

Drama Ministry®

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WHO ARE YOU?

by Greg Sullivan

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: Two young men, one from the first century and one from modern time, describe their life-changing encounters with Jesus.

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Easter, Biblical Times

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 22:47-53, John 18:1-11

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Easter, Any

SUGGESTED USE: Easter Service

CHARACTERS:

MALCHUS—a 1 st Century young man or teenager. He is generally very outgoing, but has been somewhat quieted by the traumatic incident of losing his ear and having it restored by Jesus.

MICHAEL—a 21 st Century intellectual young man. He has recently come to know Jesus after years of rejecting the concept of God.

PROPS: A wooden cross and two metal spikes

COSTUMES: First century attire for Malchus, contemporary for Michael

SOUND: Two wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: The stage serves as the hillside where Jesus was crucified.

Drama Ministry

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As Malchus enters the stage, it is the day of Christ's crucifixion. His body has just been removed from the cross. When Michael enters the stage, the whole scene is transformed ahead to the 21 st Century. As the double monologue switches between Malchus and Michael, the setting switches between the 1 st and 21 st Centuries. As each character speaks, the lights will come up on him and down on the other.

As the lights come up, the stage is empty except for a cross lying on the floor, center stage. Two spikes lie on either side of the cross. After a moment, MALCHUS enters slowly from stage right. He walks secretively toward the cross, constantly looking around in fear. As he nears the cross, he looks down and picks up a large spike covered in blood. He stares at it for a minute, then gingerly touches his ear. After a moment he turns to face the audience, not noticing them.

MALCHUS: I ... don't understand. *(Pause)* He wasn't at all what they said. I've seen him a few times around the streets of Jerusalem and have always thought of him as some kind of crazy rabbi with radical ideas. But to hear the priests talk about him, it sounded like he was a dangerous rebel who was convincing followers to overthrow Rome. When my master told me to go with the soldiers to arrest him, I wasn't sure what to expect—a fight, a foolish sermon. *(Pauses as he thinks)* What I saw was neither.

The religious leaders had managed to pay off one of his people to lead us to him. The soldiers and the rest of us were assembled late at night. This ... Judas, I think his name was ... led the way through Jerusalem to a garden just outside the city. We kept a close watch, not knowing what to expect. When we entered the garden, I was shocked to see only a dozen men—eyes drooping like they'd been sleeping. I remember thinking, "Some band of insurgents. We came all the way out here with this many soldiers for this?"

Fear filled their faces as we approached. They scrambled to their feet and backed away, huddling together around their leader like little puppies. Then a very strange thing happened. The one in our band who had been paid walked up to Jesus and kissed him. A strange greeting for a time like this, I thought. The men looked terrified, but *(Pause)* not Jesus. As Judas backed away from his kiss, my eyes were drawn to the face of Jesus. I expected fear, or anger, but none of that was there. *(Pause)* In the light of our torches, it looked like he'd been crying. But it wasn't crying like he was afraid of something. It was more like he knew something nobody else knew, and it really made him sad.

The next minute was a blur. *(Reaches up and touches his right ear)* Some of the mob moved toward Jesus to bind him. I moved with them, wanting to impress those around me. As they grabbed Jesus, a surge of courage, or ignorance, came over his followers. *(With increasing excitement)* One of them grabbed a sword, and before I could get out of the way, he brought it down on my head.