



The Heart of a Christian Playwright

Cleveland O. McLeish

IT IS FINISHED!

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SYNOPSIS

It is finished is an Easter Play about the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. It also includes the Feet Washing Ceremony and the seven last sayings of Christ with Jesus going to hell and taking the keys from the enemy showing that he conquered sin and the grave.

THE CHARACTERS

Messenger (Can be male or female)

Judas

Jesus

Peter

John

Thomas

Soldier

Other Soldier

Satan

Minion (Can be male or female)

Thief 1

Thief 2

High Priest

Mary

SETTING

No elaborate setting necessary but proper lighting would be an asset. A chair or two here and there, some palm trees, three crosses that should be able to stand upright on stage and a few rocks.

THE SCRIPT

SCENE 1

LIGHTS UP

Enter Messenger (He will be onstage for most of the play but is invisible to the other characters).

MESSENGER: The truth is easy to forget. I myself have forgotten on many occasions and lose sight of what has true value. Easter for me was all about taking a vacation from work, Easter bunnies and eggs, Superstitious practices and maybe a visit to a local church....until one night I had a dream. They say dreams are not real...but this particular dream changed my life. Take a journey with me....a journey that begins on the last night Jesus spent on this earth as a man.

Judas enters and sits on a chair CS.

JUDAS: *(Speaks to audience)* Have you ever made a choice you thought was right but felt totally wrong the moment you follow through on it. *(Pause)* That is how I am feeling now. *(opens his hand to audience)* Thirty pieces of silver. Since I met Jesus this is the most money I have ever earned for myself...honestly that is. Do you know how much I can do with 30 pieces of silver?

Jesus enters with a few of his other disciples including Peter.

JESUS: You are still here?

JUDAS: Where else would I be master?

JESUS: Don't you have somewhere you need to go? Something you need to do.

Pause. Judas knows Jesus sees right through him.

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JESUS: Your feet are dirty.

Jesus removes his out clothes and gets a basin of water and towel and begins to wash Judas' feet.

JUDAS: Rabbi, what are you doing?

JESUS: I am washing your feet.

JUDAS: Why?

JESUS: Why not?

JUDAS: It is something a servant should you.

JESUS: You ask me who is greater in God's kingdom and I have given you an answer. The least will be the greatest. To lead you must first learn to serve.

JUDAS: Well, as you may have guessed...I don't understand half the things you talk about as I'm sure if other of your disciples were not so intimidated by you, they would say the same thing.

JESUS: If you don't understand something I said, you should just ask.

JUDAS: You would only answer with another parable.

JESUS: The meaning behind everything I tell you can only be discerned through the spirit.

JUDAS: What are you saying?

JESUS: In a few hours it will all become clear to you.

Jesus finishes washing Judas feet and drying it.

JESUS: Judas, you will remember tonight and that I washed your feet without a clenched fist but think carefully about what you are about to do.

Jesus starts washing Peter's feet.

PETER: Master, you shouldn't be washing our feet like this.

Peter pulls his feet away.

JESUS: You will not understand what I am doing now Peter...not until the time is right.

Jesus reaches for his feet and he pulls it away again.

PETER: Look at how the people are staring at us. This is disgraceful. You will not wash my feet.

JESUS: If I do not wash your feet, you have no part with me.

Pause.

PETER: Don't just wash my feet...wash my hands and head too.

JESUS: You take regular baths Peter. Only your feet need to be washed for you to be completely clean.

PETER: But my feet are dirty.

JESUS: And as this water washes away that dirt, so I will take away the sins of the people through my blood.

PETER: You should stop saying that. Nothing is going to happen to you.

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JESUS: Would you stand by me if something did happen?

PETER: I would never leave you master. Not even for a minute.

JESUS: Yet, tomorrow you will deny me three times.

PETER: I would never do that.

JESUS: Have I ever told you anything but the truth. Not to worry, I have already forgiven you for what you have not done yet.

PETER: This is a little embarrassing.

JESUS: Let's go to the other room.

Jesus and his disciples leave. Judas remains.

JUDAS: Thirty pieces of silver is a small price to pay just to give those hypocrites an opportunity to talk to him. Wouldn't you agree? What is in that to regret? It's nothing personal.

Judas leaves.

MESSENGER: Nothing personal he says. Strictly business. If only he knew the truth...It was not God's Son he sold for thirty pieces of silver...but his soul and his opportunity to be with God for all eternity and he will come face to face with the truth, as we all will at some point or another...but the truth can sometimes destroy us. Sadly, Judas never allowed himself to live long enough to regret his choice.

Messenger exits.

LIGHTS OUT

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SCENE 2

LIGHTS UP

Messenger enters.

MESSENGER: Last night was a normal night for everyone. Jesus was eating with his disciples and with minor exceptions, they fellowshiped as any other day....but no one could guess that life for everyone could be so severely disrupted in just a few short hours. It happened so quickly...one moment Jesus was praying and his disciples sleeping, and the next Peter pulled his sword and cut off an ear...Jesus was led away in shackles and the disciples were nowhere to be found.

A Roman soldier enters.

MESSENGER: Jesus was tried and found guilty of no crime, yet sentence to die like a common criminal. He was a spotless lamb caught in a thicket.

SOLDIER: This use to be a quiet town...until this Jesus came around.

*Jesus is lead onstage along with two thieves. They are put to lie on the cross as nails and
A hammer is given to the Roman soldier.*

SOLDIER: I have never seen three crucified in a day.

OTHER SOLDIER: Ai! It's a very exciting time. Especially this one in the middle.

SOLDIER: The king of the Jews.

OTHER SOLDIER: Ai. Caused quite a controversy in our little quiet town. Now they have silenced him.

JESUS: Forgive them father, for they know not what they do.

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SOLDIER: Did he just say we don't know what we are doing.

OTHER SOLDIER: Ai! A real nutcase this one. Claims He is the son of God...as if God can have sons.

(laughs)

MESSENGER: It makes sense that the first word of Jesus from the cross is a word of forgiveness. That's the point of the cross, after all. Jesus is dying so that we might be forgiven for our sins, so that we might be reconciled to God for eternity. But the forgiveness of God through Christ doesn't come only to those who don't know what they are doing when they sin. In the mercy of God, we receive his forgiveness even when we do what we know to be wrong. God chooses to wipe away our sins, not because we have some convenient excuse, and not because we have tried hard to make up for them, but because he is a God of amazing grace, with mercies that are new every morning.

SOLDIER: Never thought I would witness this in my lifetime.

OTHER SOLDIER: I have seen and heard it all. There have been others claiming to be this Messiah the ancient prophets spoke about.

SOLDIER: How do we know for sure this one is not real?

OTHER SOLDIER: He is about to be crucified with thieves' aint he? You think we could have God's son subjected to our authority like this?

SOLDIER: He save others but cannot save himself.

OTHER SOLDIER: Evening will be upon us in no time. Let's get this done and over with.

The nails are driven into their hands and feet. (This should be mimed or carefully choreographed to look real)

SOLDIER: He bleeds and squirms like a normal man.

OTHER SOLDIER: Case closed! He was just a man.

SOLDIER: I have heard stories about Him.

OTHER SOLDIER: Ai! Many a tales be spoken of this one.

SOLDIER: Heal the sick, raised the dead....

OTHER SOLDIER: Even called a dead man from the grave.

SOLDIER: It is the cycle of life. He helped so many...who helped him?

Other Soldier gathers Jesus garments.

OTHER SOLDIER: What do we do with this?

SOLDIER: Cast lots to see who gets what. This is some really expensive material. No use making it go to waste.

OTHER SOLDIER: Ai!

SOLDIERS: Let's get these crosses up.

LIGHTS OUT