

087 BASIL
The Gospel of Matthew?

088 EMMELIA
I suggest you take Macrina's
advice. She is very wise.

SHE KISSES HIS CHEEK, AND WALKS OFF.

WALLA: THE WOMEN CONTINUE TO PRAY TOGETHER IN
THE BACKGROUND. IT SLOWLY FADES AS BASIL WALKS
OFF.

089 BASIL
Hmm...

DOOR OPENS, BASIL WALKS OUTSIDE FROM WOOD ONTO
THE HARD STONES.

9 EXT. BASIL'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

9

BASIL WALKS A FEW STEPS. TAKES A DEEP BREATH.
TREES RUSTLE IN THE WIND. BASIL APPROACHES THE
TREE AS BIRDS FLUUTER ABOVE.

MUSIC FADES IN THE BACKGROUND SOFTLY.

090 BASIL
Oh Blessed Lord, do I walk through
the Valley of the Shadow of Death?
Light my path. Lead me to the tree
of life by the light of the Gospel.

HE SITS DOWN AGAINST IT. UNROLLS THE SCROLL.

091 BASIL
The Gospel according to Matthew...

MUSIC RISES.

10 INT. BASIL'S HOME - DAY

10

BASIL GRUNTS AND PULLS, MOVING A HEAVY WOODEN
BEDFRAME, SCREECHING ACROSS THE FLOORS THROUGH
THE HOUSE.

092 MACRINA (O.C.)
(calls)
Basil, what is that terrible noise?

DOOR OPENS, EMMELIA AND MACRINA ENTER.

093 EMMELIA
Basil, why are you moving your bed?

Side 2

START >>> I have... No more use for a bed.

He stops pushing the bed.

094 **BASIL**
~~(struggling with it)~~
Where are your shoes?

096 **BASIL**
I gave them to a beggar yesterday.

097 **EMMELIA**
Basil, you cannot go on removing
all of your things from the house.

098 **BASIL**
I don't want to gain anything from
the world anymore. I reject the
world.

099 **MACRINA**
What has brought this about?

100 **BASIL**
I have been reading the Gospels.
You were right, Macrina.

101 **MACRINA**
Right about what?

102 **BASIL**
The Lord speaks clearly when you
meditate on His word.

103 **MACRINA**
Shouldn't you run towards Christ
rather than run away from the
world?

104 **BASIL**
You know, Macrina, you're right.
Again.

BASIL LETS THE BEDFRAME FALL WITH A CRASH.

105 **BASIL**
I've renounced the world, I give up
everything. I must seek Christ now,
and Him alone.

He starts to walk away.

106 EMMELIA

Basil where are you going?

107 BASIL

I'm leaving!

108 EMMELIA

Where are you going?!

109 BASIL

As Macrina said, I seek Christ. I think I will go out into the desert like one of those monks you told me about.

110 EMMELIA

Why don't you live here like a monk? Like - like Macrina! Like these women she has brought here. She leads an ascetical life in our own home!

111 MACRINA

Let him go, Mother. Let him find Jesus in the desert.

112 BASIL

I can't stay here, Mama. I would just be clinging on to the past. No, I'm going to the desert. I want to cling to nothing at all except Christ.

<<< END

BASIL EXITS.

11

EXT. DESERT - DAY

11

CICADAS SCREECH. THE SAND SIZZLES IN THE HEAT.
FEET CRUNCH THROUGH HOT SAND. LABORED BREATHING.

113 BASIL

(parched)

Lord, it's so hot... I have no food... No water... How do you provide for these desert monks?

SFX FADE TO:

12

EXT. DESERT - THE NEXT DAY

12

CICADAS AND SIZZLE AGAIN. BASIL SUCKS AIR INTO HIS DRY THROAT.