

## WE WANT BARABBAS

by George Halitzka

**GENRE:** Drama

**SYNOPSIS:** A narrator relates the events that led to a murderer being set free while an innocent man was condemned to death on Calvary.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** Lots of room for creative choices in this monologue—the delivery could be equally powerful in contemporary or Biblical attire, and with a number of tones, so feel free to explore the possibilities.

**TIME:** Under 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 1

**TOPIC:** Easter, Biblical Times

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Mark 15:6-15, Matthew 27:15-26

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Easter

**SUGGESTED USE:** Worship Service, Seeker Service

**CHARACTERS:** NARRATOR

**PROPS:** None

**COSTUMES:** Unspecified

**SOUND:** One wireless microphone

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** Unspecified

### Drama Ministry

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*Lights up on NARRATOR.*

**NARRATOR:**

*A condemned man waits.*

The night is eternal; sleepless. The end will arrive at a preset time and place in a predetermined manner. It looms over every thought. The mind hauntingly probes: “How bad will it hurt?” “Will I cry; will I soil myself?” “Was my life worth the oxygen I used?” “Was I bad enough to deserve this?” “Will anybody remember me without hate?” “What lies in the undiscovered country—beyond the moment of reckoning?” The fear and anticipated relief from all fear are equally palpable.

Morning. The door opens; the guards enter. The stuporous prisoner is half-dragged through the corridor. Dead man walking.

His crimes were barbarous—men knifed in the streets. Revolutionary intentions; treasonous actions. A rebellion was begun; enemy blood was spilled. The cause was higher than the law; higher than life. But was it worth this?

The executioner awaits; the next turn will surely reveal his steely face. But the corridor does not lead to the block. It winds upwards to a spacious porch. In the center, on a throne, the governor. On one side, a bleeding man in a purple robe and a prickly crown. Below, a mob. Chanting his name—“We want Barabbas!”

The governor unfeelingly waves his hand. The chains are removed. His life is spared. He blinks in the sunlight; almost passes out. He is roughly shoved towards the mob that calculatingly gave him his life to impose its horrible will on another. He is in shock; he falls to his knees. From his prone position, between the heads of the rabble, he sees another man shoved towards the cross.

Barabbas felt as though he alone gave the push that sent the purple-robed man to his death.

But he didn’t. He had your help.

..... *Lights down*

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