

Joseph and Caiaphas

CHARACTERS: 2 adult males

PROPS: None

COSTUMES: Biblical

SETTING: none specified

RUN TIME: 4 minutes

CAIAPHAS: (*follows hurriedly, shouts*) Joseph. Joseph of Arimathea.

JOSEPH: (*stops, turns*) Caiaphas! (*bows*) The honorable high priest.

CAIAPHAS: Don't you honorable high priest me! Don't you play innocent with me! You know very well that what you did made it impossible for us to deny the resurrection of Jesus!

JOSEPH: You're going to try to DENY the resurrection?!

CAIAPHAS: Well, of course we're going to deny the resurrection! If Jesus rose from the dead, we would have to admit that we executed the true messiah. But now we have to change our story because we found out that YOU claimed his body.

JOSEPH: (*a bit defensively*) I had Governor Pilate's permission.

CAIAPHAS: By claiming the body as a member of the Sanhedrin, you made it look like WE were in charge of the body.

JOSEPH: I didn't claim the body as a representative of the Sanhedrin....

CAIAPHAS: You may have well as. You pretended you wanted to bury Jesus was merely that your new tomb was near the site of the crucifixion.

JOSEPH: That's what I said because that was the truth. It was you who was in a hurry to get the bodies down from the crosses before sundown. Remember?

CAIAPHAS: Because of you, we wouldn't be able to claim that the women who discovered the empty tomb went to the wrong tomb.

JOSEPH: The wrong tomb?!

CAIAPHAS: (*Trying to word this properly*) .We had this tidy little story all made up how the women got lost in the predawn darkness. But how can we say that when the tomb is directly below the cross on Golgotha?

JOSEPH: We can't say it because it's NOT the truth.

CAIAPHAS: And that is your fault. Also, why did you wrap the body with linen and spices?

JOSEPH: That's how Jews bury the dead.

CAIAPHAS: One of the spices you used was myrrh! Myrrh is the burial spice of kings, not of Nazarene carpenters.

JOSEPH: The sign on the cross said "King of the Jews".

CAIAPHAS: (*fumes*) I told Governor Pilate that the sign should read that Jesus PRETENDED to be king of the Jews. And with a hundred pounds of spices on top of him nobody is going to believe he was still breathing, snapped out of the coma and walked out.

JOSEPH: He was dead! You're not claiming that he was still alive when we buried him, are you?

CAIAPHAS: That's what we were going to claim... until we found out that you wrapped the body in a hundred pounds of spices.

JOSEPH: It was only 75 pounds, not that you care about accuracy. Besides, saying he was in a coma is ridiculous! The Roman centurion stabbed Jesus in the side with a spear before we took him off the cross.

CAIAPHAS: Now the only explanation we can offer to quiet claims of a resurrection is that his disciples stole the body.

JOSEPH: Well, actually, nobody will believe that story either. You requested Governor Pilate to post an armed guard outside of the tomb, remember?

CAIAPHAS: A lot of good that did...

JOSEPH: (*frames hands, slightly sarcastically*) I can see the headlines now: unarmed nearly dead Galilean fishermen overpower well-armed Roman soldiers ...

CAIAPHAS: (*thinking quickly*) We'll say that the guards fell asleep.

JOSEPH: (*exasperated*) Caiaphas, get a clue. (*earnestly*) 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.

CAIAPHAS: (*adamantly*) Over my dead body.

JOSEPH: (*Quietly, pausing a beat*) Do you have any idea what you just said?