

THE CHOSEN

Episode #204

"The Perfect Opportunity"

written by

Ryan M. Swanson &
Dallas Jenkins &
Tyler Thompson

GREEN Draft

December 10, 2020

- 405 INT. SHAMAN'S HUT - NIGHT 405
An Egyptian NECROMANCER accepts an overstuffed purse from Jesse's Father.
- 406 INT. SHAMAN'S HUT - LATER 406
Necromancer burns incense and mixes the final ingredient -- the blood of a BAT -- into a kettle to make a paste.
Necromancer rubs the concoction on Jesse's leg and UTTERS incantations.
The ritual is too much for Jesse's Mother who pauses to put a weary arm around her stomach in a way that shows -- SHE IS PREGNANT.
- 407 INT. JESSE'S HOME - NIGHT 407
Jesse peers through a slit in the curtain.
JESSE'S POV - A MIDWIFE struggles with Jesse's Mother through a laborious childbirth when MOTHER COLLAPSES.
Jesse's Father rushes to Midwife's side. He shakes Mother to revive her, but she is gone.
After a beat, Midwife picks up a delicate knife from a table and turns back to Mother's lifeless body.
- 408 INT. JESSE'S HOME - NIGHT 408
Sitting on his mat, Jesse rocks baby LITTLE BROTHER.
In the kitchen, Dad struggles to cook a meal.
- 409 INT. JESSE'S HOME - NIGHT 409
Jesse (now 12) and Little Brother (6) share a room, lying on mats a few feet apart. Playing a game of marbles.
Father enters and blows out the oil lantern. In the shadows, the boys reach out and do a secret good night handshake.
- 410 EXT. JESSE'S HOME - DAY 410
In the yard, Jesse sits on a mat playing catch with Little Brother.

A MAN and YOUNG WOMAN (19) arrive at the house. Father emerges from the house to greet the two in his best clothing, hair styled.

411 EXT. JESSIE'S COURTYARD - DAY 411

Father and Young Woman stand under a chuppah at their wedding. Jesse and Little Brother in attendance nearby.

412 EXT. JESSIE'S COURTYARD - LATER 412

Little Brother dances in a circle with other BOYS when -- he notices Jesse sitting alone.

Little Brother gathers his group, and leads them over to Jesse. Little Brother takes Jesse's hand and they form a circle and dance in place, using their arms and torsos in creative ways, synchronizing and making Jesse feel included.

Jesse and Little Brother steal a look. A nod of gratitude.

413 INT. JESSE'S HOME - NIGHT 413

Father, Young Woman, Jesse and Little Brother sit at the dinner table. Young Woman nurses a BABY GIRL.

414 EXT. JESSE'S HOME - YARD - NIGHT 414

The brothers lie on their backs, stargazing in the yard, beneath a window.

Jesse points. Little Brother notes the stars and marks a small parchment, connecting the shape of the Water-Bearer, the 11th constellation of the ancient Babylonian Zodiac.

At the same moment --

415 INT. JESSE'S HOME - NIGHT 415

Father and JESSE'S UNCLE talk in the kitchen. Uncle animatedly describing something WE CAN'T HEAR.

To illustrate, Uncle grabs a bucket full of water, stirs it with his hand, gesturing wildly. Father SIGHS, shakes his head.

416 EXT. HEBRON - MARKET - DAY 416

Little Brother (now 14) pulls a small chariot-like cart with Jesse (19) through the Hebron market, enjoying themselves when the sounds of an ARGUMENT reach us from OFF. They turn to --

A tax booth. A CITIZEN is arrested by CENTURION. Citizen resists momentarily. Centurion BEATS Citizen brutally.

Jesse and Little Brother look on, horrified.

ANGLE ON -- Little Brother is especially disturbed, angered.

417 EXT. HEBRON SYNAGOGUE - DAY 417

Outside the synagogue, Jesse watches from his cart while a Little Brother talks to THREE YOUNG MEN.

Little Brother listens intently, the same look of disturbed anger on his face. Jesse watches.

418 INT. JESSE'S HOME - NIGHT 418

The brothers do their usual secret goodnight handshake. After Jesse closes his eyes, Little Brother watches him for a beat before blowing out the candle.

419 INT. JESSE'S HOME - MORNING 419

When the sun rises, Jesse discovers Little Brother gone -- a small scroll with a blue clasp lies in his place.

Jesse crawls on his arms to the mat. He opens it and reads.

When done, he rolls over onto his back. He closes his eyes, devastated.

420 EXT. DESERT PLATEAU - DAY 420

Little Brother -- or SIMON Z as he'll soon be called -- labors as he walks in the desert, his eyes glued to something in the distance, drawing him forward one hard step at a time.

REVERSE -- a series of caves in a rock wall.

Ahead, a single, narrow path winds up from the desert floor up the plateau and disappears.

Simone Z steels himself and walks.

421 EXT. POOL OF BETHESDA - DAY 421

Jesse (now older), lies on his back in the same position as before, with a hand over his face, wiping his eyes.

WIDEN OUT to SEE -- The Pool of Bethesda. All around Jesse, blind, lame, crippled, all variety of invalid.

SUDDENLY, the water STIRS, BUBBLES, STEAMS.

Jesse's eyes go wide. This is it.

Furiously, Jesse scrambles from his mat. Pulling himself with every scant ounce of strength he can muster.

An instant STAMPEDE is accompanied by horrific GROANS, SHOUTS as sick and dying rush to be the first to the water's edge.

Jesse practically runs on his knuckles.

Some are helped along by a family member or friend. Others flail grotesquely.

Jesse is trampled first. Then KICKED. Still, he tries desperately to reach the pool until a BODY FALLS on him, pinning him to the sandstone slab.

Where he lies in a semi-conscious state, staring at the water.

422 INT. CATACOMBS - DAY 422

Simon Z and a HALF-DOZEN RECRUITS stand in formation. Still as statues.

In one synchronized motion -- they DRAW THEIR DAGGERS, strike ATTACK poses...and remain still for a beat. Another. Then --

BOOMING VOICE (O.S.)

STRIKE!

Recruits STEP forward, SWIPE across their bodies.

BOOMING VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

STRIKE!

Recruits STEP, SWIPE the opposite direction.

BOOMING VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

STRIKE!

Recruits LUNGE in time, STABBING with their daggers.

ANGLE ON - Simon Z. His eyes, pinholes. Total focus.

423 EXT. POOL OF BETHESDA - DAY 423

MONTAGE

SERIES OF SHOTS of the water churning and Jesse responding, trying to get to the water first, his clothes getting older and more tattered each time, his beard and hair getting longer and grayer.

424 INT. CATACOMBS 424

Pitch Black. Suddenly, a blinding light illuminates Simon Z kneeling in the center of an otherwise pitch black room.

From the shadows, the leader of the order MENAHAM carrying something wrapped in red linen approaches Simon Z until he stands directly before him. He is attended by SERVANT.

Bearded Man anoints Simon Z's head with oil, then invites him to stand. He unwraps the red bundle, revealing a gleaming sica dagger, next to it a sheath and belt. BEARDED MAN hands him the dagger, not releasing it, both their hands on it, and speaks words we can't hear while the servant fastens the belt with sheath around Simon Z's waist. Simon Z sheaths the sica. The ceremony is complete.

From out of the shadows, RECRUITS and ZEALOTS emerge excitedly. The group EMBRACES Simon Z who manages a smile. Happy times. He's one of the group now.

425 EXT. POOL OF BETHESDA - DAY 425

The water churns, the people rush, but Jesse doesn't even try. He lies on his side, almost catatonic, as the people stream past him, around him, over him as if he were a feature of the floor.

As the initial rush dies down, Jesse remains still. He rolls back over onto his back and sighs as we...

END TEASER

ACT ONE

426 FADE IN ON: 426

CREDIT SEQUENCE:

XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX

427 EXT. TRAINING ALLEY - DAY 427

A village near the Dead Sea. A FARMER pulls a small wagon filled with bundles of straw through an alley.

FARMER POV - an average day. PEOPLE go about their business. A VENDOR and a CUSTOMER argue. A LABORER pushes a wheelbarrow.

ENTERING THE END OF THE ALLEY -- A man in ROMAN attire (30s) walks with two BODYGUARDS flanking him.

A SLIGHT MAN (late 30s) gets turned around, finds himself in FARMERS path and drops his bundle of groceries.

SLIGHT MAN

I'm so sorry.

Slight Man picks up his groceries.

VENDOR and CUSTOMER argument gains some volume.

FARMER turns to the voices. He watches the ARGUMENT for a beat, when Vendor pauses, looking back in Farmer's direction.

VENDOR

(pointing)

Fire!

A half beat as Farmer processes -- the straw in his cart is ON FIRE.

A few ONLOOKERS rush to help put the fire out. OTHERS flee.

In the pandemonium, the Roman's Bodyguards step forward to protect Roman from being trampled.

Suddenly, Slight Man rises to his feet, standing behind the Roman.

While others rush past and the Roman's attention is on the fire, Slight Man draws a sica from his tunic. Steps behind Roman. Into his ear --

SLIGHT MAN
No Lord but God.

Roman cowers, startled. The men remain frozen for a beat...before breaking into a chorus of applause. A piercing WHISTLE brings the celebration to a halt.

VENDOR walks past the MEN putting out the fire, approaches Slight Man and Roman. Clearly not a real vendor, let's call him what his men call him (RABBI).

RABBI
You ruined one of my carts.

SLIGHT MAN
It did get his attention, Rabbi.

Vendor's severe demeanor breaks. He puts out a hand for Slight Man -- whom we'll heretofore know as --

RABBI
Very resourceful, Simon.

Simon (Simon Z for ease) shakes Vendor's hand all business. Game face. Addressing everyone else --

RABBI (CONT'D)
That's it for today, Zealots.

As the others head off, Simon sheathes his dagger and places his kippah on his head. He says a silent prayer.

RABBI (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Come on, Simon. Let's eat.

Simon finishes his prayer and follows. As does --

428 EXT. DESERT PLATEAU - CONTINUOUS

428

POV - of Simon falling in line with Roman.

WHITE MAN (O.S.)
(sotto)
Murder training. Very subtle.

PULL BACK to meet our POV -- A grizzled WHITE MAN (50s) camouflaged among the scrub brush atop a plateau, 150 yards away from the mock village.

WHITE MAN (CONT'D)
I'll be seeing you again real soon,
Simon.

After the last of the Zealots fall in, White Man takes a drink of water before precisely, carefully moving from his post.

Once he's certain he's clear, he beats a quick exit into the desert.

CUT TO:

429 INT. CATACOMBS - DAY

429

Rabbi and sits opposite MENACHEM (50s), the leader of the order and with the beard to prove it.

RABBI

He's as inventive as he is dedicated, captain. I've overseen Simon's training for three years. He's never failed me.

Menachem sops up his lentils with flatbread and shoves it into the hole in his beard. Shows no sign that he's listening.

RABBI (CONT'D)

Now, he's never had an assignment like this. A Roman Magistrate on the streets of Jerusalem... He will have at least two escorts.

Menachem pushes away from the table. Paces to the window, looks out over the desert landscape below.

MENACHEM

Every breath this Roman takes is theft. Every garment he deigns to unlock for the so-called High Priest, stained.

RABBI

Caiphas has resisted--

MENACHEM

His resistance is a show. The Romans, however, do not know that. The Magistrate's mysterious murder will cast suspicion on Caiphas, resulting in his arrest.

RABBI

Simon is up to the task.

MENACHEM POV -- in the distance, Simon Z spars with a training partner, whom he defeats.

MENACHEM

Send him to my quarters.

Menachem walks off. Simon continues another round of sparring.

CUT TO:

430 EXT. JERUSALEM CAMPSITE - DAY

430 *

The countryside outside Jerusalem, half the disciples are gathering materials for something. A project.

Mary Mother, Mary Magdalene, and Ramah are weaving flowers together.

As John passes with branches from a lemon tree --

MARY MAGDALENE

I've never been to Jerusalem.

MARY MOTHER

Really? How is that possible?

MARY MAGDALENE

My Father didn't take my mother and me to the Feasts.

JOHN

This is your first Feast of Tabernacles?

MARY MAGDALENE

Just my first in Jerusalem.

THADDEUS

(Matthew)

A tabernacle is a temporary dwelling.

PHILIP

A tent.

MATTHEW

I know what a tabernacle is, so what? Do we have to build one to eat?

THADDEUS

Mm hmm.

MATTHEW

I was being facetious.

PHILIP

God said to live in a booth for seven days during this feast. To commemorate how the children of Israel lived in temporary shelters for 40 years in the desert.

MATTHEW

We still are.

BIG JAMES

It's one of three pilgrimage holidays when every able-bodied Israelite male must travel to Jerusalem and present himself before Adonai. You really don't know any of this stuff?

MATTHEW

I've already admitted I don't know all of it, I didn't pay much attention. I do recall my father used to leave three times a year.

MARY MAGDALENE

Why are only the men required to go?

SIMON

It can be a perilous journey. Difficult for children and the sick -- people that need caretakers. But it doesn't prohibit anyone. I've taken Eden many times.

They continue to build for a beat. Andrew heaves some fronds onto the pile -- with difficulty.

ANDREW

Ouch. Those are sharp.

SIMON

I need some bodies to go into town with me. Nathaniel gave me a list of supplies for this masterpiece of his.

Andrew sucks his finger -- but raises his other hand quickly.

ANDREW

Meee. Pick me, brother.

SIMON

As long as you stop doing that.

CUT TO:

431 INT. CATACOMBS - LATER

431

Menachem in his spartan, unadorned sandstone room. A platform to sleep on. Menachem kneels at a wooden table, writing.

A KNOCK from OFF --

MENACHEM

Enter.

Simon Z enters with the same game face he wore throughout training -- only more tense. He holds himself rigidly. This moment means a lot.

MENACHEM (CONT'D)

(gesturing Simon to sit)

Please.

Simon Z kneels across from Menachem.

MENACHEM (CONT'D)

Whom do you serve?

SIMON Z

El Shaddai, God of Power and Might.
God of War.

MENACHEM

What is your name?

SIMON Z

Simon, Son of Zebulon, Son of Akiva
of Ashkelona.

MENACHEM

For what were you born?

SIMON Z

To cleanse Israel of her enemies.
To expel all non-Jews from
Jerusalem as the Scriptures demand.

MENACHEM

Which Scriptures?

SIMON Z

From the scroll of Moses, Shemot,
"Whoever sacrifices to any god,
other than the Lord alone, shall be
devoted to destruction."

MENACHEM

You will travel to Jerusalem for
the Feast of Tabernacles.

SIMON Z

With the order?

MENACHEM

Two days prior. You leave first
thing in the morning. In
Jerusalem, you will assassinate an
enemy of God.

SIMON Z

The Roman Magistrate, Rufus.

MENACHEM

You will be met by your brother in
the city.

Simon Z is thrown. **How does Menachem know about --**

SIMON Z

My brother?

MENACHEM

A Jerusalem Zealot and his team.

Simon Z covers.

MENACHEM (CONT'D)

They have been tracking Rufus.
Once briefed on the Roman's
movements, you will lead the team.

SIMON Z

Yes, master.

MENACHEM

Carry out your duty, Simon of
Zebulon, or never return.

Simon Z NODS understanding. Menachem returns to his writing.
Meeting done. Simon Z picks himself up.

432 INT. CATACOMBS- HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

432

Simon Z pauses at a room where TRAINEES recite --

TRAINEES

(all)

On that day it shall be said to
Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let
not your hands grow weak. The Lord
your God is in your midst, a mighty
one who will save..."

SIMON Z

(to himself)

Zephaniah.

Simon Z moves on. The voices filling the hallway behind him.

TRAINEES

He will rejoice over you with
gladness; he will quiet you by his
love; he will exult over you with
loud singing. I will gather those
of you who mourn--

As Simon Z passes out of frame --

CUT TO:

433 EXT. JERUSALEM - ARCH ALLEY - DAY

433

Standing at the entrance to an alley, a man in the familiar
garb of a pharisee -- we'll soon know him as YANNI (50s) --
talks to someone OFF CAMERA.

YANNI

It doesn't matter. Any kind of
crate or-or pallet. A **stone** would
work.

Sounds of something heavy CRASHING in the alley OFF. A beat
later a pharisee emerges, dusting himself off with one hand,
an APPLE BOX in the other.

He looks to Yanni, incredulous. We recognize the face of --

SHMUEL

A stone, Yanni? For a public teaching?!

Yanni shrugs.

YANNI

I picked this market specifically because it serves so many poor. They're hungry for the words of a teacher...and they're probably afraid of you.

SHMUEL

Afraid of what?

YANNI

It's the Holy City. You're a pharisee.

(Shmuel considers)

Just relax. Let us pray.

A beat of silence.

YANNI (CONT'D)

Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who bestows good things upon the unworthy--

SHMUEL

The Birkat Hagomel? Isn't that the blessing for life-threatening situations?

Yanni shrugs. **Yeah.**

YANNI

You'll be fine. This the first step to gaining a following and, once you have, your message will have even greater weight in the Temple. For both of us.

Shmuel nods, takes a breath. Yanni pats him on the back.

YANNI (CONT'D)

Good luck.

SHMUEL

You're leaving?

YANNI

These people are hungry for the word. I'm hungry for breakfast.

(MORE)

YANNI (CONT'D)
(off his disappointment)
The Ha'tov ve'hametiv?

Shmuel nods.

SHMUEL	YANNI (CONT'D)
Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the Universe, who is good and does good.	Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the Universe, who is good and does good.

Yanni takes his leave. Shmuel watches after him for a beat.

Alone, Shmuel assesses the marketplace.

Shoppers, vendors, and travelers pass him by with no notice or reverence. He's not in Capernaum anymore.

Shmuel takes a deep breath and steels himself. He takes his apple box and begins to walk to the street corner.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

434 EXT. POOL OF BETHESDA - DAY

434

It happens again: the water stirs.

Jesse is closer to the water than before, so he props himself up and makes an attempt, moving forward just a bit. He saw the water bubbling before others...maybe there's a chance?

Nope. Others point and yell and the stampede begins, and just when we thought there might be hope, a foot tramples Jesse's shoulder.

He slumps, head down for a few moments. After the rush dies down, he army crawls farther away from the pool, dragging his mat with him.

INVALID (O.S.)

You okay, Jesse?

Jesse turns toward INVALID, his "neighbor" -- insofar as people situated on mats have neighbors.

JESSE

Mmhm.

INVALID

You moving from the edge?

JESSE

There's no point. It was a dumb idea.

Jesse retreats into himself. Slowly lays his head back down. Checked out again. That doesn't stop Invalid.

INVALID

You're not going to try anymore?

Jesse doesn't respond.

INVALID (CONT'D)

You know, Tav, if you don't have any hope, then why are you still here?

No response. Invalid shakes his head, rolls over.

As we MOVE IN ON Jesse --

435

EXT. AGORA GATE CHECKPOINT - AFTERNOON

435

Simon Z approaches a Roman checkpoint just outside the Jerusalem city walls.

4 crosses bearing dead criminals stand as a warning to all who would enter the city -- do not defy Rome.

A fifth CRIMINAL lies on his back being nailed to the beams, screaming.

ANGLE ON -- the White Man we saw watching Simon Z from the plateau. He sits out of sight to all except the condemned, casually eating an apple.

Two of the CRUCIFYING SOLDIERS take note of him. Aside --

CRUCIFYING SOLDIER 1
Can you believe that guy's here?

CRUCIFYING SOLDIER 2
I saw him earlier. Who is that?

CRUCIFYING SOLDIER 1
That...is a ghost. Cohorte
Urbanae.

CRUCIFYING SOLDIER 2
Secret police?

CRUCIFYING SOLDIER 1
More like marshals. Elite soldier
investigators. I heard the Captain
call him Atticus. Don't stare.

CRUCIFYING SOLDIER 2
I've never seen one before.

CRUCIFYING SOLDIER 1
Or you have and you didn't know.

ON THE ROAD -- ROMAN SOLDIERS stand their post, interrogating a line of TRAVELERS. Among them, Simon Z.

SOLDIER 1 approaches Simon Z. --

SOLDIER 1
What brings you to Jerusalem?

SIMON Z
The Festival, the pilgrimage.

SOLDIER 1
You're a few days early.

SIMON Z
I have family here.

SOLDIER 1
In what district?

SIMON Z
Near the Antonia Fortress.

SOLDIER 1
Are you carrying weapons?

SIMON Z
No.

SOLDIER 2 searches Simon Z, nods.

SOLDIER 1
You're free to go.

Simon Z adjusts his clothing, re-fastens his purse. Re the groaning CRIMINAL --

SIMON Z
What was his crime?

SOLDIER 1
Murder.

Simon Z nods casually and continues on toward the city gate.

As he passes down the road, Atticus tosses the core, eyes fast on Simon Z. After a beat, he approaches Soldier 1.

ATTICUS
What's your name, soldier.

SOLDIER 1
Linus Cilnius, sir.

ATTICUS
Linus, I want you to take your next assignment very seriously.

SOLDIER 1
My **next** assignment, Sir?

ATTICUS
The Antonia Fortress is not a residential area. It's a public forum. That man does not have family there. You understand?

SOLDIER 1

Oh.

ATTICUS

(to SOLDIER 3)

Axius, send Linus home and take
over this checkpoint.

(walking off)

Have a better day.

Soldier 1 is crestfallen. Soldier 3 steps up to interrogate
the next traveler.

CUT TO:

436 EXT. ARCH ALLEY - DAY

436

Thomas and Nathaniel walk a Jerusalem street carrying
satchels of supplies -- yeast, tomatoes, bell peppers.

THOMAS

I'm so hungry. It's all I can do
not to bite into one of these
tomatoes.

NATHANAEL

I was too, but the vendor had a
stain on his tunic that looked like
baby spit up. It made me nauseas.

THOMAS

I know. I heard you tell him that.

NATHANAEL

Be patient. You shouldn't eat
right now. Your hands are filthy.

THOMAS

You really don't hold back, do you?

NATHANAEL

I'm just being helpful. You want
to impress Ramah, right?

THOMAS

(freezes)

What?

NATHANAEL

You heard me.

Before Thomas can answer, the come into range of loud
PREACHING.

To us, it's a familiar voice. To Nathanael and Thomas, it is not, and they're curious.

They sidestep the small crowd to get a view of Shmuel, on his apple box.

SHMUEL

...the Lamentations in the Megillot
-- "Your prophets have seen for you
false and deceptive visions. They
have not exposed your iniquity to
restore your fortunes, but have
seen for you oracles that are false
and misleading."

Thomas and Nathanael share bored, annoyed looks when --

MATTHEW (O.S.)

Pssst!

They turn to see Matthew standing at the corner, desperate to stay out of sight.

THOMAS

What are you doing?

Matthew's eyes go wide. Don't draw attention! He gestures for them to join him quickly.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

(to Nathanael)

This guy is so irritating to me.

NATHANAEL

Makes sense. You're kind of the
same person. All numbers and
logic. Except he can't tell jokes.

Thomas is stunned, exposed. He just stares at Nathanael for a beat.

MATTHEW

Guys?

NATHANAEL

We should see what he wants.

Nathanael walks toward Matthew. Thomas stews for a half beat before following.

As soon as they're within earshot --

MATTHEW

That pharisee knows us. He does not approve.

THOMAS

What do you mean?

MATTHEW

He used to live in Capernaum. He once yelled at our Master.

NATHANAEL

That guy?

MATTHEW

He called for His arrest at the house of Big James and John's father. We should go.

THOMAS

Where? The meeting place is a block away.

MATTHEW

What are the odds?

Thomas and Matthew begin to calculate.

NATHANAEL

You guys are both actually calculating the odds... Look, just stay out of sight. The pharisee doesn't know our faces. If we see the others we'll head them off.

Matthew agrees, slinks off. Nathanael and Thomas listen in silence.

SHMUEL

...Tomorrow night begins the Feast of Tabernacles. Over one million Jews are flooding into our city this very moment from every corner of Israel. All to observe the Feast, yes, but some may bring with them an agenda. Some false teachers may seize upon the large crowds to spread their heresies...

NATHANAEL

You see what I mean, though? About Matthew and you?

THOMAS
Please don't speak.

Off Nathanael and Thomas listening --

CUT TO:

- 437 EXT. JERUSALEM - LOWER CITY - EVENING 437
Atticus follows Simon Z at a distance and watches him enter a home in the Lower City -- not that anyone will know but it's on the opposite side of town from the Antonia Fortress.
- 438 INT. LOWER CITY HOME - CONTINUOUS 438
Simon Z walks to the back of the house. The OCCUPANT opens a secret door which leads to --
- 439 INT. SEWER TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS 439
A tunnel beneath the street. Simon Z crosses the road he just travelled down to an address several doors away from the home he entered.
The tunnel leads to a door. Simon approaches, the door is opened by ITHRAN (17) who looks too young, too meek to be a part of an assassination.
- 440 EXT. JERUSALEM - LOWER CITY - SAME 440
Atticus watches the home Simon Z entered. No activity. Something isn't right.
- 441 INT. ZEALOT HIDEOUT - NIGHT 441
Huddled over a map of the city, a pair of Jerusalem Zealots, ITHRAN and HONI, walk Simon Z through Rufus's routine.

HONI
We've tracked his movements for two months.

ITHRAN
At the end of every Shabbat, at the start of the first day, Motzi Shabbat, he goes to his favorite restaurant in the Upper City, the Valerian.

SIMON Z

There are no other patterns, no other places he goes consistently?

HONI

To the Praetorium every day, of course, but it's heavily guarded on all sides. The restaurant is utterly exposed.

ITHRAN

He always has a guard, and on the off hours when he is with his wife, two.

SIMON Z

This Yom Rishon tradition is a problem. If the streets are empty for shabbat, it will be harder to create a diversion. It will be a challenge to get into position so soon after shabbat.

HONI

The Roman is smart to choose shabbat.

SIMON Z

Of course. Never underestimate the enemy.

ITHRAN

We have an ally with a shop on the square. We could store our weapons there and be ready as soon as shabbat ends.

SIMON Z

Excellent. I need a cart with dry straw and three additional men. See to it.

The Zealots nod agreement. As Simon Z retires, he passes a window --

442

EXT. LOWER CITY - ROOFTOP - SAME

442

REVERSE POV -- from the roof next door, where Atticus has taken up position. This guy doesn't miss a beat. Somehow, he tracked Simon Z to the correct address.

Atticus looks perfectly at ease spending the night on the rooftop if that's what it takes.

FADE TO:

443 EXT. JERUSALEM CAMPSITE - MORNING 443 *

Simon and Thomas nail beams to the "roof" as Nathanael gestures. The structure is beginning to take on a shape.

444 EXT. AGORA GATE - MORNING 444

Atticus moves along the rooftops watching --

ATTICUS POV - Simon Z and Ithran purchase a chariot-like cart in a back alley from a USED CART SALESMAN.

445 EXT. JERUSALEM CAMPSITE - JERUSALEM - DAY 445 *

Mary and Ramah intertwine vegetation -- branches, fronds, etc. -- on a wooden frame.

Matthew reads nearby.

446 EXT. JERUSALEM - MARKET - DAY 446

Simon Z, Ithran, and Honi collect excess straw from a HERDER.

447 EXT. JERUSALEM CAMPSITE - JERUSALEM - DAY 447 *

Little James and Thaddeus make campfire bread over a...what else...campfire. It's a thing.

John and Simon stand just off.

JOHN

I think we just have to level with him.

SIMON

I don't even want to mention Shmuel's name around Jesus. It's an abomination.

JOHN

Good word.

(Simon smiles reluctantly)
We have to tell him sometime.

Simon nods assent, still troubled.

448 INT. ZEALOT HIDEOUT - DAY 448

Simon Z and Ithran apply a sticky liquid (flammable) to the bundles of straw.

Honi meanwhile carries a bucket of pitch to the empty cart. Ithran and Simon Z load the first bundle on top.

449 EXT. JERUSALEM - LOWER CITY - EVENING 449

Simon Z and Ithran pull the cart up a deserted Jerusalem street.

At the top of a rise, Honi stands lookout. He signals ALL CLEAR.

Simon Z and Ithran trot the rest of the way. When they near the top, Honi opens a shop door for the others to bring the cart inside.

HONI

Quickly.

The cart slides in. Honi closes the door behind them.

450 EXT. JERUSALEM CAMPSITE - EVENING 450 *

Mary Magdalene, Mary Mother, and Ramah sort the bread atop a table beneath the sukkah just as THADDEUS applies the last...fronds.

THADDEUS

Done!

A CHEER goes up from the disciples eagerly standing around. The sight amuses Jesus who LAUGHS generously.

JESUS

Woman of Valor!

ALL

(joining)

Who can find?

Off their mutual glee and gratitude --

CUT TO:

451 EXT. JERUSALEM CAMPSITE - NIGHT

451 *

The celebration in full swing.

Beneath the constructed sukkah, a glorious celebration. All of our disciples eat and drink.

At the head of the table, Jesus radiates joy, warmth.

Matthew is preoccupied with the sukkah itself.

MATTHEW

With all respect, Nathanael, I know you are a skilled architect, but this thatched roof will not keep out the rain.

LITTLE JAMES

That's the point. The vegetation provides shade from the sun during the day.

MARY MOTHER

And if a few rain drops get through, it's a reminder of our dependence on God. Of His provision, and of how our people were so vulnerable in the wilderness, and He brought us through.

MARY MAGDALENE

There were times in my life -- in my old life -- when I had to sleep outside. It's a good reminder of...

(glancing at Jesus)

...how I was delivered from that.

JESUS

This time of dwelling in booths is also a leveler of the people. Wealthy, poor...everyone sleeps outside. As equals.

ANDREW

But let's be honest -- not all booths are created equal.

They laugh.

JESUS

Yes, Nathanael. The beauty of this booth is, itself, an act of worship.

Nathanael beams, blushes.

BIG JAMES

Rabbi, I have a question.

JESUS

Yes.

BIG JAMES

In the prophet Zechariah it is written, "Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles."

THOMAS

Wait, what?

SIMON

Zechariah says that?

ANDREW

They read that passage every year at the Feast -- you just don't pay attention.

SIMON

There's a lot of readings. They sort of run together.

JESUS

What exactly is your question, Big James?

BIG JAMES

One day our enemies will celebrate this Feast? With us? I mean -- Babylonians? Assyrians? ROMANS? Jew and Gentile, sitting at this table? What would have to happen for that to be possible?

JESUS

Something will have to change.

SIMON

You're telling me.

JOHN

But the booths won't mean anything to them.

BIG JAMES

We're the ones who dwelt in temporary shelters as we wandered in the wilderness, not them.

JESUS

Everyone has wandered in the wilderness at some point.

MATTHEW

If all the nations come to celebrate in Jerusalem, there won't be enough room, not by... I won't bore you with the calculations.

Philip shoots him an approving look. *Good job, man.*

JESUS

I think...it will not be Jerusalem as we know it now.

THOMAS

Certainly not.

RAMAH

But if Zechariah prophesied it, it WILL be fulfilled, right?

ANDREW

It just sounds impossible.

MARY MOTHER

I know a thing or two about prophecies that sound impossible.

Mic drop. It smacks everyone silent. She takes a sip of her wine. Jesus smiles and looks around the table --

JESUS

Does anyone have other questions?

No one does. Not for now. Faces return to smiling, eating.

452 EXT. JERUSALEM CAMPSITE - LATER

452 *

Dinner is over. Only a skeleton crew remain.

Jesus sits near the fire, deep in thought when Simon and John approach.

JESUS
Hello, my friends. Have a seat.

They do. John doesn't hesitate --

JOHN
Rabbi, we may have a problem.

JESUS
I'm listening.

SIMON
Shmuel is here. In Jerusalem.

JESUS
Our Shmuel?

JOHN
He was on a street corner today,
raising the alarm about...false
prophecy.

SIMON
He means you, Rabbi.

JESUS
You sure?

SIMON
Well yes, he's been --

JESUS
I'm joking, Simon, I know he means
me. So... Shmuel is in Jerusalem
talking about me. That's even
better.

JOHN
Better?

JESUS
I think I will see someone inside
the city walls tomorrow. You may
come if you'd like. I like
company.

John and Simon nod "yes."

JESUS (CONT'D)
And bring Matthew, it'll be good
for him.

Off their quiet sighs...

END ACT TWO

The Chosen-Media Valet

ACT THREE

453 EXT. JERUSALEM - SOLOMON'S PORCH - MORNING 453

Simon Z and a congregation of Jerusalem Order ZEALOTS are gathered at the Temple.

A LEVITE reads aloud from the scroll of Zephaniah:

LEVITE

"He will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud
singing. I will gather those of
you who mourn for the festival."

Simon Z in deep observance.

LEVITE (CONT'D)

"So that you will no longer suffer
reproach. Behold, at that time I
will deal with all your
oppressors."

Simon Z's eyes open as a thought occurs to him -- more accurately, as he accepts a thought he can't suppress any longer.

LEVITE (CONT'D)

And I will save the lame and gather
the outcast, and I will change
their shame into praise and renown
in all the earth.

Simon Z rises to his feet and exits, OVER --

LEVITE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

A reading from the prophet
Zephaniah.

454 EXT. JERUSALEM - AGORA GATE - MOMENTS LATER 454

Simon Z goes to a ledge of the Temple Mount and overlooks the southeastern checkpoint, where the criminals hang on crosses.

455 EXT. AGORA GATE ROAD - MORNING 455

Jesus, Simon, John, and Matthew are on the road. Off some AD-LIB banter...

SIMON

So this person you need to see, do we get to meet him in the temple?

Jesus chuckles.

JESUS

No, the opposite. The Bethesda Pool.

JOHN

Really?

JESUS

Here we go again.

SIMON

It gets stranger and stranger with you, doesn't it? I love it.

MATTHEW

Why is that strange?

JOHN

Because the history of the pool is pagan. I don't know much of the details, James knows that stuff more, but --

SIMON

The pools used to be a shrine to the Phoenician god Ephim, um, Ash--

JESUS

Eshmun.

SIMON

Eshmun, right, and then the Greeks and Romans turned it into a place of worship, for a healing cult of Asclepius.

JESUS

Very good, Simon.

JOHN

How do you know this stuff?

SIMON

James isn't the only one who reads, John, you should try it.

JOHN

I do know about the pools, though. Every day the water steams and bubbles, and some people believe it's stirred up by an angel who heals the first person into the water.

MATTHEW

I've read about this, that there are places on earth where hot vapors steamp up from the ground intermittently, or make water boil, and no one knows why.

SIMON

Well, I wouldn't say NO ONE...
(to Jesus)
You gonna tell us? Is that why we're going?

Jesus smiles.

JESUS

Someday, someone will figure it out, and they'll tell everybody. For now, we have a checkpoint to pass. Everyone behave yourselves.

After a moment, Jesus notices the men on the crosses.

SLOW MO ON JESUS, SLOW MO ON CROSSES

456 INT. JERUSALEM - MARKET - DAY

456

A well-dressed, well-fed Roman walks along Jerusalem street. The look on his face says, **where am I going?** Thankfully, because of Shabbat, hardly anyone is around to see.

Well-fed Roman approaches the entrance of an alley. He looks down the filthy passageway and double-checks the cross streets.

After a moment's hesitation, he enters.

457 EXT. JERUSALEM - MARKET - CONTINUOUS

457

It's Capernaum all over again. Fesces, trash, rats...and Atticus. Slumming, as usual. Blending in. He finishes a date, tosses the pit.

ATTICUS

Could you look any more Roman? I'd
have asked you to meet me in the
town square if I'd known you'd show
up looking like a senator.

The Chosen-Media Valet

PETRONIUS

I don't get paid to blend in. I'm
Petronius. You're the cohorte
urbanae?

ATTICUS

Atticus Aemilius.

Petronius eyes him for a moment before cracking a wry smile.

PETRONIUS

Your reputation precedes you.

ATTICUS

That's why I meet in alleys.

PETRONIUS

You're a long way from home.

ATTICUS

I go where the work is.

PETRONIUS

What work is here for you, Atticus?

ATTICUS

Your Magistrate.

Petronius' face falls.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

Something on Rufus's calendar puts
you on a narrow road in the Upper
City just off the square.

PETRONIUS

Valerian.

(off Atticus' look)

Uh, it's a restaurant, Rufus eats
there every Saturday after Sabbath.

ATTICUS

You've got a skilled assassin that
wants to cancel his reservation.

Petronius is gut punched. Right under his nose.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

Didn't they teach you to mix up the
routine.

PETRONIUS

He's inflexible about it.

ATTICUS

Good. Don't deviate. Do exactly what you'd planned.

Atticus moves to leave, he's done.

PETRONIUS

What? No, I can't risk his life. Go arrest the assassin.

Sigh.

ATTICUS

Do you know who the Zealots are?

PETRONIUS

Extremists. They reject rabbi --

ATTICUS

They're martyrs with a persecution complex. Arrest him and we'll only be adding fuel. Torture him, he gets a seat closer to his God. No, I wanna kill him, Petronius. In the act. And then I wanna watch his rat pals scurry back to their nest with a story they can't glorify, can't teach to the next class of marks. You know why?

PETRONIUS

(spellbound)

Why?

ATTICUS

Because we were just better than they were. Rome won.

PETRONIUS

You should be a general.

ATTICUS

What fun would that be?

Petronius considers.

PETRONIUS

You're gonna have to lay out your plan to the Magistrate -- and his wife.

ATTICUS

She'll go for it before he does.

PETRONIUS

Ten denarii says she doesn't.

ATTICUS

(walking off)

I don't need the money.

CUT TO:

458 EXT. POOL OF BETHESDA - AFTERNOON

458

Simon Z walks heavily and arrives at the Pool of Bethesda.

A scene we have seen twice now repeats a third time -- The water stirs. A cacophony of groans and SHRIEKS as the sick stampede to be first into the water.

ANGLE ON -- Jesse. Unmoving. He lies on his side, near catatonic, as the people stream past him all around and over.

As the initial rush dies down, Jesse props himself on his elbow to see -- Simon Z looking back.

Jesse goes back and forth between shock and confusion.

Simon Z takes in the horrific sight of his brother.

SIMON Z

Jesse?

JESSE

Are you--

SIMON Z

Jesse, I'm your brother, Simon. Do you remember me?

JESSE

Simon?

The Invalid neighbor looks up.

INVALID

You have a brother?

Jesse stares at his little brother Simon in slowly-dawning disbelief.

SIMON Z

They told me I could find you here. Uncle Ram. At Abba's funeral.

JESSE
You knew?

SIMON Z
Yes.

JESSE
You...
(between sobs -- or
laughter. Hard to tell)
You must be 30 years old. You're
not Simon.

SIMON Z
Almost 40.

The weight of what he's saying.

JESSE
I've been here 25 years? You've
known I... I've been here 25
years.

SIMON Z
Our Order forbids coming to the
Pool of Bethesda.

JESSE
I'm your brother!

SIMON Z
This place is a pagan cult.

JESSE
Since when do cults bother you?

SIMON Z
I submit to no ruler but Adonai.

JESSE
You make the pilgrimage every
holiday?

SIMON Z
Yes.

JESSE
And you knew I was here.

SIMON Z
I was...embarrassed. For you. Do
you really believe in this?

Jesse turns dark.

JESSE

YOU try living for 38 years without legs that work and then tell me you wouldn't try anything and everything!

SIMON Z

(surrenders)

You're right, I --

JESSE

Why wouldn't you at least come by once and carry me in the water before the others?! You could have tried.

SIMON Z

It is not in our God's nature to pit sick people against one another in a twisted game. I won't play it with you.

JESSE

Is it in our God's nature that his children would slit each other's throats? Have you no regard for the commandment, that we shall not take another's life?

SIMON Z

You and I both know the Scripture: "There is a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up." The land must be purged.

JESSE

What about our family? Are we to be purged, too? You left me, you left all of us.

SIMON Z

I left you to save you.

JESSE

Do I look saved to you?

A beat. Simon shakes his head.

SIMON Z

I can't believe it. You're worse than you used to be.

JESSE

My legs are the same as when you left.

SIMON Z

I'm not talking about your legs, I'm talking about you. This God-forsaken place has turned my strong brother into someone hopeless.

JESSE

And what should I hope in after all these years? You and your murderous kind?

SIMON Z

Jesse, it's killed me to watch you suffer in your life, and I'm sorry, I truly am. But that's not the only kind of pain, and you're not the only one who feels it. But you know what? I'm at least doing something about mine, I'm not just sitting on a bed waiting to die.

Jesse looks down.

JESSE

Have you said all you need to say?

A pause.

SIMON Z

I have to be in the Upper City.

JESSE

That's nearby. Less than a mile away. Might as well be a thousand miles to me.

(a beat)

Whoever it is, don't do it. It's not worth it. If they catch you--

SIMON Z

I'm not afraid of death. I was afraid to come here.

Jesse's heart breaks at the words. Simon Z is moved for the first time.

SIMON Z (CONT'D)

I just wanted to say good-bye. Because I didn't do it right the first time.

He looks down.

SIMON Z (CONT'D)
I do love you. And I love God.
Good bye, Jesse.

As Simon Z turns to go, Jesse pulls out the scroll with the blue clasp (from where, you don't wanna know). Maybe he just recites from memory. As he speaks, Simon Z stops.

JESSE
...by the time you read this, I
will be half way to the mountains,
to join the zealots of the Fourth
Philosophy, the in spirit of our
great King David who sang: "Zeal
for your house has consumed me."

SIMON Z
My note.
(smiles wistfully)
I was a better writer then.

JESSE
And from Zephaniah, "Behold, at
that time I will deal with all your
oppressors. And I will save the
lame and gather the outcast, and I
will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth."
Jesse, when you stand on two feet,
I will know the Messiah has come.
I will fight for the freedom of
Zion in order to see that day.

The words hang in the air. Simon Z turns back briefly to his brother.

SIMON Z
I stand by it. Farewell, Jesse.

Simon Z exits. Jesse collapses. A crushed human. Off his despair --

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

459 EXT. JERUSALEM - UPPER CITY - SQUARE - AFTERNOON 459

Simon Z moves quickly through the square.

460 EXT. JERUSALEM - UPPER CITY - STREET - AFTERNOON 460

Simon Z arrives at the place where the cart is stashed.
Ithran is dressed as a laborer, waiting.

ITHRAN

You don't have much time.

Simon Z doesn't respond, still carrying his Jesse encounter with him.

ITHRAN (CONT'D)

Hey...what's the matter?

SIMON Z

Hm? Oh, nothing, just focused.

Simon Z changes his clothes quickly.

ITHRAN

Our men are in position. When you see Rufus and his escorts pass the side street entrance, you'll have 30 seconds to get into position.

Simon Z finishes changing. Ithran pulls out Simon's DAGGER, the one he was presented with earlier, and presents it to him. Simon looks at it, then at Ithran, who offers a slight smile.

Simon nods, holsters it, grabs his satchel of prop groceries, and hits the street.

461 EXT. POOL OF BETHESDA - DUSK 461

The area is notably quiet for Sabbath. Jesus and the other three approach the sandstone pool. They pass by YANNI and a couple other PHARISEES standing near, and Jesus nods. They warily nod back.

SIMON

This is what all the fuss about?
An oversized mikveh?

JOHN

I have a feeling we haven't seen it
all yet.

The Chosen-Media Valet

As they ascend the stairs, a troubling vision sprawls out before them.

Bodies, broken, lame, deformed. People in the final stages of terminal illness. Lepers. Oh the lepers. Many unable to move on their own.

Matthew covers his nose.

Jesus takes in the sight. He is unsurprised by the sight but still moved. Low GROANS and quiet SOBS reach us from every corner.

Among the helpless, hopeless, mostly immobile group of sufferers, Jesus spots Jesse.

JESUS
That's him.

SIMON
Who?

JESUS
Him. The one who's been here the longest but doesn't belong. The sad one.

SIMON
Why do I get the feeling this isn't just a meeting? Do we need to be on the lookout?

JESUS
No. Just stay with me and watch.

He approaches.

Jesse's eyes are fixed on the sky above when --

JESUS (CONT'D)
Shalom.

Jesse clocks Jesus standing above him.

JESSE
Me?

John and Matthew glance at each other and smirk.

JESUS
Yes.

JESSE
Shalom.

He turns his head back away.

JESUS
I have a question for you.

The Invalid looks up, intrigued.

JESSE
For me?

Jesus stares.

JESSE (CONT'D)
I don't have many answers,
but...I'm listening.

JESUS
Do you want to be healed?

Jesse looks at the Invalid. ***Is he serious?*** Invalid gives a shrug, but as if to say, "Take a shot."

JESSE
(hopeful)
Will you take me to the water?

Jesus shakes his head.

JESSE (CONT'D)
Look, I'm having a really bad day.

JESUS
You've been having a bad day for a
long time.

Jesse stops, stares.

JESUS (CONT'D)
So...

JESSE
Sir, I have no one to help me into
the water when it's stirred up, and
when I do get close...

Jesus kneels. Eye to eye.

JESSE (CONT'D)
...others step down in front of me,
so--

JESUS
Look at me. That's not what I
asked.

A long moment passes. Jesse exhales, a look of exhaustion...surrender.

JESUS (CONT'D)

I'm not asking about who's helping or not helping, who's in your way...I'm asking about you.

Tears form.

JESSE

I've tried.

JESUS

For a long time, I know. And you don't want false hope again, I understand. But this pool has nothing for you, it means nothing and you know it. But you're still here. Why?

JESSE

(whispers)

I don't know.

JESUS

You don't need it. You only need me. So...do you want to be healed?

Jesse looks into his eyes...and the tears escalate. He doesn't need to say "yes."

JESUS (CONT'D)

So let's go. Get up, pick up your mat, and walk.

Matthew, John, and Simon are smiling, they know what's next. Invalid has no idea.

Jesse is staring at Jesus. Suddenly his eyes widen. Jesus smiles, nods.

It doesn't take long. Jesse smacks his thigh, then looks at Invalid in shock, then back at Jesus. He can feel it. There's no need to test...he stands, and Jesus stands with him.

Others around the area stir at the site. Yanni looks over, and from a distance, Jesus turns back and looks toward him for a moment.

Jesse is in shock. Jesus pats him on the face, and without a word, slips away. Matthew and John barely notice him leaving, and Simon steps toward Jesse.

JESSE

Who --

SIMON

Time for you to walk like he said.
Don't forget your bed.

Jesse picks up his bed, and Yanni's eyes narrow and he steps forward.

JESSE

Why does that matter?

SIMON

Because you're not coming back
here. That life is over.

As Simon backs away...

SIMON (CONT'D)

Everything changes now.

Simon follows after Jesus, who has disappeared into the crowd. Matthew is still taking it all in, while John is writing in his book.

Jesse starts walking, each step feeling fresh. Invalid and a handful of others are smiling at him, patting him as he walks by.

But Yanni, with the Pharisees behind him, arrives quickly.

YANNI

You! It's Shabbat. What are you
doing?

MATTHEW

(to no one in particular)
Torah forbids carrying a mat on
Shabbat?

JOHN

Not Torah. The oral tradition.

YANNI

Yes, the transporting of objects
from one domain to another violates
Shabbat.

JESSE

The man who healed me--

JOHN

Do you not realize what just happened? Why are you making this about Shabbat?

Matthew notices Simon gesturing for them, and he indicates for John to follow. They leave.

JESSE

--he said to me "take up your bed and walk."

YANNI

Who did? Who told you that?

JESSE

He--

Turning around, he sees Jesus is gone.

JESSE (CONT'D)

I don't know, he didn't tell me his name.

YANNI

No, he performs a magic trick and then tells you to commit a sin. A false prophet. This will be reported.

Jesse takes off.

JESSE

Report whatever you want! I'm standing on two legs!

He is irrepressible in his joy.

JESSE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, I need to go find my brother.

Yanni is stupefied. He searches for some sight of the healer. As they leave, Matthew observes quietly to John --

MATTHEW

The sun is down. Shabbat is ended.

462

EXT. JERUSALEM - UPPER CITY - SQUARE - DUSK

462

Ithran, dressed as a laborer, pushes the cart full of straw.

463 EXT. POOL OF BETHESDA - DUSK 463

Jesse stumbles, drunk with excitement and awe. He nearly trips over a PEDESTRIAN.

JESSE

Sorry, it's my first time...

(trails off as a thought
occurs to him)

I'm headed to the Upper City.

Jesse looks, a street away.

464 EXT. JERUSALEM - UPPER CITY - SQUARE - NIGHT 464

Petronius and a Bodyguard enter the upper city square. They scan the square like secret service agents. After a beat, they give the all-clear for --

The Magistrate and his wife, OCTAVIA - both in Saturday formal robes. Hoods on. Octavia walks slowly, cautiously until The Magistrate takes her hand.

465 EXT. JERUSALEM - UPPER CITY - SIDE STREET - NIGHT 465

REVERSE POV - Simon Z from a side street, looking through an alley as Magistrate and Octavia pass. The moment they're out of sight --

Simon Z races to the end of the side street.

He makes EYE CONTACT with a ZEALOT posing as a vendor, another posing as CUSTOMER -- the same set up as in the exercise. Everything set.

466 EXT. JERUSALEM - UPPER CITY - SQUARE - NIGHT 466

Petronius and Bodyguard approach the entrance to the side street. Petronius glances back at Magistrate, who lifts his head, almost imperceptibly -- IT'S ATTICUS.

Atticus takes Octavia's hand and leads her confidently.

ATTICUS

You look radiant tonight, darling.

OCTAVIA
Don't push it.

ATTICUS
(smiling)
After you.

They turn from the square on to --

467 EXT. JERUSALEM - UPPER CITY - SIDE STREET - CONTINUOUS 467

Simon Z turns to see Ithran enter the side street from the South, pushing the cart of hay.

Simon Z turns right to see Petronius and Bodyguard enter from the North. When Magistrate and Octavia come into full view --

Simon Z sets his jaw. A look of determination. Everything rests on this. His mind is clear. Timing perfect.

Ithran approaches with the cart. Simon Z pretends to stumble -- believable - and drop his satchel.

SIMON Z
I'm so sorry.

As he picks up his groceries, the argument between ZEALOT Vendor and CUSTOMER escalates.

ITHRAN surreptitiously sparks a flame while pretending to watch the argument.

Simon Z SEES -- Petronius and Bodyguard distracted. Simon begins to move in their direction. As soon as ZEALOT shouts fire, he'll make his move.

Simon Z checks the alley off the street to make sure there'll be no interference when -- everything changes.

Simon Z is transported into a new reality at the SIGHT of -- JESSE WALKING.

SIMON Z POV -- WE see him clearly, wandering in the Upper City Square. It's him. Simon Z has no doubt.

ZEALOT (O.S.)
FIRE!

But Simon Z is no longer with us. He's Little Brother again.

SIMON Z
Jesse?

Simon Z drifts away, down the alley, following a miracle.

ON ITHRAN - stunned.

ON ATTICUS - Dumbfounded. His hand holding fast on a dagger.

ON SIMON Z - still in shock as he staggers toward the end of the alley and -- into the light.

468 EXT. JERUSALEM - UPPER CITY - SQUARE - CONTINUOUS 468

The open square. Where he sees Jesse -- before Jesse sees him -- walking on his own power.

Simon Z can't move. His world is upside down.

469 INT. JERUSALEM - SIDE STREET - CONTINUOUS 469

With their "trigger man" flown the coup, the perfect opportunity blown, Ithran, Zealot and Customer all hightail it out of the area.

The cart burns uncontrollably.

Petronius and Bodyguard remain on alert.

PETRONIUS

What happened?

Paying the question no mind, Atticus focused only on the lost opportunity.

ATTICUS

Bah!

(gathers himself quickly)

Get her to a safe place. Now,
Petronius!

Petronius and Bodyguard snap to, whisk Octavia away. Atticus walks the deserted side street toward the burning cart.

He hustles down the alley Simon Z disappeared through.

CUT TO:

470 INT. ZEALOT HIDEOUT - LATER 470

Ithran and Zealot have just filled Honi in on the events. Honi paces, full of rage and disbelief. Mostly rage.

HONI

Simon the Zealot is dead to us! He never existed! Send word to the brethren.

Off Ithran's clear confusion, traumatic betrayal --

471 EXT. JERUSALEM - STREET - NIGHT

471

Jesus walks at a brisk clip, back the way he and his disciples entered the city.

Jesus has a knowing look. At once, sober and pleased.

(NOTE: THROUGHOUT THE REST OF THE EPISODE, THE SCENES WITHOUT JESUS AND THE THREE ARE IN SLOW MOTION, WITH SOME OF THE DIALOGUE OF JESUS AND THE THREE PLAYING OVER TOP OF THEM.)

Matthew, Simon, and John catch up to him. Simon is grinning and chuckling, practically jumping up and down like an excited child.

SIMON

Oh, that was great! Thank you for letting me see that!

JESUS

Thank you for being with me.

472 EXT. OUTSIDE SYNAGOGUE - CONTINUOUS

472

Yanni hustles with a couple of his Pharisees, and as he approaches the entrance of the synagogue, he sees SHMUEL. He rushes to him, gesturing with passion.

JOHN

Well, the Pharisees were pretty upset.

SIMON

That was almost as much fun to watch as the miracle.

JOHN

This week should be fun.

473 EXT. JERUSALEM - UPPER CITY - SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

473

Atticus emerges from the alley, scans the area, and as he spots Simon Z his eyes narrow.

Jesse sees Simon Z and rushes to him, tears streaming. He grabs an incredulous Z in a bear hug, and then as he steps back, Z covers his mouth in shock. Jesse does a little dance, Z laughs and wipes a tear of his own.

474 EXT. JERUSALEM - STREET - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 474

MATTHEW

I do have a question, Rabbi.

JESUS

Yes, Matthew.

475 EXT. JERUSALEM - UPPER CITY - SQUARE - CONTINUOUS 475

Jesse is telling Z what happened and indicates his bed. Z processes, then asks who it was. Jesse gestures about Jesus' height and clothes, then points. Simon Z pauses a moment, then takes off, indicating to Jesse that he'll be right back.

Atticus's eyes follow Simon Z. We PUSH IN on his face.

476 EXT. JERUSALEM - STREET - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 476

MATTHEW

Waiting ten more minutes wouldn't have mattered to that man. Why did you do this on Shabbat?

Jesus stops, turns to the three.

477 EXT. OUTSIDE SYNAGOGUE - CONTINUOUS 477

Yanni gestures to describe Jesus as well, indicating his height and what he was wearing. He indicates that they looked at each other, and then he points in the direction of where Jesus left.

Shmuel's eyes widen, and then we PUSH IN on his face as he looks with anger in the direction where Yanni is pointing.

478 EXT. JERUSALEM - STREET - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 478

JESUS

Sometimes you gotta stir up the water.

Jesus turns and continues walking, and as he smiles to himself, we --

CUT TO BLACK.

END EPISODE

The Chosen-Media Valet