

TRIAL BY PILATE

by Sean Gaffney

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: Jesus' trial before Pilate is revisited, as readings from the Old and New Testaments answer Pilate's questions.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: The drama can be heightened if all parts are memorized, however all characters can be "on book", playing as reader's theatre. The entire piece is taken directly from the Bible, and verse references are listed after each line for the benefit of the performers. The verse references should not be read aloud during the reading. If your church prefers alternate translations, you could use the verse citations to create your own revisions.

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 7

TOPIC: Good Friday, Biblical Times

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: John 18:28-38, Isaiah 53:7

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Easter

SUGGESTED USE: Reader's Theater, Good Friday Service, Maundy Thursday Service

CHARACTERS:

JESUS
PILATE
NARRATOR
ONE
TWO
THREE
FOUR

PROPS: Stools and music stands for each actor

COSTUMES: Simple, contemporary clothing

SOUND: 7 microphones

LIGHTING: General Stage

SETTING: Generic setting

Drama Ministry

service@DramaMinistry.com
www.DramaMinistry.com
ISSN 1084-5917

Drama Ministry is a division of
Belden Worship Resources
www.beldenworshipresources.com

Publisher: **Regi Stone**

Executive Editor: **Kimberlee Crisafulli** / Assistant Editor: **Scott Crain**

Copyright ©2011 by Drama Ministry. Material is intended for use by the subscriber in the subscriber's local church. With the exception of scripts, no issue may be reproduced by any means. As a subscriber, you may make as many copies of scripts as needed in your church only. You may perform the sketch as often as you wish at no additional cost. Scripts and performance rights are not transferable between churches and cannot be resold. You may not use the sketch for any commercial or fundraising purpose, and usage rights do not extend to video, radio, television or film.

TRIAL BY PILATE *by Sean Gaffney*

Scene opens with JESUS and PILATE standing apart, facing each other, NARRATOR stands between them. Readers ONE, TWO, THREE and FOUR sit in semi-circle in front of JESUS and PILATE, facing audience. JESUS and PILATE speak to each other, all others speak to audience.

NARRATOR: Trial before Pilate. A reading from the Gospel of John.

ONE: the Gospel of Luke

TWO: the Gospel of Mark

THREE: the Gospel of Matthew

FOUR: the books of the prophets

ONE: the letters of the apostles

TWO: the books of history

THREE: the psalms of David

FOUR: the wisdom of Solomon

ONE: the Acts of the Apostles

TWO: the Revelation of John

NARRATOR: Then the Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. Pilate then summoned Jesus and asked him,

PILATE: It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done? (John 18:35)

THREE: The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. (Isa 61:1)

FOUR: Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. (Mt 4:23)

ONE: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isa 9:2,6)