleavened bread,
5 when the Passover lamb must be killed. And then he
6 sent Peter and John, saying, 'Go and prepare us the
7 Passover, that we may eat.' And they said unto him,
8 'Where would you like us to make the preparations?'
9 And he said unto them, 'When you enter into the
10 city, there shall be a man you meet, bearing a
11 pitcher of water; follow him into the house that he
12 enters. Then say to the man of the house, "The
13 Master says, where is the guest chamber where I shall
14 eat the Passover with my disciples?" 'And he shall
15 show you a large furnished upper room. There make
16 ready.' " (Mark 14: 1-16)

17 PETER: I think that everything is in order. Do you have
18 the bitter herbs, John?

19 JOHN: Yes, here. Where do you want them?

20 PETER: Here. Next to the sauce. The lamb is roasted and
21 ready so I do hope everyone will arrive on time.

22 JOHN: Peter, Peter. You fuss as much as Martha. They
23 will soon be here, I am certain, but they were coming
24 together with Jesus and, undoubtedly, someone has
25 stopped them to ask the Master's help. Be patient, man,
26 and stop pacing. Everything is just as it should be.

27 PETER: I'm nervous, John. I (Pauses) I . . . have a
28 feeling . . . a strange foreboding. I mentioned it to
29 my wife last night and she told me the events in the
30 city had me upset. I grant that's part of it . . . with
31 Jesus so busy with the people . . . so many miracles,
32 but after he had that run-in with the temple
33 authorities over the selling and money business there,
34 well, they look at us differently each time we pass.
35 Have you noticed?

1 JOHN: Yes, what you say is true. But, it is the Master
2 and his . . . manner . . . the way he does things
3 and talks lately that have me concerned. He talks so
4 much about death and life and . . . well, when he
5 said that the temple could be destroyed and in three
6 days, raised up by him, I was at a loss to understand
7 him. Whose death does he mean? . . . His? But what
8 of the kingdom? . . . I always felt he meant to set
9 up his kingdom soon and throw off the Romans.
10 Heaven knows we have waited for that a long time
11 . . . but if he is to be put to death . . .

12 PETER: (*Jumps up*) Death! Death for the Master . . .
13 and the Messiah . . . not on your life. They'll have
14 to get past me first. I would lay down my life before
15 they touch one hair on his head!

16 JOHN: Easy man. Next we'll need the healing hand of
17 the Master for you. I understand how you feel. I,
18 too, would defend him. (*Pause*) There seems to be
19 something on his mind lately . . . that and the way
20 he draws us aside so often to tell us about the
21 kingdom . . . and the Father. . . . I don't understand
22 and yet I feel as if he is waiting for something . . .
23 watching and waiting . . . and preparing us for it.

24 PETER: Well, I am prepared tonight. With the mood in
25 this city, I armed myself before I came. See.
26 (*Draws a small dagger out of the folds of his cloak.*)

27 JOHN: But, Peter, it is not lawful to . . .

28 PETER: Say nothing. I hear them on the stairs.
29 (*JESUS and the rest of the disciples enter. MATTHEW*
30 *carries the lamb and JAMES has some unleavened*
31 *bread.*)

32 JESUS: Peace be to you, Peter and John. Are all things
33 ready?

34 PETER: Shalom, Master. We have found the room as
35 you said and everything is ready according to the law.

1 JOHN: Welcome, Lord. Peace be to you, my brethren.

2 MATTHEW: Here, Peter. The woman sent the lamb up
3 with me. See how well-roasted it is? And me, as
4 hungry as a lion of Judah.

5 JAMES: You are always hungry, Matthew. I can see why
6 you took up tax collecting before. They eat well, no?
7 Here John. Martha sent along some more unleavened
8 bread. She wanted to be sure we had enough and
9 Mary sent us her love and best wishes. (*JOHN takes*
10 *it and thanks them.*)

11 PETER: Everything is ready, Master. Will you take your
12 place at the center? John, you next to him . . .
13 Judas, next to John . . . James (*He gestures for*
14 *them all.*) . . . Simon . . . Andrew . . . Thomas
15 Matthew, over here close to the roast . . . the other
16 James . . . Philip and Bartholomew, on the end
17 here . . . Thaddaeus, next . . . do we have enough
18 places? Good. I'll sit here next to Jesus.

19 JUDAS: (*Aside*) I thought that's what he had in mind.

20 JESUS: I have been looking forward to this supper with
21 you with all of my being. It will be the last time
22 we are together before my suffering and death.
23 (*PETER catches JOHN'S eye and pats his robe where*
24 *the dagger is hidden.*) In truth, I tell you I will not
25 eat anymore until the kingdom of God is fulfilled.
26 Nor shall I drink any wine. John, my beloved, will
27 you ask the questions required for the Passover?

28 JOHN: Yes, Master. Why are the foods we eat on this
29 night different from all other nights? On all other
30 nights we eat bread made with yeast and left to rise,
31 but on this night, it is unleavened.

32 JESUS: (*Breaks the loaf and lays it down for later.*) This
33 is the bread of the affliction eaten in Egypt. As my
34 Father delivered your forefathers from the bondage
35 of Pharaoh, so will I deliver you from the bondage

- 1 of sin.
- 2 JOHN: What is the meaning of the Paschal Lamb we
3 roast?
- 4 JESUS: The lamb is a symbol of sacrifice. It reminds us
5 of the blood that was spilled and poured out on the
6 doorposts to save the Israelites from the angel of
7 death. God himself will provide and has already
8 provided the Lamb to be a sacrifice that, by the
9 blood of the Lamb, many may be saved from death.
- 10 JOHN: What is the meaning of the bitter herbs?
- 11 JESUS: The bitter herbs remind us how the Egyptians
12 made the lives of our fathers bitter under the
13 bondage of Egypt. The bondage of sin is bitter, too.
14 *(Picks up the cup and fills it with wine.)* Blessed art
15 Thou O Lord, who has created all these things. Bless
16 them to our use. *(As they eat, there is conversation*
17 *among them, but just the following is loud enough*
18 *to be heard — the rest fill in the spaces.)*
- 19 ANDREW: This is the third Passover we have celebrated
20 together. There have been some wonderful things
21 done during that time. Things I never thought to
22 see.
- 23 SIMON: True. The healings and miracles such as no man
24 ever did. Martha and Mary's brother . . . Lazarus
25 . . . raised from the dead . . . out of the grave,
26 mind you.
- 27 ANDREW: None of it will ever be forgotten.
- 28 MATTHEW: This is the best roast lamb I've had in a
29 long time.
- 30 JAMES, THE LESSER: You and food. This night is
31 special to me not because of the food, but what the
32 Master said.
- 33 MATTHEW: What was that?
- 34 JAMES: He said he would not eat or drink anything
35 again until the kingdom is fulfilled. Didn't you hear?

- 1 Tonight must be the night. I have felt something
2 was going to happen. Felt it all week, as a matter
3 of fact.
- 4 MATTHEW: Well, it really is time for him to do
5 something after all the trouble he stirred up with
6 the authorities this week.
- 7 PHILIP: You are right. But there are many soldiers in
8 the city for the festival. Do you think it will be that
9 soon?
- 10 JESUS: *(Looking at them)* The kingdom is very near.
- 11 JAMES: Lord, when your kingdom is set up,
12 will I have a place of honor? A title,
13 perhaps?
- 14 JOHN: I would like to sit, always, at your right hand.
- 15 JAMES: Has my mother spoken to you? She wanted
16 special places for John and I.
- 17 PETER: Do not forget, Lord, that you said I should be
18 the Keeper of the Keys.
- 19 MATTHEW: What will I do, Lord? With my experience
20 in government, I will be an asset. *(Several look at*
21 *each other in disgust at this and now JESUS rises.)*
- 22 JOHN: What is wrong, Lord? I know we have asked
23 out of turn, but we all wonder when you will set
24 up your kingdom.
- 25 JESUS: It troubles me, John. My time here is so short
26 and you all seem to understand so little. Is there
27 any water here?
- 28 JOHN: In the jug in the corner. I will get it. The basin,
29 too? *(JOHN brings it and places it before JESUS on*
30 *the floor. JESUS motions him to sit down and he*
31 *starts to wash JOHN'S feet. The others hang over*
32 *the table to see what he is doing.)*
- 33 JESUS: There, John, you are clean. Peter, it is your
34 turn.
- 35 PETER: *(Pulls in his feet under his chair.)* You will never

1 wash my feet. You are our Lord and Master, not
2 a servant. You will never . . . never wash my feet.

3 JESUS: Then you will have no part with me.

4 PETER: *(Comes around the table in haste and sits*
5 *holding out both hands.)* Lord, then not only my
6 feet, but my head and hands also.

7 JESUS: Peter . . . Peter. One who has taken a bath all
8 over is clean and just needs his feet washed from
9 time to time to be clean. *(He finishes PETER and*
10 *dries his feet with towels.)* Now you are clean but
11 that is not true for all of you. *(Looks toward*
12 *JUDAS.)* James? *(As JAMES gets up and PETER*
13 *returns to his seat, the lights fade on the scene and*
14 *a spotlight fades up on a soloist who sings. Lights*
15 *fade up on scene again after soloist. Now JESUS*
16 *is without basin and towels. He has taken his seat*
17 *again.)* Do you know what I have done? You call
18 me Master and Lord and that is right for so I am.
19 But, if your Master and Lord is willing to wash
20 your feet you should also be willing to wash each
21 other's feet. I have given you an example and it is
22 for you to follow. I say unto you, the servant is
23 not greater than his lord; neither is he that is sent
24 him. I am not speaking to all of you — I know
25 whom I have chosen — but I speak that the
26 Scripture may be fulfilled. Verily, verily I say unto
27 you — one of you shall betray me.
28 *(They all look and whisper to each other and seem*
29 *shocked. PETER is motioning to JOHN to ask*
30 *JESUS who.)*

31 JOHN: Lord, who is it?

32 JESUS: *(To JOHN)* The one to whom I give the bread
33 when it has been dipped. *(Dips the bread into the*
34 *sauce and hands it to JUDAS.)* Go and do what
35 you have to, quickly. *(JUDAS leaves)*



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