

I Don't Know How To Love Him

Jesus Christ Superstar

- MUSIC AND LYRICS: Andrew Lloyd Webber
- TYPE: Rock Opera
- YEAR: 1970
- CHARACTER: Mary Magdalene

SYNOPSIS:

Judas expresses concern over Jesus' popularity as a "king" ("Heaven on Their Minds") and he believes that Jesus is just a man and that the movement is getting too large and will eventually be seen as a threat to the higher order. Mary Magdalene gives Jesus some ointment but Judas doesn't like Jesus is associating himself with Mary. ("Strange Thing Mystifying"). Jesus tells Judas that unless he is without sin himself, he should not be judging the character of others. Judas says the money used to obtain the ointment should have been used for more to help the poor. Jesus sadly explains that he and his followers do not have the resources to help every poor person.

High-ranking Jewish priests meet to discuss Jesus and his movement and they believe that he is becoming a threat to the Roman Empire. Caiaphas states that the only real solution is to kill Jesus ("This Jesus Must Die"). Caiaphas warns Jesus to disband, but Jesus replies that putting an end to the hysteria is impossible ("Hosanna"). Simon suggests that Jesus lead his mob in a war against Rome and gain absolute power ("Simon Zealotes") but Jesus rejects this suggestion and says that none of his followers understand what true power is nor do they understand his true message ("Poor Jerusalem").

Meanwhile, Pontius Pilate reveals that he has dreamed of the aftermath of Jesus' death. ("Pilate's Dream"). Jesus is furious to find the temple being used for selling everything from weapons to prostitutes, and drugs. ("The Temple"). Angry and tired, Jesus then gets confronted by a mob of lepers, cripples, and beggars, all wanting to be healed. However, the mob is too large and Jesus gets overwhelmed. Unable to solve everyone's problems for them, Jesus tells the crowd to heal themselves. **After the mob leaves, Mary Magdalene finds Jesus upset. Mary tells him to rest. ("Everything's Alright-Reprise") While Jesus is asleep, Mary reflects on the fact that while she is in love with Jesus, he is unlike any man that she has loved before. As a result, Mary does not know how to cope with her feelings (" I Don't Know How to Love Him").**

Meanwhile, Judas promises to help the priests against Jesus, while emphasizing that he is acting with unselfish motives ("Damned for All Time"). Caiaphas in exchange for the information offers Judas money which he initially turns down but he eventually obliges when Caiaphas tells of charities that he can give the money to. Judas reveals that on Thursday night, Jesus of Nazareth will be at the garden of Gethsemane ("Blood Money"). On Thursday, Jesus meets with his twelve apostles for the Last Supper and take communion. Jesus says that Peter will deny him, not once, but three times. Then Judas reveals to everyone that he is the person who will make the betrayal, but Jesus allows him to go. Upset, Judas leaves to find the Roman soldiers and bring them to Jesus ("The Last Supper").

Jesus speaks to God, addressing him as "father." Jesus questions God as to why he must be the one to die and what his death will mean in the grand scheme of things. ("Gethsemane"). Judas arrives with the soldiers. And Jesus gets arrested. As his apostles wake up, they attempt to fight the authorities in order to free their messiah, but Jesus asks them to put their swords away and let the authorities take him to Caiaphas. When Jesus meets with Caiaphas, Caiaphas asks if he is the son of God. Jesus responds: "That's what you say, you say that I am." This answer provides enough justification for the high priests to send Jesus to Pontius Pilate ("The Arrest"). Peter is confronted by an old man, a soldier, and a maid by a fire. He denies he know Jesus to each of them. ("Peter's Denial").

When Jesus is brought to Pilate for questioning but Pilate sends him to Herod. ("Pilate and Christ"). King Herod becomes frustrated when Jesus opts to not demonstrate his alleged supernatural powers. Herod decides that Jesus is just another phony messiah and sends him back to Pilate ("King Herod's Song"). At this point, Judas sees Jesus, beaten and battered by the authorities and feels guilty and he feels betrayed by God for having chosen him, within the divine plan, to be the one to betray Jesus. Judas blames God for murdering him and hangs himself ("Judas' Death").

Jesus is brought back to Pilate for his trial. Pilate asks Jesus to defend himself, but Jesus barely speaks. Pilate now "washes his hands" of his death ("Trial Before Pilate"). As Jesus prepares to be crucified, he is met by the spirit of Judas. Judas questions why Jesus chose to arrive in the manner that he did and if what happened to him was really part of a divine plan ("Superstar"). Jesus slowly dies on the cross ("The Crucifixion").