

EVIDENCE – First Century Version

CHARACTERS: 2

PROPS: None - use pantomime

COSTUMES: Biblical

SETTING: None specified

At rise: DEFENDANT is waiting, rises to shake hands when GETOFFANUS arrives.

DEFENDANT: Are you Publius Getoffanus? The famous Greek lawyer?

GETOFFANUS: I am.

DEFENDANT: Is it true that you have had every client of yours acquitted when they have been called before Nero?

GETOFFANUS: Yes, that's true.

DEFENDANT: *(With relief)* Thank God *(Panicked)* I didn't mean that. You didn't hear that. *(Looking around in a panic)* I hope nobody heard that. *(Loudly, in case anyone is listening)* It's just an expression. Thank goodness; that's what you heard. *(Confidentially to GETOFFANUS)* You have to help me. I've been arrested for being a Christian and I'm afraid I'll be thrown to the lions. My trial is day after tomorrow.

GETOFFANUS: Well, tell me about yourself. How often do you attend the Christians meetings?

DEFENDANT: I mean to but I get so busy... trading goods, fixing up the old chariot... I've gone maybe once or twice.

GETOFFANUS: How long ago?

DEFENDANT: It's been awhile. I really did intend to go more often but things came up.

GETOFFANUS: How many people have you converted to Christianity?

DEFENDANT: I'm really shy and don't like to talk about God much. Besides it's really not safe right now with Nero on the throne.

GETOFFANUS: If they searched your house will they find any scriptures or Christian songs.

DEFENDANT: No. I've been meaning to get some but the shekels only go so far.

GETOFFANUS: OK *(stands up to leave)* I'll see you in court day after tomorrow.

DEFENDANT: *(Falling to his knees and pleading)* Please, please! Can you get me off?

GETOFFANUS:.. Sure, there's not enough evidence to convict you