

1

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

1

A clump of dirt hits the face of a pine box casket. Another. Another. (A song akin to "10 Black Crows" by SOUTH FOR WINTER plays.)

CUT TO:

PREACHER stands staring at two pine box caskets. A small group of friends and family stand respectfully watching the scene as well. SHERIFF stands off to the side eyeing the scene. DEACON speaks as the men on either side of the graves continue to shovel dirt on the caskets.

Tears well up in the Preacher's eyes. Sadness slowly fades into anger as the Deacon speaks.

DEACON

There is a time for everything. A  
time to be born and a time to die.  
A time to kill and a time to heal.  
A time to tear down and a time to  
build.

A resolve sets in the Preacher's eyes as the Deacon finishes his final words.

2

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY - LATER

2

The funeral has broken up and people are starting to scatter towards the town. The Preacher walks away from the graves. The Sheriff eyes the Preacher as he works his way passed a few people.

SHERIFF

Preacher? A word please?

(beat)

Ada Belle tells me you are leaving  
town?

Preacher stops walking and the Sheriff approaches.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

My sincerest condolences.

Preacher looks away from the Sheriff.

PREACHER

Save your sympathy Sheriff. Your  
condolences ain't worth a thing to  
me.

The Sheriff shifts uncomfortably.

SHERIFF

My hands are tied Preacher.

PREACHER

My wife and daughter are in the ground!

The Sheriff bites back confidently.

SHERIFF

And what do you want me to do! No one knows a thing! They rode in from out of town, hit the bank, and rode out before anyone even knew what happened!

The Sheriff's demeanor shifts back to sympathy as the Preacher's head drops.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Look, Preacher, what happened to your family was awful. And you know I'll do everything I can to exact justice. But you can't leave. This town needs you.

Preacher lifts his head to look at the Sheriff. He takes his clerical collar off and hands it to the Sheriff. The Sheriff looks disappointed.

PREACHER

Seems to me that this belongs to a man with his hands tied.

Preacher starts to walk away.

SHERIFF

What are you gonna do Preacher?

Preacher stops. Without even looking back at the Sheriff, the Preacher speaks.

PREACHER

I'm gonna find em. And I'm gonna kill em.

SMASH CUT TO:

**TITLE CARD: ABANDONED**

3 INT. PREACHER'S HOME - DAY - LATER

3

Preacher enters his home. He stands at the doorway taking in the space. He sees everything that represents his family.

His wife's shawl is draped across a chair. A couple of basic children's toys are scattered about. The house is quiet and void of life.

He sees his bible sitting by itself on a table. He walks over to it and picks it up. He looks at it for a moment rubbing his fingers across the face of the bible. He looks to a chest.

Preacher walks over to the chest, bible in hand. He opens the chest and reveals its contents. On top of a pile of the Preacher's things is a 6 shooter pistol.

The Preacher stares at it intently. He picks it up and stares at it for a moment. He tosses his bible where the gun lay. He closes the chest.

CUT TO:

4 EXT. PREACHER'S HOME - DAY - LATER

4

Preacher exits his home with a bundle of his things. He is completely changed. He looks like a cowboy ready to weather a ride. He walks to his horse and starts to fasten the bundle to it. Something catches his eye and he looks in the distance.

A man on a horse (JOHN) is galloping down a dirt road towards the Preacher's home. The Preacher finishes fastening his bundle to the horse as the man approaches.

The man arrives feet from the Preacher, hops off his horse and greets him.

JOHN

Preacher.

Preacher turns around and walks back towards the porch.

PREACHER

Don't call me that John.

John stares at the Preacher as he walks to the porch.

Preacher grabs another bundle and his gun belt and gun from the porch and starts to walk back to the horse. He locks eyes with John. John gives him a concerning eye.