

## ONE WEEK LATER

by JOHN COSPER

**GENRE:** Comedy/Light Drama

**SYNOPSIS:** A young couple living together that only goes to church on Easter debates going the week after.

**TIME:** Under 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 2

**TOPIC:** Easter

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Matthew 27:33-56

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Easter

**SUGGESTED USE:** Seeker Services, Sermon Illustration

**CHARACTERS:**

CLAUDIA—woman of a couple living together

DYLAN—man of a couple living together

**PROPS:** Bed, linens, piles of clothes

**COSTUMES:** Pajamas for Dylan, a dress for Claudia

**SOUND:** Two wireless microphones

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** A couple's bedroom

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### DIRECTOR'S TIP:

**Heroes and Villains:** It's always tempting to make one character the "good guy" and one the "villain" in a scene like this one, particularly when we know of course that Claudia's on the right track. However, choosing the fast and easy route not only cheapens the subject matter, but also runs the risk of alienating the very people you're trying to reach. Unbelievers in the audience deserve better than to see themselves parodied by a lazy or moronic portrayal of Dylan. He's not the bad guy. Many people (some of them professing Christians) are looking for a more compelling reason to get out of bed on Sunday mornings than simple habit or a sense of moral obligation. Statistically, your Easter audience will be made up of a lot of "once a year" attendees—be sensitive to them, and you'll stand a better chance of seeing them again next week, which is the real point of the scene!

**Stage Business:** The stage directions call for Claudia to enter "mostly dressed for church." It may be helpful to give Claudia some specific stage business (e.g., putting on makeup with a compact, trying on a couple of jackets, etc.) in order to put the cap on the fact that she's nearly ready to walk out the door. This makes her a bit more interesting to watch, and also sets the tone for what follows.

**Announcements:** Dylan's recap of last week's service (the "all-church basketball league") could easily be replaced with one of your own church's activities to not only provide a sense of realism for your congregation, but also a quick plug for an upcoming church event.

**Characterization:** Even short and straightforward scenes such as this can benefit from a little digging into the characters' backgrounds and motivations. What's the nature of their relationship? How long has it been going on? Dylan clearly has some strong opinions about the role of the church—where did those come from? Was he hurt in the past? Encourage your actors to pay attention to details, as even comic lines can be revealing. For instance, Claudia questions Dylan's choice of pants—is that just a simple stereotypical male versus female attention to cleanliness, or is it important for Claudia to make a good impression for the church crowd? Why or why not?

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*On the video screen, flash up the words "One week from today." If you do not have a video screen, someone can set up the skit from the pulpit by saying...*

**SKIT INTRO:** Before we begin this morning's service, we'd like to look ahead to the future...one week from today...

*Lights up. A bed is on stage. DYLAN snores away, dressed in shorts and a T-shirt. His pants are lying on the ground beside the bed. CLAUDIA enters, mostly dressed for church, and sees him.*