

“Moms Say the Darndest things: the James, John, and their mother Mary Salome Play”

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- Mary Salome
- Zebedee
- James
- John
- Jesus
- Other Disciples
- Narrator (Liturgist)

Narrator: Twelve apostles, alike in dignity,
 Follow Jesus all over Israël.
 Sometimes it's good – sometimes catastrophe
 But doing what's right is not just as well!

There comes a day when power looks shiny,
 When some would prove they deserve the best things.
 Watching this tale – see, they just look whiny
 And unprepared for the challenge Christ brings.

Who gets the best seat and who is on top?
 Who can boast proudly of foll'wing Christ's call?
 Didn't he tell us we needed to swap –
 To be servant and slave, ones meek and small?

(Zebedee enters from the stairwell and sits in the center)

Narrator: Here Salome and husband Zebedee
 Prepare to make plans our Jesus to see.

(Salome enters from the left and crosses over to Zebedee)

Salome: Honey, I'm home!

Zebedee: Salome? Is that you?

Salome: In the tunic....and robe and belt and I got these new sandals! *(shows off sandals)*

Zebedee: I haven't seen you in weeks. Where have you been?

Salome: With Jesus!

Zebedee: Geez, really?

Salome: *(as if correcting him)* Je-**sus**.

Zebedee: Not that again. First the boys leave me and then you – I'm getting lonely here, love!

Salome: Weeeeeell....I'm thinking about going back.

Zebedee: But you just got here!

Salome: You could come with me. It'll be great! You can see the boys and listen to Jesus teach – he's just incredible!

Zebedee: (*lean into the "or"*) Or....we could stay home and eat waffles!

Salome: Mm, no thank you. I'm pretty sure salvation is better than syrup.

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Zebedee: Fried fish with figs?

Salome: (*decisively*) Nope.

Zebedee: We could get mozzarella sticks...

Salome: You know, we eat pretty well going town to town with Jesus. Seriously, you should come with us!

Zebedee: Honey, I'd love to, but I have to stay here and fish. You remember fishing – how I make my living, the reason we have this house!

Salome: I think they're near Jerusalem now. Think of all the nets and hooks and lures you could buy there if you came along!

Zebedee: Uh-uh, I'm not falling for your bait and switch this time. We've got bigger fish to fry. You need to stay home with me.

Salome: But, but, but... (*to herself*) hmm, I've gotta figure out how to speak in a language you can understand... (*pause, thinks for a moment*) Holy mackerel, Zeb – I'm like a fish out of water here. You might think there's plenty more fish in the sea, but when I'm home I just want to clam up.

Zebedee: It's just...it's not only that. I think maybe you should give the boys some space.

Salome: James and John? Nonsense! They love it when I come for a visit!

Zebedee: Oh yeah? I think you're forgetting last New Year's...

Salome: (*a little defensively*) Nothing happened last New Year's.

Zebedee: Come on, Salome. You remember. James and John were having a lakeside party with their friends and you INSISTED that we drop in even though we weren't invited. (*Pauses to get Salome to 'fess up. She starts to look sheepish and look away*). Everyone was laughing and having a great time until you realized that you couldn't see James anymore.

When I saw him in the lake and I let you know, you screamed, “BABY BADGER, I’LL SAVE YOU!!!!” And you ran into the lake.

Salome: (*embarrassed*) Yeah.

Zebedee: Dear, our son is thirty – and you can’t swim.

Salome: Well, well, lakes can be dangerous. And he’s my baby badger now and forever.

Zebedee: I know, hon, but he’s all grown up now. Open up that fishing net and let him swim away.

Salome: You’re right, dear. Why don’t you go on to bed and I’ll be in in a minute.

Zebedee: Good night, love

(Zebedee kisses Salome good night and exits)

Salome: Now’s my chance! I’m off to find my boys!

(Salome exits and James, John, Jesus, and the Other Disciples enter)

Other Disciples: Look, Jesus, we have left everything to follow you. What will our reward be?

Jesus: Truly I tell you that when all things are made new, the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne. Then you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

James: You hear that, John? We’re getting thrones!

John: I wonder how cushy thrones in heaven are...you think goose down, cotton?

Other Disciples (*to James and John*): Shhh!

Jesus: And anyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my name’s sake will receive one hundred times more and will inherit eternal life.

John (*singing to himself*): Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Other Disciples (*to John*): Shhh!

Jesus: But many who are first will be last and the last will be first.

James (*to John*): Wow! What do you think that means?

Other Disciples (*to James, angry*): SHHHH!!

James (*to Other Disciples*): Calm down, already! He's not preaching any more.

Other Disciples: Well, you don't know that!

James (*to Jesus*): Hey, Jesus – were you done just then?

Jesus: Yes, my child. I'm going to take a moment to pray.

(Jesus goes off by himself)

James (*to Other Disciples, sticking out his tongue*): See! (*mocking Other Disciples*) Shh! Shh! Shh! I'm the boss of who speaks when! Shh!

Other Disciples: Grow up, James!

John: (*to Other Disciples*) Hold on there, limping sparrow, no one talks to my brother like that but me! (*to James*) Seriously, though, grow up, James.

(Other Disciple goes off to the side and Salome comes and crosses to him)

Salome: Oh my goodness, would you look at your hair! You know it would look so much better if you parted it on the other side. And that outfit! How many times have I told you – *green* is your color. Get out of this awful thing at once.

Other Disciples: (*feigning enthusiasm*) Oh, Salome, you're back. Hooray.

Salome: I mean it – take it off at once! I knit you a sweater. Put it on, put it on.

Other Disciples: (*trying to fend off the sweater*) Really, no, please, you shouldn't have.

Salome: Don't be silly. (*Salome forces the sweater on him*) Yes, I was right – this really brings out your eyes

James: (*to John*) Don't look now, John, but I think Mom's back again.

Salome: (*to Jesus*) Jesus, dear, you look skinny. Eat a cookie, please!

John: (*moves to Salome to drag her off to the side*) Mom! Ahem, hi! What are you doing back so soon?

Salome: Well, I was *trying* to get your father to come along, but you know what a stubborn, old goat he can be. (*Looks at James*) Hi, baby badger!

James: Mom, please don't call me that. The other guys are gonna laugh at me.

Other Disciples: (*overhearing*) Baby badger?! Ha ha!

Salome: Nonsense! You're cute and tough and fluffy and I couldn't love you more or be any prouder of you than I am right now. Baby badger!

John: *(to James, sighing)* Mom always liked you best.

James: I don't know what you're talking about.

Salome: *(fussing on James)* My precious angel!

John: Mom always liked you best.

James: You know why that is?

John: Why?

James: Well, I'm an only child.

John: Oof...we are not the Smothers Brothers.

James: No?

John: No, but mom still always liked you best.

Salome: Enough, I love both my babies! *(to John)* And you're my happy hippo!

John: Oh, I forgot about that one.

Salome: Little badger and hippo together at last having little adventures and making friends!

James and John: *(embarrass-annoyed)* Moooooom.

Salome: *(grabs her sons and pulls them over to Jesus; Salome kneels)* Lord Jesus, I pray you would grant me one favor.

Jesus: *(lifts her head and meets her eye)* What do you want, Salome?

Salome: Promise me that my two sons will sit – one at your right hand and one at your left hand when you come into your kingdom.

James: *(to Salome)* Oh my goodness!

John: *(to Salome)* Mom, you have got to stop!

Jesus *(looking at James and John)*: You don't know what you're asking.

James: Oh, Jesus, this was not us.

John: Yeah, this was all Mom.

Jesus: *(to James and John)* Can you drink the cup that I am about to drink?

(James and John both stare at Jesus wide eyed and ad lib stammering)

Salome: *(to James and John, making big gestures and stage whispering)* Yes! Yes! This is it – you're big chance. Say, 'yes!'

James: *(hesitantly)* Yes?

John: *(also hesitantly)* Umm...yes.

Salome: *(quietly celebrates)* That's what I'm talkin' about!

Jesus: You will indeed drink from my cup, but sitting on my right hand and on my left? That's not mine to give you. That belongs to those my Father prepared it for. *(Makes a sign of blessing)* Go in peace, children.

(James, John, and Salome go off to the side and Other Disciples storms over, putting on cloak with nine baby dolls attached to signify the other disciples)

Other Disciples: *(angrily)* I am all ten other apostles and I don't like this at all!

James: Stay behind me, John, they look angry!

Salome: *(to Other Disciples)* Don't make him a sad hippo!

Other Disciples: Well, Peter over here thinks you're trying to muscle him out of his leadership role. And Thomas thought he was angry, too, but now he's having doubts. Andrew's getting a little hungry. Judas thinks he's the only one who gets to make a side deal...whatever that means. Judas, are you planning something? *(pause)* No? Suddenly he's all quiet. Anyhow, Philip wants to know why you think you're so special, hmm? And so does everybody else!

John: Fellas, fellas! Calm down!

James: Yeah, things would be great if we were in charge!

Salome: I think everyone's just a little hangry. And when was the last time you guys napped? Sit down everybody...eat some cookies.

(Everyone sits down)

Jesus: Friends, you know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them and their great ones are tyrants over them.

Other Disciples: Boo, tyrants!

John: Yay, Jesus!

Jesus: Don't let it be like that with you. Instead, whoever wants to be great among you will be your servant and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave. The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Salome: Oh, wow!

James: (*pause*) Sorry for being so embarrassed by you, Mom.

John: Yeah, sorry Mom.

Salome: That's okay, boys. Sorry for trying to force you into the front of the line. Sorry, Jesus. Sorry, Other Disciples.

Other Disciples: Just don't do it again!

Jesus: (*leading*) Other Disciples....

Other Disciples: I mean, we forgive you.

Jesus: And so all is truly forgiven. Is everyone friends again?

James: Yes, Lord.

John: Yes, Lord.

Other Disciples: Uh-huh, you betcha!

Salome: I think it's time for me to go home.

James and John (*ad lib, somewhat insincerely*): What? No! Stay, please. You just got here.

Salome: Uh-huh, I think I'm gonna head home for a bit and work on your father some more. After all, fish aren't the only fish in the sea!

Other Disciples: Umm...what?

Salome: A fish in the hand is worth two in the bush?

James: Nope.

Salome: I'll work on it on the journey home. You know that if you're not talking about fishing, your father just tunes it right out!

John: I want to be great, so I'll help out whenever I can.

Other Disciples: I want to be important, so I'll devote my life to make life better for all of us.

James: John took my answer, but I'll work on being humble as best as I can.

(Full cast comes together for bow)

Jesus: You are all precious in my sight. Live in that love and see everyone as a child of God.

Everybody: *(bows)* Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! Amen.