

Journey to Jericho

By John Greholver
1989/2006

CAST

*Zacchaeus (1)	A short, sleazy tax collector
*Zacchaeus (2)	A short, loveable old man
*Rich Young Ruler	A likeable, mellow young man
Henny	RR's servant
*Jesus	
*Ruth (1)	Secretary to Zacchaeus
Ruth (2)	Wife (old) to old Zacchaeus
Mrs. Goldstein	"Client" of Zacchaeus
*Angels	Two guardian angels of Z.
Farmer Braun	A local farmer
Pharisees	Two sourpuss religious leaders
*Crowd	(additional chorus for live action)
Peter	A disciple
John	Another one
Children	12-20 assorted sizes, shapes, sexes
Tamar	A small girl
*Soloists	

SETUP

This can be done live or with 'Muppet' type puppets. The stage is kept fairly simple

It can be a good effect to have the two Zacchaeuses similar enough to be the same person 20 years apart, but different enough so that the audience does not realize this until the last scene. For this reason the 'host' is not introduced until then. With live actors, care will have to be taken to switch makeup and clothing for the interludes between acts when the host appears (if it is the same person).

WITH PUPPETS

Alter-Ego puppets are exactly the same as the 'live' ones, except they may be dressed completely in white or some similar effect, to indicate that the character is thinking apart from the action.

A separate stage above the 'real' one can be used for the alter-ego to carry on his dialogue.

WITH ACTORS

The freeze scenes should have all action stop, with all lights dimmed except for a blue-white spot on the actor carrying on the dialog with himself.

ACT I

Scene I

CURTAIN: [*Prelude begins as lights go up...*](#)

[*MP3*](#)

SCENE: *A living room with a large comfortable chair, lamp, stand...*

The story begins in a living room with an old man rocking in a chair reading a newspaper, while the theme continues to play. At the end of the theme, he looks up:

Zach2: Well, hello there and welcome to Jericho.

If you've come looking for a tale about Jesus, I've got a good one for you. It's about the time that Jesus came through town. My, people were excited! It seems that everyone just had to get a look at this strange and wonderful young preacher who was setting the whole country on its ears. Some even got to speak to Him.

This story is about two of the richest men in the area who both came looking for Jesus, and came away changed forever.

Come with me, to Jericho!

Music: [*"Journey to Jericho" – Solo: Old Zach – Chorus*](#)

[*MP3*](#)

1. Journey to Jericho
Where Jesus walked long ago,
Eternal Life and Love reaching out to find
Those who were lost and blind;
Desperately searching in darkness, finding that
Love walked through Jericho
To reach where it had to go,
When God came down to meet our need.

(Scene Fades...)

2. Journey to Jericho
Where Jesus walked long ago,
Eternal God, who wanted to set man free
Sharing eternity
Longing to bring life to dying men who were
Living in Jericho
And witnessed the miracle
Of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Act I
Scene ii

SETTING: *Bedroom of Rich Young Ruler. He is digging through his closet when his servant comes up.*

Henny: Hey, you look like you're getting ready to go somewhere. What's the occasion?

RR: Hi, Henny. Good, you can help me. I have someone special I want to meet today. Here we go... How about my brown tunic. Wouldn't hurt to have the humble look.

Henny: Why? You have to see the tax collector again?

RR: Thank God, no! We're going to see that strange preacher from Galilee.

Henny: You mean the one who is supposed to be doing all those miracles and stuff? Great! I've been wanting a chance to see him for a long time now. Yea...what's his name?

RR: Jesus. He's from Nazareth.

Henny: Hmmm... a country boy... I'm really curious. I wonder how he does it.

RR: I'm sure his miracles are interesting. But I'm more interested in what he has to say. My friend Nicodemus had a talk with him a couple of years back and he seems to think Jesus is a very special teacher, maybe even a prophet.

Henny: I wouldn't want this to get out to the Synagogue leaders, but I do know that some are even calling him Messiah. Do you really think he could be?

RR: I believe that the Messiah has to come someday... this just might be the time, and he just might be the one.

Henny: But if he's from a poor family in Nazareth, how could he be the Messiah? I think that Messiah will have to be rich and powerful if he's going to have any hope of freeing us from the Romans, not to mention controlling our own leaders.

RR: Well, let's keep an open mind about this. If nothing else, he is a very good man and a good teacher, even if he comes from a poor family.

Anyway, he might be able to answer a question that has been bothering me for a long time.

Henny: Uh, what question is that?

RR: Well, as you can see, I'm doing pretty well...
(Henny snorts with a knowing smile)
But somehow I have the feeling that all of this is just not enough.

Act I
Scene ii (continued)

Henny: Not enough?? You happen to be one of the richest men in the country. You're young, you're popular, and you are certainly going to be one of our top leaders someday—what else could you possibly need?

RR: It's hard for me to say, Henny, but sometimes I look at all that I have and I still feel empty. I guess it goes back to something Nicodemus said about his conversation with Jesus...something about being 'born again'. When Nicodemus told me this, I had the strangest feeling that something important was missing in my life—something that all of this could never give me. And what will all this mean to me when I die?

SONG: [About Eternity](#) -- *Rich Young Ruler (solo)* [MP3](#)

1. Somewhere in the back of my mind
Is a thought that frightens me –
I don't really want to see it but it won't go away;
Is there – will I – how can I
Know for sure about eternity?

Refrain
Eternity
Is such a long, long time
Is it close, or far away?
Do I want to know
What my heart wants to tell me?
What will I lose or gain?
Will I wake?
Or will I sleep forever?
Tell me please, about Eternity.

2. I am satisfied with my life
That God has given me
I don't really want to end it
But it one day will pass
Is there – will I – how can I
Know for sure about eternity?

(Refrain)

Henny: I wouldn't worry about it too much. If anyone deserves it, you certainly do. I mean, you're more religious than anyone else I know of, and generous to the poor, and..

RR: (*shaking his head*) No—it doesn't seem to be enough. I can't quite describe it, but maybe this teacher could give me a clue. He certainly got me thinking about it.

Act I

Scene ii (continued)

Henny: Well, he'll probably tell you not to worry about it too much—maybe ask you for a donation or something like that. They all seem to be impressed by big givers.

RR: I don't think so. It just doesn't seem like his style, somehow. *(sighs)* Oh well... Say, what about this leather belt, or maybe this flaxen one...

Scene fades... with [refrain of 'About Eternity'](#)

[MP3](#)

Act I -- Scene iii

SCENE: *Office with two desks, file cabinets in the background. Secretary (Ruth) is busy working away at her desk with stacks of paper all around. She looks frumpy and hassles, and becomes nervous as Zacchaeus makes his stormy entrance...*

Zac1: Quick! Where's the Goldstein papers! I wanted them yesterday!

Ruth: But you only asked for them this morning...

Zac: That's no excuse! Useless hireling... I can never depend on anybody *(flings a stack of papers at her)*

Ruth: *(cowering)* Please, sir, I'm almost finished...

Zac: Well hurry up! The Romans aren't going to catch ME sleeping on the job. I'll show them. I'll show everyone!
(He goes over to a stack of papers and angrily shuffles through them, making a mess, muttering as the secretary nervously continues. The door creaks open and a nervous old lady peers through the door. Zacchaeus swings around and confronts her with a confident, triumphant look)

(In a sugary voice)

Aha! Do come in Mrs. Goldstein, we were just discussing you.

Mrs G: *(Timidly creeps to the nearest chair and sits down and nervously stairs at the floor)*
Hello, Mr. Zacchaeus, I'm here.

Zac: Well, well, well! I suppose you've come to turn over your dear departed husband's farm? The one next to the Roman Proconsul's estate? That was our agreement, you know.

Mrs G: Well, sir, you said I had until today to come up with the taxes...

Zac: Yes, yes, but what does that have to do with it? You don't have the slightest chance of that... please give the deed to the secretary.

Mrs. G: But sir, I do have the money.

Zac: You do?! But how...?

Mrs. G: My cousin Ben (twice removed) loaned me the money. Here it is!
(Hands it to the secretary, who (secretly and happily) takes it and surreptitiously hands her a slip of paper during the following dialogue)

Zac: Why that *(muffled)* olive picker!
(aside) He's going to regret this!

(to Mrs. G.) But come now, I'm afraid we can't take your money... the matter has already been settled with the Roman authorities. Give me that deed!

Mrs. G.: (as she moves away out the door) Oh, but Mr. Zacchaeus, I can't do that... besides, you've just given me a receipt. (waves the piece of paper as she exits)

Zac: A rece...!
(He turns around in disbelief and glowers at his secretary)
You! You've done it to me again! I'll be the laughingstock of the tax collector's union...
(He jumps up and down in a comical tantrum, starts throwing stuff)
Out! Out! You're Fired!

Ruth: (as she dodges her way out the door) Again?

(Zac storms around a little more and then finally poops out and sits down and wipes his brow)

Zac: (with a big sigh) No matter how hard I try, everyone always winds up laughing at me. I'm rich. I'm powerful, but I don't have a single friend in the world.

(Introduction to "[Unlovable Me](#)") [MP3](#)
I don't understand it... even the poorest beggar I know has friends, but not me!

(mopingly)
Is there Love, anywhere, for me?
Is it such an impossibility?
I would love to be loved by anyone
But everyone turns from me...

Is there Love, anywhere, for me?
Is it such an impossibility?
To be loved as I am might set me free
To be what I most want to be...
Unlovable me...

(2nd time through: Zac's two angels come in {or onto the second 'freeze' stage} and sing the song as an echo, as Zac mopes around the office, picking up papers and setting them down again, sighing)

[Fade out, 2nd verse]

Act II

SCENE I : *Outdoors in Old Jericho outside of town. Zacchaeus is trying to collect taxes from poor farmer Braun.*

Farmer: But Mr. Zacchaeus, I told you, I just planted my fields and I won't have anything coming in until this summer.

Zach: Sure, yea, and what's this about you renting out your donkey to farmer Baruch to plow *his* fields?

Farmer: I didn't rent him out! Baruch is my friend and I let him use it for a few days for nothing!

Zach: Well mister, nothing in this life is for free! The Emperor and I are going to get our share even if you are too dumb to get yours. *(figuring)* Now let's see... the taxes for two weeks rental of a mule should be...

(Crowd noises rise... people start crowding in looking towards direction Jesus is coming from)

Zach: What's this?....
(He gets shoved aside – farmer Braun gets moved [happily] away)

Hey! Wait a minute now! Come back here!
(people create a wall with their backs to Zach, while they are excitedly looking at something Zach can't see)

What's going on here?! Let me see! Let me see!

(The crowd not too subtly blocks his way. At this moment the Rich Young Ruler and his servant come in with the others and see Zach trying to get a look)

Hen: Oh no! What's *he* doing here? *(pointing at Zach)*

RR: Relax – I'm current on my taxes, and he can't do anything to me.

Zach: *(pointing at RR)* You there! What's going on here? I demand you tell me!

RR: Hello, Mr. Zacchaeus. It looks like Jesus from Nazareth is coming down the road.

Zach: Jesus! The miracle worker from Galilee? What's he doing in my district? He isn't here to take up a collection is he? He hasn't registered with *my* office, you know, and...

RR: Don't worry, it looks like he's just passing through on his way to Jerusalem.

Zach: Well, I'd better keep my eye on him anyway. *(Turns back to the crowd)* Hey you, let me in!

(The crowd refuses to let him through. He finally gives up in frustration and stomps away muttering to himself. People in the crowd see the Rich Young Ruler and respectfully part so that Jesus is revealed as he speaks to his disciples)

RR: *(To servant)* So, this is Jesus. I have to admit Henny, he sure looks impressive.

Hen: I haven't seen any other Rabbi hold the attention of a crowd the way he does. It looks like most of them would do just about anything he asked.

RR: The most important thing though is that He seems to have answers to everyone's questions. There is no doubt in my heart, Henny, that He knows about eternal life. Well... here goes...

(The Rich Young Ruler approaches Jesus and the crowd deferentially makes way for him)

RR: Greetings, good Master... *(Jesus graciously nods)*
If I may, I would like to ask you what I must do to have eternal life?

FREEZE

Jesus: This young man doesn't really know who I am, or what I am going to have to do for him. I can see that he really does care and that he tries so hard, yet his riches will destroy him. How can I make him see his danger? How can I make him see me for what I really am?

SONG: "[I AM More](#)"

[MP3](#)

1. I AM more than you think that I really am;
I am more than you're able to see,
If you think, my friend, that I'm just a man,
Look again, look again at me...

(Refrain)

I AM God, I am God who loves you most,
Your creator and very best friend;
Look at me! Turn your eyes from your wealth my friend
And you'll have what you want in the end.

2. You must look with your heart if you want to find
What your heart wants most to possess,
But because you look with just your mind,
I remain so much more than you guess...

(Refrain)

ACTION

Jesus: Why are you calling me a 'good man'? Don't you know that no one is really 'good' except God?

(RR is somewhat taken aback)

You must know the commandments:

Do not commit adultery

Do not kill

Do not steal

Do not bear false witness

Love your neighbor as yourself...

RR: *(Modestly)* Yes, I know them. I can honestly say that I have kept the all, ever since I was a boy.

Hen: I can vouch for that.

Jesus: There is one thing you have not done.

RR & Hen: Oh?...

Jesus: You must sell everything you have. Give it to the poor.

(RR looks shocked. Servant looks angry)

Your wealth from then on will be secure in eternity if this is where you really want to be. Then come, follow me and be my disciple.

FREEZE

RR: Everything!?! I must give up everything? That's impossible.. What would people think? What would my friends and family think of me? How could I possibly live?

Impossible... and yet, it would prove that I am worthy of eternal life..

But what does He gain? Nothing... except me.

This is insane! He can't mean it... *(he looks hard at Jesus)*

He means it. I'm sorry. I'm really very sorry...teacher. There must be some other way. It's not fair to ask anyone to give up so much, is it?

ACTION

RR: *(putting his head in his hands, and turning around and slowly walking away)*

Impossible... it's just impossible.

([refrain from song](#) slowly building to the last line where Jesus sings)

[MP3](#)

Jesus: *(Singing)*
Turn your eyes, turn your eyes
From yourself... my friend,
And you'll have what you want in the end.

Hen: *(Staring open mouthed and shocked at Jesus... shakes his head slowly and turns away to run and comfort RR)*

It's ok, it's ok – He's probably just another fraud anyway...

Peter: *(Shaking his head)*
Weren't you just a little hard on him, Master?

Jesus: *(Looking after RR and sighing)*
I'm afraid that the more wealth a person has, the more costly eternal life becomes, if that is what they are looking for.

John: What do you mean?

Jesus: I mean, that it is easier for that loaded camel over there to squeeze through the needle's eye than it is for someone to get into the Kingdom of Heaven with their riches.

John: But if he couldn't make it...how could anyone?

Jesus: It does seem impossible, doesn't it? Fortunately nothing is impossible where God is concerned.

(Scene closes as the music from "[I am More](#)" plays in the background)

[MP3](#)

SCENE ii

(Downtown Jericho, near a large sycamore tree. Zach enters, while the noise of an approaching crowd is rising in the background)

Zach: They won't let me see Him! They won't even let me get close.
They can't do this to me! I've got to do something.

(Runs into the tree) Ow! Stupid tree!
(Kicks it then hops around in pain) Ouch! The last thing I need is a stupid... TREE!

(Sizes it up with a growing smile)

Yea... I'll show them!

(Struggles to get up in the tree... has trouble... the noise gets louder as he grows more frantic)

I've got to get... up... into... this stupid... TREE

(Finally makes it)

Aha! Made it! And none too soon... it wouldn't do to let that old lemon faced Pharisee see me up here. I'd never live it down. Whups!

(He awkwardly climbs a little higher. Two Pharisees enter, with scowls on their faces, looking behind them at the coming crowd)

Phar1: Drat! We're supposed to keep an eye on that upstart carpenter and we can't get close enough to hear what he's saying. That rabble has no respect, no respect at all!

Phar2: It sounds like he's really got them worked up today. I wonder what else he is saying to turn them against us.

Phar1: All I can say is, he sure has one big surprise when He gets to Jerusalem this year. I hear that the cowardly council of elders has finally decided to do something about him. You'd better believe that I'm going to be there this Passover.

Phar2: Looks like we're going to have to climb this tree..

(Zach—somewhat hidden—frantically tries to quietly move higher)

Phar1: What! You've got to be kidding. We could go over to Zeb's house and see if he'll let us up on his roof...

(Zach looks a little relieved)

No, wait... it looks like... yes, He's coming this way. Let's just stand here and wait.

(Zach rolls his eyes)

Some of the crowd comes by looking backward as the intro to "I See Your Need" begins. Jesus comes in slowly, hands going out to people who come with pleading postures as he sings:

SONG: "I See Your Need"

MP3

I see you standing 'round me
feeling troubled in your mind,
Wanting desperately to change your situation;
Bring your sickness, bring your pain,
it doesn't matter if you're blind,
I bring hope, I bring light, I bring salvation.

(refrain)

I see your need,
I see your need,
I come to set you free,
I see your need.
I come to set you free,
I see your need.

I can touch the troubled heart
The soul that's tired of sin;
To the one in darkness I bring light.
Let your faith reach out in confidence
And take my loving hand
I will take all your wrong
And make it right

(refrain)

Jesus comes to stand under the tree, where the two Pharisees draw back in fear and disgust. Zach has been leaning forward to listen to Jesus as he approaches, but when Jesus looks up, Zach draws back in horror of being discovered by the crowd who has been unaware of him up to this point.

FREEZE

Jesus: Zacchaeus, my good friend. The Spirit has sent me to this tree today to meet YOUR need. You are not aware that you have the hungriest heart in town, and you have been calling to me ever since I put my foot on Jericho's dusty streets.

Do you feel childish for climbing a tree? It is your childish heart that will allow you to finally end this serious game of hide and seek. I've found you, Zacchaeus, here in this tree and I'm going to love you right into the Kingdom of my Father.

ACTION

Jesus: Greetings, Zacchaeus!

(Zach looks absolutely horrified)

Crowd: *(Lots of general and derisive jeering)*
“Hey Zacchaeus! How about coming down and playing marbles!”
“Who tossed you up there?”
“Little squirt!”

Zach: *(hides his shaking head in his hands and groans)*
This is humiliating... I'll never live this down... (sob) I should have known better than to try to see this man.

Jesus: *(Smiling)* Zacchaeus, my good friend, come on down from there. I'm having lunch at your house today.

FREEZE

Zach: His friend? His good friend? He acts like he likes me... But why? Is this just another cruel joke? He can't mean it...

(He looks closely)

He means it! What does HE have to gain by being my friend? He's in trouble enough with the Pharisees already... But he likes me...

(He looks closer)

He... He loves me... I don't know why, but He says He's my friend—and if He doesn't care who knows it, then neither do I!

ACTION

Zacchaeus swings clumsily down from the tree with a look of wild hope in his eyes.

Phar1: How disgusting! The worst sinner in town! *(Against the murmur of a confused agreeing crowd)*

Phar2: *(Shaking his head in angry disgust)* Just like him to do something like this.

(Jesus is helping to dust Zacchaeus off)

Zach: Ahh... um... *(clears his throat)* Listen all of you... I know that I'm probably the worst sinner here... but I... I don't want to be any longer.
Until just now I didn't know that, but I don't *have* to be... Listen... I... I'm going to give away half of what I own to the poor!

Crowd: “What?” “Why half?” “He must have landed on his head!”

Zach: The *other* half I'm going to pay back all of those I've cheated. You know who you are... come see my secretary today and I'll give you four times what I took from you.

(Appropriate crowd response)

Peter: *(To John)* Now I've seen everything... If this is what climbing a tree does for tax collectors, I'd love to see what a good game of hide and seek would do.

Jesus: *(To the crowd)* 'This 'child' of Abraham has found Salvation! *(cheers, laughter)*
This is why I've come, you know... to seek—and save—the lost.

Jesus, Zach, and the crowd joyfully depart as Chorus sings last refrain of "[He sees Your Need](#)" [MP3](#)

(Scene Fades)

He sees your need
He sees your need
He comes to set you free
He sees your need
He comes to set you free
He sees your need!

ACT III

SCENE I *Backdrop to Calvary... three empty crosses at the foot of the hill. Dark, stormy.*

Enter RR & Servant. RR remains thoughtful, somewhat distracted throughout. Servant is certain and self-righteous

Hen: I told you he was a fraud, master. He sure got what he deserved.

RR: (*sighing*) Maybe so, Henny. Maybe so. But somehow, it just doesn't seem to fit. I'm a good judge of character, and I can't believe that this really happened to this good man.

Hen: I can. I came across him a couple of times while he was here in Jerusalem, and it was obvious to me that the rulers couldn't take much more of his troublemaking.

RR: What they couldn't take was someone who pointed out some of the obvious flaws in the system. It was no secret that the head priests were making a killing in the temple changing money and selling animals to the pilgrims who were at their mercy. If he only would have had a little more patience, he might have gotten some support for his position. But when he took matters into his own hands by storming the temple, this is all he got for his trouble.

Hen: I don't know what those kind of people ever hope to accomplish. They haven't got God-given sense enough to figure out that you have to compromise if you want to get anywhere.

By the way, congratulations on your new promotion!

RR: Yes, I'm finally a full member of the ruling council. But I sure hate to think that it was only because Nicodemus handed in his resignation. It will be harder to change things without good men like him around.

Hen: Well, I'm not surprised he quit. I heard that he was forced out because he had become quite taken up with the Carpenter. He was probably too humiliated to go back and admit he had made such a serious mistake.

RR: A mistake I almost made.

Hen: Except that you have too much good sense. I for one was proud of you when you walked away from that phony. It shows what you were really made of when you refused to fall under his spell.

RR: Uh, yea... I guess so. Listen, why don't you go on ahead and take care of dinner arrangements. I'd like to stay out here and do some thinking...

III: i

Hen: *(Looking concerned)* You sure you're ok, master? This unpleasantry hasn't upset you too much, has it?

RR: Don't worry about me, Henny. I just need a break from all the excitement.

(Servant leaves looking concerned)

RR: *(Looking up at the empty middle cross)* Well, whoever you really were, I'm sorry we couldn't have become friends. Maybe I could have helped you avoid this. I'll always remember what you said, and I'll always be sure and help the poor. But I won't make your mistakes. You at least taught me that much.

I sure do wish, though that you could have had an answer for me that was more practical. I'm still as confused as ever about this question of eternal life.

Oh well... I guess I'm on my own now.

SONG: “[*About Eternity \(Reprise\)*](#)”

[*MP3*](#)

Now I see the end of a life,
And it seems that it was vain;
What a wasted noble gesture
Men will soon forget.
Does this – mean that – I can never
Know for sure about eternity?

(Refrain)

Eternity
Is such a long, long time
Is it close, or far away?
Do I want to know
What my heart wants to tell me?
What will I lose or gain?
Will I wake?
Or will I sleep forever?
Tell me please, about Eternity.

ACT III
Scene ii

SCENE: *Jericho, at the tree.*
It is the dead of night, just before dawn Easter morning. As the lights come up, a sound of muffled sobbing is heard, and a small pathetic bundle of humanity slowly is revealed. It is important that the audience realizes that it is still the dead of night.

Ruth enters looking around and seeming distressed. She hears the sounds of weeping and goes over to the tree.

Ruth: Oh, master! I have been looking for you since yesterday. Are you... all right?
(She kneels down and peers at Zach)
(he groans, after a moment)

Zach: Oh Ruth, why did you even bother? If I had any courage at all, I would end my life right now here on this tree.

Ruth: Please... don't say such a terrible thing. I know what has happened to your friend Jesus is horrible beyond words, but you are alive! And in this past week, people around you have come to genuinely care about you and... love you, Zacchaeus.

Zach: Does it really matter? Does anything matter now?

Ruth *(helplessly)* Zacchaeus...

Zach: It wasn't enough that the only friend I ever had was butchered by those self righteous...

They've always done it to me. All my life. I thought that I would get even with them by collecting their taxes, but even that only made them more insufferably self righteous and gave them even more cause to despise me.

Even when I became rich and powerful, it only gave them another excuse to push me aside and show their contempt.

Now... I have no money... I don't even have a job anymore. Soon I won't have any one left when they realize that I'm just a small, miserable beggar.

They won. Him. Me. It's over.

(Long silent pause)

Ruth: Zacchaeus, listen to me. There are people who make this world the dark miserable place that it is, but you are not one of them any more. That is what they are, and what they do best.

(Ruth) But there are lots of us who need each other, even if that is all we've got. You won't ever be alone again, master, because in spite of what other people may think, you have done a good thing, and made a wise choice, no matter how foolish it seems to them.

Zach: Please, spare me... I know what power is, and what it can do. Look what it did to Jesus. And I don't have it any more.

It's funny though... I don't really miss it. Why?

Maybe I don't care because I'm as good as dead. Why couldn't it have been me on that cross instead of... Him?

Ruth: You don't miss it, because you no longer belong to the darkness.

Zach: *(shakes his head)* It is so dark, and I wouldn't be surprised if it never ended.

Ruth: I am so sorry... I know a little how much it must hurt... I miss Him too.
But you are wrong. Look, it is almost sunrise.

And it is the first day of a new week.

(Intro to [Dawn Song](#))

[MP3](#)

Somehow, I feel as if it is going to get lighter and lighter and never be dark again.

(Ruth and Zacchaeus stand together, hand in hand, facing the coming dawn. Ruth sings solo until two angels join in a trio)

1. Into the night
steals the promise of light
Dawn's rising glow softly breaking
New colors born
Paint the glory of morn
Promise of hope is awakening.

(refrain) (Two angels join in)
There in the night
Where our fears face the light
And Hope is born of eternal love
Hear love's sweet song
In the music of Dawn
As joy gently swells in the heavens above.

2. Behold the Son

Coming out of the tomb!
Angels attend with astonished grace
Never again
Will the darkness bring pain
To the child of the light
Who beholds His face!

(Refrain)

There in the night
Where our fears face the light
And Hope is born of eternal love
Hear love's sweet song
In the music of Dawn
As joy gently swells
As joy gently swells
As joy gently swells in the heavens above.

(Set gradually gets lighter – a sun rises during second verse. Curtain closes at the end of the song, as it segues into the prelude to [Journey to Jericho](#).) [MP3](#)

(Alternate: Chorus sings [Journey to Jericho](#)) [MP3](#)

(Scene fades during song...)

ACT III
Scene iii

SCENE *Curtain rises as the prelude comes to an end.*
 Original living room scene with old Zach in rocking chair, looking at the audience

Zach2: Well now! Didn't I tell you that it was a good tale? Almost makes you wish you were there. You know the rest of the story by now: during that sunrise, the most wonderful event in the history of the world took place—the resurrection of my friend Jesus. He has gone home now, but He really did set foot in Jericho one afternoon.

 That young couple Zacchaeus and Ruth (that was her name) got together. The Rich Young Ruler lived to be a Rich Old Ruler, and as far as I know, he's still looking for a way to find eternal life.

 Maybe he will.

(Old Ruth enters, with an apron and wiping her hands on a towel)

 Oh, hello sweetheart. Say hello to all these good folks out here.

(Ruth smiles shyly and curtsies)

Ruth: Zach, it's the children's bedtime. They want to hear a story.

Zach: Well sure, honey... Bring them in.

(15 to 20 assorted sizes, shapes, and ages of boys and girls gleefully converge on the stage from every possible direction. A few of the smaller ones climb upon Zach's lap as he tenderly makes them comfortable. Ruth looks on happily).

Zach: OK, kids, what shall it be? What do you want to hear tonight?

Kids: "A story, papa" "A long one!" "make it a funny one" (etc.)

Zach: *(Cuddling one of the smaller ones in his lap)* Well, Tamar, I think it's your turn tonight. What shall it be?

Tamar: Tell us about the tree again Grandpa. You know, the sick one?

Kids: "Yea" "The tree story" "Ha Ha – the Sycamore"

Zach: Well, kids, I like that one very much.... Let's see....

(Intro to "[Tree Song](#)")

[MP3](#)

(Zach) Let's see, It was like this...

"Tree Song" Solo – Zacchaens

He found me in a tree
When all the world looked down on me
And reaching up He caught my soul
And love at last set me free...

He called me from a tree
When I tried to hide from Him
But looking up, He saw my heart
And I found my very first friend...

(Refrain)

Because of Him, I am free
Because of Him, I'm at liberty
To love, to laugh, to finally be me:
His love has at last set me free...

(During bridge)

Tamar: Grandpa, were you really as bad as they say you were?

Zach: *(Chuckles)* Probably worse, before I climbed that tree.

Love reached me in a tree
And on a tree Love took my place
That in the ages yet to come
I might forever be free...

(Refrain)

CURTAIN

List of Files

Song	Sheet	Midi	.MP3	ACC
Prelude	XXX	XXX	XXX	
Journey to Jericho	XXX	XXX	XXX	
About Eternity	XXX	XXX	XXX	
About Eternity (refrain)	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Unlovable Me	XXX	XXX	XXX	
I AM More	XXX	XXX	XXX	
I Am More (refrain)	XXX	XXX	XXX	
I See Your Need	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
He Sees Your Need	XXX	XXX	XXX	
Calvary Theme	XXX	XXX	XXX	
About Eternity (Reprise)	XXX	XXX	XXX	
Dawn Song	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Prelude (Reprise)	XXX	XXX	XXX	
Tree Song	XXX	XXX	XXX	

Sheet = Sheet Music

Midi = Small midi file w/ melody (uses computer sound card)

MP3 = Full sound (larger file)

ACC = Accompaniment (muted melody)

Note: the MSWord Version uses hyperlinks to the associated files above (and throughout the script) to connect directly to the files, if they exist in the same folder or directory as this document. Clicking on the hyperlinks will open (or play) the files.

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