

The Day Jesus Was Crucified by Cleveland O. McLeish

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The Original Stageplay



Cleveland O. McLeish

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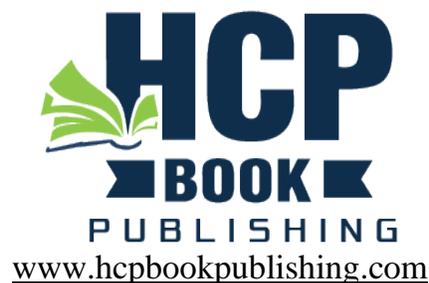


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Characters

MARY OF NAZARETH

JUDAS ISCARIOT

PETER

SIMON

PILATE

HIGH PRIEST

Setting

The stage will be bare through each monologue.

The Story

This is a collection of Six (6) Monologues that look at the thoughts and emotions of some of the characters involved in or were witnesses to the crucifixion of Christ.

Included are various scriptures from the Bible relating to Christ's journey to the Cross as well as song suggestions in between scenes that can utilize the various other ministries such as Dance, Sign Language & Mime.

The Characters: MARY OF NAZARETH, JUDAS ISCARIOT, SIMON, PETER, HIGH PRIEST & PILATE.

Play Details

Length: 30 Minutes

Cast: 5 males, 1 females.

Audience: Teens & Adults

Genre: Biblical Drama

The Script



DANCE TO: "Were You There by Selah"

VOICE: I told them, "If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it." So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—the handsome price at which they valued me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them to the potter at the house of the LORD.

Enter Judas

JUDAS: Thirty pieces of silver. *(Counts the money in his hand)* That's the price I put on the head of the Son of God. Seemed like easy money at the time. *(pause)* He encouraged a life of faith not thinking about what to eat and what to wear... but just living in the moment knowing that His Father would provide. It's hard to wait on God. Its nerve racking sometimes when the bills become due and we see something we really want. I know some of you can relate.

(Counts the money again)

Thirty pieces of silver. That's the price for betraying God's son. After all, I saw Him do...the miracles...I thought Him being arrested was impossible. He does command legions of angels....so at the time it seemed like easy money. He knew what was coming...He knew I would take the money and point Him out to those who wanted to get rid of Him. He knew it would happen and I was powerless to stop it. It felt like I had to do it...as if, somehow, it was my purpose.

I betrayed him with a kiss. They took Him. Stripped him of his clothes and whip him till the flesh begun to peel away from His bones. I could not bear to watch. God's Son subjected to the cruelty of mortal men. How can He be who He said He was? I created the opportunity for Him to prove they could not overpower Him. He was to rule and take the throne of David but instead...He proved us all wrong. We believed a lie.

They got what they wanted and I got my thirty pieces of silver, but what value is money to a human life when now I feel like I have nothing to live for. (*Throws away the money*) I can't believe I could be so stupid.

Judas walks to the exit. He stops and picks up a piece of rope from off the ground. He exits with the rope.

VOICE: He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? For he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

Enter Pilate

PILATE: *(Comes out drying his hand with a towel)* Nine times today I have washed my hands and still I don't feel clean. This will probably go down in history as the worst day in my life. My wife warned me....but I wouldn't listen. We men can be so stubborn sometimes. How could the people cry for the release of a known criminal and sentence an innocent man to death? How?!

He did nothing worthy of death. Like a spotless lamb, He has been slaughtered by men who think themselves too religious to be challenged. Why did they bring him to me? I wanted to vindicate him, but they were adamant that this man be erased from the land of the living...for no just cause. The hearts of men are indeed desperately wicked.

The people seemed to agree, though I was told that it was just days earlier they welcomed him as a king. Spread their clothes on the dirt road and ushered in his appearance shouting Hosanna in the highest. Hypocrites and vipers.

My wife always said you cannot please people and I have often argued against that statement....but now...as usual, I was wrong and she was right. Yet, I can't shake the feeling that there was more that I could do for him.

(Pause)

Excuse me, I need to wash my hands again.

Shakes his head and exit.

SONG: This Blood is For You by CARMAN.

VOICE: Why are your garments red, like those of one treading the winepress? "I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing."

Enter Simon

SIMON: *(using a white handkerchief to wipe blood from his hand and neck)* When I left my home this morning, I never imagine my day would go like this. Being forced to carry the cross of a condemned man! But there was something different about this man. I can't explain it, but for the punishment He received he must have broken the law. He must have done something terrible and worthy of death...so why did he look so innocent? And what did he mean by this 'blood is for you.'

Something doesn't feel right about this. Everybody is tightlipped, keeping their comments to themselves, but why? Why all this secrecy? Why was that man so badly beaten and bruised.... he could not carry his own cross? Why did I have to bear the cross of a criminal?

Simon exits.

SONG: "I've Never Seen Ten Thousand Angels Cry" – Leann Rhymes

VOICE: If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.'

Enter High Priest

HIGH PRIEST: Finally. He is dead. Eventually, his deeds and words would have condemned him. Who did he think he is? We are the righteous people of this land. We follow the law to the letter and he dares to call us a generation of vipers. He ate and drank with sinners. He was no better than them. He was in the company of scum and calls himself righteous. He visited the home of adulterers and thieves. He told murderers that their sins were forgiven without doing what was required by law. He broke the Sabbath and defiled God's holy temple with his heresy.

He twisted the Word of God and had mindless zombies following right behind him...as if they couldn't think for themselves. He was a rebel.

So he did a few tricks making the blind see and the deaf hear. So what if he made a dead man come back to life and water turn to wine. He is dying on the cross....and should be dead by now. What kind of savior saves others and cannot save himself? He has proven himself to be nothing but a sham.

Another priest rushes across the stage. High Priest grabs him.

HIGH PRIEST: What's going on?

PRIEST: Have you not heard. The veil in the temple was rent in two.

They both quickly exit.

DANCE – “Mary Did You Know”

VOICE: He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

Enter Mary

She is crying uncontrollably.

MARY: I don't even know how to think about this. I mean, how many women get a chance to raise God's son...to watch him grow from being a babe to a boy to a man. I am a proud mother...very proud. He did no wrong. He committed no sin. All he did was speak the truth and help people. When did that become a crime?

(Finds a place to sit)

Now He is dead. They killed him. I watched because I did not believe He could die. I watched him die. I thought he would have called ten thousand angels, but he didn't. He had power over death but still, he died.

(Pause)

This is not how I thought this day would end. I expected so much more. Still, I knew this day would come...just not so soon. I miss him as a mother should miss her son. He had a smile that could melt any woman's heart. Now he is dead! I don't know what I'm gonna do. I can't live without him. But I know why he did it. He died for everyone in this room. He sacrificed himself so you can live again. I hope my son did not die in vain.

(pause)

What did he do to deserve death? He only helped people...good people...bad people...even the ungrateful ones who would not stop a minute to say Thank

you, Jesus. He did not deserve to suffer so cruelly...to die such an awful death. I felt his pain. Every nail...every inch of that sword they put through his side...I felt it. I pitied and hated the men who laughed at his suffering. They failed to see that it was for them he died...it was all for them. No one is without an excuse. Jesus made sure of that and I don't know if he's going to rise from the dead as he said he would...even so, it does not make the pain any less painful...it does not stop the tears from falling....today an innocent man was killed like a common criminal because he felt it was his duty to take on the sins of this world and carry it to the cross. And it hurts. Never once in thirty-three years did he think about himself...never once did he exalt himself...never once did he take the glory for himself. Never once did he yield to the temptation of the flesh...never once.

Mary walks to the edge of the stage still drying her tears as she talks directly to the audience.

No one is without an excuse. My son made sure of that. He gave his life freely....
Willingly...

Mary exits.

**VOICE: Awake, sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is close
To me! Declares the LORD Almighty. Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be
scattered, and I will turn my hand against the little ones.**

Enter Peter

PETER: I thought I was his favorite. I was willing to die for this man...to put my life on the line for Him and what He represents. He taught me that the greatest love we could have for each other is our willingness to lay down our lives for our friends. Imagine how strange I thought it when he told me I would deny Him three times in one morning. Impossible! But then, He knew the future. He wrote it...He had forgiven me of something even before I did it and for the life of me, I could not figure out how I could deny that I knew someone I loved so much.

When they took Him, I followed from a distance. I did not want to be seen because I was afraid I would share his fate. It seemed too much for a mere mortal man to bear. I just wanted to know where they were taking Him, and I knew if I declared myself as one of his disciples...then I would have to run for my life like the other disciples and I would not be able to see Him.

I had to deny Him. It's the only way I could be close to him. I never realized that I had been with Him long enough... to be too much like Him, so I stood out in the crowd and three times they asked me if I was one of His and three times I said I don't know the man. Three times....just as He said. I just wanted to be near Him....to see Him even one last time.

Now he is dead, and I did not get a chance to say I am sorry.

Mary rushes out excitedly.

PETER: What's going on?

MARY: Have you not heard, Peter? Jesus is alive.

PETER: How?

MARY: He is risen!

They both exit.

VOICE: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

BLACKOUT

From the Author's Desk

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