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## Go and See

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Go and See  
A play for actors and singers by John Steven Paul  
Developed in workshop by Soul Purpose,  
The liturgical drama troupe of the Valparaiso University Theatre

Cast

1 = John the Baptist  
2 = Jesus...  
3 = Andrew  
4 = Thomas  
5 = Wife  
6 = A Landlady  
7 = Peter

PROLOGUE

2-Come and see.

3-It's too far.

2-Come and see.

4-It's too dark.

2-Come and see.

5-It's too cold.

2-Come and see.

6-It's too complicated.

3-Come and see.

7-It's too good.

3-Come and see.

5-To be true.

3-Come and see.

7-It's highly unlikely.

3-Come and see.

4-It's perfect.

7-What?

2-Really. It's perfect.

5-How do you know?

7-I've seen. And heard.

5-Heard what?

7-It's hard to say.

5-See.

4-It's too simple. It's too elegant. It's too...

1-This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

3-This?

4-This?

1-This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

2-What are you looking for?

3-Lord...

4-Where are you staying?

2-Come and see.

1-Go and see.

## **I. Landlord, Jesus**

Jesus:

I need a room.

Landlord:

Furnished?

Jesus:

A place to lie down. A table.

Landlord:

I have such a room. Come and see.

Jesus:

It's perfect.

Landlord:

How do you know?

Jesus:

I've seen. (*Catching himself*) I've heard.

Landlord:

(*Suspicious now*) You have references?

Jesus:

My father was a carpenter in Nazareth.

Landlord:

Can anything good come from Nazareth? (*pause*) You're here for the Baptizer, aren't you?

Jesus:

I need the room. And one simple meal a day.

Landlord:

A room with a table and one simple meal a day. That will be – (*Jesus gives her the right amount of money. She notes this.*) Come and see then. Just to make sure.

Jesus:

I'll come.

## II. John, Andrew, Thomas

Andrew:

Yesterday he saw a man coming toward him and he declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!"

Thomas:

Who was it?

Andrew:

I don't know. I never saw him before.

John:

*(entering)* After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me. I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.

Thomas:

But if you don't know him, Lord, how can you know he's the one?

John:

I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.

*Andrew and Thomas look at each other.*

Thomas:

Where did the dove land? On his shoulder? On his head?

Andrew:

Shush. Have some respect. Do you know his name, Lord, so that we can find him?

John:

I myself do not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'

Andrew:

If you say so, it must be so.

Thomas:

We're starting to lose the light here. Maybe we should call it a day.

Andrew:

Amen.

*Jesus enters with the Landlord following.*

John:

Look, here is the Lamb of God.

*The two disciples look at John.*

John:

*(insisting)* I tell you that this is the Son of God. Go and see.

Andrew:

It would be hard to leave you, Lord.

John:

Don't you see? The Lamb of God has come. He will be the light by which you will learn.

Andrew:

What about you?

John:

I must fade.

*The two disciples follow Jesus. Jesus turns and sees them following.*

Jesus:

What are you looking for?

Thomas:

Rabbi, where are you staying?

Jesus:

come and see. *(Jesus exits. The disciples are frozen.)*

Landlord:

It's this way. *(Thomas comes to his senses and hurries after Jesus.)*

Andrew:

Thomas, wait.

Thomas:

Why?

Andrew:

Let me go and get Simon. I want him to come with us.

Thomas:

Your brother? *(Andrew nods.)* He's an idiot.

Andrew:

he's not an idiot. He's... headstrong.

Thomas:

He has no imagination. No faith in anything. Do I need to remind you what he calls John?

Andrew:

A loud-mouthed river rat, I know. But I think I can convince Simon to come along, just for the evening.

Thomas:

All right, but be quick about it. We'll never find his place in the dark.

Landlord:

I know the way.

*Simon enters.*

Thomas:

Well look who shows up right on time for once.

Andrew:

Simon. I'm glad to see you. There's someone I want you to meet tonight.

Simon:

Not tonight. Rebecca's mother has taken a turn for the worse and both Rebecca and I need to look in on her. I came to ask if you could help me with the nets. They need to be cleaned before midnight.

Andrew:

This man is extraordinary. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Simon:

Says who?

Thomas:

John calls him the Lamb of God.

Simon:

So it's another one of your river rats then. And maybe this one's the Messiah. Here I am with a sick mother-in-law and a pile of stinking nets and you want me to –

Rebecca:

Go to him, Simon.

Simon:

Rebecca, what are you doing –

Rebecca:

Go along and meet him. There's no hope for my mother and you haven't caught a fish fit to sell for days. Maybe this is a sign.

Simon:

A sign of what?

Rebecca:

Just go to meet him. And, Andrew, bring my husband back safely.

Landlord:

*(Resenting the implication)* I beg your pardon, but I don't keep malefactors in my house.  
*(Anxious at the thought, though.)*

Thomas:

Let's be off.

Andrew:

Which way?

Landlord:

I know the way.

### **III. The Landlady**

*She has simply turned around to address the audience.*

Landlord:

And I did know the way to my own house. A house I had not opened to travelers in many years since my husband died. But when the Baptizer set up shop, *as it were*, by the riverside here in Bethany there was many a repentant sinner looking for a room and a “simple meal.” So I began to let a room or two. Times are hard you know.

So I led those three back to the house where they met the young man from Nazareth and they broke bread, spread with olive oil and took a little wine. They talked so quiet I couldn’t hear ‘em and all went to the Nazarene’s room and closed the door.

Now you’ll understand why I did what I did next, won’t you? Even with all the crowds gathered to see John the Baptizer in Bethany, something about these four made me nervous. I began to think they might be bandits – or worse! I needed to know more about them for my own safety. So as I pushed my mop and water bucket down the hall, I stopped outside their door to listen in. What I heard was not scheming talk from robbers, but the words of the prophet Isaiah:

*“And now, the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord and my God has become my strength.”*

What could this mean? I stepped back from the door. There was something in the way that he repeated the words of the prophet that struck me. From ages ago they sounded to me like words meant for my ears. I could see clearly now like when fog burns off in the sun. Then there was more talking:

*“Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”*

Chosen who? Me? Kings and princes lying down before who? Me? I have no crown except the gray hair on my head. I have no staff by the mop in my hand. But this voice was speaking to me. I got myself quickly to bed. I was plain scared of what else might be revealed if I kept listening.

At daylight, two of those young men rushed out as if they were late for a meeting. The third bid me good day with a simple good morning and then he was off too. But in those words, and in those eyes, I knew it was him that spoke the words of the prophet in that room. “The Holy One of Israel has chosen you.”

Finally, the fourth one made his way more slowly to the door. Looked like he hadn’t slept a wink. I didn’t have the heart to ask him for the cost of his share of the room. And he didn’t look back when I offered him a simple meal.

#### **IV. Simon, Wife, Andrew**

*The sound of clothes being washed in a tub.  
Peter enters.*

Peter:

I'm going with them.

Rebecca:

I know.

Peter:

I mean, I'm staying with them.

Rebecca:

I know.

Peter:

It's the first day –

Rebecca:

Of the rest of your life?

Peter:

I wasn't going to say that.

Rebecca:

What then?

Peter:

It's the first day I've felt hopeful. About the future.

Rebecca:

Well, good for you then.

Peter:

Not just for me. For all of us.

Rebecca:

We'll wait and see about that, won't we?

Peter:

No, I've seen. And heard.

Rebecca:

Heard what?

Peter:

It's hard to say.

Rebecca:

You see?

Peter:

I mean he speaks in the words of the prophets. In language I barely know. All I know is that we're called. We're chosen.

Rebecca:

You and Andrew and Thomas?

Peter:

For a start. But then all of us.

Rebecca:

He said all this? Last night?

Peter:

That and more. He knows a lot. Like a rabbi. Now I have a chance to know things and do things I've never done before.

Rebecca:

*So go. Know.*

Peter:

What about you?

Rebecca:

Good of you to ask.

Peter:

Rebecca –

Rebecca:

I've got to take care of my mother. I'm supposed to be with her now. *(He hesitates.)* You go, Simon. Go for all of us.

Peter:

I don't even know where we're going. Maybe not far.

Rebecca:

Can I make a simple meal before you go?

*Andrew enters.*

Andrew:

Peter, come and see.

Rebecca:

Who? Simon?

Peter:

Rebecca, he changed my name. I'm not Simon, I'm Peter.

Rebecca:

Like a rock?

Peter:

That's what he said. *(Peter knocks his own head. He and Rebecca embrace.)*

Rebecca:

Go and see.

*Andrew and Peter exit, leaving Rebecca on stage.*

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7-Go and see.

4-It's too dark.

7-Go and see.

5-It's too cold.

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1-Go and see.

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3-This?

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1-This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

7-Go and see.

**END**