

Hey! That's My Donkey

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ELDRIDGE PUBLISHING COMPANY
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STORY OF THE PLAY

Issachar cares about only one thing, money. So when Rachel, his wife, generously loans their donkey to Jesus' disciples for the Master's use, Issachar is furious and determined to get it back. Several encounters with Jesus and a week of fruitless searching find him still heartless. In a final attempt to get his animal back, he unknowingly enters into a plot with Judas and the Pharisees to kill Jesus. Despondent over what he has done, Issachar hurries off to Golgotha to try to explain things to Jesus before He dies, but Issachar is too late. Or is he? Through a conversation with Nicodemus and flashbacks, Issachar's life is transformed in a powerful scene at Calvary as the truth of God's forgiveness is revealed to him and the audience is convinced of Jesus' resurrection power.

Performance time: 45 minutes.

CAST of CHARACTERS

(With doubling: 10 m, 3 w, 1 child, extras)

- Issachar:** Greedy businessman.
Rachel: Issachar's wife. Kindhearted.
Jesus: Gentle yet confrontational in several scenes.
Sarah: Rachel's friend.
Leah: Rachel's friend.
Daniel: Business associate of Issachar's.
Peter: Jesus' disciple.
John: Jesus' disciple.
Judas: Disciple who betrays Jesus.
Levi: Jesus' disciple who was a tax collector.
Father or Mother: Desperate parent seeking healing for child.
Child: Boy or girl who is very ill. (One or two lines only.)
Chief Priest: Self-righteous religious leader.
Pharisee 1: Religious leader siding with the Chief Priest.
Pharisee 2: Religious leader siding with the Chief Priest.
Temple Merchant: Can be played by man or woman.
Simon: Self-righteous and offended when Jesus corrects him.
***Adulterous Woman:** Humble and repentant.
***2 Women:** Sad and weeping at the death of Jesus.
Soldier: Stationed at the cross.
Joseph: Friend of Jesus.
Nicodemus: Teacher of the law that believed in Jesus.
Extras: As Disciples, Pharisees, merchants, guests and soldiers.

**Denotes non-speaking parts. For doubling, see notes next page.*

Suggestions for doubling:

Daniel also as Simon.

Peter also as the Soldier.

Judas also as Joseph.

Levi also as Nicodemus.

Sarah as the Parent and one of the Mourning Women.

Leah as the Temple Merchant, Adulterous Woman, and one of the Mourning Women.

(Actors within each scene are as follows:)

Scene 1: At Issachar and Rachel's home - Issachar, Rachel, Sarah, Leah, Daniel, Peter, John.

Scene 2: Inside and outside the temple - Jesus, Judas, Levi, Father, Child, Chief Priest, Pharisee 1 and 2, Merchant, Peter, John, Issachar, Extras.

Scene 3: Inside and outside Simon's home - Simon, Adulterous Woman, Rachel, Issachar, Jesus, Peter, John, Judas, Pharisees, Chief Priest, Extras.

Scene 4: Outside Issachar and Rachel's home - Issachar, Rachel.

Scene 5: Issachar at Golgotha - 2 Women, 2 Soldiers, Joseph, Nicodemus, Issachar, Rachel, Sarah, Leah, Daniel.

PROPS

Dust rag, money bag, coin, merchant tables with their wares, food, drinks, flask of oil, silver coins, large bowl, beans to shuck, sponge on pole, burial cloth, document, bag of coins. (No donkey required.)

SETTINGS

Simple wooden tables and benches can form the representational sets.

Scene 1

(AT RISE: LIGHTS come up on SARAH, LEAH and RACHEL, standing apart from the staging set. Sarah and Leah are talking in a gossiping manner and Rachel tries several times to say something, but she can't get a word in.)

SARAH: Well, I for one don't believe it.

LEAH: I don't either. I mean, come on, someone being raised from the dead? I think that it is just a rumor being spread by His followers. In fact, the Chief Priest made a statement this morning saying that very thing.

SARAH: Really?

LEAH: Yes. He also said that anyone spreading this rumor should be reported directly to him.

SARAH: That sounds serious.

LEAH: With all the trouble Jesus caused while He was still alive, I don't blame them for wanting to put a lid on any more problems that this resurrection rumor could cause.

SARAH: I just want to see things get back to normal here in Jerusalem.

LEAH: Me, too.

RACHEL: *(Finally getting a chance to speak.)* I think Jesus is alive.

SARAH and LEAH: *(TOGETHER.)* What?!

RACHEL: I think Jesus is alive. *(Bolder.)* In fact, I know He is alive.

SARAH: *(Looking around nervously.)* You better be careful what you say, Rachel.

RACHEL: I don't care who hears. I know that Jesus is alive.

LEAH: How do you know that?

SARAH: Yes, how do you know that?

RACHEL: Well, it's a long story, but it all began with a donkey.

(LIGHTS fade on them.)

(CURTAINS open to a street in Jerusalem in front of Issachar's house. ISSACHAR is talking to DANIEL. RACHEL is doing housework inside the house and can be seen through the open window. She pays no attention to her husband's conversation with Daniel until Issachar begins to get irritated, then she listens and silently responds to Issachar's cruelty with body motions and facial expressions that convey sadness and a little disgust with her husband.)

DANIEL: *(Pleading.)* If you would just give me one more week, Issachar, then I will have your money for you. I promise.

ISSACHAR: I've heard that lie before.

DANIEL: I'm not lying. I will pay you.

ISSACHAR: When you borrowed the ten denarii, our agreement was that you would pay me back by today. Isn't that so?

DANIEL: Yes, it is.

ISSACHAR: Well, today is here and you have no money. That makes you a liar, Daniel.

DANIEL: Please understand. My wife has been ill and business has been so poor since Pilate became governor that we are barely surviving.

ISSACHAR: I am sorry for your troubles but they have nothing to do with our agreement.

DANIEL: I know that and I will pay you. I just need you to be patient with me.

ISSACHAR: *(Growing irritated.)* Do I look like a patient man?

DANIEL: *(Stumbling with HIS response, not sure of a good answer.)* Uh, no. I mean, yes. Uh ...

ISSACHAR: *(Puts up a hand to stop HIM.)* Just stop with your rambling. How do you propose to take care of this situation that we find ourselves in, Daniel?

DANIEL: *(Hopeful.)* I have a vineyard full of grapes ripening on the vine even as we speak. It is a bumper crop that should bring a good price at the open market, but they need more time to fully ripen.

ISSACHAR: How much longer?

End of Freeview

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