

SERIES: COME FLY WITH ME

SEASON 5: FLOOD GATES

EPISODE #41

"HUNGRY HORDES"

(5000 Families Fed - Hidden Motives)

Written by

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Based on *They Met Jesus*

A TRUE STORY

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LAST SEASON (#4). FOLK HERO

- 31 - *The Widow's Son* - Interrupted Funeral
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SEASON #5 FLOOD GATES

EPISODE 41. THOUSANDS - HUNGRY HOARDES

TITLE SEQUENCE

BLACK:

OUTER SPACE

A shooting star streaks through the sky and lands on planet earth.

EXT. EARTH - DAY

Angry waves churn, then calm to circling ripples. A crown rises out of the baptismal water.

MUSIC similar to *Army of Kings* or Handel's *Zadoc the Priest*.

Next rising out of the water is his head, shoulders, torso.

GOD-KING JESUS (30) has black eyes and hair to his shoulders and a short beard. He looks Middle-Eastern.

He is muscular like the lumberjack and carpenter he is. He wears a sparkling gold robe and holds a diamond-tipped gold scepter.

He continues to grow until his head is among the stars.

UGLY EVIL ONE looks down at him from a top corner of the sky.

God-King Jesus points his scepter at him.

GOD-KING JESUS
I will destroy you!

Lightning flashes out of his scepter.

He lowers the scepter and shrinks down until he is normal human size.

Tall trees surround him. He hangs his robe and crown on one of the branches.

He picks up an ax, finishes felling a tree, hoists it (minus its branches) onto one shoulder, and heads out of the woods with it.

FADE OUT.

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. EDGE OF TOWN - DAY

SUPER: BETHSAIDA, GALILEE PROVINCE, PALESTINE - AD 28

Crowds of people leave town and run to the nearby hills.

Others climb out of boats and run toward the same hills.

MAN IN BROWN
Where's everyone going?

MAN IN ORANGE
To the king!

MAN IN WHITE
Better get out there while there's
room.

The three men run together. They join the growing crowd.

Some walk. Some ride on donkeys. Some ride on burrows.

Some pull carts with handicapped and sick in them.

MAN IN BROWN
Caesar? Herod? Who?

MAN IN ORANGE
Neither. Jesus. He's going to be
our next king. Said so himself.

MAN IN WHITE
The God Kingdom. That should shake
up the other kingdoms plenty.

EXT. VALLEY BETWEEN HILLS. - DAY

People fight each other to find a seat up front.

Some knock over cripples headed for the space they want to occupy.

Families carry and drag children to get a good spot.

MAN IN BROWN

What about the Herods and Caesar?

MAN IN ORANGE

More powerful than them all.

MAN IN WHITE

Orders demons around. Even brings
dead people back to life!

The three find a spot and settle in.

A man carrying a sick little girl approaches. Please. Can I have your seat? Please? My little girl is dying. I've got to get up there to Jesus before they close the line.

Brown, Orange, and White find another spot.

MAN IN BROWN

But can he fight wars to defend his kingdom?

MAN IN ORANGE

Won't have to. He'll just make his enemies suddenly dead

MAN IN WHITE

Or disappear into thin air.

MAN IN BROWN

So, why isn't he in Jerusalem?

Man in Orange looks around and ducks his head closer to his friends.

MAN IN ORANGE

There's a plan. We're going to crown him ourselves.

MAN IN WHITE

Then the final takeover.

MAN IN BROWN

You're what? Who's in charge of this plan?

MAN IN ORANGE

Don't know.

MAN IN WHITE

Don't know when or where. Maybe it will be here. Today.

MAN IN BROWN

If he ever gets here. Do you see him?

MAN IN ORANGE

No one knows for sure. He disappeared off the highway for a while.

MAN IN WHITE

This morning, someone said he was spotted getting in a boat headed this way.

MAN IN BROWN

Word about him sure spreads fast. It isn't even noon yet.

EXT. - ROAD OVERLOOKING LAKE - DAY

SUPER - GALILEE LAKE

A crowd follows Jesus and his twelve at a distance. They hoop and holler. "Hail, King Jesus" rises above the noise now and then.

Jesus and his twelve have baskets on their backs for traveling supplies.

They are dirty, show tiredness in and under their eyes, but smile happily.

The twelve slap each other on the back, walk backward to talk to each other, take swigs of water, and make sure their back packs are still on secure.

PETER

Ha! That campaign you sent us out on worked!

ANDREW

Everywhere we go, more and more people are wanting to make you king.

Jesus does not smile. His eyes follow the birds flying around the trees singing to him their songs. He sees a honey bee flitting among happy spring blossoms. He watches beams of light dance off ripples on the lake below. All for him. Still he does not smile.

Jesus' twelve look at him grinning.

JAMES

C'm on Jesus. Snap out of it. So the guys you grew up with in Nazareth turned against you.

EGYPTIAN PHILIP

You escaped, didn't you?

NATHANIEL

It's not the end of the world.

ETHIOPIAN

Just listen to the crowd behind us. They love you.

ETHIOPIAN LITTLE JAMES LEVI

Hail to the king! Hail to the king.

MESSENGER ON A WHITE MULE gallops up to Jesus. He pulls a small scroll from one of the leather bags hanging from each side of his saddle.

MESSENGER ON WHITE MULE

Jesus? Jesus of Nazareth?

Jesus' twelve turn in the direction of the messenger.

Jesus does not. He already knows.

MESSENGER ON WHITE MULE (CONT'D)

They told me to look for thirteen men with probably a crowd following them.

SYRIAN THADDEUS

You can give me the message in case I see him.

MESSENGER ON WHITE MULE

I was told not to give it to anyone but Jesus of Nazareth. Is he...

GOD-KING JESUS

I am he.

Jesus' eyes are already moist. He takes the message and motions for Judas to pay the messenger.

He hands the message to Thomas.

GOD-KING JESUS (CONT'D)

Read it for me, Thomas.

Thomas opens it while watching Jesus walk to the side of the road and sit, his head down.

INDIAN THOMAS

It says...it says John the
Baptizer.... Oh no. He's dead.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

By now the small crowd has caught up with Jesus and his aides, still hooping and hollering.

Jesus stands and walks farther away from the highway.

Simon and Judas hold out their arms to restrain the crowd.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

Back off, everyone.

JUDAS

Maybe another day.

The twelve scatter, but all glance over at their leader.

Philip, Nathaniel, Matthew and Big Little James walk in circles in an emotional highway to the other side of nothingness.

Peter, Andrew, James and John sit near him just in case they are needed, but turn their backs on him in order to hide their own tears.

Thaddeus, Simonm, Thomas and Judas pick up sticks off the road and break them, or trample ants, or hit their aching fists on the boulders and trees as though punishing Herod for taking Jesus' closest friend away from him.

The rowdy crowd that had been following Jesus sits by the edge of the highway where they had been stopped.

After moments, Jesus returns to his aides. He looks down. They understand why. He whispers.

GOD-KING JESUS

I'm tired. Let's get on the lake
and go some place where we can be
alone.

Judas reaches for the money pouch at his waist.

JUDAS

I'll rent us a boat.

Peter looks down the embankment.

PETER

Well, look at that. My partner must have brought my boat over here.

ANDREW

I'll leave a message for him at that booth selling nets. I know the owner.

JUDAS

And money for him to rent a boat to go back home.

Judas hands Andrew the money.

The others follow Peter and Andrew down the embankment to the lake.

The rowdy crowd watches from the highway.

TALL ROWDY

Hey, we can't let 'em disappear again.

SHORT ROWDY

Let's follow 'em.

ROWDY WITH NO BEARD

My boat's down there.

ROWDY WITH BEARD

What are we waiting for?

EXT. AT AND IN BOAT - DAY

PETER

Okay, guys. Take your back packs off and make yourselves at home.

In the stern, Jesus takes his off, sets it down, flufs it up, lays his head on it, and falls asleep.

The twelve talk softly to each other.

NATHANIEL

Quiet at last.

INDIAN THOMAS

No more crowds for a while.

JUDAS

Sometimes they're nearly impossible to control.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

Well, we're here and alone at last.

ANDREW

I'm looking forward to just doing nothing.

JAMES

Poor, John. What a loss. He was Jesus' closest friend.

JOHN

Did you know I was named after him? To think I was named after a prophet.

ETHIOPIAN MATTHEW LEVI

Your parents couldn't have known that when you were born.

ANDREW

Oh, but they did know. Both of John's parents were prophets. When John was just a few days old, they told what his life's work would be.

EGYPTIAN PHILIP

We will miss him. They didn't come any better than John.

Nathaniel starts a song. The others follow his lead.

Those who can see Jesus look down at him and sing to their master.

Those who cannot see Jesus become melancholy and fight their own tears.

EXT. BEACH WITH STEEP HILL LEADING FROM THE LAKE - DAY

PETER

Okay, guys. We're here. All out.

Andrew steps between the baskets and touches Jesus on the shoulder.

ANDREW

Jesus, we're here. Wake up.

Jesus rouses, smiles and stretches.

JOHN

You okay?

GOD-KING JESUS

Yes, I'm fine.

The thirteen climb the embankment. Jesus goes last.

EXT - GRASSY PLATEAU OVERLOOKING LAKE - DAY

When they arrive at the top, they come to a sudden halt.

ETHIOPIAN MATTHEW LEVI

Huh?

NATHANIEL

No!

BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THE THIRTEEN AND THE MULTITUDE

ETHIOPIAN LITTLE JAMES LEVI

Where'd all those people come from?

The crowd stands.

GOD-KING JESUS

They're like cattle in a sand storm
without a herder. Blind and lost.

The crowd stares.

SYRIAN THADDEUS

Don't they go to synagogue? Don't
they have rabbis to guide them?

GREEN-ROBED MAN

Hey. It's him!

JUDAS

They probably go every week. But
they're still hungry.

CROWD

It's him. It's him.

SYRIAN THADDEUS

Temple politics? You know, everyone
wanting their way?

The crowd moves forward like a wave seeking home on the shore.

EGYPTIAN PHILIP

Do you know how many times I was
tempted to quit synagogue?

ANDREW

Yes, I knew.

People on crutches try to keep up as they join the other
desperates,

GOD-KING JESUS

They need me. I need to go where
everyone can see and hear me.

He looks up at the top of a cliff overlooking the green
plateau.

The twelve look toward the crowd now bumping into them and
form their usual protective human wall around Jesus.

Three in front, three in back, three on each side.

They begin their climb up a hill.

GRAY-HAIRED MAN

Hey. Where's he going. He doesn't
care about us.

GRAY-HAIRED WOMEN

Yes, he does. Look. He's headed
for the cliff so we can all see
him.

EXT. TOP OF CLIFF OVERLOOKING GREEN PLATEAU - DAY

Jesus steps to the edge of the drop-off. He looks down.

VISION

SUPER: CLIFF AT NAZARETH - FOUR MONTHS EARLIER

VISION

TALL GROWN BOYHOOD FRIEND

You got too uppity Jesus. You're
not here from God. You're just a
carpenter.

SHORT GROWN BOYHOOD FRIEND
We know the real you.

A mob pushes Jesus to the edge of the cliff.

TALL ANGRY MAN
Nazareth is going to save the world
from being duped by you.

BACK TO PRESENT

Jesus takes two steps backward, looks at John, now his
closest friend, and winks.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

CLIFF

Judas steps forward and raises his arms. He bellows to the crowd below.

JUDAS

Attention, everyone! Attention!
If you'll move in as close as possible to the bottom, of this cliff, everyone will be able to see and hear Jesus.

GREEN PLATEAU

People pick up blankets and cushions and stools and move them closer. They quickly settle in.

The weaker are carried on backs or in their arms or on cots.

Some attract flies to their open wounds, others moan in agony over an unseen monster attacking their body.

All look up toward Jesus. All but the restless children who jump up and run between small groups of people, making sure they are being pursued by other children.

Angry parents stand, call their children to them and set them on their laps.

Some parents sway and sing softly to their children in hopes their eye lids will grow heavy and they will fall asleep.

Matthew walks back and forth across the top of the cliff, carefully eyeing the massive crowd below.

ETHIOPIAN MATTHEW LEVI

There must be ten thousand of them.
I'd say half -- five thousand of them -- are men. The rest women and children.

JESUS

They're hungry. They're starving.

PETER

Quiet, everyone! Let's have quiet, please. Jesus is ready to speak!

GOD-KING JESUS

Are you thirsty? Then come to me
and I will give you the water of
eternal life. From me flows living
rivers.

PLATEAU

Philip spots an elderly LADY SHIVERING.

PHILIP

You look cold. Here, take my robe.

CLIFF

GOD-KING JESUS

Are you living in darkness? Come
to me and I will give you light
wherever you are. I am the light!

PLATEAU

Simon sees a YOUNG MOTHER frantically trying to keep her
children still.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

Mother, would you like me to hold
one of your children?

CLIFF

GOD-KING JESUS

What is truth? I am truth. If you
truly are my follower, you will
obey my truths. My truths will
free you of every kind of bondage
you have put yourself in.

PLATEAU

Nathaniel spots a MAN SHOOING FLIES off the open wound on his
leg.

NATHANIEL

Oh, sir, let me put a cloth over
that big sore until Jesus can help
you.

CLIFF

GOD-KING JESUS

You think you are free. But every
time you sin, you become Satan's
slave.

(MORE)

GOD-KING JESUS (CONT'D)

If you enter the household of God,
I will set you free.

PLATEAU

Philip sees a WOMAN LEAN OVER on her blanket.

EGYPTIAN PHILIP

Ma'am, you look so tired. Here.
Take a drink of my water.

CLIFF

GOD-KING JESUS

If you follow my rules, you will
never die. Your body may die, but
your soul will not. No one can kill
your soul but Satan. I can make
your soul live again.

PLATEAU

Big Little James spots an AFRICAN COUPLE

ETHIOPIAN LITTLE JAMES LEVI

Are you having trouble
understanding him? Let me sit with
you and translate for you.

GOD-KING JESUS

You claim Abraham is your ancestor.
Well, guess what? I existed before
Abraham.

The sun is now three-fourths of its way across the sky. The
twelve return to Jesus.

CLIFF

JAMES

No one is making any effort to
leave and go home.

PETER

We're out in the middle of nowhere,
Jesus.

JUDAS

It's already late. Send the people
away so they can go to the towns
and get something to eat.

Jesus sighs and looks deep into Philip's eyes.

GOD-KING JESUS
You give them something to eat.

EGYPTIAN PHILIP
That's not what we meant.

GOD-KING JESUS
Philip, where should we go to buy
bread for these people?

EGYPTIAN PHILIP
Well...by my calculations...eight
months' wages wouldn't buy enough
bread for each of them to have one
bite!

GOD-KING JESUS
So, how many loaves do we have
among this crowd?

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON
Huh?

GOD-KING JESUS
Go find out.

While his twelve scramble, Jesus sits and leans back on a
boulder.

He rests his chin on his knees and watches his men with a
twinkle in his eye.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

PETER
I didn't find any food. What about
you, John?

JOHN
Not me.

JAMES
There's none out there. People came
completely unprepared.

ETHIOPIAN LITTLE JAMES LEVI
How do people figure out where
we're going next? I don't even
know.

ETHIOPIAN MATTHEW LEVI

We've just wasted another hour.
Everyone's another hour hungrier.

JUDAS

Why do those people just sit there?
Can't they fend for themselves?
Handouts. They just want handouts.
Well, they're not getting any here.

Jesus continues to sit and grin while his aides argue.

INDIAN THOMAS

You know you're asking the
impossible.

Andrew guides a little boy past his co-workers and to Jesus.

ANDREW

Uh, Jesus. Here is a little boy who
wants to share. He has five rolls
and two dried fish. How far can
this little bit possibly go among
thousands of people?

Jesus jumps as though newly invigorated.

GOD-KING JESUS

Ah, friend. You've done fine so
far. You brought what you could.
Good job.

ANDREW

I was? I did?

GOD-KING JESUS

Don't go doubting now, Andrew, just
before the big pay off.

The little boy tugs on Jesus' sleeve. Jesus kneels in front
of him.

LUNCH BOY

This is all I've got, sir. But you
can have it. My mama told me to
always share.

Jesus ruffles the boy's hair and puts both hands on his the
boy's little shoulders.

GOD-KING JESUS

This will do fine, son. But they're
just a loan. As soon as I am done
with them, you can have them back.

PETER

It is?

JAMES

He can?

Jesus turns toward his aides, still grinning.

JESUS

Have everyone shift into manageable groups -- fifty in each. That'll give each of you fifteen or sixteen groups to serve.

The aides stare at Jesus with lowered brows, their eyes just slits of trust.

JOHN

He has spoken. We'd better do what he says.

The twelve walk back down the slope beside the cliff.

PLATEAU

NATHANIEL

All right, folks. You over there. Follow me over here.

MAN IN BROWN

What's going on?

SYRIAN THADDEUS

We'll tell you later. For now, just do what Jesus wants. Fair enough?

As the crowd is shifted into groups, people murmur.

WOMAN IN BROWN

Why are you moving us?

MAN IN GREEN

We were fine where we were. Good view and everything.

ETHIOPIAN LITTLE JAMES LEVI

Don't worry. You will still be able to see what's going on.

As the shifting progresses, the twelve shoot glances at Jesus at the top of the cliff.

CLIFF

Jesus paces and looks down at the goings on in the crowd. His chin is in his hand and sometimes he looks at them, always with his sneaky grin.

Lunch boy matches Jesus' pace and, whenever Jesus looks down with a grin, the boy looks down with lips pursed, nods his head, and returns to pacing.

PLATEAU

WOMAN In GREEN

We don't want to miss anything.

EGYPTIAN PHILIP

Oh, you're not going to miss anything. Trust us!

Once the 200 groups are organized, the twelve return to Jesus.

ANDREW

That wasn't as easy as you made it sound. Which is typical. What now?

GOD-KING JESUS

Now, go back down...

NATHANIEL

Back down?

GOD-KING JESUS

...to the boat and each of you empty your traveling baskets and bring them here.

EXT - SHORE OF LAKE GALILEE - DAY

JUDAS

What in the world is he going to do with our baskets?

ANDREW

I learned a long time ago not to question him.

PETER

He is up to something. I can guarantee you that.

CLIFF

The twelve aides arrive back with the baskets.

Jesus is playing patty cake with Lunch Boy. He stands.

Lunch Boy hands Jesus his lunch.

Jesus holds the lunch out for the crowd below to see, then up toward the heavens.

As he speaks, heaven opens and sun beams shoot down on the lunch.

GOD-KING JESUS

Thank you, oh God, for making the
grain to grow for our bread and the
fish to fills the seas for our
meat. To you belongs glory and our
very life.

Then Jesus turns to his aides.

GOD-KING JESUS (CONT'D)

Bring me your baskets.

As Jesus puts a pinch of bread and pinch of fish in each basket, the sun beams shoot into them.

NATHANIEL

What in the world are you doing,
Jesus?

Jesus finishes up and steps back.

GOD-KING JESUS

Okay, men. Feed the people.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

The twelve stare into their baskets.

JOHN

Is he about to make fools of us?

JAMES

There's nothing in here except this flimsy sliver of fish and a pinch of bread.

GOD-KING JESUS

Go ahead.

INDIAN THOMAS

He's toying with us.

GOD-KING JESUS

Go on now. It's dinner time.

JUDAS

But...

GOD-KING JESUS

Feed them anyway.

PETER

How?

GOD-KING JESUS

Follow me, men. I'll show you how.

Jesus arrives at the first group.

GOD-KING JESUS (CONT'D)

Give me your basket, Andrew!

With Andrew's basket, Jesus walks through the people.

GOD-KING JESUS (CONT'D)

Here's your bread and fish. Here's yours. Here's yours. And yours. And yours. And....

One at a time the people take their roll and fish and begin to chew.

Delighted with new understanding, the twelve take their baskets and imitate Jesus. Everyone in each group of 50 gets what they need.

At first the people do not understand what is happening - not until they realize the food for all fifty in each group is coming out of one basket.

CLIFF

Jesus watches the crowd below with Lunch Boy.

PLATEAU

The silence of unknown anticipation breaks into laughter. Soft, guarded laughter. Then wild, uncontrolled laughter. Group after group. Across the wave of people. Giddy laughter.

MAN IN BLUE

It's a miracle!

WOMAN IN BLUE

We're eating a miracle.

EGYPTIAN PHILIP

Uh, anyone here who got too much?
Let's not waste it. Pass my basket
around to collect the left overs.

CLIFF

The twelve return to Jesus. This time they are solemn.

NATHANIEL

Forgive us for doubting.

PLATEAU

MAN IN WHITE

He's performed another miracle.

WOMAN IN WHITE

He's the prophesied God-King!

MAN IN BLACK

He's our king. Not Herod! Not
Caesar! Jesus is!

CROWD

Hail, King Jesus!
Hail, King Jesus!

CLIFF

When Jesus hears the cheers, his eyes turn gray, his brows hover over his eyes, he clinches his fist.

GOD-KING JESUS

No! You've got it all wrong! You don't understand! I want to feed your spirits!

CROWD (O.C.)

Hail, King Jesus!
Hail, King Jesus!

Jesus turns to his twelve.

GOD-KING JESUS

Hurry! Get back in your boat! I will escape on my own. Go!

Alone, Jesus watches the throng rushing at him and disappears.

From a higher perch, he watches the people walk in circles with their hands out like the blind. Tears return to his eyes. He kneels.

INT - SYNAGOGUE - DAY

The building is full to overflowing. Jesus and his twelve are seated together in the front row on the men's side.

MAN IN BROWN

Did you hear what Jesus did yesterday?

WOMAN IN BROWN

Jesus fed all of us. Must have been ten thousand of us

MAN IN GREEN

Maybe he'll perform another miracle today. Maybe provide our groceries for the week.

CAPERNAUM RABBI

Attention, everyone. We are pleased to have Jesus speak to us today. Of course, we're all anxious to hear about yesterday. We need to confirm it really happened.

Heads of men and women nod in agreement.

CAPERNAUM RABBI (CONT'D)

At the same time, we need to be sensitive. His dear friend, John, was executed just days ago.

Jesus walks up to the podium. He does not smile.

WORSHIPPING MAN IN GREEN

Hail to the king. Hail King Jesus.

Others join in the chant

Jesus looks out over the congregation and holds up his hands for silence.

GOD-KING JESUS

I know what you all are doing. You still do not understand. You're not looking for me because of how I can change your life for the better. It's because I fed you free. Don't you realize I can give you bread straight from heaven so you will never hunger again?

MAN IN BLUE

Hey, Jesus. Give us proof you're from heaven. Give us this miraculous food so we'll never be hungry again!

WOMAN IN BLUE

Yeah. Prove it.

GOD-KING JESUS

Don't you get it? The bread: It is me. I am the bread of eternal life. I am the one who came down from heaven.

The twelve turn around and stare at the critics of their master.

MAN IN ORANGE

Come on now, Jesus. You're not acting like a king.

WOMAN IN ORANGE

He's just Joseph's son. Everyone knows both his parents.

MAN IN WHITE

Get off this kick, Jesus, that you came down from heaven.

WOMAN IN GREEN

We don't need an insane king.

BALD MAN

He talks a lot, but he can't deliver.

GRAY-HAIRED MAN

He could give us that special bread so we didn't get hungry again if he wanted to.

BROWN-HAIRED MAN

He just doesn't want to. All talk. Just talk.

Man in White goes toward the door.

MAN IN BLACK

I've heard enough. Jesus is a fraud.

Man in black leaves next.

WOMAN IN BLACK

We're wasting our time.

MAN IN BROWN

Let's get out of here.

The last one to leave is the rabbi. He turns and looks at Jesus with sad eyes.

CAPERNAUM RABBI

Sorry.

The synagogue is empty except for Jesus and his twelve.

Jesus rises from his speaker's seat and joins his twelve on the front pew.

Silence.

James stands, looks at the other eleven, but not at Jesus. On each side of him, they sit protectively, guarding against any disruption by those who hate their master.

JAMES

Let's sing David's Psalm 22.

Softly they sing....

THE TWELVE

But I am a worm
and not a man,
scorned by men and
despised by people.

Tenderly they sing...

THE TWELVE (CONT'D)

All who see
me mock me;
they hurl insults....

To their master and king, they sing.

James sits and Andrew rises.

ANDREW

God. Jesus is tired. He hurts for
former friends who have rejected
him. He hurts for John who he loved
like a brother. He hurts for the
world who does not understand him.
God, we don't know what to do.
Help us know how to help him.
Amen.

Silence. John stands and faces Jesus.

JOHN

Come on, Jesus. It's time to go
home.

EXT - STREET - DAY

The 12 whisper among themselves.

JAMES

John the Prophet died. He's still
in mourning.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

His boyhood friends in Nazareth
actually tried to kill him.

SYRIAN THADDEUS

His own family isn't sure about
him.

NATHANIEL

He gives and gives and gives.

Taking more notice than before, the twelve realize many of the congregation have remained outside the synagogue. Some think they see a stone in a few hands.

Once again, the twelve form their usual protective wall around Jesus -- three in front, three in back, three on each side. And they take him home.

INT - COURTYARD JESUS' RENT HOUSE - DAY

Jesus does not go into a private room as they had thought he would. Instead, he sits on his bench in the circle.

Their usual benches for conferences are still in place. Each sits in his usual spot in the circle. They sit completely aware of Jesus but not looking at him until he is ready.

He looks at them all, his eyes red. He groans. He whispers.

GOD-KING JESUS
Will you desert me too?

PETER
Where would we go?

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

SUPER: SIX MONTHS LATER. DECAPOLIS PROVINCE, PALESTINE

Jesus and his twelve walk down a highway. They all have their baskets of supplies on their backs. Jesus stretches and takes a deep breath, and smiles. He looks around.

GOD-KING JESUS

These people need me.

JOHN

Here? Are you sure?

GOD-KING JESUS

Yes. They are good people. I will make them better.

Jesus leaves the highway, walks across a broad plain, and climbs a hill on the far side.

Peter and Andrew follow him and stop just before they arrive at the hill.

Thomas and Judas stop half between the hill and the highway.

James, John, Philip and Nathaniel space them selves along one side of the highway while Matthew, Big Little James, Thaddeus, and Simon do the same on the other side.

They call out to travelers on the highway.

JAMES

Come on down and hear Jesus for yourself.

JOHN

Why don't you come this way and let Jesus fix your foot?

EGYPTIAN PHILIP

That's right folks. Come right on.

MAN IN BROWN

Do I have time to run home and get my wife? I don't live very far from here.

EGYPTIAN PHILIP

Bring your neighbors too. And a tent if you have one.

(MORE)

EGYPTIAN PHILIP (CONT'D)
It'll be nearly dusk by then.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

MAN IN ORANGE
Did we miss anything?

NATHANIEL
You're fine. Just go down to that
man in yellow. He'll guide you to
a good spot.

MAN IN ORANGE
I brought my neighbor. He lost his
foot in an accident and...

ETHIOPIAN LITTLE JAMES LEVI
Here, sir. Let me help you the
rest of the way.

HILL

SUPER: DAY ONE

Jesus sits at the top of the hill and watches and paces. Big
Little James arrives. Judas is already there.

SYRIAN THADDEUS
Jesus, these people need you.

Jesus turns to the first person in line.

MAN IN BLUE WITH GIRL FOUR
Sir, my little girl's spine is all
bent. Can you help her?

Jesus smiles, runs his hand up her back in slow motion. As he
does she straightens.

CROWD
Ooh. Aah.

SYRIAN THADDEUS
Next?

WOMAN IN BROWN
I have had this open sore on my leg
for two years. It won't go away.

Jesus covers the sore with his hand and, in slow motion, as he takes it away, her leg is clear.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

That's all for now. Jesus wants to say a few words to everyone.

The rest in line sit where they are.

GOD-KING JESUS

Don't pretend your soul is healthy when you know you sin. I am your physician. Come. Let me heal your soul.

A man without a foot hobbles forward. Ethiopian Little James helps him.

GOD-KING JESUS (CONT'D)

Be careful how you treat other people. God will treat you the same way.

A blind girl is led forward by her father. Indian Thomas helps them.

GOD-KING JESUS (CONT'D)

Don't act like you're smarter than God. Destroy your arrogance and God will accept you into his family.

A woman is carried on a cot by a man and boy. Judas helps them.

GOD-KING JESUS (CONT'D)

Dare to love God with your whole being. One way to prove you do is to love other people as much as you do yourself.

Jesus stops and heals the three.

The sun is high in the sky.

GOD-KING JESUS (CONT'D)

Love your enemies even when they do not love you. Do good things for them even when they do not do good things for you.

PLATEAU

A woman in the audience cries. Revolutionary Simon comforts her.

GOD-KING JESUS (O.C.) (CONT'D)
 An apple tree makes apples. A
 lemon tree makes lemons. A thorn
 bush makes thorns.

A little boy needs to pee. Egyptian Philip takes him behind
 a boulder.

GOD-KING JESUS (O.C.) (CONT'D)
 People will know your heart by what
 you make out of your life.

JESUS stops speaking.

Peter and Andrew whisper to each other as they walk among the
 crowd.

PETER
 Now what? Will we have a replay of
 that disaster last spring?

ANDREW
 Feed 'em free and they demand more?

They watch a mother with two children on a blanket. She
 opens a basket.

MOTHER OF TWO CHILDREN
 Okay, gather around. We do not want
 to bother Jesus and ask for food. I
 brought plenty for all of you.

SUPER - DAY TWO

People come out of their tents and stretch.

Excited whispers.

TEENAGER IN GREEN
 What do you think he'll do today?

MAN IN GREEN
 Whatever it is, it will be a story
 to tell your grandchildren some
 day.

Everyone works their way to their same spot. The spot where
 they had listened to their hero the day before.

Once seated, they wait. And watch the hill -- Jesus' hill. An
 undercurrent of excited talk greets the morning and echoes
 across the plain.

TALL MAN

Whatever he does today, we'll have
a hard time explaining back home.

Small stools, mats, cushions, and blankets are put back in
place.

SHORT MAN

He promised to return today. Does
he keep his promises?

Jesus appears. The crowd applauds him wildly. Whistles.
Excitement pops like lightening. Explodes like fireballs.
There's no containing the crowd!

BALD MAN

At last. A king who understands us.

MAN WITH FORKED BEARD

You're our hero, Jesus! Our hero!

HILL

JESUS

The gate to my world -- to heaven --
is narrow. You'll have to be
careful to stay on the right road
to it.

A child runs to Jesus and he hugs him.

JESUS (CONT'D)

On the wrong road, you won't see
the gate. You'll walk right into
the abyss.

Another child goes to Jesus.

JESUS (CONT'D)

If you stand up for me here on
earth, I will stand up for you
before God the Father.

Another child.

JESUS (CONT'D)

If you are not actively on my side,
you are against me.

Another child.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Do you have burdens? Are you
weighed down with problems?

(MORE)

JESUS (CONT'D)

Come to me. Let's trade. I will
take your burden. You take my
burden of love.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

PLAIN

James and John watch the people wander to their tents.

EGYPTIAN PHILIP

They've been here two days.

NATHANIEL

Why aren't they demanding food?

SIX-YEAR-OLD-CHILD

Mommy, I'm hungry.

MOTHER OF THREE CHILDREN

I know you are. We ate all we had
yesterday. But we are not going to
rely on Jesus to feed us all the
time. It isn't right. Go to sleep;
the hunger will go away.

SUPER: DAY THREE

An aura of light. Sneaking mischievously. Now sparkling. The
window of heaven opening. The sun so bright this morning.

People clean up in a nearby stream. Then wend their way back
to their usual spots. What will Jesus do today?

They watch the hill, but no Jesus.

TWELVE-YEAR-OLD CHILD

Daddy, I'm hungry.

DADDY

So is everyone else. But it is
miles back to town. It would be
afternoon by the time we'd get back
and...

The child answers while kicking a rock and sulking.

TWELVE-YEAR-OLD CHILD

I know. We'd miss hearing what else
he has to say.

But Jesus does not stand to teach them.

BALD MAM
What's the delay?

MAN WITH FORKED BEARD
He said he'd be here. Doesn't he
keep his promises?

HILL

Jesus is seated on the ground with his twelve.

GOD-KING JESUS
These are good people. They truly
are hungering for the bread of
life.

But I feel sorry for them. They
have been out here listening to me
for three days.

What should we do?

JOHN
Do?

JAMES
They should have gone home by now.

GOD-KING JESUS
I repeat. They're hungry. What
shall we do for them?

ETHIOPIAN LITTLE JAMES LEVI
Aw, come on, Jesus. You already
know the answer.

ETHIOPIAN MATTHEW LEVI
Whatever it is, why ask us? We
can't help them.

JUDAS
They're just users.

Jesus stares at them. A sheepish look. That familiar sheepish
look.

They stare back in confusion. No use asking him, though. He
is not going to answer.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON
Again?

SYRIAN THADDEUS

There are almost as many thousands
as there were last time.

NATHANIEL

Are you sure?

EGYPTIAN PHILIP

Well, men. I guess we'd better
divide up. We know the drill.

Jesus sits on the ground with his knees up under his chin,
just like last time. He looks up at them. Just like last
time. He waits without another word. Like last time.

PLAIN

PETER

Anyone with any food left at all?

ANDREW

Anyone willing to give up your last
meal?

JAMES

Anyone with food?

JOHN

Bread anyone?

EGYPTIAN PHILIP

Fish?

NATHANIEL

Figs?

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

Cheese?

ETHIOPIAN LITTLE JOHN

Food anyone?

ETHIOPIAN MATTHEW LEVI

There must be about 12,000 people
this time.

Man in Brown steps over to Thomas and hands him his food.

MAN IN BROWN

Hey, does Jesus need food? Is he
hungry? Anything for Jesus.

INDIAN THOMAS

Thanks. Just you wait to see what
Jesus can do with this. For
breakfast.

Man in Orange hands his food to Judas.

MAN IN ORANGE

I've got a little left. Jesus can
have it.

Another man donates his little bit of food.

MAN IN GREEN

Me too! I have some.

JUDAS

Thank you, kind sir. This is a fine
investment.

A man stands but turns to walk the other way.

MAN IN STRIPES

Not me. I'm not giving up my food
for Jesus. He can just get his
own."

SYRIAN THADDEUS

Anyone, food? Extra food?

HILL

The twelve aides return to Jesus with what they have found.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

"Okay, Jesus. This is what we've
located.

INDIAN THOMAS

I've got a dried out roll.

NATHANIEL

Me too.

JOHN

I found a couple dried fish.

ANDREW

I found a roll.

JAMES

Here's another dried fish.

The twelve put their findings on a robe Jesus has spread out on the ground.

GOD-KING JESUS

Okay. You've found one, two, three, four -- seven rolls. And a few fish. That should do it.

ETHIOPIAN

That's one roll for every seventeen hundred people. Perfect! And one bite of fish for every thousand. (He winks.) Ha, ha!

PETER

Uh, excuse us, but we left our back packs in our tent. Be right back.

The twelve disburse.

Jesus gathers the robe up with the food in it and presents it to the sky.

GOD-KING JESUS

Glorious God and Creator of all things on earth. You make everything reproduce -- grain in the fields, fish in the sea. Now do it again.

The twelve return. They laugh and kid with each other.

JAMES

Sorry we took so long. We had to divide the people into groups so we could tell who has been served and who hasn't.

Jesus divides the larger rolls in half. And each basket gets half a fish. Almost like last time.

The twelve now divide up and head toward the circles of people.

PLAIN

EGYPTIAN PHILIP

Here. Take one section of bread and one of fish.

NATHANIEL

Here. Take one section of bread and one of fish.

ETHIOPIAN MATTHEW LEVI

James, you and I need to go to the
people in the back.

ETHIOPIAN LITTLE JAMES LEVI

Take one section of bread and one
of fish.

Bald Man stands up dangling his two sections of bread and
fish.

BALD ,MAN

This is all we get? Hey, the
people in the front got it all.
Huh?

The people in front are laughing. And shouting. What is it?

ETHIOPIAN

Sir, look at your hands. What are
you holding?

Bald man looks at his hands and see the piece of bread
growing into a large flat bread. His smidgen of fish has now
grown into a large, fully cooked fish.

MAN IN BROWN

A miracle!

MAN IN GREEN

A miracle!

CROWDS

A miracle!

Groans and grumbles becomes whispers, then talk, then shouts.

Snickers become muffled laughter. Muffled laughter turns to
loud guffaws.

Out-and-out hilarity. Wonderful hilarity. Glorious hilarity
that echoes across the plain and to the heavens.

HILL

The twelve return to Jesus laughing.

JUDAS

If I live to be a hundred, I'll
never get used to your miracles.

Peter faces the crowd below and raises his arms.

PETER

Attention! Attention! It's time for everyone to go home now. Jesus is very pleased with you. Indeed, he is proud of you. But, as you know, there are threats on his life. He needs to leave.

PLAIN

As the crowd disburses, three black-clad Pharisee spies and three well-dressed Sadducee spies glare up the hill at Jesus.

TALL PHARISEE

We've got to do something and fast.

TALL SADDUCEE

At least they didn't try to make him king this time.

SHORT PHARISEE

This time next year, that Jesus will be in control of both the temple and the palace.

SHORT SADDUCEE

He will either exile us or execute us.

BALD PHARISEE

We've got to find something he does legally wrong.

BALD SADDUCEE

Catch him in the act with witnesses.

TALL PHARISEE

And kill him.

EXT - HIGHWAY - DAY

SUPER: PROVINCE OF GAULANITIS, PALESTINE

ETHIOPIAN LITTLE JAMES LEVI

They're still following us -- the temple spies.

REVOLUTIOARY SIMON

Yes, I spotted some in the crowd Jesus fed.

NATHANIEL

This time they have sent both parties -- Pharisees AND Sadducees

SYRIAN THADDEUS

They're getting desperate. Those two parties hate each other.

EXT - CAMP - NIGHT

SUPER: PROVINCE OF PANIA, PALESTINE

JESUS

So, what kind of king do people say I am?

ANDREW

Well, I think everyone agrees you are a prophet.

JESUS

What kind of prophet?

JOHN

A reincarnated prophet.

JAMES

Some say you are John the Prophet come back from the dead.

ETHIOPIAN LITTLE JAMES LEVI

Some say you're Elijah come back from the dead.

INDIAN THOMSAS

Some say you're the prophet Jeremiah come back from the dead.

JESUS

And what about you? Who do you say I am?

PETER

You are the God-Man, the Son of the living God.

Jesus stands and John the Hermit Priest joins him.

As Jesus and John walk away, the camp morphs into a bright field.

They are joined by the previous ones Jesus encountered in previous episodes.

Ugly Evil One stands to one side.

UGLY EVIL ONE
Noooo!

The sands of the field sparkle like diamonds. Sun rays slide down the heavens onto the three men.

Jesus is back in his sparkling robe and crown.

FADE OUT

END OF EPISODE #41