

Jehosheba and Keturah

CHARACTERS: 2 adult females

PROPS: None

COSTUMES: Biblical

SETTING: none specified

KETURAH: (*Calling furtively*) Jehosheba! Jehosheba!

JEHOSHEBA: (*Stops, turns*) Sister!

KETURAH: (*Putting her finger to her mouth and drawing her aside as if to hide from prying eyes*) Shush. We can't be overheard. It's too dangerous.

JEHOSHEBA: (*Confused*) What's going on?

KETURAH: Your husband is in big trouble with the rest of Sanhedrin and the high priest himself!

JEHOSHEBA: What do you mean?

KETURAH: They all know it was your husband, Joseph of Arimathea who got the body from Pilate and helped bury it. Because of what he did, it's making it impossible for them to deny the resurrection of Jesus!

JEHOSHEBA: (*Mouth dropping open, then speaking more loudly than she means to*) They are going to try to DENY the resurrection?!

KETURAH: (*Motioning for her to keep her voice down*) Yes. ! If Jesus resurrected from the dead, they'd have to admit that they executed the true messiah. Caiaphas will never do that. They are trying to explain the resurrection away. But they're having to change their story because your husband claimed the body and buried it practically under his cross at Golgotha.

JEHOSHEBA: It was the Caiaphas and chief priests that were in such a rush to get the bodies off the crosses before Passover started. They only had 3 hours to get permission from Governor Pilate to take the body, move it to the tomb, wrap and seal it. Joseph's tomb was very close.

KETURAH: Caiaphas hit the roof when he heard one of the spices they used was myrrh!

(Changing to Caiaphas voice) Myrrh is the burial spice of kings, not of Nazarene carpenters.

JEHOSHEBA: The sign on the cross did say "King of the Jews".

KETURAH: Caiaphas was fuming over that too. He told Pilate, begged even, to change the sign to "Jesus claimed to be king of the Jews". Caiaphas is used to having his way. He was most unhappy over the sign. But back to the spices. Joseph and Nicodemas used 75 pounds! And with 75 pounds of spices on top of Jesus nobody is going to believe he was still breathing, snapped out of the coma and walked out.

JEHOSHEBA: Jesus wasn't in a coma. He was dead! The Roman centurion stabbed Jesus in the heart with a spear before they brought him down. Everyone there including the priests and teachers of the law saw it. Did they try to claim that he was still alive when we buried him?

KETURAH: They were going to try. Then they decided to try the story that the women who discovered the empty tomb went to the wrong tomb.

JEHOSHEBA: The wrong tomb?!

KETURAH: When the story first started spreading that Jesus had risen from the dead, they concocted this tidy little story about how the women got lost in the predawn darkness. But when somebody pointed out that Joseph's tomb was directly below the cross on Golgotha, Caiaphas couldn't use that story.

JEHOSHEBA: *(Shocked)* He's the high priest. He shouldn't be making up all these lies!

KETURAH: After committing murder, do you think Caiaphas will think twice about a few lies. Caiaphas will do whatever it takes to quash this thing. *(Taking hold of her and gazing meaningfully and directly at her)* Do you understand me? Anything. Murder, even.

JEHOSHEBA: *(Realization of what she is saying registering on her face)* My Joseph. They wouldn't murder my husband ... would they?

KETURAH: He's a witness, Jehosheba. They feel he turned on them. As a member of the Sanhedrin, they expect him to go along with whatever Caiaphas and Annas and the rest decide. They feel like he has betrayed them. *(Pause, shaking her a tiny bit)* Now listen to me. They're planning on spreading the rumor that his disciples stole the body.

JEHOSHEBA: Nobody will believe that story either. Caiaphas had Governor Pilate to post an armed guard outside of the tomb.

KETURAH: The chief priests and elders are paying the guards off as we speak to say the body was stolen by his disciples.

JEHOSHEBA: *(Frustrated)* Why can't they just admit Jesus is the son of God. He died and was buried and three days later he rose from the dead. That's what the people are going to believe.

KETURAH: Not if eyewitnesses like Joseph "cooperate". Not if Joseph is willing to say what they tell him to say. *(Intently)* He has to, Jehosheba. He has no choice. Both of your lives may depend on him doing that.

JEHOSHEBA: He won't do it. He believes Jesus is the Messiah, the son of the living God who has risen from the dead.

KETURAH: Do you believe that?

JEHOSHEBA: Yes

KETURAH: Enough to die for it?

JEHOSHEBA: *(Earnestly)* Yes, Keturah, even if we have to die for it.