

JESSE

BY LORAIN F. KONRADY

SCENE I

*SCENE: Jessica's room – simply furnished – bed, dresser. She is looking at herself in mirror.)*

JESSICA: *Brightly*

Hello, my name is Jessica – and I'm from a local Christian Church – no, too serious.

Hey! I'm Jesse – How's it going? No, Too casual. Greetings in Jesus my brothers! – Ooh brother!

Lord, I have no idea what I'm supposed to say – you're going to have to give me the right words.

*Jamie enters stage left.*

JAMIE:

Jessica, who were you talking to just now?

JESSICA:

Hi Jamie. The Lord. I was trying to figure out what to say when we meet people. You don't think we're making a mistake do you? I've never done street ministry before – I think the people are just going to laugh at me.

JAMIE:

No they won't because God is with us. He'll put us where he wants us.

JESSICA:

You think so?

JAMIE:

I know so. I also know that you're going to love reaching out to people – I've seen you at youth group – you have the heart of a missionary.

JESSICA:

Thank you, Jamie.

*Katherine enters stage left.*

KATHERINE:

Well, are you girls ready?

JESSICA:

I think so mom – no I know so! *Looks at Jamie.*  
*Jamie smiles and gives her a thumbs up.*

KATHERINE:

Girls, let's take a minute to pray for you and the people the Lord is sending you to.

*She joins hands with Jessica and Jamie.*

Lord, Jesus, thank you for Jessica and Jamie.

I ask you to guide the steps of their feet and to guard and protect them from all evil. Lord please give them the right words for every person that you send them to in Jesus' name we pray.

JESSICA:

Lord you know we are young, but I'm asking you to use us mightily. Bring us to hearts that are open to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and give us wisdom and understanding.

JAMIE:

We ask this in Jesus' name.

ALL:

Amen. *They hug.*

KATHERINE:

Girls, you never have to be afraid because the Lord is with you. Just picture him walking along side you wherever you go. No matter how bad things look, or how difficult the situation, the Lord can use it for your good. Just stand in the Lord.

*Song: I'm Not Gonna Run – sung by Katherine*

I

In times of trial and crisis  
I know what to do  
I lift my hands in worship  
And give it all to you  
When I need help and guidance  
When things are going wrong  
I call my Lord and Savior  
He will make me strong

## Chorus

I'm not gonna run  
I'm not gonna fight  
I'm just gonna stand in Him  
In Jesus my Lord, the son of God  
I will stand my stand  
For the Lord is my salvation  
My refuge and my rock  
In Jesus we have the victory

## II

When things have lost their meaning  
When I don't understand  
I know the Lord is with me  
He will help me stand  
When all have gone against me  
When I feel all alone  
The Lord is close beside me  
Holding me through it all

KATHERINE:

You're going to do fine; I'll be here waiting for you when you get back.

JESSICA:

Thanks, Mom. Bye!

JAMIE:

Bye, Mrs. Walker.

KATHERINE:

God bless you, girls.

*Jessica and Jamie exit stage left.*

KATHERINE: *Looking up.*

Lord, please keep them safe – in Jesus' name, I ask it, Amen.

## SCENE 2

*The house of the Martinez family – living room or dining room. Mother standing. Jesse off stage.*

DOMINGA: *Looks upset.*  
Jesse!

JESSE:  
What!

DOMINGA:  
Young man you get in here this minute!

*Jesse enters stage left.*

JESSE:  
Yeah – now what?

DOMINGA:  
You know what Jesse; the police were here this morning.

JESSE:  
So?

DOMINGA:  
So? Do you want to go to jail?

JESSE:  
I haven't done anything.

DOMINGA:  
Do you think that selling drugs is a nothing?

JESSE:  
Ma, I don't sell drugs – I market them.

DOMINGA:  
Don't act like a fool, son.

JESSE: *Getting angry*  
I'm not a fool! I'm trying to make something of myself, Ma. There is nothing for me in this neighborhood – I've got to pull myself up.

DOMINGA:  
That's what I'm afraid of. Now sit down. We're going to talk.

JESSE:

No! I'm going out.  
*He starts to exit.*

DOMINGA:

Jesse, listen. Your father..

JESSE: *interrupting her*

My father! What father? The one who left us before I was born? Or the one who left us after you got a restraining order against him for beating you all the time? I don't have a father!

The only one who's going to give me a future around here is me – and I'm going to do it my way. Some day people in this town will be proud to know me. I'm going to be somebody and I'm going to make a difference in this town. You wait and see. Now leave me alone, Ma.

DOMINGA: Just because I messed up doesn't mean....you....

*He exits – door slams.*

*She looks up.*

What have I done? I feel as if I've lost him. Dear Father, please help my child.

*Song: He Is My Child – Dominga sings*

I

He is my child  
 I love him so  
 He needs to change  
 The way he goes  
 Help him, my Lord  
 Please help my boy  
 Help him to find his way

Chorus

For you know his heart  
 And you know his pain  
 You can heal him Lord  
 And bring him back again

II

When he was small

He used to pray  
He loved you Lord and  
Sought you out  
Then something changed and  
He walked away  
He walked away from you.

*She lowers her head, clasps her hands and cries.*

## SCENE 3

*Joey standing on street corner. Mooch enters stage right. Bus bench placed for song.*

JOEY:  
Hey Mooch.

MOOCH:  
Hey, Joey.

JOEY:  
Where's our boy Jesse? He's late!

MOOCH: *Getting Nervous.*  
Don't get nervous! He'll be here!

*Monique and Jesse enter. Monique is holding onto Jesse's arm.*

JESSE:  
Hey!  
*Gives gang handshake to each.*

MONIQUE:  
Hi Mooch! Who's this?

MOOCH:  
This here is Joey. Joey, this is Monique – *soto voce* – Jesse's girlfriend of the hour.

MONIQUE:  
Ooooooh! Look what Jesse bought me!  
*Holds out arm – shows bracelet to Mooch.*

MOOCH:  
Very pretty.

MONIQUE:  
He's so sweet to me! Aren't you Jesse, honey?

JESSE:  
*Looks irritated with Monique.*  
Ok, ok let's get down to business.

JOEY:  
Where's the stuff? - And it better be good.

JESSE:

Where's the money? *Gets in Tony's face.*

JOEY:

I got it, I got it – don't push me man!

JESSE:

Hey, I've got to pay the bills – and I don't sell junk!

MONIQUE AND MOOCH:

That's right!

MOOCH:

Lighten up you two!

JESSE: Yeah, we gotta remember why we're here!

*Song: Drugs Bend Your Mind – Sung by all*

*I During stanza Joey and Jesse stand up on bench mime holding puppet strings while Mooch and Monique act as their puppets .*

Drugs bend your mind  
 And they take away your feelings  
 Drugs melt your will  
 And make you easy prey

Chorus

But we don't care  
 What they do  
 Cause we just want your money  
 We want it all  
 We need the cash  
 We want to spend it all

They will not bring peace to you  
 Oh not at all  
 They will not bring peace to you  
 They'll bring the law

II

Drugs make you dull  
 And what's even better



Drugs make you crave  
So you'll get the money quick

*Jesse starts to pull packet out of his jacket – puts it way again as Jessica and Jamie enter stage right.*

JESSICA:

Hello there! We're from a local Christian Church and...

MOOCH:

Hello mama! You new in the neighborhood?  
*Starts to put arm around Jessica.*

JESSICA:

Hey! Stop that!

JESSE:

Leave her alone, Mooch!

*To Jessica.*

What are you? An undercover cop?

*Monica and Joey laugh.*

JESSICA:

No, we're Christians and we're here to tell people about Jesus, how he died for our sins.

JESSE:

Hey, hey, hey! I'm no sinner – I'm one of the good guys.

*Mooch and Joey laugh – Jesse turns around looks mad at them.*

I'm a regular businessman. My name is Jesse.

JESSICA:

*Looks at Jamie, puts out her hand and shakes Jesse's hand while he says next line.*

JESSE:

Do you have a boyfriend?

*She pulls hand away.*

JESSICA:

Yes, no – I'm not here to talk about me – I'm here to help you!

JESSE:

You want to help me? O.K., give it your best shot.

*Jessica turns to Jamie.*

JESSICA:

Do you want to tell them about the Lord?

JAMIE:

Oh no, you go right ahead – I'll be right behind you. *She steps back.*

JESSICA:

Ok – well, we've all sinned and need to be saved from the penalty of hell – so God sent his only begotten son to die for our sins.

*Looks at Jamie – Jamie nods her head.*

When we accept Jesus into our hearts he cleanses all the sin from us and comes into our hearts to live – we become born again and we have eternal life.

JESSE:

From my point of view, as long as I'm not doing anybody any harm I'm O.K. and God's gonna take care of me.

JESSICA:

Well, God is taking care of us by giving us the opportunity to turn to Jesus and find new life in Him. Just because we think something is O.K. doesn't mean that it's right in God's eyes.

JESSE:

Whoa! You are so wrong! We're just doing what we think is right – right Mooch?

MOOCH:

Right, Jesse.

JESSE:

Now you two little girls get out of here. You got it?

JESSICA:

Well, please think about what we've said – we'll pray for you.

JESSE:

Keep your prayers for yourself.

*Jesse and Jamie start to exit – they stop.  
Jesse talking quietly to Joey.*

JESSICA: *Takes Jamie's hand.*

Dear heavenly Father, touch that boy's life – turn him around Lord –  
and draw him to your self in Jesus' name.

*They exit.*

*Jesse turns to watch them go.*

JESSE:

Prayer – like I need it!

OFFICER: *Offstage police lights shining.*

Halt! You're under arrest.

*Jesse, Joey, Monica, and Mooch run off stage.*

## SCENE 4

*In jail cell Jesse at small table writing, Tarquavious sitting on bunk.*

JESSE: *Speaking while writing.*

Dear Ma, Thank you for the cookies – they were delicious. I'm doing O.K. in jail – the time goes slow though. My roommate – you'd like him, his name is Tarquavious (*turns to Tarq.*). How do you spell your name?

TARQUAVIOUS:

T-a-r-q-u-a-v-i-o-u-s – just like it sounds.

JESSE: *Returns to writing.*

Tarquavious is a born again Christian. What is it with these people? They're everywhere! Do you think that God is out to get me? Tarq, my roommate says that God really loves me – do you think that's possible after all the bad things I've done? I've prayed like you told me to. I hope God is listening. I've had a lot of time to think about things. I don't like the person I am, Ma. But I know I can't change myself – I need help. Anyway, love to you Ma, and I'm sorry for all that I put you through.

Your, Jesse.

TARQ:

You writtin' your Mama?

JESSE:

Yeah.

TARQ:

You tell her I like them cookies – O.K.?

JESSE:

I will.

TARQ:

So will you go to service with me tonight?

JESSE:

Yeah, but I'm not doing any Jesus thing – you got it? I don't want guys making fun of me the way they make fun of you.

TARQ:

I got it. How long you in here for Jesse?

JESSE:

A year if I make parole.

TARQ:

You know all the prison time in the world makes no change in a man's heart. I came to Jesus two years ago – right here at our chapel. I used to be a angry, mean cuss.

JESSE:

You?

TARQ:

I know it's hard to believe, but Jesus cleaned me out of all the junk I was holding onto inside of me – he changed my life. My daddy used to beat me up regular – Jesus helped me to forgive. He took all the anger in me and replaced it with love. But I had to choose him – make that commitment to follow him with all my heart.

JESSE:

But you were in the Hood. What about your gang? I'll bet they disrespect you now.

TARQ.: You know that at the beginin' of my walk with Jesus I had to make some hard choices. I lost some of my best friends but I made some new ones-people who are taking their lives real serious –like me. I'm not wastin' another day livin' like the old me. I learned I had to take a stand and walk with Jesus.

*Song: You've Got To Be A Man – Tarquavious sings*

I

You've got to be a man and take a stand  
 You've got to walk with God  
 Yes He'll make you stand  
 You've got to walk with God  
 He'll help you be a man  
 A man in His hands

He'll turn your life around  
 Set you on holy ground  
 He will lift you up  
 He will give you life  
 He'll guide you in the way  
 Make sure you stay that way

The Lord Jesus Christ.

Chorus

You've got to give up the fight to make it alone  
You got to see it right and He'll help you along  
You've got to give up the fight  
And He'll make it right  
You've got to walk with Him, the Lord Jesus Christ

JESSE: You've got me thinking man.

TARQ:

That's a good place to start Jesse. You reach out to the Lord and  
He'll reach right out for you.

*Tarquavious turns away – is studying bible – taking notes.*

JESSE:

*Looks Up.* Are you there for me, God? Everything everybody has  
been telling me is starting to make sense, Lord. You know how  
ashamed and sorry I am for so many things. I want to get right with  
you. I hate the way I've been living and I think you're my only hope.  
I'm going to go to church tonight – please meet me there. Thanks.  
Amen.

## SCENE 5

*Prison Chapel – podium and benches*

*Jessica is leading Praise song. Jesse enters with Tarquavious. Jessica, surprised, recognizes him, gives a small wave – he waves back, looks embarrassed. Jesse and Tarquavious go to front row, join in song. Chorus – 4 – 6 males and Jamie, Chaplain Tim and Jessica clapping and singing.*

*Song: Praise The Lord – Sung by all*

I

We're gonna praise the Lord  
 We're gonna sing His praise  
 Oh, praise the Lord for blessing every day  
 We're gonna give Him thanks  
 We're gonna lift our hands  
 And praise the Lord for sending his own son

II

We've put all our faith  
 In His holy grace  
 Jesus gave his life for you and me  
 By the blood he shed  
 Our sins are all washed away  
 Oh praise the name of Jesus, Amen

Chorus

For Jesus is our savior  
 He is the light of men  
 He takes our sins away from us  
 And gives us new life

*At end of song all sit – Jessica still at podium.*

Chaplain Tim: *Goes to podium.*

That was beautiful. For those of you who are here for the first time, I'm Chaplain Tim and I'd like to welcome you all. We are blessed today to have some people from the young adult group from Shepherd's Heart Church minister to us in song and the word of God. Jessica?

JESSICA:

It's an honor to be allowed to speak to you tonight. Let's open to the gospel of John Chapter 3, Verse 16. Let's read it together.

ALL:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

JESSICA:

Thank you.

Jesus spoke these words to Nicodemus and to each and every one of us. When he says God so loved, it means God loves us in this way – he sacrificed his own son Jesus so that you and I could live. God doesn't hate us! He loves us. He asks us only to put our faith in Jesus to receive forgiveness of our sins and receive everlasting life. He did all the work. He bore the penalty of our sins – and all we have to do is believe in his son Jesus.

What's holding us back from the arms of God? Do we think we're not good enough? Listen, we're all sinners – we've all fallen short – nobody is good enough – there is no way that we can earn heaven. Heaven becomes our home when we make Jesus the Lord of our lives.

What else could hold us back? Pride? I don't need Jesus? - I'm O.K. by myself? My friends, when we stand before the Lord at our death – it says in Hebrews Chapter 9, Verse 27 – "Just as man is appointed to die once and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people." When we stand before the Lord of glory, all the pride in the world will not get us into heaven." Jesus says in John 14, Verse 6, "I am the way the truth and the life. No man comes unto the Father except through me." In Matthew Chapter 11, Verse 28 he says, "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." We need rest. Rest from trying to save ourselves. Rest from the troubles in our lives, rest from the uncertainties of this age. Let's not wait, let's come unto Him and make Jesus our Lord and savior.

I'd like to pray now – and if you are ready to make Jesus your Lord and savior, I'd like you to come up here and Chaplain and I will pray with you.

*Jesse starts to get up, hesitates then goes up front, two others go also. Jesse and the two others repeat prayer with Jessica.*

CHAPLAIN:

Let's pray, just repeat after me –

Lord Jesus, *Jesse and 2 others repeat*

I believe you are the son of God, *Jesse and 2 others repeat*



I believe you were raised from the dead *Jesse and 2 others repeat*  
Lord, I am sorry for all the sins I have committed *Jesse and 2 others repeat*

I ask Jesus to be the Lord of my life, and come into my heart *Jesse and 2 others repeat*

Thank you Lord for I now know that I am born again *Jesse and 2 others repeat*

that all my sins are forgiven *Jesse and 2 others repeat*)

that I have a new life *Jesse and 2 others repeat*)

that Jesus is my savior *Jesse and 2 others repeat*

God is my father *Jesse and 2 others repeat*)

and heaven is my home in Jesus' name Amen *Jesse and 2 others repeat*

Now just praise the Lord!

*All begin to praise the Lord joyfully*

CHAPLAIN:

Welcome to the family of God my brothers!

*Chaplain and Jessica shake hands with each man, Jamie hands out bibles.*

JESSE: *To Jessica.*

I guess that praying really worked – didn't it?

JESSICA:

Jesse, I've been praying for you since the day I met you. I know that God has a wonderful plan for your life.

JESSE:

Thank you.

*Lights out.*

## SCENE 6

*2 months later*

*Mike and Tony are standing with two others. Jesse is walking by holding bible*

MIKE:

Oooh look – little Jesse is going to bible study.

TONY:

He's a little girly man .  
*They laugh*  
*Jesse stops*

MIKE:

So, are you praying for us – the big bad sinners?

JESSE:

Yeah, Mike, I'm praying for you.

MIKE:

So you think you're better than us?  
*Gets in Jesse's face starts to push him with one hand*

Holy boy, bible pusher.

JESSE:

Cut it out, Mike.

MIKE:

*Still pushing*  
Jesus freak.

*Jesse getting angry grabs Mike by the shirt*

JESSE:

Shut up you...  
*Suddenly realizes what he's doing pushes away from Mike –*  
*Shakes head picks up bible, walks away*

MIKE:

Jesse!

TONY:

Boy, he's changed – I was looking forward to a nice clean fight.

MIKE:

He's changed alright. Maybe there's something to this Jesus thing after all.

*Jesse stops at edge of stage before he exits:*

JESSE: O.K. Lord that was close. Keep me strong Lord. This Christian walk needs discipline- at least that what Chaplain says and you know I've never been one for much self control. Keep giving me that self control I need Lord. In Jesus' name I ask it. Thanks. Amen

SCENE 7

*Six months later – prison chapel, two groups of men talking – one group talking to Pastor, the other group talking to Jesse.*

JESSE:

And so that's how I came to know Jesus as my Lord and Savior.

MIKE:

But Jesse, how can a guy like me live a life for God in this place?

JESSE:

Mike, I asked God the same question and he showed me that Peter, Paul and many Christians have been in prison. He can lead us here as easily as he can on the outside. And no matter how hard it gets he will never leave us or forsake us.

TONY:

What about when we get out of here – what are we supposed to do?

JESSE:

Chaplain told me to get into a bible teaching church right away and to stay away from the old places I used to go to. He said that my old friends will probably not understand and I may lose some of them. Personally, I think that going back to my old way would land me right back here.

MIKE:

I wish I had your faith Jesse.

JESSE:

Mike, come to bible study tonight and start getting to know Jesus – I'm going to look for you. O.K.?

MIKE:

O.K. Jesse.

JESSE:

You too Tony.

TONY:

We'll see you there.

## SCENE 8

*One year later.*

*Prison Chapel – same set, Chaplain Tim at podium, Tony, Mike and same group of males sitting in different order on bench.*

CHAPLAIN TIM:

Before we close today's service, I'd like Jesse Martinez to come forward.

*Jesse goes up, stands near Pastor.*

CHAPLAIN TIM:

As you know, Jesse has been with us for a year now and he has made parole. We're all very happy for you Jesse. Jesse has grown so much as a Christian – ministering to many of you, encouraging and praying with you and for you. I'd like us to pray for you Jesse. *Puts his hand on Jesse's shoulder.*

Lord Jesus, bless Jesse as he goes forth, guard him as he faces life outside of these walls. Give him strength and wisdom – and use him as a shining light wherever he goes – in Jesus' name – Amen. God bless you Jesse.

*He hugs Jesse.*

Let's sing the song of Blessing.

*During the song, some come up to him and shake his hand, others hug him.*

*Song: May The Lord Make You Strong – sung by all*

I

May the Lord keep you strong in your faith  
 May the Lord keep you strong in your faith  
 May the Lord keep you strong and give you long life  
 May the Lord keep you strong in your faith

II

May the joy of the Lord be your strength  
 May the joy of the Lord be your strength  
 May the joy of the Lord fill up your life  
 May the joy of the Lord be your strength

III

May the Lord make you strong in resolve  
To fight the good fight to the end  
May the Lord make you strong to fight the good fight  
May the Lord make you strong in your faith

## SCENE 9

*Jessica and Jamie are sitting at the kitchen table Bibles are open on the table. They are just finishing praying.*

JESSICA: and Lord we continue to ask you to protect Jesse in his walk with you Lord. Keep him strong and keep him safe from all temptation. In Jesus' name we pray .Amen.

Isn't it amazing what the Lord has done in that boy Jesse's life?

JAMIE: Remember how scary he was when we met him?

JESSICA: I do. But that night he got saved I watched the expression on his face change – he looked so happy and peaceful and free. The Lord is wonderful!

JAMIE: I heard he got out on parole from Pastor. You know Pastor went and visited with Jesse in prison and invited him to come to church when he gets out.

JESSICA: I know. Pastor has asked me to invite him to give his testimony at service. I know it would touch a lot of people.

JAMIE: Do you want me to come with you?

JESSICA: No, that's OK; I have to go over to drop off some Bibles at the Youth Center there anyway. Thanks, though.

JAMIE: Well, I've got to get going.

*They stand and hug good-by.*

JESSICA: I'll see you tomorrow.

JAMIE: Bye.  
*Jamie exits*

JESSICA: Dear Lord, be with me when I go to invite Jesse – Bless our conversation and give Jesse the direction he needs. I ask this in Jesus' name Amen.

## Scene 10

*Jesse's house, Dominga is dusting furniture.*

DOMINGA:  
Jesse!

JESSE:  
*Off Stage. Coming, coming.  
Enters stage left wearing suit.*

DOMINGA:  
Let me look at you.  
*Regards him with happy pride.*  
You look so handsome!

JESSE:  
Come on, Ma.

DOMINGA:  
I know you'll do great at your new job.

JESSE:  
Selling appliances is not exactly great, Ma.

DOMINGA:  
It's just a beginning, honey. I'm grateful to that Christian man at church who gave you the job, and I'm so proud of you Jesse.

JESSE:  
I love you, Ma.

DOMINGA:  
I love you too, Jesse.

*They hug. Knock at door – Dominga goes to answer door.  
Mooch and Monica enter.*

MONIQUE: Hi, Jesse honey, did you miss your Monique?

*Gives him a hug. Jesse looks uncomfortable.*



MOOCH: My man! Looking good! - You going to a wedding?

JESSE:  
No, I'm going to work.

MOOCH:  
Work? Doing what, man?

JESSE:  
*Mumbles.*  
Appliance sales.

MOOCH:  
What?!

JESSE:  
Appliance sales.

MOOCH:  
*Laughing.*  
I could have sworn you said appliance sales.

JESSE:  
That's what I said.

MOOCH:  
Oh, no, no...not our boy! Tell me this is a joke.

JESSE:  
It's no joke. I need to work. I'm thankful this guy gave me a break.

MOOCH:  
Wow! I'm stunned! – C'mon man, let's hit the streets – lots of good stuff waiting to be bought and sold. That's where the money is!

MONIQUE:  
Mooch's right. I've missed you honey and all those pretty presents you used to give me. C'mon – get back to business. Let's get out of here tonight.

JESSE:  
I can't, I've got church.

MOOCH:  
What! You in a church? No, no Jesse, what's happened to you?

JESSE:

I got born again in prison.

MOOCH:

Everyone knows that wears off real quick. Jesse, tonight we celebrate – you're back baby!

JESSE:

No, I really want to go to church. Do you remember the girl who talked to us on the street the night I got arrested?

MOOCH:

The church chick? I remember her – beautiful hair, beautiful...

JESSE:

*Jesse interrupts him.*

O.K., O.K., yes that one. She did prison ministry at Midstate where I was. This is her church.

MOOCH:

Oh, now Jesse, this is different – more like my boy – this is a chick thing!

JESSE:

No, this is a God thing. I'm a Christian now. I need to go and worship the Lord. I need to spend time with Him. You may not believe it, but I pray and read the bible every day. I've changed, Mooch.

MOOCH:

Jesse, some things just don't change – and our way of life is one of them!

*Song: Remember – Sung by Mooch and Monique.*

I

Remember walking in the moonlight  
 Looking for romance  
 Remember our adventures  
 Not afraid to take a chance  
 Remember having money  
 And giving it to us  
 Come on amigo  
 Return unto the dance

II

You know you miss the danger  
 Come back into it now  
 Come back and get the money  
 And be with your friends  
 Come dance the way of trouble  
 Trouble that we make  
 This is the life Jess  
 Don't make a mistake

Chorus

You've left the life of danger  
 Can't you see it all  
 This is your chance Jess  
 Come back into the fold  
 Come back and lead the way now  
 The way of life and love  
 Come back to the way now  
 You know you miss it all

MOOCH:

We'll see you later Jesse – like old times

JESSE:

Wait! Why don't you both come to church with me tonight – you know – check it out? It's the one on Adams Street at seven o'clock.

*Mooch and Monique look at each other.*

MOOCH:

I don't think so Jesse. I think you should come with us.

MONIQUE:

Bye, honey.

*They exit.*

JESSE: *He looks up.*

Lord, please help me, because part of me wants to go after them.

*Starts to exit – stops, then exits.*

## SCENE 11

*Jesse on street.*

JESSE: *Walking, stops, puts hands on face.*

What am I doing? I don't want to do this. I don't want to go back to that life of darkness. I've lived a life serving Jesus for the last year – I finally know who I am and I'm seeing God move in my life. I'm not going to do it.

*On opposite side of stage, Jessica is walking, holding her bible, does not see Jesse – looks up.*

JESSICA:

Well Lord, here's where my work for you started. So much has happened – so much good Lord. I love you Lord. I'm so happy to serve you.

*Song: I Give My Life To You – sung by Jessica and Jesse.*

*Neither sees each other. They move towards each other. At end of song they come face to face.*

I

I give my life to you  
 Give my heart and soul and love to you  
 To follow no one else but you  
 Every moment of my life  
 For you are near me Lord  
 I know you see my heart  
 I have come to seek you Lord  
 Please hold me in your love

II

I seek your will for me  
 Guide me in your way  
 You always lead me gently Lord  
 Every moment of the day  
 For you are near me Lord  
 I know you see my heart  
 I have come to seek you Lord  
 Please hold me in your love

Chorus

For you our Lord  
Show me what to do  
I love you Lord  
With all my heart and soul

JESSICA:  
Oh, Hi! I was coming to see you, Jesse.

JESSE:  
You were?

JESSICA:  
Yes, I'm so proud of you, Jesse. Pastor would like you to give your testimony at church tonight – he thinks it would encourage a lot of people. You are coming aren't you?

JESSE:  
You know I almost decided not to come – I was going to go out with my old friends.

JESSICA:  
What changed your mind?

JESSE:  
I guess it was the Holy Spirit. All of a sudden I saw myself the way I really used to be and the empty life I was living – and I just couldn't go back.

JESSICA: I've been praying for you

JESSE:  
And I've needed it. I'm starting my new job today – but I'll see you at church.

JESSICA:  
Jesse, Pastor is wondering if you'd be willing to give your testimony at church tonight.

JESSE:  
Sure. Wow. It's an honor. Tell him I'd be glad to.

JESSICA:  
O.K., well I guess I'll see you tonight.

JESSE: Yeah, great. O.K.

JESSICA:  
Bye Jesse.

JESSE:  
Bye, Jessica.

*Jessica exits, Jesse continues to look after Jessica – thoughtful look on his face.*

## SCENE 12

*Church that night, Pastor Tom at podium – several cast members sitting in chairs, listening. Jessica and Jamie, chairs turned sideways toward audience. Katherine and Dominga sitting next to each other.*

PASTOR TOM:

About a year ago the young adult group entered into both street and prison ministry, both of which our church supports as part of the great commission. Tonight we have with us a young man who received Jesus as his personal savior. Jesse Martinez is a fine example of Jesus' work. He has wholeheartedly followed Jesus since he made the Lord his savior. I am proud to introduce him tonight – Jesse come on up here and give us your testimony!

*All applaud; Jesse gets up slowly, walks to podium.*

JESSE: *Looking at Pastor.*

Well, I never expected I'd have to get up and speak at my first visit, Pastor, but thank you for your trust and confidence in me – it means a lot.

*Looking at congregation.*

I got saved about a year ago – for those of you who haven't met Jesus yet – that means that I got saved from having to pay the penalty – hell – for my own sins because Jesus paid my debt by shedding his own blood on the cross and dying for my sins.

*Mooch begins to enter at edge of crowd – Jesse sees him, gestures for him to come and sit down.*

I guess I'll have to start my story by saying that God knew where I was – even if I didn't know where he was. He used a lot of people – my mom, Jessica here, my bunkmate at prison to tell me the good news about Jesus – and it was very good news, especially at a time when nothing good was happening to me. As a kid I never felt very special so I kept on doing things to get noticed. Unfortunately, the only ones who noticed were the police. But you know, God thought I was special and he never stopped coming after me – even though I kept running away from him – he never gave up on me. And, I thank Him because I haven't been the same since I gave my heart to Him. I haven't been afraid, or felt the deep down loneliness I used to feel. I can talk to him whenever I want and he's always listening. I will never give him up.

*Pauses – looks at congregation, then at Mooch.*

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to tell you my testimony.

*All applaud, Mooch stands clapping – Jesse goes to him, they hug.*



PASTOR TOM:

Jesse told me he has a song he would like to share.  
*Jesse returns to podium*

JESSE: I would like to share a song that a friend in prison taught me.  
Jessica would you come here and join me? And I'd like you all to join in.

*Jessica goes to podium. Stands next to Jesse.*

*Song: Jesse You've Got To Be A Man – Jessica, Jesse and All*

I

You've got to be a man and take a stand  
You've got to walk with God  
Yes He'll make you stand  
You've got to walk with God  
He'll help you be a man  
A man in His hands

He'll turn your life around  
Set you on holy ground  
He will lift you up  
He will give you life  
He'll guide you in the way  
Make sure you stay that way  
The Lord Jesus Christ.

Chorus

You've got to give up the fight to make it alone  
You got to see it right and He'll help you along  
You've got to give up the fight  
And He'll make it right  
You've got to walk with Him, the Lord Jesus Christ

THE END