Script Sheet on the Movie "The Last Temptation of Christ"

A sampling of scenes and quotes from the script

On the introduction page of the script is this quote by Nikos Kazantzakis, author of the book on which the movie is based: "It is not God who will save us - it is us who will save God, by battling, by creating and transmuting matter into spirit."

At the Last Supper, Jesus and his disciples' actions are described in this manner: "As they do (partake in the Last Supper), the bread and wine transubstantiate into flesh and blood in their mouths. Peter is the first to cough up the bloody flesh. The others, sickened, follow. They wipe their bloody mouths."

Jesus says to Judas: "No, I don't have any pride. I don't go to Synagogue. I disobey the commandments. I work on the Sabbath." Judas: "And who will pay for your sins?" Jesus: "I don't know. I'm struggling."

Mary says to the crowd: "Forgive my son! He's crazy! He doesn't know what he is doing. He has problems. Ever since he was a baby. He's not well in the head."

Jesus to Judas: "I was full of hate when I saw them torturing Magdalene."

John kisses Jesus on the mouth. Jesus: "His tongue felt like a burning coal in my mouth."

Jesus teaching the discipleship: "Jesus reaches into his chest and pulls out his own bloody heart. He offers it at arm's length to the disciples. Blood drips from the ventricles. Jesus: 'This is my heart. Please take it. I lead the way. If you have nets, let them rot; family, children, leave them behind. We're on the march.' Jesus places his heart back in his chest."

Mary to Jesus: "Son, please come home. I'll take care of you. You're sick (in the head) but I'll make you better."

Jesus to Mary as He is being crucified: "Farewell. Forgive me for being a bad son."

Jesus to Mary and Martha: "I now declare war on fasting and suffering and chastity."

Jesus says to Mary Magdalene: "I've done a lot of wrong things. I'm going to the desert to be cleansed. The worst things I've done are to you. Forgive me."

When pressed by a crowd of poor and sick asking Jesus to heal and cure them, Jesus says, "Get away. You sicken me. You're selfish and full of hate. God won't help you."

Talking to Judas, Jesus begs Judas to betray him. When Judas refuses, Jesus says: "You must. Don't abandon me now." Judas then asks, "If you had to betray your master, would you do it?" Jesus answers: "No. I do not think I would be able to. That is why God gave me the easier task: to be crucified."

The story has Jesus marrying Mary Magdalene and allowing His guardian angel to watch while Jesus and Magdalene engage in sex. According to the script, the guardian angel says to Jesus: "It's me. I wondered if I could watch [the couple engage in sex]? I'm lonely too." Jesus laughs and responds: "Yes, yes. Watch."

In another conversation, Jesus says to Mary Magdalene, "Now I know; a woman is God's greatest work. And I worship you. God sleeps between your legs."

After Magdalene dies, Jesus moves in with Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, and has children by them. Only a brief description at the very end identifies his sexual relationships with Mary Magdalene, Mary and Martha as a dream.

About the Movie

"The Last Temptation of Christ," based on a book by Nikos Kazantzakis, was first begun by Paramount Pictures in 1983. However, after learning that the movie was being made, AFA urged supporters to begin writing and calling Paramount Pictures. Paramount, after investing $2,000,000 in the movie, dropped the project because of the calls and letters.

Universal picked up the picture in 1987. When AFA urged Christians to call and write Universal, the studio hired Tim Penland, a Christian consultant, to alleviate fears in the Christian community regarding the film. Mr. Penland approached Donald E. Wildmon, executive director of the AFA, in early 1988 saying that Universal had promised him that the movie would honor our Lord. Universal promised Wildmon that if AFA would not protest the film, they would allow him and a few other Christian leaders to screen the film in June and offer recommendations and suggestions. However, when the screening time came, Universal told Penland the film was not ready yet. Wildmon said that he would not protest the film if Universal would delay the release of the film in proportion to the time that the screening was delayed. Universal flatly refused to do this. (AFA later learned that the film was, indeed, at a point to be screened at that time.)

When Universal reneged on the agreement, Wildmon withdrew from the agreement. Penland cancelled his contract with Universal and has joined Wildmon and others in opposing this film.

The movie shows Jesus to be a weak, vacillating traitor to the Jews; an adulterer; a sinner; but depicts Judas as a man of integrity. One Christian leader wrote Wildmon: "I cannot guess any reason for an author to write, or a company to produce this film except to blaspheme, and re-create Jesus and re-write the Gospel into a confused, bawdy, bitter tangle that will deface and disguise the historical, Biblical Jesus."

Another Christian leader wrote to Universal: "I am appalled that anyone would stoop so low as to write such a script and then for any film company to produce a movie completely degrading something so holy as the life of Jesus Christ."

AFA learned of a statement made by Sidney Sheinberg, President of MCA, the company which owns Universal, that Christians will not stop Universal from releasing the film. MCA is controlled by non-Christians. They see the film as a controversial one which will make them millions of dollars. Universal officials are willing to desecrate the life of Christ in order to make money.

What Can You Do?

(1) You are urged to call Mr. Sheinberg and protest the film. You are urged to call person-to-person. His number is 818- 777-1000. Refuse to speak with anyone other than Mr. Sheinberg. That way, if you fail to speak with him, the call doesn't cost you a penny. If you fail to get to speak directly with Mr. Sheinberg, leave a message asking him to return your call. If he fails to return your call, continue calling person-to-person until he or someone at Universal returns your call.

(2) You can protest the film by writing Mr. Lew Wasserman, Chairman, MCA, Inc., 100 Universal Plaza, Universal City, CA 91608.

(3) You can also reproduce and distribute the PETITION TO LOCAL THEATERS CONCERNING THE LAST TEMPTATION OF CHRIST. You can call your local theaters and ask them, out of respect to the Christians in your community, not to show the film in their theater.

(4) You can reproduce the SCRIPT SHEET in your church, Sunday School class, club, and other groups, and among your friends, neighbors, and family.

(5) You can boycott MCA, and encourage others to do the same. MCA owns Universal Pictures, Universal Studios in Hollywood (thousands of Christians take the tour of Universal Studios each year), MCA Music, Motown Records, MCA Development Company, MCA Publishing Company, MCA Television, Putnam Publishing Group, Berkley Publishing Corporation, Jove Publications, Coward-McCann Publishers, Grosset & Dunlap Publishers, G.P. Putnam's Sons publishers, Spencer Gifts, Universal Television, Universal Amphitheater, Womp's Restaurant Bar and Grill in Hollywood, and Yosemite Park and Curry Company at Yosemite Park.

If you desire to keep informed concerning the film, you can write to the American Family Association, P.O. Drawer 2520, Tupelo, MS 38803. AFA will keep concerned Christians informed through their monthly magazine, the AFA JOURNAL. Those giving $15 or more to help AFA oppose this movie will receive a one year subscription of the AFA JOURNAL.