

**ACT ONE, SCENE 6: Mission Exterior**

*Mission exterior. It is around lunch time. The MISSION BAND enters, headed by CALVIN, who is carrying his cornet by his side. It is very obvious that he is tired and discouraged. MARTHA follows carrying the sign that we saw in the previous scene. She is not carrying it erect but at her side. AGATHA is carrying her trombone listlessly. ARVIDE is carrying his drum by his side, also very discouraged and tired. SARAH follows on immediately behind ARVIDE, and as she enters she is glancing off stage to see if SKY MASTERSON is following her.*

**SARAH**

Well, we finally lost him.

**ARVIDE**

I do think you should have paid some attention to him.

**AGATHA**

Yes, he attended every street meeting we had this morning. He must be interested in our work.

**SARAH**

Very.

**AGATHA**

By the way, you spoke beautifully this morning, Sarah.

**SARAH**

*(Disconsolately – crosses R. to AGATHA)*

No, I can't reach these people. I should never have volunteered for this post. Well, let's go to lunch.

*(AGATHA, CALVIN, and MARTHA exit into Mission)*

And I was going to convert Broadway all by myself. I was going to take these gamblers and have them just begging to come to the Mission.

*(She sees SKY'S marker in trash basket, picks it up. She and ARVIDE are the only ones of the Mission Band who remain outdoors. GENERAL CARTWRIGHT, the head of the Save-A-Soul Mission, enters from stage L. I just as SARAH angrily throws Marker back into wire trash basket. She sees the GENERAL)*

**SARAH**

General Cartwright!

**GENERAL**

Good morning, Sarah. Arvide!

**ARVIDE**

Good morning, General.

**SARAH**

We didn't know you were coming to town, General.

**GENERAL**

I got in early this morning. I've spent the last hour trying to find you.

*(AGATHA appears in the Mission doorway)*

**SARAH**

Oh, I'm sorry. We've been holding some extra street meetings, trying to stimulate more interest –

**AGATHA**

Good morning, General.

**GENERAL**

Good morning – Sarah, there's something I want to talk to you about.

**SARAH**

Won't you come inside – have some lunch with us?

**GENERAL**

No, I don't have time, dear. I have several other calls to make – Sarah, we at headquarters have come to a definite conclusion. We have decided to close this branch of the Mission.

**SARAH**

Oh, no!

**ARVIDE**

Close the Mission!

**SARAH**

But, General, please! Someone can do good here, even if I can't.

**GENERAL**

Sarah, there are so many calls on us, –  
*(SARAH crosses to L., past GENERAL)*  
 – so many other places where our work is really needed.

**ARVIDE**

But we are doing much better now!

**AGATHA**

We've announced a big meeting for tomorrow night.

**GENERAL**

You've announced a meeting! But will anyone be here? Will anybody come?  
*(A second's pause, then SKY enters from R.1 with quiet dignity)*

**SKY**

Pardon me – I couldn't help overhearing – General, my name is Sky Masterson, former sinner.

**GENERAL**

How do you do?

**SKY**

How do you do? – I wish to protest the closing of this Mission. I believe Miss Sarah can be a big success here.

**GENERAL**

I am glad to hear you say that, but I'm not so certain.

**SKY**

A dollar will get you ten.

**GENERAL**

What?

*(Looks at SARAH)*

**SKY**

General, might I make a suggestion?

*(Goes to trash basket and picks up marker which he conceals in his hat).*

**GENERAL**

Yes.

**SKY**

Why don't you come to the meeting tomorrow night and find out for yourself –

*(Crosses to SARAH and drops marker in her tambourine – then crosses to R.)*

Don't you think that would be a good idea?

**GENERAL**

Well, if I thought the Mission had a chance –

**SARAH**

*(Looking at Marker in tambourine)*

General, I personally guarantee you one dozen genuine sinners.

**GENERAL**

Hallelujah!

**SKY**

Hallelujah!

*BLACKOUT*

<b>#12 – Change of Scene</b>
------------------------------

*(#2 Street traveler closes. Stage lights dim up to full)*