

HE WAS NOT A MAN

by JOHN COSPER

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: Pontius Pilate reflects on his fateful decision that sent an innocent “Man” to Calvary.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Lots of deep emotion is needed for this scene, so encourage your actors to really play the reality of the moments, without becoming melodramatic.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Easter, Biblical Times

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Matthew 27, Matthew 28

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Easter

SUGGESTED USE: Seeker Service

CHARACTERS:

PILATE

ANTONY—an advisor to Pilate

PROPS: Signet ring, basin of water

COSTUMES: Biblical

SOUND: Two wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Pilate's chambers

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PILATE is alone in his chambers. He wears traditional Roman robes and a signet ring. A basin of water on a small column is at center. PILATE walks to the basin. He dips his finger in the water. ANTHONY enters, also in robes. He stands behind PILATE, who does not turn to him.

ANTONY: My lord?

PILATE: Is it true? Is it the truth, what the guards said in my presence? Did the men who followed this, Christ, steal his body?

ANTONY: My lord, all I can tell you is what they said to me. They swore on oath that the man's followers drugged them and took the body.

PILATE: A body hidden behind a stone, sealed with my ring.

ANTONY: Yes, my lord.

PILATE: Do you believe them?

ANTONY: My lord, what else is there to believe?

PILATE turns to ANTHONY.

PILATE: I have spies in every chamber in this city. I know the report these men gave to the High Priest. I know what the High Priest instructed them to say. And the price he paid them to say it.

ANTONY: My lord?

PILATE: They saw the stone moved away, not by men but by a man. One in white robes with the appearance of a god. They were blinded, and then... the tomb was empty. *(Pause)* You heard them, didn't you?

ANTONY: Yes, my lord.

PILATE: Well? What do you believe?

ANTONY: It's nonsense, my lord.

PILATE: Is it not true the man boasted that he could rebuild the temple in three days, were it destroyed? Did this man not claim to be a son of a god?

ANTONY: My lord, do you really believe that he—

PILATE: No. No, it's impossible. No man could suffer as he did and survive it. Even if he survived the cross, how could he survive the wrappings, or the isolation in the tomb?