

# The Trial of the Saints

The Original Stageplay



La Tasha Shelton

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## Characters

**THE SAINT** *Name: Mercedes.* She is dressed in conservative clothes and wears a hat to match. She is a Missionary, devoted church member, mother, wife, and a Christian who stands for what she believes in.

**THE SINNER** *Name: Angie.* She dresses provocatively (as if she left a club to come to church). She takes the phrase, ‘*Come just as you are*’ out of context. She is a single mother of 2 boys, drinks occasionally, struggles with accepting Christ as her Lord and Saviour, attend church on Easter, Christmas and the New Year.

**THE GOSSIPER** *Name: Tiffany.* She dresses semi-provocative and doesn’t believe she has any issues. She is a Choir member, but loves to spread other people’s business throughout the church while ignoring her own issues. She is secretly working as a call girl to pay off her debts.

**THE LIAR** *Name: Candace.* She dresses casually but uses the lies she tells to draw others into believing they are true. She sprays mint in her mouth to hide the smell of alcohol and weed. She is a pathological liar who barely attends church.

**THE COMPLAINER** *Name: Ashley.* The Pretender. She is blinded by her life’s struggles. She dresses normally. She can’t see what the Lord is doing in her life because she is blinded by what she encounters around her daily. She complains about the church, life, job, and church family. She hops from church to church.

**THE WORRIER** *Name: Lexus.* Big time Evangelist who dresses well and lives a perfect life before the eyes of others, but behind closed doors, her life is in turmoil. She prophesies over anyone who needs a word from God, and she is married to a

Minister who is unfaithful to God and his wife. Pretends her life is perfect.

**THE BUSYBODY** *Name: Judy.* The Bragger. Dresses casually. Loves to brag about all her accomplishments. Rejoices when she notices others becoming jealous. Attends church regularly just to brag. Has time for everything, but the God she is supposed to serve. She is an Usher at the church. Her life is based on how much she accomplishes in a 24-hour period. She is constantly on the go, has time for everything but God, does everything in a hurry.

**THE ADULTERER** *Name: Nicey.* The Temptress. Dresses very provocative. Attends church regularly. She is in a relationship with the Pastor who is married. They have one child together that the wife knows nothing about. She wants to be married to the Pastor but knows that it is not going to happen. She has another child with another Pastor from another church. She attends church on a consistent basis in the hope of one day replacing the Pastor's current wife.

**PASTOR** (Small Role) He can also play Jesus, Satan or Holy Spirit. He is husband to Lexus, but is having an affair with Nicey.

**JESUS** Judge.

**HOLY SPIRIT** Witness.

**SATAN** Accuser of the Brethren.

**NARRATOR** (Small Role at the end)

## Setting

There will be two settings.

*SCENE 1:* Baptist Church – Southern Arkansas.

*SCENE 2:* A Courtroom

A Church setting is needed first. This is where all the issues present themselves. Several people appear at different times during the play.

A Courtroom setting will be used last. There will be a Judge (Jesus), Holy Spirit (witness) and the Accuser (Satan).

## The Story

*The Trial of the Saints* begins at Church, for it is the church where the judgment of God begins. We are introduced to eight women, living messed up lives, while serving in their church.

Eventually, they find themselves in a courtroom, standing before the Judge. An accusation is made against them, and the Holy Spirit speaks as a witness to what they are accused of. The defendants will have to plead their case before the Judge. If found guilty, they will either go to hell or given another chance to make it right. *What will the final verdict be?*

## About The Playwright

La Tasha Shelton is the Author of *'Relapsing: Remitting Multiple Sclerosis'* and *'Strength Through the Storm.'* She was born and raised in North Little Rock, Arkansas and Little Rock, Arkansas to Tommy Shelton and Lizzie Shelton. She is a graduate of Little Rock Central High School, Remington College (Medical Assisting Diploma) and Pulask Technical College (Associate of Science Degree). She is currently a Child Care Teacher at Sylvan Hills Methodist Church in Sherwood, Arkansas. She has three sons; Jaylin, Joshua and Justin, one sister; Renetta Shelton, one niece; Destiny and one nephew; Gerron. She resides in Jacksonville, Arkansas with her fiancée Phillip Jordan.



## Play Details

**Length:** 60-70 Minutes

**Cast:** 8 Females, 5 Males

**Genre:** Contemporary Courtroom Drama



# The Script



## SCENE 1

**Setting: Church. The interior of the church is to the back of the stage with a podium and some chairs. This scene takes place outside the interior, though people are coming and going.**

*Mercedes, the Saint, is standing outside the church. She is adjusting her church attire.*

*There's a non-believer passing by, shaking his/her head at the Saint.*

*A HOMELESS MAN is sitting outside the Church. He begs from everyone who passes.*

MERCEDES: *(while checking herself)* I have to make sure I am well put together before entering this Church. I have a lot of people to impress. I can't allow the members of this congregation to see me not together.

*ANGIE, the SINNER, enters and walks over to Mercedes.*

ANGIE: Hey. How yah doing? I thought you weren't coming back to church after that falling out between you and Tiffany.

MERCEDES: Tiffany does not own this church, let alone the clothes on her back. This here church is my home, and I am not going to allow satan to run me up out of it.

ANGIE: Didn't mean to offend you, but I just wanted to make sure that you are okay. I will see you inside the church.

MERCEDES: Okay. I'll be inside in a minute, and sure, thanks for checking up on me.

*Mercedes proceeds to adjust her attire.*

ANGIE: *(hands on hips)* You need to stop checking your clothes. God don't want you to be proud. He wants your heart, not your mouth or your fist. Now come on in this church before I have a fit.

MERCEDES: *(smiling)* Okay, okay. I surrender. Lead the way, Angie.

*Mercedes and Angie share a hug, as they enter the church.*

*TIFFANY, the GOSSIPER, enters, watches as Mercedes and Angie go into the church. She has a displeased expression on her face.*

TIFFANY: I can't believe Mercedes dares to show her face up in church after that altercation we had at the Pastor's Anniversary celebration. I didn't know why she was so eager to fight me in the first place.

*Walks out to the edge of the stage, as if talking to the audience.*

TIFFANY: Imagine that. It wasn't even her man, nor her place to get upset with me for spreading the business of another church member. Some people don't know how to mind their own business. Besides. I wasn't causing too many problems. I was only spreading what I heard in hopes that maybe someone would tell the person and keep who they got the information from a secret. That sounds like a good plan, right? *(points at an audience member)* You would have done the same thing. *(thinks)* Who knew that Mercedes would overhear me and react in such a way. I didn't know Angie was her friend. She shouldn't shoot the messenger but should have shot her friend for living an openly sinful life to begin with. Besides, I didn't tell the man's name. She had no right embarrassing me like that. *(pause to think)* I guess it's true, 'What is done in the dark, must come to light.' Maybe my gossipping ways have deceived me once again. Next time I have to be more careful.

*CANDACE, the LIAR, enters.*

*Candace sees Tiffany and hurries past her and into the church.*

*Tiffany deliberately follows behind her.*

CANDACE: (*enters the interior of the church where others are sitting*) Good morning, good morning.

TIFFANY: Candace, I need to talk to you.

CANDACE: (*turns to face Tiffany*) Yes, Tiffany. What do you have to talk to me about?

TIFFANY: I wanted to let you know that I know your real life story.

Everyone turns to look in their direction. Tiffany shushes Candace and candidly shoves her outside the church.

CANDACE: Why are you so concerned about my life Tiffany? Don't you have some gossip to spread?

TIFFANY: I do, and it's all about you. I wanted to know why you have to lie about your life all the time. Why can't you be who you are? Why all the secrets and cover up? Don't you know that God loves you, no matter what?

CANDACE: I know God loves me. I just thought He would love me more if I was someone else. Anyways, why am I explaining myself to you? You are not as perfect as you pretend to be, Tiffany.

TIFFANY: I know I am not perfect Candace. Anyone who knows me knows that. But what differs me from you is that I am willing to face up to my imperfections. Can you?

CANDACE: Whatever, Tiffany. I do not have to prove anything to you. You are not God, nor my friend. So, get out of face before it goes down in the house of God. Let's see who will deliver you from this beating.

TIFFANY: I'm not going to fight you, Candace. It's not the time nor the place. But in due time, all will be revealed. Then we will see who would deliver you.

CANDACE: Tiffany, this is a small church. Eight women and you'll pretend as if you are perfect. Yes, we are all faithful churchgoers, and have our different ministries to run, but there is mess in all our lives. Nobodies perfect.

TIFFANY: One day, you're gonna stand before God, the Judge, for all the crap you do.

CANDACE: After you!

*Tiffany swiftly turns aside, and goes into the church, leaving Candace with a confused look on her face. She follows after Tiffany.*

CANDACE: Now, just wait a minute...

*ASHLEY enters.*

ASHLEY: I cannot believe what I just heard. Tiffany and Candace should be ashamed of themselves coming into the house of God with all their drama. Some things you don't do in the presence of God.

*NICEY enters.*

NICEY: Good morning, Ashley! Hope all is well with you.

ASHLEY: All is well. How's everything going for you?

NICEY: Everything is on the up and up. The Pastor just bought me a condo and a Mercedes Benz as a gift for giving him a son.

ASHLEY: Don't you feel a little bit guilty for disgracing our church and our first lady?

NICEY: *(defensively)* Say what?

ASHLEY: I'm not judging you, just trying to get you to see the bigger picture.

NICEY: *(with an attitude)* No, I don't feel guilty. I did not approach him; he approached me --- talking about how he was not getting what he needs from his wife. I just made their marriage better. Who would have thought that I would fall in love with him? Not only do we have a child together, but now I have to conceal my feelings for him. I don't know if I should tell the First Lady or go to my grave with this information.

ASHLEY: I feel guilty for allowing you to let me get involved in this mess. It's causing all kinds of problems in my relationship with God. I believe I'm missing out on blessings because I chose to keep your little secret.

NICEY: You're supposed to be my friend. How could you even consider telling my secret? If you do, you would have proved to me that you are not a real friend.

ASHLEY: Say whatever you want. It still doesn't change the fact that you have sinned badly. I know we all sin, but to convene with the First Lady like nothing happened is a disgrace before God. You will have to answer for what you have done to this family, as well as the Pastor who preaches every Sunday on the downfall of a sinful man but cheats on his wife in secret. You two should be ashamed.

*Ashley shakes her head and exits.*

*Nicey watches her go, an incredulous look on her face.*

NICEY: I hope Ashley don't reveal my secret. I don't want anyone to know. *(thinks)* But then again, If the congregation can see what type of a leader they are serving under, would they continue to follow after him? Would his wife leave him? Then he would be free to make me his wife. *(smiles)* Only time will tell. *(to Audience)* Stay tuned.

*Nicey goes into the church.*

*LEXUS enters. She stops in deep thought.*

LEXUS: How can I evangelize the members of my church about unfaithfulness, when I have been unfaithful to God? How can I evangelize when my life is in



turmoil? I put on this mask to hide what is really going on in my life. I can't keep pretending everything is alright. In due time, God will reveal who I really am. What will the members think of me when my life is exposed? Will they continue to look up to me? Will they leave the church? Or will they pray for and forgive me? Only God knows the answer. God, please prepare me.

*BUSYBODY JUDY enters. She is Lexus' best friend.*

JUDY: Good morning Evangelist. How are you?

LEXUS: I'm good. Just preparing myself for today's message. How are you?

JUDY: I'm blessed and highly favored. Don't I look good in my new church outfit? (*models a bit*) I bought it on sale at Dillard's. Oh, before I forget, did I tell you that I am being honored at my job for Manager Of The Year? God has definitely been good to me.

LEXUS: Yes, you look good at a discounted price. (*laughs*) Congrats are in order. Who would have thought that they would honor someone for being such a great manager? God has blessed you indeed.

JUDY: Yes He has. But enough about me. How is the family? How are you and that husband of yours doing? Are you two ready to have kids yet?

*LEXUS looks away so Judy can't see the tears rolling down her face. Judy compassionately walks over to her and hugs her.*

JUDY: I'm sorry, my friend.

LEXUS: Forgive me, Judy, for crying. I am just so overwhelmed with the love you demonstrate.

JUDY: I'm sorry if I offended you in any way. I was just trying to show my BFF some love. I didn't mean to bring up your husband. I can see something is terribly wrong. Do you want to talk about it?

LEXUS: No! I'm fine. God will take care of the situation. Thanks for being concerned and a true friend.

JUDY: You are welcome. Well, I better let you get yourself together. See you in church.

LEXUS: Okay Judy.

*Judy goes into the church.*

LEXUS: If only Judy could see what I have to deal with; my husband's infidelities. I also have to deal with him abusing me and getting another woman pregnant. I cannot have children because of the stress my husband puts me through. (*sorrowful*) God please help me to get out before it's too late.

*PASTOR has been standing to the side, listening to the conversation. He walks over to Lexus and hugs her.*

PASTOR: I am so sorry. I really do love you, and I hope you can forgive me.

LEXUS: Maybe, in time. But not today.

PASTOR: What if today is all we have left?

LEXUS: You have hurt me really bad. You need to give me some time.

*Pastor hears a faint sound and looks up.*

PASTOR: Did you hear that?

LEXUS: Hear what?

PASTOR: It sounded like a trumpet!

*A Beat.*

**LIGHTS FADE**

## SCENE 2

### LIGHTS UP

#### SETTING: Courtroom.

*Jesus is sitting behind a high rise desk, holding a mallet.*

*Mercedes, Angie, Tiffany, Candace, Lexus, Ashley, Judy, and Nicey all stand before Him, confused and slightly disoriented.*

MERCEDES: Where are we? How did we get here?

TIFFANY: This looks like a courtroom.

LEXUS: *(looking at Jesus)* Then, He must be the Judge.

NICEY: He doesn't look like much of a Judge.

JESUS: Greetings, Ladies. You are here because each one of you has been accused of living a sinful life. How do you plead?

*Pause. No one wants to answer.*

MERCEDES: Are we dead? Did we all die at the same time? How did we die?

JESUS: You didn't die.

NICEY: How are we able to be in front of You, if we hadn't died? We had to die, because it is appointed to man once to die and after that the judgment.

JESUS: You're in a dream state. this is what it will look and feel like when you stand before me.

TIFFANY: I can't believe this. How is that even possible? Your Word says ---

JESUS: (*interrupting*) I know what the Word says, Tiffany. I am the Word.

TIFFANY: (*ashamed*) Oh! Sorry! (*to the others*) This is serious. He knows my name.

JESUS: Not everything is meant for you to understand. The fact of the matter is, all have sinned and now you must plead your case. Are you prepared?

*Everyone shakes their head in the negative.*

JESUS: Well, you have no choice in the matter. Let's proceed.

CANDACE: Lord, I am not ready. What do I need to do to fix it?

JESUS: When you get here, there's nothing you can do. You had several opportunities to fix it, but it was your choice to live life on a risk.

ASHLEY: Lord, have mercy! Give me another chance.

JESUS: Now you ask for another chance? Really! I have given you all the chances to live a life like Me, and you still choose to live life on a risk.

LEXUS: Lord, I tried to live the way You wanted me to live.

JESUS: You didn't try hard enough. Instead of you leading people in My ways, you decided to guide them in your own way.

JUDY: I'm sorry, Lord. My selfish ways blinded me.

JESUS: Yes you were. Now you have to pay for your selfish acts.

NICEY: Your Honour, don't we deserve to get another chance to make it right.

JESUS: You have had plenty chances, but you still ran around with a married man. Why couldn't you go get your own husband? My law states that you have to prove to Us that you are worthy of another chance.

*All starts to cry.*

JESUS: No need for crying. All sins must be accounted for. Now you need to prove to My Father and Me that you are worthy of a second chance.

ALL: Lord, we are willing. What do we have to do?

JESUS: (*slams mallet*) Court is now in session.

*Everyone gets nervous.*

JESUS: Mercedes, come forth.

*Mercedes steps forward.*

JESUS: Can her Witness and Accuser come forward.

*Satan steps forward. Mercedes in weak in her knees.*

*Holy Spirit steps forward. Mercedes breathes a sigh of relief.*

JESUS: Satan, what is Mercedes accused of?

SATAN: Mercedes is accused of not handling a confrontation with another church member in God's way, while in church.

JESUS: Can Mercedes' Witness speak on her behalf?

HOLY SPIRIT: Yes, Your Honour. You see, I tried to speak to Mercedes before the confrontation happened. She refused My direction to let God handle it. She chose her emotions instead, and so we are here.

JESUS: Mercedes, because of your disobedience, you have to pay the consequences of your actions. You may step back.

*Mercedes steps back in line, still shaken.*

JESUS: Angie, come forth.

*Angie steps forward.*

ANGIE: What kind of punishment will I get?

JESUS: Don't worry about your punishment. That is left up to My Father. What is Angie accused of, Satan?

SATAN: Angie is accused of living a sinful life openly. She parties, drinks, and neglects the needs of her children in order to have a good time.

JESUS: Can Angie's Witness speak on her behalf.

HOLY SPIRIT: Yes, Your Honour. You see, I tried sending Angie someone who has been where she was. Instead of her taking heed to, or following after her example, she chose to do what she wanted, which opposed what God expected of her to do. So, we ended up before You now.

JESUS: Angie, because of you choosing to go your own way, you have to pay the consequences of your actions. You may step back.

*Angie steps back in line, deeply worried.*

JESUS: Tiffany, step forward.

*Tiffany comes forward.*

TIFFANY: Why am I here? I did nothing wrong but spread a little gossip. I didn't harm anybody.

JESUS: Silence. (*Tiffany is startled*) I am the only Judge in this courtroom. Your punishment will be based on the sins you have committed. So, therefore, take your punishment in boldness as you have sinned in boldness. Satan, what is Tiffany accused of?

SATAN: Tiffany is accused of spreading the business of others and not paying attention to her own business.

JESUS: Will Tiffany's Witness speak.

HOLY SPIRIT: Yes, Your Honour. I spoke in her heart to get her to stop gossiping about other people. She rejected me by inputting thoughts that seem to motivate her to keep gossiping. I know it was the spirit of satan prompting her to sin. She knew it too but wanted to spread gossip anyway.

JESUS: Tiffany, because of you rejecting the Holy Spirit's counsel to stop gossiping, you will be punished. You can step back in line.

*Tiffany steps back, heartbroken.*

JESUS: Come forward, Candace.

*Candace steps forward.*

JESUS: What is Candace accused of?

SATAN: Candace is accused of being something she is not.

JESUS: Would Candace's Witness speak.

HOLY SPIRIT: Your Honour, I sent Tiffany to approach Candace about lying about her life to scare her into revealing her truth. Instead of her confession, she kept on lying to cover up who she really was. Candace lied so much that she started to believe the lies she was telling. So what Candace did was get into a confrontation with Tiffany because she did not want her to reveal the truth. She kept telling lies, and we are before You at this very moment.

JESUS: Candace, because of you refusing to change your ways, you will be punished accordingly. Step back in line.

*Candace steps back in line, tears streaming down her face.*

JESUS: Lexus, step forward.

*Lexus comes forward.*

JESUS: What is Lexus accused of, Satan?

SATAN: Lexus is accused of living an unholy life at home as an Evangelist and Leader in church.

JESUS: Can Lexus' Witness speak.

HOLY SPIRIT: Your Honour, I sent Lexus' BFF Judy and allowed her to overhear what Lexus was going through. Judy heard everything but failed to reveal it to Lexus. She really wasn't a good a friend as she pretended to be. Because of this, Lexus fell into a deeper depression, which began to show in her sermons. How could she show others the error of their ways when she could not see the error of her own ways?

JESUS: Lexus, because you have lost your way, you are going to be punished. You forgot to pray to Me for help. You may step back in line.

*Lexus steps back, ashamed and broken-hearted.*

JESUS: Judy, step forward.

*Judy steps forward.*

JESUS: What is Judy accused of, Satan?

SATAN: Judy is accused of not praying or showing comfort to her BFF who needed an encouraging word to move forward with Your business.

JESUS: Would Judy's Witness please speak.

HOLY SPIRIT: Your Honour, I caused Judy to overhear what her BFF Lexus was saying to herself so she would come in and share a word from God and pray with and for her. But Judy did the total opposite. She didn't want to be involved,



so she let it go and talked about something else rather than comforting her BFF when she knew she was depressed.

JESUS: Judy, because of your disobedience to share Me as a Comforter, you will be punished. You may step back.

*Judy steps back in line, trying not to show any emotion.*

JESUS: Ashley, come forward!

*Ashley steps forward.*

JESUS: What is Ashley accused of, Satan?

SATAN: Your Honour, Ashley is accused of concealing a secret that should have been exposed.

JESUS: Will Ashley's Witness please speak.

HOLY SPIRIT: Yes, Your Honour. I allowed Ashley to befriend Nicey who had an affair and a baby with the Pastor of the church in hopes that she would steer her in the right path. What she did was tell her she was wrong but did not pray to God to see what He wanted her to do in that particular situation. She did nothing to push her down the path of righteousness. She allowed her friend to drown deeper and deeper in sin.

JESUS: Ashley, because of your failure to lead a person to My Father, you will be punished indefinitely. Step back please.

*Ashley steps back in line, broken.*

JESUS: And, last but not least, Nicey, step forward, please.

*Nicely steps forward, and poses defensively.*

JESUS: What is Nicey accused of, Satan?

NICEY: *(before Satan can open his mouth)* Listen here, Your Honour. What I was doing is not as bad as all these others, so why should I be punished?

*Pause. Jesus looks incredulously at Nicey.*

JESUS: I guess you're more righteous than all.

NICEY: I am. And I don't deserve to be here, answering to you, with the likes of these kinds of people.

JESUS: I see. Stay where you are, my dear. The rest of you are free to go back to your regular lives and work on fixing what is broken. Your second chance has been approved, so spend the time to draw closer to God and do not return to your sinful ways or the next time, your bad choices will send you straight to hell.

*Holy Spirit leads the Seven Women off the stage.*

NICEY: Wait! What about me?

JESUS: *(to satan)* This one is yours. Court adjourned!

*Jesus slams his mallet down, gets up and exits.*

NICEY: *(getting scared)* What! You can't do this to me? I am the righteous one! Wait!!!

*Satan smiles, then begins to laugh. He grabs Nicey and starts pulling her forcibly off-stage, screaming.*

*A NARRATOR walks out and faces the audience.*

NARRATOR: What will be your case before the Judge? Will your argument be blemished or unblemished? Will you cover up your sins by exposing others? Will you be who God created you to be or would you hide behind the mask? Will you have all the evidence to win your case? Who will win your case? Will you be given another chance? Will you go to hell? You be the Judge! What will God's

final answer be when your turn comes around to stand before Him? You better be ready. That day will be soon.

*The narrator begins to exit as...*

**LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK.**