

# CAIAPHAS: It's What Jesus Deserves ... Isn't It?

*A SANCTUARY DRAMA BY ROBERT BLASKEY*

Selected from his collection, "The Road to Calvary"

**Cast:** 1 m

**Length:** 2 pages of dialogue (739 words)

**Performance time:** About 4 minutes

## The Story

Jesus has been constant trouble and Caiaphas, the high priest, is glad he helped sentence Him to death. But still, Caiaphas wonders ... where did the son of a carpenter get such knowledge and wisdom? And how could He always display such love? Could it be that He really is ... ? Caiaphas rejects the very thought. Otherwise it would mean he murdered the Son of God!

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## **CAIAPHAS: It's What Jesus Deserves ... Isn't It?**

It will be over soon. That thorn in my side these last two years will soon be eliminated! Jesus of Nazareth will be dead!

It's what He deserves ... better to have one man die for the people, than have all of us crushed by the Romans.

Imagine, claiming you're God! There's no way that could be true. I, Caiaphas, the High Priest, should know who the Messiah is. If the Messiah was actually here, there'd be no need for me to act as intermediary. But he ISN'T here ... and my position is secure.

Why did He go through this ... this masquerade? Jesus doesn't strike me as being a fool. He had to be smart enough to know where this would lead Him, that He couldn't get away with it.

But from the very beginning, Jesus was different, a polished con man. He never asked anything for Himself, never made any grand claims for power or wealth. He spoke of simplicity and not the value of money. He even turned away the crown when they tried to make Him king!

But He was tearing our people away. They said He "spoke with authority." What's that supposed to mean?! WE are the authority. We hold the power, the vestments. Who is He but the son of a carpenter from Nazareth!

Well, I can see where the people may have been misled. In my younger days, I may have been tempted to listen to Jesus, perhaps even follow Him. I may have been one of those who believed He is from God. But thank God I know better now. I can see that Jesus is nothing but a charlatan, a con man out for people's money. He wants to split us, take away our power ... and our money.

With our power, we can do good for our people. So we should keep that power at any cost, even if it means the death of this man.

I have to admit, Jesus is a very intelligent man, quick on His feet. We tried to trip Him up several times. Once we brought Him an adulteress caught in the act. Even though He preached mercy, He HAD to condemn her actions or go against the law of Moses. But again Jesus outsmarted us. "Let the one among you who is without sin cast the first stone," He said. What could they do ... pretend THEY were perfect?!

But the last straw came earlier this week when Jesus disrupted the market place, overturning the merchants' tables and creating chaos. "You're turning my Father's house into a den of thieves!" He shouted.

Who does He think He is ... "my Father's house"?! Something had to be done when all the businessmen voiced their complaints. Jesus had to be stopped before He went even further. So we arrested Him and brought Him before the Sanhedrin.

But the witnesses we lined up were worthless! How could we get a conviction if no one would agree? Unless Jesus was a complete fool and admitted something before us, He'd have to go free. And I knew Jesus was too smart to do that.

## **End of Freeview**

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