

# The Crucifixion

CHARACTERS: Jesus, Mary, All, Pilate, Chief Priest, Soldier 1 & 2

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 4 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: John 19

*NOTE to READERS: Both John and Mary his mother loved Jesus. How will this influence the inflection of their voices? How will they be the same? Different? Consider the prophesy in Luke 2:34-35 'Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.'"*

*Imagine Mary recalls this encounter with Simon shortly after Jesus was born when she sees the soldiers pierce his side. How might this affect how she speaks?*

MARY: They took Jesus away.

JOHN: Carrying His own cross, He went out to what is called Skull Place, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

MARY: There they crucified Him and two others with Him, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle.

JOHN: Pilate also had a sign lettered and put on the cross. The inscription was:

ALL: JESUS THE NAZARENE; THE KING OF THE JEWS.

JOHN: Many of the Jews read this sign, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek.

CHIEF PRIEST: *(to Pilate, frustrated and put out)* Don't write, 'The King of the Jews,' but that He said, 'I am the King of the Jews.'

PILATE: What I have written, I have written.

MARY: When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took His clothes.

SOLDIER: We'll divide these clothes into four parts, a part for each soldier.

SOLDIER 2: The tunic is seamless, woven in one piece from the top.

SOLDIER: Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it, to see who gets it.

JOHN: They did this to fulfill the Scripture that says:

ALL: They divided My clothes among themselves, and they cast lots for My clothing

MARY: And this is what the soldiers did.

JOHN: Standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

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MARY: When Jesus saw me and the disciple He loved standing there, He said to me,

JESUS: Woman, here is your son.

JOHN: Then He said to the me,

JESUS: Here is your mother.

JOHN: And from that hour, I took Mary into my home.

MARY: After this, when Jesus knew that everything was now accomplished that the Scripture might be fulfilled, He said,

JESUS: I'm thirsty!

MARY: A jar full of sour wine was sitting there; so they fixed a sponge full of sour wine on hyssop and held it up to His mouth.

JOHN: When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said,

JESUS: It is finished!

JOHN: Then bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

CHIEF PRIEST: Pilate, this is preparation day. We do not want the bodies to remain on the cross on the Sabbath.

PILATE: Why?

CHIEF PRIEST: Because this Sabbath is a special day. We request that you have the men's legs broken and that their bodies be taken away.

PILATE: Alright.

JOHN: So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man and of the other one who had been crucified with Him.

MARY: When they came to Jesus, they did not break His legs since they saw that He was already dead.

JOHN: But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out.

MARY: He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows he is telling the truth.

JOHN: For these things happened so that the Scripture would be fulfilled:

ALL: Not one of His bones will be broken.

JOHN: Also, another Scripture says:

ALL: They will look at the One they pierced.

## Jesus' Burial and Resurrection

CHARACTERS: John, Joseph of Arimathea, Nicodemus, Mary Magdalen

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 4 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: John 19-20

NICODEMUS: After this, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus—

JOHN: but secretly because of his fear of the Jews—

NICODEMUS: asked Pilate that he might remove Jesus' body.

JOHN: Pilate gave him permission, so he came and took His body away.

JOSEPH: Nicodemus (who had previously come to Him at night) also came, bringing a mixture of about 75 pounds of myrrh and aloes.

NICODEMUS: We took Jesus' body and wrapped it in linen cloths with the aromatic spices, according to the burial custom of the Jews.

JOSEPH: There was a garden in the place where He was crucified.

NICODEMUS: A new tomb was in the garden; no one had yet been placed in it.

JOSEPH: We placed Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation and since the tomb was nearby.

JOHN: On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark.

MARY MAGDALENE: I saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

JOHN: So she ran to Simon Peter and to the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said to them,

MARY MAGDALENE: They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put Him!

JOHN: At that, Peter and I went out, heading for the tomb.

MARY MAGDALENE: The two were running together, but John outran Peter and got to the tomb first.

JOHN: Stooping down, I saw the linen cloths lying there, yet I did not go in.

PETER: I entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there.

MARY MAGDALENE: The wrapping that had been on His head was not lying with the linen cloths but was folded up in a separate place by itself.

JOHN: I saw and believed.

PETER: But we still did not understand the Scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead.

MARY MAGDALENE: Then the disciples went home again. But I stood outside facing the tomb, crying, looking into the tomb.

JOHN: She saw two angels in white sitting there,

MARY MAGDALENE: one at the head and one at the feet, where Jesus' body had been lying. They said to me

ANGEL: Woman, why are you crying?

MARY MAGDALENE: Because they've taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they've put Him.

JOHN: Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there,

MARY MAGDALENE: But I did not know it was Jesus.

JESUS: Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?

JOHN: Supposing He was the gardener, she replied,

MARY MAGDALENE: Sir, if you've removed Him, tell me where you've put Him, and I will take Him away.

JESUS: Mary.

JOHN: Turning around, she said to Him in Hebrew,

MARY MAGDALENE: Rabbouni!

JOHN: which means "Teacher."

JESUS: Don't cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brothers and tell them that I am ascending to My Father and your Father—to My God and your God.

JOHN: Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples,

MARY MAGDALENE: I have seen the Lord!

JOHN: And she told us what Jesus had said to her.

## Jesus Appears to the Disciples

CHARACTERS: Jesus, John, Peter, Thomas

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: John 20

JOHN: In the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were gathered together with the doors locked because of their fear of the Jews.

PETER: Then Jesus came, stood among us, and said

JESUS: Peace to you!

PETER: Having said this, He showed us His hands and His side.

JOHN: So we rejoiced when we saw the Lord.

JESUS: Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.

JOHN: After saying this, He breathed on us

JESUS: Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.

JOHN: But one of the Twelve, Thomas (called "Twin"), was not with us when Jesus came.

PETER: We kept telling him, "We have seen the Lord!"

THOMAS: I I don't see the mark of the nails in His hands, put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will never believe!

JOHN: After eight days, we disciples were indoors again, and Thomas was with us.

THOMAS: Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among us.

JESUS: Peace to you! (to Thomas) Put your finger here and observe My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Don't be an unbeliever, but a believer.

THOMAS: My Lord and my God!

JESUS: Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Those who believe without seeing are blessed.

JOHN: Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of His disciples that are not written in this book.

PETER: But these are written so that you may believe Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God,

THOMAS: and by believing, you may have life in His name.

## Jesus' Third Appearance at the Shore

CHARACTERS: Jesus, John, Peter, Thomas

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 4 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: John 21

THOMAS: After this, Jesus revealed Himself again to us disciples by the Sea of Tiberias.

JOHN: He revealed Himself in this way:

THOMAS: Peter, Nathanael from Cana of Galilee, Zebedee's sons, and two others of His disciples and I were together.

PETER: I'm going fishing,

THOMAS: We're coming with you.

JOHN: We got into the boat, but that night we caught nothing.

THOMAS: When daybreak came, Jesus stood on the shore.

PETER: However, we did not know it was Jesus.

JESUS: Men, you don't have any fish, do you?

THOMAS: No.

JESUS: Cast the net on the right side of the boat and you'll find some.

THOMAS: So we did, and they were unable to haul it in because of the large number of fish.

JOHN: (to Peter) It is the Lord!

PETER: When I heard that it was the Lord, he tied his outer garment around myself and plunged into the sea.

THOMAS: But since the rest of us were not far from land

JOHN: about 100 yards away

THOMAS: We came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish.

JOHN: When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish lying on it, and bread.

JESUS: Bring some of the fish you've just caught.

PETER: I got up and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish—153 of them.

JOHN: Even though there were so many, the net was not torn.

JESUS: Come and have breakfast,

THOMAS: None of us dared ask Him, "Who are You?" because we knew it was the Lord.

PETER: Jesus took the bread, and gave it to us.

THOMAS: He did the same with the fish.

JOHN: This was now the third time Jesus appeared to the disciples after He was raised from the dead.

JESUS: *(to Peter)* Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?

PETER: Yes, Lord. You know that I love You.

JESUS: Feed My lambs.

JOHN: A second time Jesus asked Peter

JESUS: Simon, son of John, do you love Me?

PETER: Yes, Lord. You know that I love You.

JESUS: Shepherd My sheep.

JOHN: He asked him the third time

JESUS: Simon, son of John, do you love Me?

PETER: I was grieved that He asked me the third time, "Do you love Me?" You know that I love You.

JESUS: Feed My sheep. I assure you: When you were young, you would tie your belt and walk wherever you wanted. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will tie you and carry you where you don't want to go.

JOHN: He said this to signify by what kind of death he would glorify God.

JESUS: Follow Me!

JOHN: So Peter turned around and saw the disciple Jesus loved following them.

THOMAS: That disciple was John, the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and asked,

JOHN: Lord, who is the one that's going to betray You?

PETER: Lord—what about him?

JESUS: If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? As for you, follow Me.

THOMAS: So this report spread to the brothers that this disciple would not die.

PETER: Yet Jesus did not tell him that he would not die, but,

JESUS: If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you?

THOMAS: This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down.

PETER: We know that his testimony is true.

JOHN: There are also many other things that Jesus did, which, if they were written one by one, I suppose not even the world itself could contain the books that would be written.