

ACT 1

MARTHA: Let me see....oh.....oh no!! I'm sure I had more bread!! I'm sure I did! Where is it? Where has it gone? I wonder if that sister of mine knows where it is?

(Mary enters)

MARY: Yes Martha, I used the bread.

MARTHA: Oh, did you?

MARY: Yes, I gave some to Lazarus. He asked for some.

MARTHA: Did he?

MARY: I'm sorry, I should have told you.

MARTHA: Don't be sorry, Mary. I'm so pleased to hear that he's eating.

MARY: I don't think he had very much.

MARTHA: It doesn't matter how little he ate. It's so important he eats.... something.

(Martha's head drops)

MARY: Martha? Are you alright?

MARTHA: He's not getting any better, is he?

(Mary shakes her head)

(Martha's head drops again – Mary puts her arm round Mary)

MARY: If God is calling Lazarus, there is nothing we can do...but we can pray that Lazarus is not in too much pain.

MARTHA: He sleeps most of the day, so maybe he's not. But he looks so frail.

MARY: Yes, he does. That's why he needs to have some food and water sometime during the day....

MARTHA: But I don't like to wake him....

MARY: At least he eats and drinks when he does wake up...it's not as though he has stopped doing that..

MARTHA: And we can still talk to him...

MARY: Of course we can...I really enjoy the conversations we have...

MARTHA: I've heard you tell him about Jesus...

MARY: He's always interested to hear about him...who wouldn't be?...

MARTHA: I remember when Jesus was here, in our house...and what he told me...

MARY: Were you annoyed at what he said?

MARTHA: Oh No...he was right....I was caught up doing so many things but didn't realise there was something more important...

MARY: He could see how much you were doing.....

MARTHA: We think we know what is best but we are not always right...

MARY: If we knew everything, Martha, people would become jealous and resentful...

MARTHA: Like the Pharisees? (pause) I've heard that's the way they feel about Jesus?

MARY: But what is he saying that is so wrong?

MARTHA: Why don't you ask Ananias?

MARY: He's not a Pharisee...he's a chief priest...

MARTHA: But they move in the same circles, don't they?

MARY: But he wouldn't feel like that? How many times has he been round here to see Lazarus?

MARTHA: ...and you...

MARY: He's a friend, Martha...that's all....

MARTHA: Like Stephen....

MARY: Stephen's different....

MARTHA: I like him....I'm not sure about his Son.

MARY: Luke?..

MARTHA: He's very sure of himself...

MARY: I know what you mean....

(Mary looks away)

MARTHA: Mary, don't be embarrassed. Admitting you care for someone is not a crime.

MARY: I'm not sure if he feels the same way.

MARTHA: (confidently) I think he does.

MARY: Has he told you?

MARTHA: He doesn't have to...

MARY: What do you mean?

MARTHA: Well, it's obvious from the way he talks to you.

MARY: Do you think so?

MARTHA: It will only be a matter of time before he tells you himself. And talking of time, I have to go to the market.

MARY: Do you want me to go?

MARTHA: No, you stay here. Hopefully, Lazarus will wake up...

MARY: And 'll give him some bread and water if he does....

MARTHA: I'll see you later....

(Mary leaves - Ananias enters)

MARY: Ananias...

ANANIAS: Hello Mary...How are you?

MARY: I'm fine...have you come to see Lazarus?

(Ananias nods)

MARY: He's asleep...I could try and wake him....

ANANIAS: Don't do that (pause)...How is he?

MARY: There's no change really...he sleeps most of the day....

ANANIAS: And when he wakes up?

MARY:: He will have something to eat and drink...

ANANIAS: Does he ever go out?

MARY: I can't remember the last time he went out...Mary and I keep asking him if he would like to go for a walk...

ANANIAS: Does that frustrate him?

MARY: He never says so...and when he wakes up, he's quite happy talking to both of us...

ANANIAS: And you can tell him what is going on in the outside world...

(Mary nods)

MARY: What really interests him is when I tell him about Jesus...

ANANIAS: Jesus? I've heard quite lot about him...

MARY: You mean you've never heard him speak...

ANANIAS: I'm very busy in the Temple so I haven't had the time...

MARY: You must try, Ananias....His words will inspire you...

ANANIAS: Really?

MARY: They have given my life more meaning...

ANANIAS: What has he said to do that?

MARY: When he spoke about the "Kingdom of God" and how this is not a place you see and go to, but it is within you...

ANANIAS: Within you? What does He mean by that?

MARY: It is in the hearts of all of us...it is within our reach if we make the right choices and it is in our midst in the person and presence of Jesus.

ANANIAS: That sounds really interesting...can you tell me anything more Jesus has said?

MARY: Of course I can....

ANANIAS: Tell me as much as you know....I'm sure by listening to you, Mary, I will get know Jesus a lot better....

ACT 2

LUKE: His time is nearly up...don't you think, Dad?

STEPHEN: His time? Who are you talking about?

LUKE: Lazarus, of course!!

STEPHEN: Oh right (Stephen shakes his head) You do have a way with words, don't you Luke?

LUKE: What do you want me to say?... "It must be any day now"....

STEPHEN: We are talking about someone's life and, more to the point, we are talking about a friend of ours.

LUKE: But we're all going to die, aren't we?

STEPHEN: And we're all going to end up at heaven's gate.

LUKE: Do you reckon it'll be open when you get there?

STEPHEN: I hope so. But what happens when we die? What actually happens?

LUKE: What do you think, Dad?.

STEPHEN: I think, at that moment, we will be in the presence of God...We will be with him and every other believer...

LUKE: And what will we do there?

STEPHEN: I don't know, Luke, but I don't believe our death is the end of our life...our existence...

LUKE: Don't you?

STEPHEN: We all have bodies and souls...Death is the separation of the body and soul, and when we die, our bodies have no more life but we continue to exist as souls with God.

LUKE: Maybe, but we won't really know until we get to heaven (pause) But Lazarus could let us know when he gets there.

STEPHEN: It must be really hard on Mary and Martha. They can look after him and pray for him but they must know it's just a matter of time...It's important we support them as much as we can...

LUKE: I'm sure you'll give Mary all the support she needs.

STEPHEN: What's that supposed to mean?

LUKE: Alright, Dad, maybe I'm a little blunt but I'll tell you one thing...there's nothing wrong with my eye sight.

STEPHEN: Are we going to see Lazarus now?

LUKE: So you want to change the subject, that's fine by me.

(Stephen doesn't answer)

LUKE: If you think I'm too young to tell me....

STEPHEN: There's really not much to say, Luke.

LUKE: You mean, you haven't said anything to Mary.

(Stephen shakes his head)

LUKE: What are you waiting for, Dad? Lazarus to jump on a table and start dancing!!

STEPHEN: I don't think there's much chance of that....

LUKE: Well, what then?!

STEPHEN: I'm not sure... I'm not sure if she feels the same way...

LUKE: There's only one way to find out!

STEPHEN: What if she says "no"...

LUKE: What if she says "yes"

STEPHEN: She might be quite happy to be on her own...she's probably got a lot on her mind with Lazarus being so ill....she might not be in the right frame of mind...

LUKE: How many escape routes have you thought of?

STEPHEN: It's not as simple as that....

LUKE: It couldn't be any simpler...(pause) You're afraid, aren't you?

STEPHEN: Of what?

LUKE: You're afraid she'll say no...

(Stephen looks away)

LUKE: It's the fear of rejection....isn't it?

STEPHEN: How would you know?.....

LUKE: Anyway, it doesn't matter..she's already taken a liking to someone else...

STEPHEN: Has she? Who?

LUKE: Jesus

STEPHEN: Jesus?! I knew it (shaking his head) I knew it. She's always going to hear him speak...it was bound to happen.. I wanted to ask her.but now it's too late! (pause) I'm surprised she didn't say anything.

LUKE: I'm sure she would have done...if it were true...

STEPHEN: If it were....? (realising Luke has made the story up) ...you know, Luke, there are times when you can be such a....

LUKE: I know, Dad, but I just want the best for you...you've been lost since Mum died, haven't you?...But you've got so much love to give... I think you should share that with someone...

STEPHEN: It would be good...

LUKE: I'm only trying to help so.....ask her before it's too late..

STEPHEN: I will.....

LUKE: Come on Dad, we better go and see Lazarus....I just hope he's at home

STEPHEN: Of course he'll be at home....Where else would he be?

LUKE: Heaven?...

(Stephen shakes his head and they both walk off)

ACT 3

(Lazarus is sipping some water)

MARTHA: Would you like something to eat? A piece of bread?

LAZARUS: No, I don't think I could manage that

MARTHA: You have to try, Lazarus.

LAZARUS: I'm fine. I'm not that hungry at all.

MARTHA: But you need to eat.

LAZARUS: I just don't feel up to it.

MARTHA: What do you want to do? Do you want to go for a walk? Get some fresh air?

LAZARUS: (Shakes his head) Oh No. I just want to sit here.

MARTHA: But you haven't been outside for days. It might do you some good. The sun is shining, there's a gentle breeze, it's such a lovely day...we could go....

LAZARUS: (interrupts) Martha, my dear Martha. I would love to go for a walk, I really would, but I can't. I feel very weak... and tired too...

MARTHA: I understand, Lazarus. I wish I could do something to help.

LAZARUS: You are helping, and so is Mary, by looking after me. What would I do without both of you?

MARTHA: I mean, I wish I could do something to make you better

LAZARUS: Martha, you know as well as I do, that won't happen.

(Martha does not reply)

LAZARUS: I only hope that I get to see Jesus before my life here on earth ends.

MARTHA: Mary has gone to listen to Him.

LAZARUS: That doesn't surprise me...

MARTHA: She loves listening to Jesus speak. So many people do...He is such a wonderful man. And to think we can call him a friend of ours. Aren't we lucky?

LAZARUS: Yes, he has many good qualities. I don't... (starts to talk slowly) know...anyone...quite like him...

MARTHA: Lazarus!! What's wrong? What's the matter?

LAZARUS: I just need to... catch...my breath

(Pause)

LAZARUS: I'm alright now...

MARTHA: Are you sure?

(Lazarus nods)

MARTHA: I was going to say that if anyone can help you get better, He can...

(Enter Luke and Stephen)

LUKE: There he is!!

STEPHEN: Hello Lazarus

LUKE: Ready for a run into town?

LAZARUS: I don't think so, Luke.

LUKE: How about a walk?

MARTHA: I've already asked him..he's fine just sitting there

STEPHEN: How are you feeling, Lazarus?

LAZARUS: Quite weak and tired...I haven't got much strength...

STEPHEN Have you eaten anything today?

(Martha shakes her head)

STEPHEN: Perhaps you would feel better if you did.

LAZARUS: You are probably right, Stephen...but not now...

LUKE: Where's Mary?

MARTHA: She's gone to listen to Jesus..

(Luke looks at his Dad)

MARTHA: Why don't you go and meet her, Stephen?

STEPHEN: Are you sure? I'd like to.....Lazarus, do you mind?

LAZARUS: No. of course not.

STEPHEN: Right then.....I'll see you later, Luke..

LUKE: Good luck, Dad!....

(Stephen leaves)

LAZARUS: Luke, have you heard Jesus speak?

(Luke nods)

LAZARUS: And what do you think of him?

LUKE: I like him! He gives a good sermon and He doesn't mince his words!

LAZARUS: He's very popular....

MARTHA: Not with everyone, Lazarus. The Chief Priests and Pharisees don't like him....

LAZARUS: What about Ananias? He's a Chief Priest. Mary tells him about Jesus. She says Ananias like to hear what he tells the people. If he didn't like Jesus, he wouldn't be that interested, would he?

ACT 4

(Speaking to the audience)

JESUS: Remember that I came from God. He sent me and I am here. I came to speak the truth and to tell everyone about the glory of God. So believe me when I tell you that if any man accepts my words, he will never see death at all.

(Jesus turns to Mary)

JESUS: Hello Mary

MARY: Master.

JESUS: Every time I speak, you are always hear to listen.

MARY: Your words mean so much to me. My life would be empty without them. I wish Lazarus could come and listen to you, too.

JESUS: How is he?

MARY: I don't think he has many days left. He really wants to see you before he....

JESUS: Dies? Death is a great mystery. Many people don't understand it, many people fear it and they are frightened by it. But death is simply a part of life, and a passage to the next. God is in control, not death. And when death does come, it is within God's love for us and His will.

MARY: I wish Martha could hear you say that. I'm sure those words would help her but she never seems to stop. She's always so busy. She thinks she can do everything. I ask her if I can help but she always tells me she can cope.

JESUS: Is that why she is not here with you?

MARY: She's looking after Lazarus.....as well as washing, cleaning and preparing our meals. She's always busy, helping others, never thinking of herself.

JESUS: She will worry and be troubled by many things.

MARY: What do you mean, Master?

JESUS: Martha will always be kind and caring to anyone. There is nothing wrong with that. But she has become distracted. She worries if there is enough food, or if the house isn't clean. The word of God is more important than these thoughts and actions.

MARY: But you have already told her that yourself..

JESUS: (Jesus nods) We can learn so much from God but that can only happen if you let God into your life. When we don't spend time alone with God, we can't learn from His teachings, and that is when we become worried and troubled.

MARY: I understand.....

JESUS: Mary, I must leave you and go and find my Disciples....

MARY: Good bye Master.

(Jesus and Mary walk away in opposite directions)

STEPHEN: Hello Mary

MARY: Stephen...what are you doing here?

STEPHEN: I came to meet you... Martha said you had gone to listen to Jesus...

MARY: Did you hear what Jesus said?

STEPHEN: No, I didn't. I saw him talking to you, so I thought I would wait until he had finished.

MARY: You should have joined us...I could have told him you were a good friend of Lazarus.

STEPHEN: Maybe next time...

MARY: Have you ever heard Jesus speak?

STEPHEN: No, I haven't... but I would like to...I've heard so many good things about what he teaches.

MARY: He's opened my eyes...he's made me see things differently...he's made me believe I can get more out of life...And the best thing is knowing that I matter to God...we all do...

STEPHEN: Really?

MARY: But what I find really interesting is when he talks about the Kingdom of God...I was telling Ananias all about it....

STEPHEN: Ananias? But he's a chief priest?

(Mary nods)

STEPHEN: I didn't think they liked Jesus....

MARY: There are so many chief priests, Stephen, there has to be one that does like him...Anyway, I hope to come tomorrow to listen to Jesus but I need to ask Martha if that is alright with her....

STEPHEN: Tomorrow?...Can I come...with you?

MARY: Yes, of course....Do you think Luke will want to come, too?

STEPHEN: I don't think so...

MARY: Don't you want to ask him?

STEPHEN: No... I'd prefer not to...

MARY: Why not?

STEPHEN: (Deep breath) I would like us to go...together...you and me....What would you say?

MARY: I thought you would never ask...

(Stephen smiles)

ACT 5

(Martha is cleaning and then looks up)

MARTHA: Carmel! I didn't see you there... you gave me a shock.

CARMEL: I'm sorry Martha, I didn't mean to....but I could see you were busy

MARTHA: Come in, come in, don't just stand there

CARMEL: Are you sure? I could always come back another time

MARTHA: Don't be silly....I'll always find time to talk to you, you know that.

CARMEL: I knew I'd find you working...do you ever stop?

MARTHA: I have now...

CARMEL: You make me feel guilty

MARTHA: I don't mean it like that..

CARMEL: But you are always doing something....Do you ever sit down?

MARTHA: There's always something to do, Carmel

CARMEL: So you don't keep yourself busy because you need to?....

MARTHA: Why would I do that?

CARMEL: Lazarus...

MARTHA: Lazarus? What about him? He's not at all well, as you know....I'm not going to let him do things for himself....he can't, anyhow...

(Carmel interrupts)

CARMEL: I don't mean that, Martha.

MARTHA: What do you mean?

CARMEL; By keeping yourself so busy, you don't have time to dwell about him..

MARTHA: Dwell?

CARMEL: On what's going to happen to Lazarus..

(Martha looks away)

CARMEL: Martha, we both know he hasn't got long to live...so I thought, "Are you living in denial by keeping yourself so busy?". Do you think there's still a chance he might get better? Because if you are, when that day comes when he dies, it will come as such a shock. And it might take you a long time for you to recover from it...

MARTHA: Carmel, it might appear that way, but I'm not living in denial. Really, I'm not. I know Lazarus is going to die. I am prepared for that. And do you know what? I do have time to dwell. Oh yes, every night when I go to bed. I say my prayers and then I lie in bed, thinking about him, trying to imagine what my life will be like without him. It's my last thought at night and my first thought when I wake up.

CARMEL: It must be very hard for you...

MARTHA: And for Mary..

CARMEL: Mary! (Carmel shakes her head) Does she help you?

MARTHA: With Lazarus? Of course, she does...

CARMEL: It's just that every time I come round, she's gone to listen to Jesus...Mind you, I can understand why...I've never heard anyone speak the way he does....He's so....

(Lazarus walks in)

LAZARUS: (Wearily) I thought I heard your voice, Carmel.

CARMEL: I'm sorry, Lazarus, I didn't mean to wake you.

LAZARUS: Don't worry

MARTHA: Come and sit down, Lazarus. Do you feel like eating something?

LAZARUS: No, Martha, not really.

MARTHA: How about a drink of water?

LAZARUS: Yes, I'd like that. My throat is quite dry.

CARMEL: How do you feel?

LAZARUS: I feel tired and weak...it doesn't matter how long I sleep, I still wake up feeling that way...

CARMEL: When was the last time you ate something?

LAZARUS: I can't remember..

(Martha puts her arm round Lazarus)

MARTHA: How about a very small piece of bread?

LAZARUS: I don't think I would be able to swallow it...

(Lazarus takes a sip of water)

LAZARUS: Even that hurts...

CARMEL: Can you sleep. Lazarus?

LAZARUS: Sleep is all I do now. Ask Martha. But when I do wake up, I barely have the strength to get out of bed. I feel so weak. I don't know why but eating is the last thing I want to do. And it's not long before I want to go back to bed.

CARMEL: Are you in great pain?

LAZARUS: No, not pain. If I was, I wouldn't be able to sleep as long as I do. My body just aches all over. All I want to do is rest.

MARTHA: Mary is going to ask Jesus if He will come and see you...

LAZARUS: Has she? I hope He comes soon...I don't think I'll be here much longer...

ACT 6

LUKE: Where's Dad and Mary? They've been gone for ages!!

CARMEL: I told you Luke, Mary is going to ask Jesus to come and see Lazarus....

LUKE: Yes, but Lazarus hasn't got all day. has he?

CARMEL: Mary will have to wait until Jesus has finished preaching... ..

LUKE: Doesn't he realise how ill he is?

CARMEL: Luke, we are talking about Jesus...Have you any idea how many people go and listen to Him? (pause) We just have to be patient...

LUKE: I know, I know....Tell me Carmel, what do you think of Jesus?

CARMEL: I've never known anyone like him. When I go and hear him speak, I'm in a crowd of people, and yet I feel as though he is talking to me. How does he do that?

LUKE: You don't know? Really? It's easy for him....because He's the Son of God!!

CARMEL: But that doesn't mean everyone likes him....

LUKE: You're thinking of the Pharisees, aren't you?

CARMEL: (Carmel nods) It's obvious they don't like Jesus and, from what Jesus has said about them, I'm sure the feeling is mutual. But they are powerful people so I can't help thinking, "How long will they put up with Him?".

LUKE: Martha thinks the same way, doesn't she?.. Do you think something will happen to him?

CARMEL: I really hope not! I think of what my life was like before I heard Jesus and how he has changed the way I feel in myself.

LUKE: What? At your age?

CARMEL: I'm not that old!!

LUKE: I'm only joking!! Tell me, have you seen the Pharisees? Do they go and listen to Jesus?

CARMEL: Yes , they do..I have seen them. Sometimes, when Jesus has finished speaking, they will ask him a question. They give the impression they are trying to catch him out. But Jesus always gives them a good answer. And it's obvious they don't like that. They must feel threatened by him....

LUKE: What about the Chief Priests? Do you know if they think the same as the Pharisees?

CARMEL: Probably....although Mary tells one of them, Ananias, all about Jesus. She says he likes to know everything Jesus teaches...

LUKE Good for him!! That takes some doing!! To stand up for someone when everyone else in your Group is against him!!

CARMEL: It can't be easy for him, can it?

(Mary and Stephen enter)

LUKE: Dad!!

STEPHEN: Hello Luke!

MARY: Hello Carmel

CARMEL: Did you manage to speak to Jesus?

STEPHEN: No, there were just too many people around him. We kept waiting hoping we would get a chance....

MARY: I think he saw me while he was preaching, I'm sure he smiled at me...

LUKE : I just hope he hasn't forgotten about Lazarus...

MARY: I'm sure he hasn't....He has asked me before how Lazarus is....He wouldn't have forgotten.....

STEPHEN: I wonder what it's like when you are as popular as he is, when so many people are excited about the thought of seeing you.

CARMEL: And what about the people that can call Jesus a friend, like you Mary?

MARY: I know. I feel so blessed, and so do Lazarus and Martha.

CARMEL: We must keep praying that Jesus comes soon.

MARY: I must go back home and see how Lazarus is. Martha will probably be worried where I am Will you come back with me, Stephen?

STEPHEN: Of course....

LUKE: Let's all go!!

(Mary, Carmel. Luke and Stephen arrive back)

MARTHA: It's too late, you're all too late

MARY: What do you mean, Martha?

MARTHA: Lazarus has left us and gone to heaven. (Pause) He's dead...

(Martha breaks down – Mary comforts her)

ACT 7

MARTHA: Our home feels so different without Lazarus.

MARY: It would do, Martha.

MARTHA: We knew he was going to die but that doesn't prepare you, does it?

MARY: I don't think anything could..

MARTHA: What makes it hard is that everywhere I look I see him....sitting at the table, lying in his bed...

MARY: He has left us with many good memories, we mustn't forget that

MARTHA: You're right Mary...I can remember when he built our table. It took him a little while but when he finished it, he was so proud. I was really pleased for him because that sort of thing didn't come easily to him. .

MARY: Did you know Jesus is a carpenter?

(Silence)

MARY: (politely) Did you hear what I said, Martha?

MARTHA: (curtly) Yes, I did.

MARY: Oh Martha, I know you're angry that Jesus didn't see Lazarus before he died but you can't hold that against him..

MARTHA: Can't I?

MARY: Just because we asked that he would come, doesn't mean it is going to happen. When we pray, we ask that's God's will is done not our will..

MARTHA: Yes, I know, Mary, but sometimes I don't understand God's will. I believe, like you, that God knows what's best for us, but how could this have been best for Lazarus, or for you and me. Jesus is a friend of ours, a good friend, so how could he have let us down like that?

MARY: I can't answer that, Martha, only He can.

MARTHA: And yet four days have passed and we still haven't seen Jesus. Four days! Is he sick? Has he gone away? Where is he?

(Jesus enters)

JESUS: I am here

MARTHA: Master!

JESUS: Hello Martha

(Mary bows her head)

MARTHA: Lazarus is dead, Master. You know, don't you?

JESUS: Yes, I do.

MARTHA: If only you had come earlier, our brother might not have died, We prayed that you would, but now it is too late.

JESUS: Martha, your brother will rise again.

MARTHA: I know he will...he will rise again in the Resurrection, on the last day.

JESUS: I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live even though he dies, and anyone who is alive and believes in me will never die at all. .

MARTHA: Yes, Master, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of God, sent by God to come into this world and I believe God will give you whatever you ask.

JESUS: Where have you put Lazarus?

MARY: We have laid him in the tomb.

JESUS: Take away the stone..

MARTHA: Take away the stone? But Master, Lazarus has been dead for four days so the smell of his body will be very strong...

JESUS: If you really believe in what you have just said, then you are about to witness the wonder and glory of God. (pause) Come Martha, Come Mary, let us go to the tomb.

(Jesus, Martha and Mary leave)

ACT 8

LUKE: (Sounding sad) Hello Anna...

ANNA: Hello Luke...Will you come to the market with me?

LUKE: I'm sorry, Anna....I don't feel like going

ANNA: Why? You always go with me...

LUKE: Maybe tomorrow...

ANNA: You sound sad, Luke...

LUKE: I am sad...

ANNA: Why? What's happened?

LUKE: A friend of mine has died....

ANNA: Don't be sad...he would have gone to heaven...

LUKE: (pause) Yes...of course he would...look, I will go to the Market with you tomorrow...I promise...

ANNA: Great...Bye Luke... .

(Anna leaves)

(Stephen enters)

STEPHEN: Hello Luke.....

LUKE: Hello Dad....

STEPHEN: I think we should go

(Luke doesn't reply)

STEPHEN: I said, I think we should go and see Martha and Mary

LUKE: Yes, I know! I heard you the first time...

STEPHEN: Well, come on, let's go....

LUKE: Wait a minute, Dad...

STEPHEN: What for?

LUKE: Well, I find it a bit awkward...What is there left to say? We've said we're sorry...

STEPHEN: Look, if they don't want to see us we can always leave. We'll know soon enough when we get there. But, we should try and support them... it's the least we can do.....

(Carmel enters before Luke can answer)

CARMEL: Ah, at last I found both of you

STEPHEN: Hello Carmel. Have you seen Martha and Mary? How are they?

CARMEL: They're overcome.. with...

LUKE: (interrupts) sorrow! Great sorrow! Well, what do you expect? Lazarus was their brother!....

CARMEL: They're overcome with joy

STEPHEN: Joy? Did you say "joy"? How can they be, Carmel? Their brother is dead

LUKE: Carmel, have you been drinking?

CARMEL: No, I have not!! Lazarus is alive!! I've seen him!!

LUKE: She's gone mad!

(Carmel glares at Luke)

STEPHEN: Carmel, both Luke and I saw his body in the tomb.

CARMEL: So did I...So when I saw him at their house I couldn't believe my eyes...

STEPHEN: Tell us what happened?

CARMEL: Jesus came and raised him from the dead

LUKE: Jesus? Nice of him to show his face...

CARMEL: I'm serious...They all went to the tomb and then Jesus asked for the stone in front of the tomb to be rolled away.

STEPHEN: And then what?

CARMEL: He said a prayer to God..

LUKE: What did He say?

CARMEL: Jesus thanked God for always listening to his prayers and said He was going to do this so that everyone would believe that God had sent Him.

STEPHEN: Really?

CARMEL: And then he ordered Lazarus to come out...

STEPHEN: That's incredible...

LUKE: I would love to have seen the look on Martha and Mary's faces..

CARMEL: Jesus is the only person who could have done that. This isn't the first miracle he's performed and I would be very surprised if it was his last.

LUKE: I wonder if the Pharisees are keeping count

STEPHEN: So Carmel, how does Lazarus look? How does he feel?

CARMEL: Why don't you go and find out for your self?

STEPHEN: Luke, are you coming?

LUKE: You try and stop me!!

(Carmel, Stephen and Luke leave)

ACT 9

CAIAPHAS: I, Caiaphas, have called this meeting of the Chief Priests and Pharisees because I am extremely concerned about this man they call Jesus.

People in great numbers go to listen to him preach. They accept what he says as the truth... but what he says is blasphemous!!

He has shown no respect for our Authority. He talks to the Pharisees as if they were his servants.

He cannot get away with this any longer. If we do not put a stop to him, we will lose control. The people will turn against us. The only solution is his death. It is better for us that one man dies for the people than the whole nation is destroyed.

Let us now take counsel.

Ananias...

(Caiaphas beckons him over)

CAIAPHAS: I want to hear what the other Chief Priests and Pharisees have to say before I tell them what you have found out...you understand, don't you?

ANANIAS: Of course, Caiaphas....

CAIAPHAS: And all of this came from one of His followers

ANANIAS: (Ananias nods) She goes and listen to Jesus as often as she can...

CAIAPHAS: It shows you how naïve and easily-led she is...

ANANIAS: Not just her....the same can be said for all of His followers..

CAIAPHAS: Quite...but because you have found out what Jesus has been saying , all the claims he has made and all the deeds he has done, we are in a very strong position to stop Jesus and put him to death... Well done, Ananias...

ANANIAS: Thank you, Caiaphas

(Caiaphas and Ananias leave)