

Crucifixion and Burial

CHARACTERS: Jesus, Rufus, Simon, Peter, John, Chief priest, Scribe, Centurion, Salome

SETTINGS: Various places at and near Jerusalem

RUN TIME: minutes

SCRIPTURES: Mark 15

Jesus is Crucified

Before you read: How will the way Rufus and Simon, who may never have met Jesus before, read their lines differently than Salome and John, who knew and loved Jesus?

RUFUS: They forced our father, Simon, as we were coming in from the country and passing by, to carry Jesus' cross.

SIMON: I am Simon, a Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

RUFUS: And they brought Jesus to the place called *Golgotha* (which means Skull Place).

SIMON: They tried to give Him wine mixed with myrrh, but He did not take it.

RUFUS: Then they crucified Him and divided His clothes, casting lots for them to decide what each would get.

SIMON: Now it was nine in the morning when they crucified Him.

RUFUS: The inscription of the charge written against Him was: THE KING OF THE JEWS.

SALOME: They crucified two criminals with Him, one on His right and one on His left.

JOHN: So the Scripture was fulfilled that says:

ALL: And He was counted among outlaws.

SALOME: Those who passed by were yelling insults at Him, shaking their heads, and saying,

SCRIBE: Ha! The One who would demolish the sanctuary and build it in three days, save Yourself by coming down from the cross!

CHIEF PRIEST: (*mocking, to one another*) He saved others; He cannot save Himself!

SCRIBE: Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross, so that we may see and believe.

SALOME: Even those who were crucified with Him were taunting Him.

JOHN: When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

SALOME: And at three Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

JESUS: My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?

SCRIBE: Look, He's calling for Elijah!

SALOME: Someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, fixed it on a reed and offered Him a drink.

SCRIBE: Let's see if Elijah comes to take Him down!

JOHN: But Jesus let out a loud cry and breathed His last.

SALOME: Then the curtain of the sanctuary was split in two from top to bottom.

CENTURION: (*seeing the way Jesus breathed His last*) This man really was God's Son!

JOHN: There were also women looking on from a distance: Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome

SALOME: When Jesus was in Galilee, we would follow Him and help Him.

JOHN: Many other women had come up with Him to Jerusalem.

The Burial of Jesus

CHARACTERS: Jesus,

SETTINGS: Various places at and near Jerusalem

RUN TIME: minutes

SCRIPTURES: Mark 15

When it was already evening, because it was preparation day (that is, the day before the Sabbath), ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Sanhedrin who was himself looking forward to the kingdom of God, came and boldly went in to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. ⁴⁴ Pilate was surprised that He was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him whether He had already died. ⁴⁵ When he found out from the centurion, he gave the corpse to Joseph. ⁴⁶ After he bought some fine linen, he took Him down and wrapped Him in the linen. Then he placed Him in a tomb cut out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb. ⁴⁷ Now Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses were watching where He was placed.