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Ronald F. Malan

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THE PLAN

Ronald F. Malan*

He told us: Go preach the kingdom at hand.
 Take nought: no shoes, nor purse, nor script, nor stave.
 Leave Samaritans and Gentiles, stay in Israel's land.
 Heal and cleanse. You have freely received; freely save.
 But I, Judas, a beggar? Cringe like the poor?
 Snivel for alms, like those without the gates?
 Before my next mission, I'll lay in a store—
 Borrow from the bag, receive usurer's rates.
 But the bag never holds much; I need larger sums.
 I need a great miracle, like He'd perform.
 (I'd have sold Mary's oil, but they shouted me dumb)—
 A great miracle? By Him? A rich plan is born:
 I'll go to the Priests, they'll give me their store;
 Then He'll pass through their midst, as He's done before!

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