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PREVIEW: DINING AT THE KING'S TABLE

By

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Cast of Characters

Meredith:	A women living in self-imposed exile in the land of Barrenness. She is lame in both of her feet.
Constance:	An old, and faithful servant to Meredith. She nursed and then raised Meredith to adulthood. She is the cause of the accident that crippled Meredith’s feet as a child.
Mordred:	Disobedient servant from the Palace. Insists on the title, “Lord.” When he is sent out with the other servants, at the King’s bidding, to invite “whosoever will,” to come to the banquet, he is reluctant and hesitates along the way.
The King:	Sovereign Lord of the Kingdom. He is mighty and just in all His ways. Life and death are in His hands. Judgment and mercy are at His command. He knows the hearts of all men.
Maid 1:	Attendant to the King. Maids in waiting. Specializing in Women’s Ministry, and the gift of hospitality.
Maid 2:	Attendant to the King. Maids in waiting. Specializing in Women’s Ministry, and the gift of hospitality.
Servant 1:	Servant of the King. Not the sharpest tool in the shed, but has a good heart.
Servant 2:	Servant of the King. Not the sharpest tool in the shed, but has a good heart.

Synopsis

Dining at the King's Table takes place in a medieval setting with the King of the land preparing for the wedding feast of his only son. There is lighthearted humor throughout with serious tones prevailing in matters of scripture. The King has sent his servants out to invite everyone in the land to his son’s wedding but many decline their invitations. Mordred, a disobedient servant and traitor from the Kings palace, insists on the title “Lord” though no one is buying it. When he is sent out with the other servants at the King’s bidding he stalls and plots against the King. His words and actions reveal a deeply rebellious heart. He secretly entertains plans of becoming king himself! Mordred is loath to invite a lame young woman named Meredith to the banquet believing that her infirmities disqualify her from deserving of such high honors. Mordred is responsible for telling her that the King means to do her harm if she appears before him. For years now, Meredith has been living in self-imposed exile in the land of Barrenness. Her faithful nurse Constance raised Meredith to adulthood in the fortress but is herself broken and fearful because the accident that crippled Meredith as a child was her fault. Constance is smothering and overprotective of Meredith discouraging Meredith’s hope of ever leaving the fortress. Meredith fears judgement from the King of the land but senses his calling and is desperate to take a chance and present herself before him. The King receives Meredith whole heartedly when she leaves the fortress and arrives at the palace in obedience to his call. When he offers her his scepter she bravely touches it and is restored and healed of her infirmity. Great excitement ensues as the palace servants receive her. Mordred, is cast out of the palace when the King discovers him without the white robe he has selected for his guests. Mordred is uncovered as a traitor and cast into outer darkness as his punishment. As the palace doors close for

the celebration Constance arrives alone. She is completely broken and weeps at the door. Pulling herself together she knocks feeling she has missed it. Suddenly, the doors open and she is ushered in by two maid servants who receive her warmly on behalf of their King.

Note

For the wages of sin is death; But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord (Romans 6:2)

Scene I - The Call

Scene opens with Ballerina doing an interpretive dance depicting the Spirit of God calling out to the world, His song of redemption. At the close of the dance we hear the sound of a lone trumpet, sounding an alarm proceeding a message from the King.

Rise Up - *Palace Maidens & Ensemble*

Palace maidens dance joyfully out into the isles as this tune begins to build. Progressively they gather characters, pantomiming fellowship, witnessing, etc., as they bring guests through the Palace Gates for the feast. They are joyous and full of wonder.

Preparations are being made for a huge banquet in the palace of the King, to honor the wedding of His only Son. Servants are working at various tasks. There is a happy tension in the air as various servants, and Maids 1 & 2 add the finishing touches.

Mordred

(*Enters playing a harmonica. He is eyeing the servants and their work critically. Checking the furniture for dust, etc..)*

Maid 1

(Enters, hidden behind a large basket she is carrying) Excuse me. Could you, uh? Hey, Sonny! Would you mind giving me a little help over here!

Mordred

(Annoyed) The name is Mordred. *Lord* Mordred. Ooh! This looks tempting. *(Picks apple out of box, polishes it on his shirt)* I would *love* to help you Madam, really I would. But menial labor just isn’t in my job description. *(Bites apple)* I have a higher calling.

Maid 1

(Puts basket down) Look, *Mr.* Mordred, I don’t mean to find fault here, but it occurs to me if you ain’t helping to row the boat, Son, you’re likely to rock it, sooner or later.

Maid 2

(Enters crying audibly, ad lib) I always cry at weddings, *(To* Mordred*)* don’t you? *(Blows nose on him)*

Mordred

Hey! Watch it lady! *(Wipes apple, haughty exit)* Peasant!

Maid 2

(Clueless, sniffs) I just don’t understand why so many people make light of their invitations to the banquet! *(Indignant, to audience)* People just don’t send back R.S.V.P.’s anymore! Humph!

Maid 1

(Comforting) There, there, now. People are… well, they’re just busy.

Maid 2

Too busy, if you want to know what I think!

Maid 1

Everybody's got their reasons, I suppose. People have farms to keep up and some's got businesses to tend to. Truth is, people get so caught up in making a living, that they forget about *doing* the living.

Maid 2

But don't they realize *who* it is that's inviting them? *(Passionately)* He's their King, for goodness sake! He's the Lord of the land! An invitation like this only comes along once in a lifetime!

Maid 1

Folks are just wanting to be the Lord of their *own* land, I guess. *(Laughs)* But the King,… well, now, that's another story. He just keeps on asking 'em to come. It seems like His Grace *never* gives up. *(Laughs)* Isn't it just like His Highness to plan things out just like the whole world had said 'yes?' He just keeps on pulling for everybody.

Maid 2

You're right about that. *(Smiling)* He's got a father's heart you know. There's nothing He wouldn't do for His Son.

Maid 1

Don’t you worry none, Girlfriend! All we have to do is obey the King, and go tell ‘em. Tell ‘em all that the King wants to have ‘em over to His place. ‘Come as you are.’ That’s what He said.

Maid 2

(Admiring table) Well,… it’s finished. It looks… beautiful. *(Tearfully)* I just love weddings, don’t you?

Maid 1

(Comforting) There, there, now. Don’t you start cryin’ again. You’re gonna get me started too. *(Brightly)* Girl, you come with me! There’s just enough time for us to stock up on some more oil for our lamps. You can’t be too prepared, I always say. *(Lights fade quickly, Maids exit*

Mordred

(Sitting in the shadows, he is looks over his shoulder periodically) It's taking everything I've got to keep up this ridiculous charade. The King keeps sending His messengers out, one after the other to bring those… *people* back! It seems He'll take anyone! Ugh! What profit can He possibly gain by serving them? If I don't get some control soon, The King will start setting prisoners free. I'll be ruined! This is madness! *(Angry)* His Kingdom is the greatest in all the world. And His riches, … they're immeasurable. What does He do with all this wealth and power? He puts it in the hands of commoners! Peasants! And His son? Hah! He's no different! The Son does exactly what His Father tells Him to do. It's scandalous! He spends all of His time hanging out with drunks, tax collectors, and prostitutes! How lowly can a King get? I can't waste my precious time on low life's. I have more discriminating tastes. It's the 'beautiful people', the 'up and coming', that interest me. That's where the power lies. A man has to invest in his future doesn't he? One day I will be like the Most High… *(Stops abruptly, smiling)* Well, … enough about me. I'll play along. *(Smile)* For now. The King is no fool. He watches over everything. I'll just tarry here a while and dupe the lowly palace mice in to doing my bidding.

(Two servants return from the countryside, crossing floor, joyful, deep in conversation. Mordred approaches them)

Mordred

(Looks over his shoulder secretively) Well! Tell me what happened! *(No reply)* Speak up, man! How did it go? *(No reply)* You *did* do as I asked, didn’t you? *(Angrily grabs Servant 1 by the shirt)* Didn’t you?

Servant 1

Yes! Yes! We did just like you said, Mordred.

Mordred

Lord Mordred!

Servant 1

(Doubtfully) Yeah, right. Whatever. We went to all of the fancy well-to-do areas that were on the map you gave us.

Servant 2

We did it just like you told us, Mordred… Sorry, Sir. I mean, uh, Lord Mordred. We invited all of the fancy ladies and nobleman we could get our hands on.

Mordred

Good. *(Pause)* Well, where are they? *(Looks off)*

Servant 1

Lord Mordred, they uh, well… for some reason they all refused to come to the banquet. I… I guess they had other plans.

Mordred

You imbeciles! Don’t you realize how important deals like that are to my career? I mean to the King! We *needed* those endorsements! How could you just let them slip away? *(Disgusted)* And you two weasels … just rolled over!

Servant 2

Of course we didn’t just ‘roll over.’ What do you take us for anyway? Quitters?

Servant 1

Yeah, what do think we are? A couple of quitters? You don’t have to worry with us on the job Mordred.

Mordred

Lord Mordred*!*

Servant 2

Yeah, right. No way were we gonna let those guy’s get the best of us. *(To Servant 1)* They don’t know who they’re messing with, do they?

Mordred

Good. You kept trying?

Servant 1

You bet we did! *(Proudly)* We marched right out of there with our heads held high, and went straight to the City Mission and rounded up some homeless folks.

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Maid 1

I know the thoughts the King’s thinkin’ toward you, Girl. Thoughts of peace and not of harm. He’s wantin’ to give you a future and a hope! Well, don’t just stand there, Girl. C’mon out of the cold!

Maid 2

(Sweetly) Come on in. The King’s expecting you!

(The Maids lovingly bring Meredith through the Palace doors. Only her crutches remain on the outside.)

Scene V - The Kings Table

(Sound of trumpet. At lights we see the King sitting majestically on His throne. Meredith enters the Kings chamber, accompanied by Maid 2. She is limping badly and is visibly afraid. She starts to bolt, Maid 2 stops her gently. Smiling, she reassures Meredith. Slowly, they approach the throne of grace.)

Meredith

(Presenting herself to the King, bows in submission.) Your Highness!

The King

(Gently) Yes, ...Meredith.

Meredith

Here I am Lord, your servant. I have come in obedience to your call. I come to you asking for your mercy.

The King

I know. I’ve been waiting for you. *(Pause)* Well, speak child.

Meredith

Your Highness, I am a deserter of the Kingdom of Light. Many years ago I stole myself away. I built a fortress in another Kingdom. I have been living there in darkness and the shadow of fear ever since. *(Tearfully)* I am guilty of desertion, and treason before my King.

The King

Meredith...

Meredith

Yes, my Lord.

The King

You are a women of great strength. A mighty woman of valor.

Meredith

But, I am no better than a dead dog in your presence. I am unworthy to live in the Kingdom of Light.

The King

Meredith, do you want to be made whole? *(Extends sceptor)*

Meredith

Oh yes, Sire! *(Touches tip of scepter)* More than anything!

The King

(Stands) Then be afraid no longer. I will show you mercy for the sake of my Son. I will return to you your place in the Kingdom of Light, and restore all of the years that have been stolen. *(Beckons Maid 1 who is carrying a white robe. Maid 1 places it over Meredith's shoulders)*

Meredith

Oh, thank you, My Lord! But…*(Maids help Meredith to stand)* how is it possible, Sire, that you could be mindful of me? I am nothing, yet… *(Realization)* you know my name! Your Excellency, I'm certain now that I've heard the sound of your voice before today.

I've heard it many times, but… I didn't understand that it was you who spoke. It was your still, small voice, calling out my name. Bidding me to come.

The King

Welcome home, Child. *(Offers arm)* You will be honored in my Palace, and You shall eat your fill at my table forever.

(The King ushers Meredith into the Banquet Hall where the table is set, the meal is prepared, all things have been made ready. Communion is dramatized by the two as the song is being sung.)

Come Now- *The King & Meredith* (duet)

*(As **chorus II** of song begins, other guests enter the Banquet room. They are in animated fellowship, etc., but are still a secondary focal point through song. As the song ends, Meredith is welcomed by and joins the other guests. Each is robed in white, gathering around the banquet table. The group is animated in fellowship, rejoicing and partaking of the feast showing no sign that they are aware of the situation that is about to take place.*

*Mordred enters at the same time as the other guests, and has been watching the whole scene with disdain. Others try to draw him into the festivities, but he isn't interested. Note: He is **not** wearing a robe given to him by the King.)*

The King

(Approaches Mordred who has set himself apart from the group. Mordred is caught off guard.) Friend, how does it happen that you are here without a wedding robe?'

Mordred

(Stammers, but is unable to speak. Seen now for what he truly is, Mordred flashes a defiant look at the King.)

The King

(To his servant) Bind him hand and foot and throw him into the outer darkness.

(Servants lead the man out. Mordred openly displays his hate and defiance.)

The King

(Sorrowfully) Where there will be much weeping and gnashing of teeth. *(Surveying audience)* For many are called, … but few are chosen.

(The music begins as the King slowly returns to His Subjects and the festivities at the Banquet Table.)

Rise Up (reprise) - *Ensemble*

(As the last chorus begins, Constance moves down the center isle, toward the Palace Gates. At the gate, she handles one of Meredith's crutches. She lovingly clutches it to her breast, and bows her head, weeping. Slowly the doors open, revealing Maids 1 & 2. While one receives Constance with a hug, the other takes the crutch and sets them down outside the Palace doors. As the song ends the three women enter joyfully into the Palace, closing the door behind them.)

I Answered the Call of My King- *Worship Team*



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