

Side 1

START >>> **GUARD** (CONT'D)
Perhaps the cold floor will remind
you what happens when you when you
remain faithful to your man-god.

HEAVY DOOR CREAKS OPEN.

006 **GUARD**
Now, get back to your chamber.

THE GUARD PUSHES NICHOLAS INSIDE. NICHOLAS
GRUNTS IN PAIN AS HE HITS THE FLOOR. THE CELL
DOOR SLAMS SHUT. NICHOLAS GROANS QUIETLY,
CATCHING HIS BREATH.

007 **GUARD**
(mockingly)
Sleep well, Bishop.

THE GUARD WALKS AWAY, BUT -

008 NICHOLAS
(sternly)
Your son... he is consumed by
fever... it has him in its grip.

THE GUARD STOPS.

009 **GUARD**
(defensive)
What do you know of my son?

010 NICHOLAS
I saw him... in a dream. Tossing in
his bed. I understand why you're
worried about him... Your child is
suffering. But hurting others will
not heal him.

THE GUARD DOESN'T RESPOND.

011 NICHOLAS
I will pray for him. Pray for his
healing... pray for strength for
you and his mother.

012 **GUARD**
(harshly)
You think your prayers can do more
than Roman medicine?

THE GUARD KICKS THE METAL BARS OF THE CELL,
ANGERED.

013 **GUARD**

Save your prayers for yourself,
Bishop. I don't believe in your
God.

<<< END

THE GUARD STORMS OFF. NICHOLAS'S CHAINS DRAG AS
HE KNEELS.

014 NICHOLAS

(lowering voice)

Lord Jesus... Heal the child. Show
his father mercy.

THE DAMP DRIP OF WATER CONTINUES.

015 ANTONIUS

Bishop Nicholas? Why pray for such
a cruel man?

016 NICHOLAS

Antonius, we must love our enemies,
and pray for those who persecute
us. How else will they know Christ,
but through us? Pray with me!

THE CRICKETS FROM OUTSIDE SLOWLY FADE OUT.

6

INT. PRISON - MORNING

DISTANT BIRDS CHIRPING. THE CLANG OF KEYS
ECHOING DOWN THE STONE CORRIDOR. THE RATTLE OF
MULTIPLE CELL DOORS BEING UNLOCKED.

017 GUARD CAPTAIN

(calling out)

Prisoners! Hear this proclamation:
Diocletan has abdicated his throne.
By order of the new emperor
Constantine, it is no longer a
crime to profess the Christian
faith!

WALLA: EXCITED MURMURS OF THE FREED PRISONERS.

018 GUARD CAPTAIN

You're free to go!

KEYS UNLOCK CHAINS. DOORS OPEN.

019 NICHOLAS

Thank you, Lord! Thank you!

NICHOLAS EXITS HIS CELL, BUT A GUARD DASHES
TOWARDS HIM.

Side 2

START >>> 020 **GUARD**
(calling out)
Bishop! Bishop Nicholas!

NICHOLAS STOPS AND TURNS. THE GUARD KNEELS IN
FRONT OF HIM.

021 **GUARD**
My son... he was at death's door.
The fever would not break. But the
very day I... hurt you... you were
kind and prayed for my boy... that
very day, his fever began to
recede. The physician was
astounded... Can you... will you
forgive me?

022 **NICHOLAS**
You were doing your duty. Go in
peace.

023 **GUARD**
If I brought my son... to the
cathedral... Would we be welcome? **<<< END**

024 **NICHOLAS**
You'd be more than welcome. You'd
be home.

MUSIC TRANSITION.

7 **EXT. MYRA CHURCH - MORNING**

SOFT MORNING BREEZE. WALLA: VOICES OF PEOPLE
EXITING THE CHURCH AFTER THE MORNING GATHERING,
GREETING EACH OTHER SOFTLY. NICHOLAS ALSO EXITS.
UNCLE NICHOLAS APPROACHES NICHOLAS.

025 **UNCLE**
(calling out)
Nicholas!

026 **NICHOLAS**
Uncle? What a surprise to see you
in Myra!

THEY HUG.

027 **UNCLE**
I had to come and see you in
person, Nicholas.

028 **NICHOLAS**
Is there something wrong?