

JESUS WHO?

25 Sketches and Monologues for Christian Worship

By Vinita Hampton Wright

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PUBLISHED BY

ENCORE PERFORMANCE PUBLISHING
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DEDICATION

I dedicate this little collection to the people of LaSalle Street Church, Chicago, Illinois. Most of this material was written for worship services there and would not exist otherwise. A warm thank-you to the following people-professional actors and brave, dedicated amateurs-who have brought these sketches to life over the years: Mary Margaret Bartley, Dianna Brummel, Ken Cozette, John Hall, Cheryl Huffman, Larry Meza, Bill McLaughlin, Tom Mcnamara, Joy Miller, Kevin Murphy, Kathy Neely, Bruce Otto, Keri Otto, Elaine Pierce, Jeanette Reedy, Ruth Ann Webb, Ray Woods, David Wright

STORY OF THE PLAY

These scenes and monologues are perfect for an evening of Gospel Theatre in the Chancel or as adjuncts to Sermons or even lessons in Sunday School. They place their characters in the present but the characters talk about their impressions of Jesus and His effect on their lives as if they were there with Him during His Ministry. Explore the feelings and perceptions of ordinary people whose lives have been dramatically changed. Some of them knew God in the wilderness; others were healed by Jesus. Some are living today, learning about grace as they face life's tough issues. Two- to seven-minute skits and monologues using few props and never more than four people. Just right for use in worship services. There is good material here for all ages from teens on up.

SHORT SKETCHES

JESUS WHO?

2M 2W -- Jason, Adrienne, Albert, Lydia

TWO WOMEN

2W -- Mary, Judith

THE SHEPHERD AND THE CENSUS TAKER

2M -- Shepherd, Census Taker

SETTLED BY

1M 2W -- Ruth Anne, Sarah Jane, Abe

THOSE WHO WOULD BE GREATEST

4M -- James, John, Matthew, Phillip

JOHN THE PRISONER

2M -- John, Ed

HEALING TOUCH

2M or 1M 1W -- Friend, Leper

ANANIAS AND SAPHIRRA

2W -- Ananias, Saphirra

NO ONE KNOWS THE DAY OR HOUR

2M -- Eddie, Jake

EYES OF A CHILD

2M 1girl -- Child, Pastor, Young Man

HELP ME, DOCTOR

2M or 1M 1W -- Doctor, Patient

MONOLOGUES

ANDREW'S MEMORY

1M – Andrew

ANNA

1W – Anna

ELIZA

1W – Eliza

LETTING GO

1W – Hannah

HOSANNAH

1 teen boy – Hosannah

GIFTED

1M – Jonah

THE KING

1M -- One of the Magi

LIVING WITH ANIMALS

1M -- A Disciple

MARY

1W -- The Mother of Jesus

THE PHARISEE

1M -- A Pharisee

SALOME

1W -- Woman at the Tomb

A WOMAN IN THE CROWD

1W -- One of the Crowd on Palm Sunday

SAMANTHA

1teen girl – Samantha

STEVIE

1M or 1W -- School Teacher

JESUS WHO?

Characters:

JASON: Is the voice of reason. He appreciates what Jesus is doing but can't figure the method. He sees that Jesus' days are numbered unless the preacher changes his approach.

ADRIENNE: Is concerned that Jesus is taking people back decades in terms of superstition and outdated ways of dealing with conflict. She is also highly offended at the claims he has made about himself and how by definition he excludes other mystical approaches.

ALBERT: Wants to maintain the status quo. He sees Jesus as a great disrupter and troublemaker, just another radical out to change a world that is just fine without him.

LYDIA: Doesn't have much to offer to the philosophical and political arguments. She was healed of lifelong paralysis by the touch of Jesus.

(This a bull session, prior to the capture and trial of Jesus of Nazareth. Four people are discussing this enigma.)

ALBERT: I just passed another crowd at Bethany. That preacher is at it again.

ADRIENNE: How long is he going to hang around here? *(Shakes her head.)* Just when it seemed that life was progressing, another mystic has to show up. My own mother went to hear him. I tell her, "Mom, you have enough of the old superstitions in your life; why add to the burden?" She's so infatuated it embarrasses me.

JASON: Don't you think you're exaggerating a bit? The man makes sense-

ADRIENNE: You've got to be kidding! Casting out demons. Twisted up stories about virgins left out in the cold-he's taken the mentality of people back a hundred years.

ALBERT: It doesn't matter what he's saying. The fact is, he's a radical, set out to undermine order and decency.

JASON: Oh come on! He's not some Zealot out to cut throats. His sermons are quite pastoral.

ALBERT: If his message is so peaceful, then why does he stir up a mob everywhere he goes? He's a troublemaker. He's spoken out against the synagogue-you know I'm right! I've heard him myself, blaspheming the priests, as much as saying that our scribes are infidels. I have no respect for the likes of him.

JASON: Well, if you ask me, the old order needs some shaking up. We all know the abuses that have gone on. It's nice to have somebody speak up. And you notice that they never have an answer for him. It does my soul good to see some of the hypocrites tongue-tied for a change.

ALBERT: That's liberal talk. You people always find fault with leadership, always wanting to do away with the system. What are you doing here? You should become one of Jesus' disciples.

ADRIENNE: Maybe you need to be exorcised, Jason. Maybe you need to dance in the spirit and have visions. I can't believe you buy into this-pie-in-the-sky story he's giving to people. We've had our fill of dashed dreams. We need realism now, not more prophets. We need to learn how to manage our lives and our country-through enlightened minds.

JASON: It's hard to manage your life when Rome overseas practically every word and step. My main problem with Jesus is that he's not tapping into the resources that are already here to implement change. There's an army of Rebels ready to overthrow Rome. He could win them over with a word. The kind of power he has when he speaks-if he would put himself in the right position, he could have the ear of higher-ups in the army and in Rome itself.

ALBERT: Well, he's not too intent on making impressive company. He's in the house of a flunky tax collector one week and at the table of a whore the next. That's why he causes riots-the poor love him. They let him do their thinking for them, believe every word he says. They're illiterate and desperate enough to mob the temple if he'd ask them to.

End of Freeview

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