

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO CRIS CARTER

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a play in one act

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Referee – Walt Coleman

The Minnesota Vikings

K Gary Anderson

K Mitch Berger

LB John Randle

WR Randy Moss

The Atlanta Falcons

Atlanta Falcons Cheerleader 1

Atlanta Falcons Cheerleader 2

Atlanta Falcons Cheerleader 3

QB Chris Chandler

K Morten Anderson

Executive Vice President of Football Operations/Head Coach Dan Reeves

Assistant Head Coach/ Defensive Coordinator Rich Brooks

Pam Reeves

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Scene 1

(Gary Anderson, Mitch Berger, John Randle, and Randy Moss enter stage right and they form a circle.)

K Gary Anderson

You know that after two quarters, I will be delivered up to be failurefied.

(The Vikings put their hands in a circle for 10-second, pretending to pray and then exit stage left.)

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Scene 2

(Assistant Head Coach/ Defensive Coordinator Rich Brooks and Mitch Berger enter stage right.)

Assistant Head Coach/ Defensive Coordinator Rich Brooks  
Not during the first 3 quarters lest there be an uproar among the fans.

K Mitch Berger

What are you willing to give me if I make Him miss?

(Money is exchanged from Assistant Head Coach/Defensive Coordinator Rich Brooks and Mitch Berger. They shake hands and exit stage left.)

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Scene 3

(John Randle, Mitch Berger, Randy Moss, and Gary Anderson enter stage left.)

LB John Randle

Where do you want us to prepare for You to eat before the game?

K Gary Anderson

Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, “The Kicker says, “My time is at hand; I will prepare for the game at your house with My teammates.””

(John Randle, Mitch Berger, Randy Moss, and Gary Anderson exit the stage right.)

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Scene 4

(John Randle, Mitch Berger, Randy Moss, and Gary Anderson enter stage right with sandwiches, a jug of Gatorade, and a folding table. They all sit down around the table with Gary Anderson at the center and begin to eat and drink.)

K Gary Anderson

Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.

(All the other Vikings bicker and cry over which one of them it is.)

ALL OF THE VIKINGS IN UNISON

Gary is it I?

K Gary Anderson

He who dipped his hand with Me in the Gatorade jug will betray Me. The son of John Madden indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the son of John Madden is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.”

K Mitch Berger

Place Kicker is it I?

K Gary Anderson

You have said it.

(Gary Anderson holds up his sandwich and says.)

K Gary Anderson

Take eat; this is My body.

(Gary Anderson holds up his glass of Gatorade and says.)

K Gary Anderson

Drink from it all of you. For this is My blood of the National Football League, which is shed for many for the remission of failure. But I say to you, I will not drink Lemon-Lime Gatorade until I meet with you in the Hall of Fame.

(The Vikings theme song plays as everyone walks from left to right three times and then exit stage right.)

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Scene 5

(Gary Anderson, Randy Moss, Mitch Berger, and John Randle enter stage right.)

K Gary Anderson

All of you will be made to stumble because of Me in this game, for it is written: 'I will strike the Kicker, And the players of his team will be scattered.' But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Minneapolis.

WR Randy Moss

Even if all are made to fail because of You, I will never be made to fail.

K Gary Anderson

Assuredly, I say to you that tonight before the game clock ends you will fail three times.

WR Randy Moss

Even if I have to fail with You, I will not fail You!

(Gary Anderson says to Randy Moss, Mitch Berger, and John Randle.)

K Gary Anderson

Sit here while I go stretch over there.

(Gary Anderson takes the hand of Randy Moss as they walk stage left and sit down.)

K Gary Anderson

My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and stretch with me.

(Gary Anderson closes his eyes and begins to stretch as Randy Moss pretends to fall asleep.)

K Gary Anderson

O John Madden if it is possible, let this failure pass from Me; nevertheless not as I will but you will."

(Gary Anderson looking at Randy Moss and seeing he is asleep says.)

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K Gary Anderson

What! Could you not stretch with me one hour? Stretch, lest you pull a hamstring. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

(Gary Anderson closes his eyes again and begins to stretch as Randy Moss pretends to fall asleep.)

K Gary Anderson

O John Madden if this bottle of failure cannot pass away from me unless I drink it, Your will be done. O John Madden if this failure cannot pass away from me unless I drink it, Your will be done.

(Gary Anderson looks at Randy Moss and sees that he is a sleep again.)

K Gary Anderson

Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the third quarter is at hand, and the Kicker is being betrayed into the hands of failures. Rise let us be going. See, The Falcons are at hand.

(Assistant Head Coach/ Defensive Coordinator Rich Brooks and Executive Vice President of Football Operations/Head Coach Dan Reeves storm in stage left and Mitch Berger gets up and says.)

K Mitch Berger

Whomever I kiss, He is the Kicker; tackle Him.

(Mitch Berger goes up to Gary and kisses him.)

K Mitch Berger

Greetings Gary

K Gary Anderson

Mitch why have you come?

(Assistant Head Coach/ Defensive Coordinator Rich Brooks and Executive Vice President of Football Operations/Head Coach Dan Reeves grabs Gary Anderson by the arms. John Randle tries to tackle them.)



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K Gary Anderson

Do not tackle him, for all who tackle off the field will perish by the tackle. Or do you not think that I cannot stretch for John Madden, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of cheerleaders? How then would the playbook of Vincent Lombardi be fulfilled, that it happen thus? Have you come out, as against a running back, with pads and helmets to take Me? I practiced daily with you stretching and working out and you did not tackle me. But all of this was done that the scriptures of John Madden might be fulfilled.

(Everyone exits stage right.)

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### Scene 6

(Gary Anderson, Assistant Head Coach/ Defensive Coordinator Rich Brooks, and Executive Vice President of Football Operations/Head Coach Dan Reeves enter stage right Assistant Head Coach/ Defensive Coordinator Rich Brooks talking to Executive Vice President of Football Operations/Head Coach Dan Reeves says.)

Assistant Head Coach/ Defensive Coordinator Rich Brooks  
This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the National Football League and to build it in three days.'

Executive Vice President of Football Operations/Head Coach Dan Reeves  
Do you answer nothing? What is it these men testify against you? I put You under oath by the living John Madden: Tell us if you are Kicker, Son of John Madden!

K Gary Anderson  
It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Kicker sitting at the right Hand of John Madden, and coming on the clouds of heaven.

(Assistant Head Coach/ Defensive Coordinator Rich Brooks tears his shirt saying.)

Assistant Head Coach/ Defensive Coordinator Rich Brooks  
He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy!

Executive Vice President of Football Operations/Head Coach Dan Reeves  
What do you think? He is deserving of death.

(Assistant Head Coach/ Defensive Coordinator Rich Brooks and Executive Vice President of Football Operations/Head Coach Dan Reeves spit in Gary Andersons face and push him.)

Assistant Head Coach/ Defensive Coordinator Rich Brooks  
Prophecy to us, Gary! Is the one who tackled you?

(Gary Anderson, Assistant Head Coach/ Defensive Coordinator Rich Brooks, and Executive Vice President of Football Operations/Head Coach Dan Reeves exit stage left.)

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Scene 7

(Randy Moss and the three Atlanta Falcons cheerleaders' enter stage right.  
Atlanta Falcons Cheerleader 1 approaches Gary and says.)

Atlanta Falcons Cheerleader 1  
You also where with Gary of the Minnesota Vikings?

WR Randy Moss  
I do not know what you are saying.

(Atlanta Falcons Cheerleader 2 approaches Gary and says.)

Atlanta Falcons Cheerleader 2  
This fellow also was with Gary of the Minnesota Vikings

WR Randy Moss  
I do not know the man!

(Atlanta Falcons Cheerleader 3 approaches Gary and says.)

Atlanta Falcons Cheerleader 3  
Surely you are also a Viking, for your accent betrays you.

WR Randy Moss  
Fucking-A bitch I don't know Gary!

(There is a Viking horn calls out the three cheerleaders exits the stage and  
Gary Anderson from off stage says.)

K Gary Anderson  
Before the Viking horn is played; you will fail Me three times.

(Randy Moss begins to cry and slowly exits stage left.)

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Scene 8

(Mitch Berger enters stage right.)

K Mitch Berger

I have sinned in by betraying innocent blood, sweat, and tears.

(Mitch Berger pretends to slit his wrists and collapses onto the ground, the lights dim and Mitch Berger exits stage right after lying still for 30-seconds.)

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Scene 9

(The lights come back on; Gary Anderson, Assistant Head Coach/  
Defensive Coordinator Rich Brooks, and Executive Vice President of  
Football Operations/Head Coach Dan Reeves enter stage left.)

Assistant Head Coach/ Defensive Coordinator Rich Brooks  
Are you the king of the National Football League?

K Gary Anderson

It is as you say.

Executive Vice President of Football Operations/Head Coach Dan Reeves  
Do You not hear how many things they fail against You?

(Gary Anderson remains silent for one minute and Assistant Head Coach/ Defensive  
Coordinator Rich Brooks and Executive Vice President of Football Operations/Head  
Coach Dan Reeves grab his arms and exit stage left.)

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### Scene 10

(Assistant Head Coach/ Defensive Coordinator Rich Brooks and Executive Vice President of Football Operations/Head Coach Dan Reeves enter stage left, Pam Reeves enters stage right. At center stage Executive Vice President of Football Operations/Head Coach Dan Reeves faces the audience looking each member in the eye and says.)

Executive Vice President of Football Operations/Head Coach Dan Reeves  
Whom do you want me to release to you? Eddie DeBartolo Jr., or Gary who is called Kicker?

Pam Reeves

Have nothing to do with that just Kicker, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of him.

Executive Vice President of Football Operations/Head Coach Dan Reeves  
What then shall I do with Gary who is called Kicker?

AUDIENCE ALL IN UNISON

Let him be failurefied!

Assistant Head Coach/ Defensive Coordinator Rich Brooks  
Why what failure has he done?

AUDIENCE ALL IN UNISON

Let him be failurefied!

(Execute Vice President of Football Operations/Head Coach Dan Reeves pulls out a cloth and begins to wipe his hands clean.)

Executive Vice President of Football Operations/Head Coach Dan Reeves  
I am innocent of the blood of this just Kicker, You see to it.

AUDIENCE ALL IN UNISON

His failure be on us and our children.

(Pam Reeves, Assistant Head Coach/ Defensive Coordinator Rich Brooks and Executive Vice President of Football Operations/Head Coach Dan Reeves exit stage right.)

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### Scene 11

(The fake field goal post is projected onto the stage Referee Walt Coleman, K Morten Anderson, & QB Chris Chandler walk Gary onto the field stage right. K Morten Anderson & QB Chris Chandler place Gary Anderson against the projected field goal post and stretch out his arms pretending to pound nails into his wrists. They step back from Gary Anderson and in unison say.)

Referee Walt Coleman, K Morten Anderson, & QB Chris Chandler  
Hail King of the Kickers!

Referee Walt Coleman

You who destroy the stadium and build it in three days, save Yourself! If you are the son of John Madden make this field goal.

K Morten Anderson

He failed other; Himself He cannot fail. If he is King of Minnesota, let Him make this field goal and we will believe him. He trusted in John Madden; let him deliver Him now if He will fail him; for he said I am the Son of John Madden.

K Gary Anderson

John, John, why have You failed Me?

QB Chris Chandler

This man is calling for John.

(Referee Walt Coleman uses a sponge soaked in Gatorade to give Gary Anderson a drink and says.)

Referee Walt Coleman

Let him alone; let us see if John will come to save Him.

(The footage and audio commentary from the 1998 NFC Championship Gary Anderson missed field goal is projected on top of Gary Anderson. Once the footage is complete the crowd and cast all in unison say.)

CROWD AND CAST ALL IN UNISON

Truly this was the Son of Failure

(The lights dim and Referee Walt Coleman, Morten Anderson, and Chris Chandler exit stage right.)