

THE CASE of the RESURRECTION: 33 A.D.

By Anthony Cicatko

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work first of all to Jesus of Nazareth, and the gospel message He brings. To my wonderful kids, Anthony S. Jr., Matthew D., Joshua B., Tiffany R., and my best friend on earth, Carol, my wife. Also, special thanks to my son in the faith, Heath Pinkerton, who illustrated the play. Thanks goes to you all.

The Playwright

STORY OF THE PLAY

When King Herod of Jerusalem wakes up the third day after the crucifixion, he is startled to learn that the disciples have stolen the body of Jesus. But still, something does not seem right. Then he figures it is time to hire private-eye Friday, Good Friday, to find out the truth about this Jesus. Herod had a chance to know the truth, but he wouldn't believe. Now, he and the audience will learn the truth about "The Resurrection." This investigation will at last lay to rest any false theories concerning what really happened to Jesus of Nazareth after the crucifixion. It will bring the audience to the only viable conclusion that Jesus did, in fact, die...was placed in the tomb and rose again on the third day. And He is alive evermore.

CAST OF CHARACTERS (13 M, 4 W, Extras)

NARRATOR/FRIDAY: A private detective hired by the King to find out the truth about Jesus' resurrection.

KING: Worried, doubtful, wants to find the truth.

GUARD 1: Works for the King.

GUARD 2: Another.

GUARD 3: Another.

JOSEPH: Of Arimathaea. Jesus is buried in his tomb. He is wealthy and dresses as such.

NICODEMUS: Friend of Joseph. Dressed as a priest.

MISS FAITH: Non-speaking part. Secretary to Joseph.

MARY: Mother of Jesus.

MARY 2: Went to the tomb with Mary.

JOANNA: Another.

CLEOPAS: Saw Jesus after His resurrection.

ANDREW: One of the disciples.

PETER: Another.

THOMAS: Another.

JOHN: Another.

PAGE: The King's servant.

EXTRAS: (Non-speaking): Can have extra guards and the rest of the disciples. Remember, if using all the disciples, exclude Judas.

PROPS

Trench coat, private-eye hat, gun, sword, letter, ring, report.

SET

Friday's office - Looks like an office out of an old '40s movie.

Palace room - Fit for a king, adorned with all the finery of a royal's life.

Joseph's office - Can be a combination of old and new. Feel free to create an enjoyable set with many different things to make it interesting such as a ram's horn and desk made of rough wood, framed picture of chiseled granite, etc.

SCENE 1

(AT RISE: The LIGHTS slowly come up on GOOD FRIDAY sitting at his desk in his office. You see the scene acted out while HE speaks. The voice of the narrator is always Friday's. Friday is the only person in modern clothing which is the usual trench coat and the private-eye hat.)

NARRATOR: *(Deep voice)* Ladies and gentlemen, the story you are about to hear and see is true. And if believed and obeyed can radically change your life. Names and characters have been added to enhance your personal entertainment. Now please sit back and enjoy THE CASE OF THE RESURRECTION: 33 A.D. *(Pause)* I was in my office going over the evening paper. The headline was intriguing because it read, "Disciples Steal the Body of Jesus!" That headline was going over and over in my mind. Something didn't add up. Like a riddle, a puzzle that was missing a piece, it didn't make sense, and I couldn't put it together. Jesus was crucified just the other day, right here in Jerusalem, and then they buried him in a tomb.

I thought I had heard the end of Jesus...when suddenly I heard something at the door. The door burst opened and a band of Roman soldiers came in. Immediately I went for my gun...*(The GUARDS enter, FRIDAY pulls his gun. The guards just look at the gun and look confused. Friday then realizes that they do not understand what the gun is. He puts away his gun and draws a sword instead.)*...Okay...well then, I took my sword out. *(Now fear comes over the GUARDS.)* There are two types of people in my business, the quick and the dead. I was not dead, so guess what category I am in?

Their leader stepped forward and handed me a letter. The letter was sealed by the King's own seal. The soldiers stood by, while I opened the letter and read it. *(Read as if it were Page's voice)* It read, "The most noble and honorable, the lofty King Herod of Jerusalem, does hereby request an audience with you for the purpose of gainful employment.

NARRATOR: *(Cont'd.)* Please accept the escort of his personal guards to the palace immediately.”

It was an offer I could not refuse. I put away my piece and went with them. All the while I was thinking, why would the King want me, a lowly PI, to work for him? Then it came to me. Because I’m good, that’s what they call me...Good Friday.

SCENE 2

(AT RISE: The KING is nervously pacing. The GUARDS arrive with Friday and are given a sign to leave by the King. They quietly exit.)

NARRATOR: I arrived at the palace of the King. And soon my questions were answered.

FRIDAY: Your Highness. *(Begins to kneel in submission, but is prevented by the KING)*

KING: I’m glad you finally got here. Get up, get up, no need for all of that.

FRIDAY: How may I serve your majesty?

KING: Have you read the morning paper?

FRIDAY: Of course.

KING: What did you think of it?

FRIDAY: Well, sire, frankly I had trouble believing it.

KING: Well...to be honest, that’s what I was thinking, too. But that was the word the priest gave me. That is what was printed in the paper.

FRIDAY: If you don’t mind...why do you worry about such things?

KING: Well, I have seen this sort of thing before. You know ...crucifixions. But never has there been such controversy over a condemned man.

FRIDAY: Are you talking about the public’s sentiments?

KING: No, well, yes and no, not just the public, even the Queen has had problems with this one.

End of Freeview

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