

CAPTIVE AUDIENCE

by SCOTT CRAIN

GENRE: Comedy/Light Drama

SYNOPSIS: Two first-century prisoners receive a visit from a tentative evangelist.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Lighting could be a cost-effective way to represent the dungeon without a need for a backdrop. Try a centralized "pool" of light in which the two benches are centered, with a dark unlit stage on all sides, but be careful to position the actors in enough stage light for their respective tattoos to be visible when needed.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 4M

TOPIC: Evangelism, Easter, Biblical Times

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Matthew 27

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Easter

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon Introduction

CHARACTERS:

PRISONER #1

PRISONER #2

VISITOR

GAURD

PROPS: Two small wooden benches, a set of chains with manacles

COSTUMES: Period dress

SOUND: Wireless microphones

LIGHTING: Dimly lit stage

SETTING: A dungeon in Jerusalem

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Lights up on a dimly lit dungeon; two grimy wooden benches sit at downstage right and left. Two PRISONERS are chained together at the downstage right bench, dressed in rags, covered in filth and with long, full beards.

PRISONER #1: I'm hot...it's too stuffy in here...I can hardly breathe.

PRISONER #2: It's all in the elevation.

PRISONER #1: What did you say?

PRISONER #2: The elevation. It's all in the elevation.

PRISONER #1: What are you talking about, elevation? What does that mean—"elevation"?

PRISONER #2: Well, you see, air currents follow a specific pattern in relationship to their altitude. Warmer air tends to rise, and conversely, cooler air tends to sink.

A long pause.

PRISONER #1: That's the stupidest thing I've ever heard. Where did you get that from?

PRISONER #2: I read it somewhere.

PRISONER #1: Where?

PRISONER #2: In a book. *(PRISONER #1 stares back at him, deadpan)* What? I've read books! You aren't chained up to a monkey, you know.

PRISONER #1: Elevation. Give me a break.

PRISONER #2: It's true!! Alright—you know what? Never mind.

PRISONER #1: Well, it doesn't make any sense!

PRISONER #2: All I'm saying is, if we were lower, we would feel cooler!

PRISONER #1: We're in a dungeon! We can't get any lower! *(Knocks on PRISONER #1's head)* Helllllllllllllllllllll! Is anybody in there?

PRISONER #2: Alright, that's it. I'm not talking to you anymore. Ever. That's it. And you want to know why? Because you're mean-spirited.

PRISONER #1: I'm mean-spirited?

PRISONER #2: Yeah.