



**Scene 1:
Peter is imprisoned.**

(Play Track #1 on the soundtrack CD.)

(The narrator walks out on stage after the show's theme music, and addresses the audience. If the actor is using the printed lines, he opens the scroll and reads them.)

Narrator: "Welcome to Jerusalem's Most Wanted. I'm John Walshavius. Every week we bring you the story of a fugitive from justice, and you, the viewers, help these wanted suspects be apprehended. Last week, James, the brother and a follower of Jesus, was captured, tried, convicted and executed, all thanks to you, and the tireless efforts of our brave law enforcement officials.

This week, our show spotlights one of the ringleaders in the Jesus gang. Simon, cryptically referred to in sedition circles as "the Big Fisherman," formerly operated a family fishing company before he was caught up in this religious cult. Since the crucifixion and rumored revival of the messiah-figure Jesus, whom we have reported on in previous programs, Simon Peter has become a notorious figure in the news. Weeks earlier, when the Sadducees and the High Priest had thrown Peter and many other of the followers of Jesus in the town jail, they escaped under mysterious circumstances.

Last week, Simon, who also goes by the alias of Peter, was finally netted by the Roman authorities and placed in Herod's prison for trial and sentencing. But unbelievably, he somehow also escaped this high-security stronghold, with the help of unknown accomplices, and is currently at large, healing the sick, causing commotions, and spreading his heretical and dangerous doctrines.

Tonight we dramatize the events of that daring jailbreak, based on the testimony of eyewitnesses. Keep your eyes open for...Jerusalem's Most Wanted."

(Play Track #2: Show Theme Reprise)

(He walks off as the theme music comes on again briefly, and a curtain is drawn back on one side of the stage where the prison set is constructed.)

(There are several guards seated around a table playing a game of some type, talking and laughing. A centurion enters with two soldiers, escorting Peter into the cell, who is chained.)

Centurion: "Attention! Captain of the Guard! We have a real prisoner for you to guard this time."

(All of the men jump up and form a line. The Captain of the Guard steps forward from the line and salutes the Centurion in the Roman manner.)

Centurion: "As promised, the prisoner named Simon Peter, delivered to your tender care."

Captain: *(Laughing.)* "We'll treat him royally, sir."

Centurion: "See that you do. Herod intends on delivering him to the headsman tomorrow morning to impress the Jewish Council. He needs their support since that whole Messiah fiasco."

Captain: *(Taking Paul and chaining him between the two guards.)* "We'll supply him with some choice company. Murderers, thieves, rebels. A fanatic religious zealot should feel right at home."

(The Centurion turns to leave.)

Centurion: "I'll be back in the morning for him. Be on the alert for any rescue attempt. This is one of the fellows that walked out of the town jail recently, when all of the doors were still locked. He's a slippery one."

Captain: "He won't escape from **this** prison, sir. We pledge our lives to that."

Centurion: "Excellent. Because they will be forfeit of anything happens to let him escape this time."

(He exits.)

Captain: *(To Peter with a mock bow.)* "Welcome to our humble inn. I trust you'll find the room to your liking!"

Peter: *(Shrugging.)* "Anywhere the Lord Jesus places me is fine, as long as He's with me."

(The guards laugh uproariously at this.)

Guard #1: *(Looking around.)* "I don't see Jesus anywhere!"

Guard #2: *(Poking the other in the arm.)* "Of course not, he's dead!" *(He mimes a dead man, posing with his arms crossed on his chest and his head tilted back.)*

Guard #1: "That's right, I remember now, Jesus was that crazy Nazarene they crucified a while back."

Peter: "They did. But He lives."

Captain: "Oh, come on...everyone knows that you or some of his other disciples stole the body while the guards at the tomb slept!"

Peter: "Oh, you mean Roman guards, like you? If a band of men crept past an entire squadron of soldiers, broke the seal, moved a huge stone, and walked off with the body without waking a single guard, then getting out of here with the few of you should be a breeze!"

Captain: "If you get out of here, we will all be burned alive. I don't think we'll let that happen."

Peter: "As I recall, none of the soldiers in the squadron guarding his tomb were killed, or even disciplined. I wonder why not, if they told the truth?"

Guard #1: *(To the others.)* "You know, he's got a point there. I wondered about that myself! Sleeping on duty is punishable by death."

Guard #2: "It doesn't make much sense, does it?"

Captain: "Fools! Letting this ignorant fisherman put doubts in your mind... what are you, followers of this Jesus now?"

Guard #1: "Well, how do **you** explain it? *(To the other guard.)* What's more, I saw some of those same men the next day in a bar, spending money like there was no tomorrow. Not only do they get off scot-free for

negligence of duty, but they got paid off by someone!"

Guard #2: "Smells like a cover-up to me."

Captain: "Keep it up, men, and you'll be in chains in prison along with this Simon Peter fellow."

Peter: "Looks like they already are."

(The two guards look at each other.)

Guard #1: "He's got another good point there!"

(The Captain, seeing the danger, changes the subject.)

Captain: "Well, Simon, why would you..."

Peter: *(Interrupting.)* My name is Peter, now. Jesus gave me a new name when He gave me a new life."

Captain: "Riiiiight... Well, Simon, or Peter, or whatever, you used to be a fisherman before falling in with this Jesus, didn't you?"

Peter: "I was."

Guard #2: "Hey, I remember you now... you were hanging around our fire the night we arrested Jesus and brought him in for trial."

Peter: "That's... that's right." *(He hangs his head.)*

Guard #2: "And you denied even knowing Jesus, three times if I recall!"

Peter: "I did deny him, to my shame."

Guard #1: "So, why are you so fanatical about him now, to get yourself thrown in jail?"

Peter: "Because He forgave me, restored me, and commissioned me to be a part of his great work, saving the souls of sinful men. He is God, and my life is his."

Guard #1: "Well, if Jesus is God, and he's alive again, why is he letting you get arrested, instead of coming to rescue you? Sounds like he might still have a grudge against you, hmm?"

Captain: "Yeah, maybe he's denying that he knows **you** during **your** arrest! Payback time!"

(They all laugh at this.)

Captain: "Hey, I think I like this God of yours, sounds like he has a real sense of humor! What a joke on you!"

(They laugh even harder, and the soldiers sit down, with Peter chained between them.)

(Play Track #3: Scene Transition Music. As it plays, the Narrator comes on again, as the curtain is drawn over the prison scene.)