

Get Off That Cross!

By

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Theme:

This play uses the imagery of Christ and the two criminals on the cross to convey the message of the Gospel.

Biblical References:

Romans 10:9

If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

John 14:6

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me.

Approximate Running Time:

15 minutes

Cast of Characters:

Chris: A strong Christian teenager who is not afraid to share his faith with his friends. He should be played as a frail looking youth. This part could also be played by a girl.

Peter: A doubter. This teenager is skeptical about everything. He is a friend of Chris and Paul's but he is not a Christian.

Paul: A young Christian who looks to Chris for leading. He is not afraid of his new found faith but he is not sure of how it should be exhibited in his life.

Teacher: Somewhat of an absent minded teacher who has his heart in the right place. This part can be played by either a man or a woman.

Butch: A bully who knows Chris, Peter, and Paul from school.

Scene:

Chris, Peter, and Paul are standing at center stage as they were on Tuesday. Chris in the center, Peter on his left, and Paul on his right.

Chris: Hey guys, remember how we were talking about the story of the criminals on the cross the last time that we were together?

Peter: Yeah.

Paul: Me too..

Chris: Well, did you get a chance to read the story from the Bible?

Peter: I read the story, but I'm not quite sure what the point was.

Paul: I read it too, but I think I know what it was all about.

Chris: Well Paul, tell me what you remember.

Paul: All right. You see, Jesus was about to die on the cross. He was talking to the two criminals that were going to die with him. One of the criminals believed that He was the son of God, but the other didn't.

Chris: And Peter, that's not what you read?

Peter: I thought that it was a story about how they all got what they deserved.

Paul: Jesus didn't deserve to die on the cross. He didn't do anything wrong.

Peter: If He didn't do anything wrong, then why was He on the cross in the first place?

Paul: He was on that cross because of the greedy people around him.

Peter: You can't blame his death on those that were around him. It was his own fault.

Paul: He died for us, so I guess that you could say that it was our fault.

Peter: I can't believe what you just said. Are you blaming me for His death?

Paul: Well, in a way, yes.


Peter: How could you say that I was responsible for His death? I had nothing to do with it. He did it all by himself. I can't believe that you could blame me for what He did.

Paul: You just don't understand.

Peter: What don't I understand?

Paul: You don't understand why He did what He did.

- CURTAIN -

A decorative flourish consisting of a central horizontal line with a small, symmetrical, scroll-like ornament in the middle, extending outwards to the left and right.

Scene II

Scene: Chris, Peter, and Paul are still standing at center stage as they were on Tuesday. Chris in the center, Peter on his left, and Paul on his right.

Peter: I know why He did what He did.

Paul: You know why Jesus died on the cross?

Peter: Yes, He died on the cross because He deserved it. That's what He did.

Paul: You can't just look at the story on the surface. You have to look past the facts and into His motive.

Peter: And what, pray tell, was His motive?

Paul: His motive was to save us all from our sin.

Peter: If that was his motive, then why did He have to go through all that other stuff?

Paul: I give up. [*Turning to Chris.*] Chris, why can't he see that Jesus died on the cross for us?

Chris: There are many people in this world who will never see who Jesus really was and why He died on the cross.

Paul: Why?

Chris: I don't know why.

Peter: I do.

Paul: You know why?

Peter: Sure I do.

Paul: Okay, then tell me why.

Peter: Because the Jesus that you see and the Jesus that I see are two totally different people.

Chris: You know, I think that you're right. But do you know why we see two totally different Jesus'? Everyone is too busy looking at what happened to Jesus with human eyes. They are unable to see that Jesus is God's son. They are unable to believe that God placed the responsibility of all of our sins onto his back. They can't see that He died on our behalf. They can't see that we are sinners and that we can't get to heaven without him. They are too selfish to see past themselves. They can't comprehend what He did the day that He gave himself on the cross.

Paul: So, do you think that there is anything that we can do to help them see the truth?

Chris: Sure there is. There is a lot that we can do. We must convince them that they need to see the same Jesus that we see. If we tell them the truth about Jesus they will have a much better chance to see Him the same way that we see Him. There are a few other things that we can do. We can bring them to church. We can pray for them. But I think that the most important thing that we need to do is to always act like a Christian. They need to see that we have something that they don't have. They need to see that we have something that is so awesome that they know that they have to have it too.

Paul: I wish that we could just sit them down and make them see that Jesus died on the cross so that we all could go to heaven.

Chris: They do have to make the decision for themselves you know. Sometimes I wish that I could make some decisions for some of my friends, but it's just not possible. God holds out the key to heaven to all of us. It's up to us to take that key and unlock the door to heaven.

Peter: Is what you're talking about really true? Is Jesus really the key to spending all of eternity in heaven?

Paul: Yes He is.

Peter: How do you know that you have the key?

Chris: Once you have admitted that you have sinned, and that you believe that Jesus died on the cross for you, then you ask God to forgive you and come into your life and show you how you should live.

Peter: That's it?


Chris: That's it! Once you have done that you will grow in your new faith, but that's all that you have to do to get into heaven. The apostle Paul wrote, "if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9)

[Peter and Paul freeze. Chris steps forward and address the audience.]

Chris: Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me." (John 14:6) Every one of us has to be like one of the criminals on the cross. You either reject Jesus and suffer the eternal consequences, or you accept what He has done for you and spend all of eternity with him in heaven. The choice is yours. Remember, we will all have to face the Lord when we die. When you face Him you have no choice but to be like Peter here *[raises his hand towards Peter. Peter takes a step forward]* or like Paul here *[raises his hand towards Paul. Paul takes a step forward. Chris stands there, with his hands outstretched to his sides, looking like Christ hanging on the cross.]* Christ died for you. He did all of that for you. He leaves the rest up to you. Isn't it time that you made your decision? Don't be a doubter like Peter, but be a believer like Paul.

[They exit.]

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