

## WHY ME?

by Shawn Ritchey

**GENRE:** Drama

**SYNOPSIS:** Simon gives an eyewitness account of Jesus' final walk to the cross. What troubles Simon is the irony of his own rage at the Romans for how they treated Jesus, juxtaposed with Jesus' own love and forgiveness of those very tormentors.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** Simon is depicted here as a kindhearted and simple man, with a bit of a Lenny quality from John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*. It is written to easily flow with a southern dialect, but only use a dialect if you feel comfortable or trained. Care should be taken to let the audience "discover" who this person is in the natural time of the script.

**TIME:** Under 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 1

**TOPIC:** Good Friday, Biblical Times

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Matthew 27:32-54, Mark 15:16-39, Luke 23:26-49

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Easter

**SUGGESTED USE:** Good Friday Service, Bible Study

**CHARACTERS:** A simple farmer and family man

**PROPS:** None

**COSTUMES:** Simple Biblical garb, lower class

**SOUND:** 1 wireless mike

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** Generic setting

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## WHY ME? *by Shawn Ritchey*

**SIMON OF CYRENE:** Look, I didn't want nothin' to do with him. I don't mean no disrespect to him or nothin', and I don't wish harm on him or no one (*God forbid*), but I just didn't want nothin' to do with him.

I figured everyone should take care of his own problems, right? I mean, the Almighty knows I got a load of them myself, and who's helpin' me? What with findin' enough work, takin' care of my wife and kids and all-my donkey fell down into a well last week. Can you believe it?! I mean what are the chances of that happenin'. Shoot! I lost a whole days work gettin' that stupid animal out of that hole. A whole days wage!! Can you believe it? I sure must've looked pretty silly, too, gettin' that donkey out 'cause I didn't hear the last of it for days. But, hey that donkey's pretty important to me. I wouldn't have hesitated to pull him out for nothin'. Lookin' a little foolish for somethin' that's important to yuh is all right, I guess. Oh, hey my donkey's O.K., if it means anythin' to yuh.

That fella I got involved with couple days ago... well, Jesus, I heard he once told a story about a donkey fallin' into a well; to a group of Pharisees no less. Can you believe it? Shoot. I mean what are the chances...

...I can still see him-Jesus that is. You know what's funny though? I remember his back. Can you believe it? I mean, how many people can you say you know what their back looks like. Shoot, I don't even remember what my wife's back looks like...

Well, anyway, I had known about Jesus before a couple days ago all right. Unless you'd dug a hole and put yourself in it for the last couple of years, you'd have had to at least heard somethin' about Jesus. He was pretty popular, at least to most folks. I even had a meal with him once. Can you believe it? Sure enough, my sons, Alexander and Rufus, was also with me. Well, actually we was just in the area when we decided to stop and listen to him preach... along with a few other folks-about 5,000 men plus women and children. But we still ate with him! That was just one of the things about him. You could be in a big ol' group and if Jesus was there, he made you feel like he knew you was there and that he was glad for it. Folks say that that was one of the miracles he did-the way he fed us that day. And I believe it too, cause there was nothin' out there. I didn't see no one packin' any food, especially for that size crowd. After he was through teachin', he just sat us down, prayed to God, and the next thing I know I'm fillin' my face with fish and bread. Can you believe it? There was enough for everyone too. I mean everyone. Shoot...

You know what's funny though? I remember his back. I told you that already didn't I?

Well I remember it cause that's the last I seen of him a couple days ago. And if the crowd hadn't been hollerin' out his name, I don't think I would've known who it was.