



Lorna's Take...

## On Sacrificial Work

By Lorna Dueck, host of "Listen Up"

It was after his body started taking a beating that Jim Caviezel realized that just showing up for the job wasn't going to get him through. Jim is a 33-year-old actor whose photograph had rivetted Mel Gibson for its penetrating eyes and compassionate expression. After a short conversation with the famous director, Caviezel, a practising Catholic, said yes to one of the most demanding roles in film – playing Jesus in *The Passion of The Christ*.



**A very moving scene from  
*The Passion of The Christ***

Earlier I wrote how *Listen Up* had worked for almost a year in an attempt to get a Mel Gibson interview. Well, shortly after filing that column, you can imagine our delight when *The Passion of The Christ* publicity team called and offered, "How about coming to interview Jim Caviezel and Maia Morgenstern (mother Mary) instead?" *Listen Up* was the only Canadian TV in the press junket, and in a carefully controlled Beverly Hills hotel room-turned-studio, we learned that both actors felt their roles offered the world a deeply important teaching tool. For Caviezel, his part involved more personal sacrifice than he had bargained for.

"I started with a cerebral place on this (learning Aramaic)," Caviezel told us. "But because of the suffering involved – was struck by lightning, separated my shoulder, and had hypothermia – I had to go to a much deeper place in my heart." That exclusive interview airs April 8th on Global TV, and Easter Sunday on CTS at 4:00 and 11:30 p.m. (EST).

Gibson has said he wanted to shock people with the horror of the sacrifice Christ endured, and for Caviezel that meant working in frigid conditions, experiencing a lung infection, having his back hit by a whip, and having his flesh torn when the Roman guards missed the board that had been embedded on his back through grueling, full-body makeup sessions that lasted for hours.

"I had no idea how much I would have to pray during this film to keep things in perspective," Caviezel said. Living out sacrifice was the essential gift Christ gave to us, and when we are called to join Him in that, we would do well to remember the actor's advice. ✚