## He Is Risen!

## Ву

## James E. Bogoniewski, Jr.

Theme:

This play portrays the way a follower of Christ would have felt just after he or she learned that Christ has risen from the dead. The doubt and unbelief that had been experienced after His death is replaced by elation as he/she learns of His resurrection. All of a sudden the teachings of Christ regarding His kingdom, the new covenant, and the new kingdom make sense. He/she doesn't want to stop telling others until all have heard what Christ has done for them.

Biblical Reference:

Mark 16:15

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

Approximate Running Time:

15 minutes

Scene:

It is Easter morning. The character has come from witnessing the empty grave site and can't contain his/her enthusiasm. He/she is running to the stage from the back of the audience while enthusiastically calling to the members of the audience.

He is risen! He is risen! He has overcome death and the grave. I tell you the truth, I have seen it with my own eyes, He is risen!

[Now on stage, calming down a bit. Addressing the audience as if he/she has something incredible that they need to hear.]

Have you heard that He is risen? Have you been to the grave site? Have you seen the empty tomb? Do you know that it is true? Do you believe that it can be true? I tell you I saw the empty tomb myself! I spoke with others who were there this morning when the tomb was found to be empty. They told me they had seen angels! They told me what the angels said to them, they told me they had first seen the empty tomb, they spoke with the angels who told of His resurrection from the dead, they told me that they had seen Him alive! He spoke with them, He told them that He was going to be with the Father but that He was returning and that we could fellowship with Him when He returned.

I believe the testimony of those who saw Him alive! I know that He is no longer here on earth. I know that He has gone to heaven to be with His Heavenly Father. I know that He is coming back soon so that we can all see for ourselves and believe that it is as He said. I don't have to see Him to know that it is all true. I believe it now! Do you believe that it is true? Do you believe that I am telling you the truth? If not, go and see for yourself. I tell you, I speak the truth!

I know that these things are hard to believe. Never before has anything like this ever happened. Never before has someone raised Himself from the dead, but it's true. I myself didn't want to believe the person who told me that Jesus had actually died. I knew that He was being led to be crucified but I believed that He would be set free. I refused to believe that he was telling me the truth. I knew I had to see these things for myself. When I went and saw that Jesus really was dead I was in shock. I couldn't believe what I saw. I was upset, I was confused, I was afraid, and I began to doubt all that Jesus had told us while we were with Him.

[Beginning to list the ways that he questioned what Jesus had said.]

Jesus said that He had come to set up a kingdom, but how could He do that if He was dead? He said that He came to give life, but how could He do that if He had no life left in Him? He said that He was going to prepare a place for me and you, but how could we possibly know what He meant by that if He wasn't here to finish any preparations? His death was a mystery to me. It remained a mystery until I heard that He had risen from the dead. Now my perspective on everything changes. Now my eyes have been opened and I can see the truth. Now I know what He meant. Now I understand that He came to set up a heavenly kingdom, not a kingdom here on earth, not a kingdom of man, but a kingdom of God - in heaven. Now I know that He has done everything He promised and it is so much more that I could have ever imagined.

[He/she is overwhelmed.]

Oh, how I thank Him for what He has done for me.

[Pleading with the audience.]

Don't you see what His death means to us? We've been going to the temple to offer our sacrifices so that the blood of the lamb can wash our sin away. But that sacrifice can only do so much good. The sacrifice of a lamb is only good until we sin again. We have to continue to offer sacrifices of lambs each time we sin, and we are humans, and that means we're going to keep on sinning. It's not possible for us to live a sinless life. So that means we have to keep on sacrificing lambs for the rest of our lives if we wish to be clean in God's eyes.

[Excited.] Oh, but not anymore! You see, Jesus is the perfect sacrifice. He is the Lamb of God. His perfect sacrifice can wash our sins away forever! He came to live among us. He came to show us that He is the way, the truth, and the life. He told us that himself - do you not believe that is true? He lived a perfect life and was sacrificed in His perfection so that His blood can cover our sins. And the sacrifice of this perfect Lamb of God is the only sacrifice we require. No more will we have to offer rams as a payment for our sin. No more will He have to keep himself at a distance. He came down to us and we fellowshipped with him. He died for us. Now we can have life, and life more abundantly, through Him.

Do you know what that means to us? Do you know how this changes my life? No longer am I a slave to sin. No longer do I have to seek Him. He sought me. No longer do I have to sacrifice lambs to Him. He sacrificed Himself for me! How can I live my life as I did before knowing that He has done this for me? How can I not change? How can I not do all I can to thank Him for what He has done for me?

I'm sorry if I'm talking too fast. I'm so excited. He is the Messiah that we've been waiting for. Do you realize that yet? What else do I have to say to convince you that He is the one we've been waiting for? What else do I have to say to convince you that without Him we cannot have life? What else do I have to say to cause you to put your trust in Him? He is the one who can provide forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified through faith in Him. That's incredible. That's awesome!

If you believe that He is risen, if you believe that His sacrifice is what is required to pay the penalty for our sins, if you believe that He is the way, the truth, and the life, the only way to get to God in Heaven, how can you just sit there and not tell anyone. [Shouting to one side and then the other.] He is Risen! He is Risen! [Pause. To the audience.] I want the whole world to know. I want to shout it from the mountain top. He is Risen! Will you join me in telling the world that He is Risen and what that means to us? Will you join me in sharing the good news and what it means to every one of us. I can't stop telling others of what Jesus has done! He has triumphed over death and the grave. I want everyone to know what Christ has done for us. I don't want any to perish, I want all to find forgiveness and salvation through the redeeming work of Christ as He died and rose from the dead. You've heard the truth. What will you do with it? I must tell others. I must not stop until the whole world knows that He is risen! Will you join me?!?

[Walking through the audience, slowly at first, challenging others to tell the good news, then running to tell the whole world that He is Risen!]

He is Risen! Jesus Christ has overcome death and the grave. He is not dead. He is alive. He has been resurrected so that we can have salvation from sin through Him. He is Risen! He is Risen! He is Risen!

Copyright © 1998 by James E. Bogoniewski, Jr.