

66 tall - est can - dle - stick Ain't much good — with - out a wick. —

ALL: You've

68 got - ta live right To be the light of the world.

(The CAST dances as the music continues. Their mood is light-hearted and celebratory. Now that they are a community they expect their joy to go on forever. JESUS watches them for a moment, pensive. Clearly, he is hesitant to embark on the next stage of the journey. He finally breaks into their merriment.)

JESUS

Stop!

SCENE TEN

(The music stops and all turn to look at him.)

(JESUS)

This is the beginning.

(And with that one sentence, we realize that all that has gone before has been preparation. He has spent this time forging a community of these people so that now they can join him in the real work he has come here to do.)

(JESUS begins to cross away and the SOLOIST stops him with her voice.)

BEAUTIFUL CITY

Moderately ♩ = 90 5 SOLO:

4

Out of the ruins and rub - ble

7

Out of the smoke— Out of our night

10

— of strug - gle, Can we see— A ray of hope.

13

One— pale— thin ray— Reach-ing for— the day.

17

— We— can build— A beau-ti-ful cit - y, Yes,

19

— we can Yes,— we can.— We— can build— A

22

3

beau-ti - ful cit - y,— Not a cit - y of an - gels But

24 we can build a cit-y of man. When your trust

27 (SOLO:) Is all but shat - tered, when your

ALL: Ooh,

29 faith is all but killed; You can

Ooh,

31 give up Bit - ter and bat - tered, Or you can

Ooh, Or you can

33 slow - ly start — to build A

slow - ly start — to build A

35

(SOLO:)

36

beau - ti - ful cit - y, Yes, — we can Yes,

(ALL:)

beau - ti - ful cit - y, Yes, — we can Yes,

38

— we can. — We — can build — A

— we can. — We — can build — A

40

beau - ti - ful cit - y, — Not a cit - y of an - gels. But

beau - ti - ful cit - y, — Not a cit - y of an - gels

(SOLO:) *rall.* Moderately

42

fi - nal - ly a cit - y of man.

JESUS

I tell you this: One of you among us will betray me.

(There is a moment of stunned silence. They each ask in turn:)

OTHERS

Can it be me, Lord?

(The last one to speak must be JUDAS.)

JUDAS

Rabbi, can you mean me?

JESUS

The words are yours. Do quickly what you have to do.

(JUDAS looks at JESUS and the others for a moment. All eyes are on him. Then he gets up and runs out. The sound of a door slamming is heard. JESUS turns back to the others, who sit there stunned and confused. He picks up a matzoh and says the Hebrew blessing for bread over it.)

Baruch atah Adonoy, Eloheinu melech ha-olum, Ha-mo-tzi lechem min ha-aretz.

(JESUS gives each of the others a piece of the matzoh.)

Take this and eat; eat for this is my body.

(The OTHERS eat the pieces of matzoh as JESUS pours wine into two paper cups, while saying the Hebrew blessing for wine.)

Baruch atah Adonoy, Eloheinu melech ha-olum, borei p'ri hagafen.

(He gives the cups to the people on either side of him.)

Take this and drink for this is my blood...

(They drink and pass the cups down so all can drink during the following.)

(JESUS)

...the blood of the covenant shed for the forgiveness of sins.
And I tell you I shall never again drink from the fruit of the
vine until I drink it again with you in the Kingdom of my
Father.

*(Each member of the CAST crosses to JESUS and says
goodbye as they greeted him in the opening scene.)*

Stay here while I go over there to pray. My heart is ready to
break with grief.

*(He starts to cross downstage left, turns back to the group,
and asks them with some urgency:)*

Stop here and stay awake with me.

*(JESUS continues to downstage left and kneels there to
pray. The OTHERS, still in their circle around the "Table,"
entwine arms and begin rhythmic breathing, indicating
that they have fallen asleep, their right arms rising and
falling in rhythm. Their rhythmic breathing continues
under JESUS' next lines, gradually building.)*

(He kneels and looks Heavenward.)

Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass me by.

*(He pauses a moment, then accepts his fate, almost as if he
has heard an answer.)*

Yet not as I will, but as thou wilt.

*(JESUS rises, and as he crosses back to upstage center, he
sees that the others have fallen asleep and calls to them in
anguish.)*

What!? Could none of you stay awake with me one hour?
Stay awake and be spared the test!

(Again looking Heavenward, he cries out.)

Oh, the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.

ALL

(Reaching for him, they speak as if they are still dreaming, so that the lines overlap.)

Everyone else may fall away on your account, but I never will.

JESUS

(furious)

I tell you this. Tonight before the cock crows, you will all betray me three times.

(ALL resume their rhythmic breathing, increasing in tempo and volume, as JESUS crosses to downstage right and cries one last time to the heavens.)

Father, if it be not possible for this cup to pass me by without my drinking from it, THY... WILL... BE... DONE!

(JESUS lowers his head a moment, and then raises it and looks straight out. On his face is a look of serene acceptance. He is ready for what is to come. There is a moment of silence. And then, the sound of a door slam. The OTHERS wake, startled. JUDAS runs onto the stage. ALL watch him. He looks at JESUS for a moment and approaches him. But at the last moment, he changes his mind, turns and attempts to go. He runs into a pantomime wall. He feels the wall for a moment, in classic pantomime style, and finds it is solid and there is no way around it. He turns and tries to escape upstage, but runs into another wall. The same downstage. He is "walled in" on three sides. With horrified disbelief, he reaches toward JESUS and finds that there is no wall there. That is the only way open to him. Reaching, he falls in that direction. He puts his arms around JESUS and embraces him. JESUS holds him for a moment, then holds him away and looks into his eyes.)

Friend, do quickly what you have to do.

(JESUS kisses JUDAS on the cheek, and JUDAS flinches as if the kiss has burned him. JESUS kisses the other cheek, and then faces front, the serene expression still on his face. JUDAS pauses a moment, then gets to his feet and takes out a police whistle. He blows a shrill blast on the whistle. Loudly and harshly, JUDAS starts singing an old-style circus tune, as if he has now become the ringmaster. He rolls up his sleeves like a magician, revealing a red ribbon tied to each of his wrists. He stands above JESUS' arms outstretched and raises his eyes heavenward. Then with a sudden movement, he grabs JESUS under the arms and begins to drag him back towards the fence. The stage is flooded in white light. ALL rush to the wall, except a CAST MEMBER, who grabs a prop and raises it to strike JUDAS.)

(JESUS)

Put down the sword; he who lives by the sword, dies by the sword.

(The CAST MEMBER throws down the prop sword and throws himself on the fence. JUDAS drags JESUS upstage center and stands him on an orange-crate in preparation for the crucifixion. During the following, JUDAS takes the red ribbons and ties JESUS' outstretched arms to the fence.)

Do you not suppose that I could appeal to my Father, who would at once send to me twelve legions of angels to come to my aid? Do you take me for a bandit that you come after me with swords and cudgels? Day after day I sat teaching in the synagogue and you didn't come after me then.

(JUDAS' preparations are completed and JESUS is tied to the fence. JUDAS throws himself on the fence near JESUS, as JESUS cries out.)

But all this has happened to fulfill what the prophets have written!

(Again looking Heavenward, he cries out.)

Oh, the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.