

# The Fourth Cross

The Original Stageplay



Cleveland O. McLeish

## The Fourth Cross by Cleveland O. McLeish

Copyright © 2017. The Heart of a Christian Playwright.

All Rights Reserved.

Cleveland O. McLeish/The Heart of a Christian Playwright have asserted the right to be identified as the Author of this work.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without the expressed permission of Cleveland O. McLeish. Professional Rights, Amateur Rights, Fringe Rights, and Education Rights are all available through the Heart of a Christian Playwright. Please request permission in writing to [cleveland.mcleish@gmail.com](mailto:cleveland.mcleish@gmail.com). The Author can be reached at [cleveland@christianplaywright.org](mailto:cleveland@christianplaywright.org)

All rights whatsoever in the play are strictly reserved. Requests to reproduce the text in whole or in part should be addressed to the Publisher/Author.

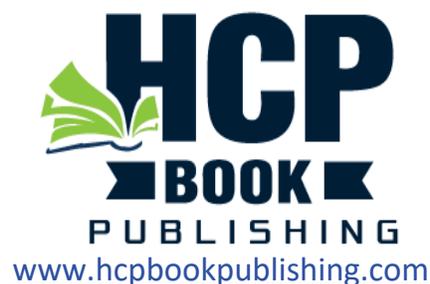
You have ONE free license to do ONE free Performance with the purchase of this book. You are NOT ALLOWED to make copies of this book, but you can purchase additional copies from Amazon, or you can purchase a digital version from the Website ([www.christianplaywright.org](http://www.christianplaywright.org)) to make printed copies. For multiple performance and/or performances where tickets are sold, or there is an admission cost, please contact us to discuss royalties.

Publication of this play indicates its availability for performance.

ISBN-13: 978-1979769914 (paperback available on amazon.com)

ISBN-10: 1979769915

Published by:



**The Fourth Cross by Cleveland O. McLeish**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Characters ..... 4  
Setting ..... 5  
The Story ..... 6  
Play Details..... 7  
The Script ..... 8  
SCENE 1 ..... 9  
SCENE 2 ..... 13  
SCENE 3 ..... 19  
From the Author’s Desk..... 24

## The Fourth Cross by Cleveland O. McLeish

### Characters

JOHN - Carpenter (Male – Mid 30s)

MIRIAM - Housewife. Johns wife (Female – Early 30s)

PAUL - Drapery Maker (Male – Late 40s)

SARAH - Vendor (Female – Late 20s)

MICHAEL - Priest (Male – Mid 30s)

MARY - Widow (Female – Late 40s)

SAM - Babysitter (Female/Male – Early 30s)

## The Fourth Cross by Cleveland O. McLeish

### Setting

There is only one setting. It is a house in Jerusalem with antique furniture and amenities.

There should be a window somewhere looking offstage and a door that can be bolted from inside. There should be a bowl of bread, and a cup of wine/juice on the small table throughout.

## The Fourth Cross by Cleveland O. McLeish

### The Story

There were three crosses on the hill of Calvary. Jesus was crucified in the middle, with two thieves on either side.

This play will remind us of a fourth cross not visible to the human eye, which can only be seen through the eyes of faith. This fourth cross was within Jesus, and we were on it. For Paul says, "We died with Him, so we can live with Him." Through the cross, God restored His relationship to man that was lost in the Garden of Eden.

## **The Fourth Cross by Cleveland O. McLeish**

### **Play Details**

**Length:** 45 Minutes

**Cast:** 4 Males, 3 Females, 1 Male/Female

**Audience:** Teens & Adults

**Genre:** Biblical Drama

# The Script



## The Fourth Cross by Cleveland O. McLeish

### SCENE 1

#### LIGHTS UP

*Miriam is setting the table. She places a bowl of bread and a cup of wine/juice on it.*

*She momentarily walks to a window and looks out with a concerned expression on her face. There is a loud and disturbing commotion outside.*

*There is a LOUD KNOCK at the door. Miriam is shaken initially, then quickly recovers. She quickly goes to the door.*

**MIRIAM:** *(a little timid)* Who is it?

**JOHN:** *(O.S.)* It's me.

*Miriam quickly opens the door.*

*John enters, shaken, concerned. He quickly closes and bolts the door behind him.*

**MIRIAM:** John, what's going on?

**JOHN:** The world has gone crazy, that's what.

**MIRIAM:** There's a large crowd outside — causing quite a stir.

**JOHN:** It's that man from Galilee. The one claiming to be the son of God. They arrested Him last night, and now they have sentenced Him to death.

**MIRIAM:** Is He one of the men I see carrying a cross up the hillside?

**JOHN:** Yes.

**MIRIAM:** Which one?

**JOHN:** The worst looking one.

**MIRIAM:** He looks terrible...covered in blood as if the skin has been stripped from his body.

## The Fourth Cross by Cleveland O. McLeish

**JOHN:** That's exactly how He looks. It was terrible. I am glad you were not there to see all that. If not for His form, you would think He was a pile of dead flesh.

**MIRIAM:** Why are they doing this to Him?

**JOHN:** Nobody knows. It was a private trial, it seems, and then when they brought Him out to the people, the people wanted Him dead.

**MIRIAM:** Aren't these the people who welcomed Him into Jerusalem?

**JOHN:** The hypocrisy of it all is intolerable.

**MIRIAM:** But He did so much good.

**JOHN:** He did. But people forget very easily.

*Miriam walks to the window and looks out. She covers her mouth, gasping.*

**MIRIAM:** Oh my, He just fell.

*John joins her at the window.*

**JOHN:** I don't think He can go any further. I have no idea where He even found the strength to get this far.

**MIRIAM:** They are whipping Him. How cruel.

**JOHN:** He can't take much more of this.

*Pause.*

**MIRIAM:** Look. They are forcing that man to carry the cross.

**JOHN:** You know what, we shouldn't be watching this.

*John pulls Miriam from the window, closes it.*

**JOHN:** Let's have lunch.

*They sit at the table.*

*John helps himself to some bread.*

## The Fourth Cross by Cleveland O. McLeish

**MIRIAM:** I don't have much of an appetite. None of this feels right.

**JOHN:** It doesn't concern us.

**MIRIAM:** This has everything to do with us. You said it yourself. We are the ones who condemned this man to die. After all He did for this city. Do you remember my Aunt? She had that issue of blood for twelve years. We watched her suffer through that ordeal, and there was no help or relief for her, until this man Jesus came along. He was her only hope.

**JOHN:** I remember.

**MIRIAM:** Remember that mother who lost her only son? She was on her way to bury him when they ran into Jesus. Do you remember the unmeasurable joy on her face when she saw her son...alive?

**JOHN:** Yes, it was...incredible.

**MIRIAM:** The blind was able to see again. Can you imagine what that must feel like? To be born blind and to receive your sight? What would the world look like for someone seeing it for the first time?

**JOHN:** So why do they want Him dead? He has done nothing but good.

**MIRIAM:** The better question is, why would someone who has authority over death subject Himself to it?

*Pause.*

*John eats more bread.*

**JOHN:** None of this is making sense, but there must be a reason for it. Something we're not seeing...a purpose, somehow. A sinister plot to rid this world of all the good there is.

**MIRIAM:** I have heard stories from those close to His Disciples. He prophesied His death, but also claimed that He will rise again on the third day.

**JOHN:** That would be a divine miracle, but why go through all that?

**MIRIAM:** To establish His kingdom.

**JOHN:** I don't get all this kingdom stuff.

## The Fourth Cross by Cleveland O. McLeish

**MIRIAM:** It is connected to all the good that He did. It is a spiritual kingdom, one of faith, hope, and love.

**JOHN:** Yeah, exactly what is missing in today's society. Do you remember what the world was like before Jesus came?

**MIRIAM:** Chaotic...every other person was either sick or depressed. People would go to church and leave the same way they came. There was no help, no hope, and the Romans threatened to destroy the very fabric of what was left of our humanity.

**JOHN:** Jesus was like an antidote.

**MIRIAM:** Yes. He was the epiphany of divine love, and that is exactly what is getting Him killed. All He ever did was demonstrate faith in His Father, hope of a better world to come, and love for all men.

**JOHN:** Is all that worth dying for?

*Miriam gets up and goes to the window. She opens it and looks out.*

**MIRIAM:** Jesus thinks it is.

*Pause.*

**LIGHTS FADE**