

# THE ZEALOT'S FIGHT

Christmas Through  
the Eyes of a Rebel

A One-Act Children's  
Christmas Play

**WRITTEN BY**  
**KYLIE HODGE**



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# FROM THE AUTHOR

**KYLIE HODGE**

Ecclesiastes 1:9 says, “What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.” Questions and habits, beliefs and views—all have been thought of or felt before. The Bible, though thousands of years old and set in many different cultures and times, shows situations and struggles that apply to us today and will apply to generations in the future. Real people in the Bible struggled with the same things we do today, some such being Job, David, Peter, and Paul.

So with artistic liberties through this fictional character Miciah, I was able to explore sentiments and beliefs that many Jews might have had at the time under Roman rule. While modern-day America is perhaps in many ways unlike the time of the Romans, many of the same emotions and beliefs are still present. For example, the false view that we must take matters into our own hands, that perhaps things have never been as bad as they are today, and that ends may justify the means.

However, don’t get me wrong! As Christians, we should not merely sit back and relax while evil people prevail. Did not the Lord raise up judges in times of evil in Israel? Did he not raise up Daniel, a godly man, to high political status in Babylon? As Christians, we must have the right mindset—God is in control of politics and of the unknown, and we can trust in him as we fulfill the duty he has given us now. My character Miciah had to learn to trust God and do the task the Lord set before him—being the spiritual leader of his household. If the Lord had really set Miciah on the path he wished, would the Lord confirm murder or stealing? No, he would not.

The conclusion of the play is clear: God calls us all to many different paths, and through him, we can do his will—getting the Word of God to unbelievers. We can do that in many ways, such as training up the

next generation, being a teacher of knowledge, or working in politics. No matter the hardships we face, we know that we can call upon the Lord and his strength, and we can trust him in whatever time we are in.

“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

# CHARACTERS

## **YOUNG MICIAH**

Young boy, wears  
bronze pendant

## **ELDER BROTHER 1**

Miciah's older  
brother

## **ELDER**

## **BROTHERS 2–4**

*(NONSPEAKING)*

Dressed similarly to  
Elder Brother 1

## **MOTHER**

Miciah's mother

## **FATHER**

Miciah's father

## **ROMAN**

## **SOLDIERS 1–3**

Dressed in helmets  
and armor

## **BEA**

Young girl, in a  
simple dress

## **BENJAMIN**

Relative of Mary  
and Joseph

## **MARY**

Mother of Jesus,  
pregnant

## **JOSEPH**

Jesus' earthly father

## **SHEPHERDS**

*(NONSPEAKING)*

Dressed in robes and  
holding staff

## **ANGELS**

*(NONSPEAKING)*

Wearing white robes  
and halos

## **MICIAH DOUBLE**

Wears same clothes  
as Miciah

## **BARABBAS DOUBLE**

Wears same clothes  
as Barabbas

## **MICIAH/**

## **VOICE-OVER**

Zealot, wears  
bronze pendant

## **BARABBAS**

Zealot, Miciah's  
friend

## **JUDAH**

Miciah's son

## **JEMIMA**

Miciah's daughter

## **SUSANNA**

Miciah's wife

## **SCRIBES 1–2**

Dressed in long robes

## **VARIOUS SCRIBES**

*(NONSPEAKING)*

Additional scribes  
as needed

## **HANANIAH**

A scribe, Miciah's  
mentor

## **ROMAN**

## **CENTURION**

The centurion  
from Luke 7:1–10,  
dressed like Roman  
Soldiers 1–3

## **SERVANT**

The servant from  
Luke 7:1–10

## **VARIOUS**

## **TOWNSPEOPLE**

Children, protesters,  
people shouting  
“Hosanna!” etc.

# THE ZEALOT'S FIGHT

# – SCENE 1 –

## A MAN'S FIGHT

*Soft music begins to play as lights come up slowly on a village street.*

**Song Suggestion:** “*Carol of the Bells*”

**VOICE-OVER 1:** I was the youngest of four brothers, and the most mischievous. You would often find me in Jerusalem running through the streets with my elder brothers chasing me. They would usually shout . . .

*ELDER BROTHER 1 and YOUNG MICIAH run through the streets from stage left, followed by two other ELDER BROTHERS. MICIAH is holding flowers.*

**ELDER BROTHER 1:** (*angrily*) Give that back, Miciah!

**VOICE-OVER 2:** And I would usually shout back . . .

**YOUNG MICIAH:** NO!

**VOICE-OVER 3:** They always caught me in the end and dragged me back to our little house, where I would get a scolding from my mother.

*ELDER BROTHERS humorously drag MICIAH to their house on stage left. He sits in a chair while his MOTHER scolds him. His FATHER is in the back, while his ELDER BROTHERS laugh.*

**YOUNG MICIAH:** But Adonijah stole it from Susanna! I was only giving it back!

**MOTHER:** Don't talk back to me, you trouble-making, good-for-nothing son! You bring a bad reputation to our family!

**VOICE-OVER 4:** While my father would only sigh in disappointment and tell me . . .

**FATHER:** *(whispers to MICIAH while the MOTHER pantomimes yelling at him)* You're weak, Miciah. A man does not run, he fights. *(smiles harshly)* Otherwise, you'll be nothing but a pathetic, powerless worm.

*ROMAN SOLDIERS 1, 2, and 3 come to center stage from stage right.*

**VOICE-OVER 5:** But I still looked up to him because he was a fighter.

*Tense music begins to play. On the word "fighter," the FATHER looks up to see ROMAN SOLDIERS 1, 2, and 3 standing in the streets, perhaps cruelly dealing with Jews.*

**VOICE-OVER 6:** My father hated the Romans and the oppression they brought. They took whatever they wanted, and they set up malicious, power-hungry King Herod over us.

*FATHER hands YOUNG MICIAH a bronze pendant. He walks towards the ROMAN SOLDIERS and begins arguing with them.*

**VOICE-OVER 7:** But one day, my father made a reckless mistake.

*The ROMAN SOLDIERS and FATHER begin to fight. The ROMAN SOLDIERS pin FATHER to the floor. The music comes to a climax as one of the soldiers takes out a sword and lifts it over his head, but before he strikes FATHER, the stage goes black. The music stops.*

**VOICE-OVER 8:** And then my father died, leaving us all alone.

*A slow spotlight appears on YOUNG MICIAH as he holds up his father's pendant and puts it around his neck. The stage blacks out again.*

## – SCENE 2 –

### A FIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

*Music begins to play as the lights reveal a busy marketplace in Bethlehem. YOUNG MICIAH is in the center, fighting a group of kids.*

**YOUNG MICIAH:** You think the Romans are all that, huh? Just because your father is a soldier in the Roman military? He's a traitor to the Jews!

*MOTHER discontinues her shopping and notices YOUNG MICIAH.*

**MOTHER:** (angrily) Miciah!

*MOTHER shoos the kids away and grabs YOUNG MICIAH. She drags him through the streets of Bethlehem to their house on stage left.*

**YOUNG MICIAH:** Hey, stop that! That hurts! Let me fight them! Father said that a real man fights!

**MOTHER:** If you want me to stop, behave yourself! All you've been is trouble since we've moved to Bethlehem, and with all this ruckus with everyone leaving because of the census, you boys have to pick up the slack with work since your father got himself killed.

*In the house, MOTHER quickly gathers items in a bag and hands the bag to YOUNG MICIAH.*

**MOTHER:** (sighs) Now go and deliver this to Benjamin. His family has some relatives staying with them, and he requested that these be brought.

*YOUNG MICIAH grabs the bag, reluctantly obeying.*

**ELDER BROTHER 1:** (leaning on the door frame, taunting) You're going to get yourself killed like Father.

**YOUNG MICIAH:** (angrily) Go away!

*YOUNG MICIAH walks to BENJAMIN's house, on stage right.*

## – SCENE 3 –

### A FIGHT WITH JOSEPH

*Still carrying the bag from his mother, YOUNG MICIAH talks to himself on his way to BENJAMIN's house.*

**YOUNG MICIAH:** I'm not going to die. I won't be weak. I'm a fighter!

*YOUNG MICIAH knocks on the door of the stage right house. BEA opens the door.*

**BEA:** Hi, Miciah!

**YOUNG MICIAH:** Hi, Bea. How's your little brother doing?

**BEA:** Oh, he's doing amazing! He's so cute! I love being a big sister! Little brothers are so fun. He can't really do much right now. I tried to teach him how to play Senet, but he just chewed on the pieces instead.

**BENJAMIN:** Bea! Who's at the door?

**BEA:** Oh, sorry! Come on in, Miciah. Miciah's here, Dad!

**BENJAMIN:** Miciah! Your mother said she would send you over. Come inside. I've got some people I want you to meet!

*YOUNG MICIAH follows BEA and BENJAMIN into the house. He gives the bag to BENJAMIN. Inside are BENJAMIN and his guests, JOSEPH and MARY (who is pregnant).*

**BEA:** This is Joseph, and this is Mary. They're my cousins!

**BENJAMIN:** Thank you, Bea. Now go finish helping your mother in the kitchen.

**BEA:** Okay!

*BEA exits. JOSEPH shakes YOUNG MICIAH's hand.*

**JOSEPH:** Nice to meet you, Miciah.

**YOUNG MICIAH:** *(looks at MARY, deadpan)* Are you with child?

*MARY and JOSEPH laugh.*

**BENJAMIN:** Miciah! Be polite!

**MARY:** No, no, it's quite all right. Anyone can see I am.

**BENJAMIN:** Why don't you take the supplies to the lower room for them, Miciah?

**YOUNG MICIAH:** *(surprised)* They are staying in the lower room?

**BENJAMIN:** I have no other place where they can stay. All my other relatives are here too.

**YOUNG MICIAH:** *(whispers to BENJAMIN)* Why don't I bring them to our house to dwell?

*BENJAMIN smiles and pats YOUNG MICIAH on the head.*

**BENJAMIN:** *(whispering)* That is very generous of you, but I doubt your mother wants the surprise of guests right now. *(speaking normally)* But do not worry, we are going to make the lower room as comfortable as possible. That is why I ordered those supplies. Follow me.

*YOUNG MICIAH, BENJAMIN, MARY, and JOSEPH walk to the lower room, where there are hay bales, a manger, and animals. BENJAMIN begins unpacking and laying out blankets. YOUNG MICIAH and JOSEPH help, as well.*

**BENJAMIN:** Alright, lay those blankets out there, and set this here. *(continue giving directions as needed)*