

JESUS

~~First, go and make a peace with your brother.~~

~~(LINDSAY crosses to TELLY sitting under the table and perfunctorily pats his head. She starts to cross away, but is stopped by general disapproval from the others. She goes back to "make peace" again, leans down toward TELLY ... and pinches his nose! Amused with herself, she once again starts to leave and once again is stopped by sounds of general disapproval. Finally she bends down and gives him a kiss on the cheek. General approval from everyone.)~~

~~Now go and offer your gift.~~

~~(LINDSAY takes the sneaker to the altar and presents it. The altar accepts the gift, with a little vocal reaction for punctuation)~~

OTHERS

~~(As "altar")~~

~~Weo weo weo!~~

~~(JESUS begins clapping a rhythm which is picked up by ALL. NICK crosses down left and grabs a microphone as ALL stand in places, clap hands to rhythm.)~~

NICK

~~(In rhythm)~~

There once was a king...

~~(CELISSE jumps on the table, portraying the king.)~~

ALL

~~Yeah, yeah!~~ "Ooooh", "Oh! A King", "God save the King", etc.

NICK

...Who decided to settle accounts with the men who served him.

ALL

~~Yeah, yeah, yeah!~~ "Yeaahhh", "Pay up!", etc.

NICK

Well, at the outset there appeared before the master a man whose debt ran into the millions.

~~(ANNA MARIA, portraying the debtor, crawls out from under the table to DSC)~~

ALL

What?

NICK

I said the millions!

ALL

Whoa!!

NICK

Since the man had no means of paying the money, the master ordered him to be sold to meet the debt with his wife...

ALL

No!

NICK

...And his child...

ALL

Whoa!

NICK

...And everything he had. Well, the man threw himself down at the master's feet and went:

~~ALL~~

~~Unh!~~

~~[NOTE: Depending on the style of the chant, the above "unh" can be anything from rap-style noises to "Ooh-bop-a-loo-bop-a-wop-bam-boo." Whatever, it serve as the musical button for the chant.]~~

ANNA MARIA

(Clings to CELISSE's legs, on table)

"Oh, be patient with me..."

NICK

...He said,...

ANNA MARIA

"...and I will pay you in full."

(In the original, ANNA MARIA added "Just as soon they give me my check.")

NICK

~~*(No longer talking in rhythm)*~~

And so moved with pity was the master, that he decided to free the man and remit the debt and let's hear it for the master!

ALL

(To each other and audience)

Yay! Huzzah! What a great master!! *(etc.)*

JUDAS

Wait a minute! That's not the end of the story. No sooner had the man gone out than he met a fellow servant who owed him a few dollars. He gripped him by the throat and said:

(ANNA MARIA crosses right, encounters GEORGE and collars him)

ANNA MARIA

"Pay me what you owe me!"

JUDAS

The man threw himself at his fellow servant's feet and begged him, saying:

GEORGE

(Falls to his knees)

"B-b-b-b-be patient with me and I shall p-p-pay you."

~~LINDSAY~~ Judas

But he refused and had him jailed until he should pay the debt.

(ANNA MARIA "kicks" GEORGE and he crawls under the table into the "jail")

~~TELLY~~ Judas

Well! The other servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened.

~~*(ALL jump)*~~ ("Oh, no", "Did you see...?", "I am in ... distress", etc.)

They ran and they told their master the whole story!

~~*(Jump twice)*~~ (All play a game of "telephone" (Will block at callbacks)
Accordingly he sent for...

(Those near the table beat on it in a crescendo like a drum roll.)

...The Man!!!

(ANNA MARIA throws herself to the ground in front of CELISSE.)

CELISSE

~~*(In the original, this was performed as a Shirley Temple imitation. The choice of what kind of voice and personality to choose for this character is up to the actor)*~~

"You scoundrel!"

~~TELLY~~ Judas

...He said to him.

CELISSE

"I remitted the whole of your debt when you appealed to me. Were you not bound to show your fellow servant the same pity I showed you?"

~~(In the original, CELISSE punctuated this speech with a brief time-step and a salute. Depending on what character the actor chooses, an appropriate punctuation for the speech may be found.)~~

NICK

~~(In the original, this was performed as a Peter Lorre imitation. Once again, the actor is free to choose, though it's probably good to keep it someone "scary" and associated with horror movies, like Bela Lugosi or Vincent Price.)~~

And so angry was the master that he condemned the man to torture until he could pay the debt in full.

(ALL leaning threateningly over table towards ANNA MARIA)

ALL

~~Unh-unh-unh.~~

~~(MORGAN bangs a pair of finger cymbals to signal the end of the parable. JESUS stands up and gently delivers the moral to the OTHERS.)~~

JESUS

And that is how my Heavenly Father will deal with you, unless you each forgive your brothers from your hearts.

~~#5 Day By Day~~

~~(At this point, ANNA MARIA shyly comes forward and faces JESUS. She becomes the first disciple to declare her loyalty.)~~

ANNA MARIA

Master...

~~DAY BY DAY,
DAY BY DAY,
OH, DEAR LORD THREE THINGS I PRAY:
TO SEE THEE MORE CLEARLY,
LOVE THEE MORE DEARLY,
FOLLOW THEE MORE NEARLY,
DAY BY DAY.~~

~~(Slowly the OTHERS join in, singing "Ahh" in background harmonies as ANNA MARIA continues.)~~