

## BERT AND ERNIE: PART 2

by LORNA LEE

**GENRE:** Drama

**SYNOPSIS:** Ernest has valid points and states his position clearly (if not facetiously at times), while Roberta doesn't always have a clear understanding of the Bible or which answers would be appropriate to his myriad questions.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** If you have the technical capabilities, you can do this effectively with lighting. Use a twilight cue when the actors exit (blue hues), then bring up a morning cue (yellow/orange hues) for each scene. Alternate these cues to show passage of time. The actors can wear a neutral basic costume and add colorful pieces: a sweater, hat, jacket, scarf. Each time the actors exit, they would change their pieces and come on as if it is a day, week, month, year later. Have a third actor cross the stage with a sign ("Three days later") or, have a miked actor offstage say, "Three days later..."

**TIME:** Over 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 2

**TOPIC:** Faith, Truth, Redemption

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** John 5:16-30, Matthew 19:17

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Seeker services, geared toward evangelism and bringing up themes that people typically question.

**CHARACTERS:**

ROBERTA—a woman in her 30's

ERNEST—a guy in his 30's

**PROPS:** Bible, work items (lunch box, briefcase)

**COSTUMES:** Work/business clothes for each

**SOUND:** Wireless microphones

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** Bench

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### BERT AND ERNIE: Scene #4

*Park bench and bus sign. ERNIE, with briefcase, seated on bench. ROBERTA enters with briefcase and travel mug.*

**ERNEST:** *(Upon seeing her approach, calls out in surrender)* Okay. Okay! I read it.

**ROBERTA:** *(Casually)* Reading is good. What did you read? *(Gets to bench, sits)*

**ERNEST:** Your gospel of—who was it?—John. Gospel of John. I feel holier already.

**ROBERTA:** *(Eyes roll)* No, really, whaddya think? Did God teach you anything?

**ERNEST:** *(Mock offended)* That's kind of personal, don't you think?

**ROBERTA:** Not when that's the whole point. If you don't take it personally, reading the Bible isn't gonna do you much good.

**ERNEST:** Okay. It left me with more questions than answers. Satisfied?

**ROBERTA:** *(Disappointed)* Oh.

**ERNEST:** Look. It was a mixed bag. Confusing. Obscure. Interesting, in a way.

**ROBERTA:** What about Jesus?

**ERNEST:** What about him? He's in there.

**ROBERTA:** As what?

**ERNEST:** As a smart guy with a lot of definite opinions. Fanatical. Some sort of power coming off him...maybe.

**ROBERTA:** *(Smugly)* When you're God's son, power comes with the package.

**ERNEST:** Hold on. Big leap. *(Defensively)* I looked for that. But Jesus seemed kind of evasive on who he was.

**ROBERTA:** Did you get to the resurrection chapter?

**ERNEST:** It's a stretch for me, Bert. The stuff of legends.

**ROBERTA:** Maybe you should give it another go.

**ERNEST:** Don't you ever let up?

**ROBERTA:** You just said the Bible wasn't an easy read.