

Standing Out in a Crowd

By

James E. Bogoniewski, Jr.

Theme:

This play has been written to be used as an evangelistic tool within a church or as a street ministry tool. The narrator reads, or tells the story and the 'crowd' acts out what he or she is saying.

Approximate Running Time:

15 minutes

Props:

A bottle of clear water

A bottle of red water

Cast of Characters:

The Narrator: The Narrator reads, or recites the story as the actors act it out.

Jesus Christ: A young man who is to play the part of Jesus.

The Supporters: 1/2 of those remaining. The Supporters represent those who support Christ and believe that He is who He claims to be.

The Dissenters: The other half of those remaining. The Dissenters represent those who believe that Christ is out to fool the people.

Notes:

The dissenters and The Supporters are positioned on either side of Christ. During the play there will be people moving from the side of The Dissenters to the side of The Supporters.

It is important that all of the members of The Supporters or The Dissenters take part in the appropriate responses at the proper time.

The Narration With Direction

The Bible tells us that many years ago a man named Jesus was born on earth. The Bible tells us that He was sent to earth from heaven to teach us, to minister to our needs, and to die for us. Today I'd like to tell you a little bit of His story.

[At this point the kids move into position. Christ is standing in the center. His supporters are on his right. His dissenters are on his left.]

Jesus lived among the common people. He talked with them on a daily basis. *[Christ moves to greet someone.]* He met their needs on a daily basis. *[He puts his hand on one of their shoulders. The person smiles and moves backwards as if he/she has received something special.]* He acted as if He was just like them in every way, but He wasn't like them in one special way: He was God.

One day Jesus went to the wedding of one of his friends. The hosts of the wedding ran into a little problem: they ran out of wine. There was nothing for the guests to drink. Jesus went to the host and asked for some water. *[At this point someone in the crowd gives him a bottle of water.]* Jesus prayed over the water and turned it into wine. *[He prays over the water and he presents a bottle with a red colored liquid in it to the man. This can be done by having a bottle with a red colored liquid (Kool-aid) behind Jesus, within his clothes, or to have a member of the crowd slip it to him - unnoticed.]* The wine that Jesus made through the miracle was said to be the best tasting wine the guests had ever tasted. *[John 2:3.]*

His supporters were pleased to see him perform a miracle. They rejoiced. *[They rejoice.]* His dissenters were angry to see him do something that they couldn't explain. They grumbled. *[They grumble.]* Some of those who hadn't believed in Him before they saw the miracle believed in Him now. They joined those who rejoiced in what He had done. *[Depending on the size of the crowd, a few move from those who are his dissenters to the side of his followers.]*

[This scene should be acted out as it is narrated. The actors should line up behind Jesus and he should walk from one end of them to the other.] Another day Jesus was walking through the crowd and a woman who was sick reached out and touched his clothes. He immediately turned to see who it was that touched Him because He knew that power had gone out of Him. The woman was healed because of her faith and because of the Power that Jesus had over sickness and disease. *[Mark 5:25.]*

[The actors move back into the crowd of His supporters and dissenters.]

His supporters were pleased to see Him perform a miracle. They rejoiced with this woman who now was well. *[They rejoice with the woman.]* His dissenters were angry to see Him do something that they couldn't explain. They grumbled and complained. *[They grumble.]* But, some of those who hadn't believed in Him before they saw the miracle believed in Him now. They joined those who rejoiced in what He had done. *[Depending on the size of the crowd, a few move from those who are his dissenters to the side of his followers.]*

Throughout His life, Jesus performed many wonders and miracles. He healed the sick, the blind, and the lame. He told anyone who would listen to Him the truths of the Bible. He promised that He would set up a kingdom that would not end and that anyone who believed in Him would be a part of that kingdom.

His supporters were pleased to see the miracles that He performed. They listened to His teachings and believed that He was all that He claimed to be. They rejoiced in the promise of being a part of His kingdom. [*They rejoice.*] His dissenters were angered at the things He said. His promises caused them intense rage. [*His dissenters gather together in a circle to plot.*] They thought up ways to hurt His reputation. They argued against Him in public places, but they could never seem to beat Him. Finally, they were able to bring about His death.

False charges were brought against Him and He was sentenced to die on a cross on a hill called Golgatha along with two common thieves. [*The actors move to portray the crucifixion. Christ is positioned in the center and the two criminals are on his left and right. They take up a posture indicative of crucifixion. The crowd is gathered at their feet.*] A crowd gathered to watch Him die. Some hurled insults at Him. [*Some in the crowd should shout out at Him, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One," "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."*] Some watched and waited to see if something special would happen.


One of the thieves cursed Jesus. [*The following can either be narrated or acted out by the three on the crosses.*] He said, [*the thief on Jesus' left*] "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." [Luke 23.]

The Bible says that all men have sinned against God [Romans 3:23] and that the penalty for sin is eternal death [Romans 6:23], but the Bible also says that God sent His Son, Jesus to die in our place and that whoever believes in Him will live with Him forever in Heaven [John 3:16, John 14:2]. His death paid the penalty for our sin.

After Jesus died His dissenters thought that they had beaten Him [*they rejoice*]. But Jesus rose from the dead on the third day and ascended to live in heaven with God, His father. His supporters rejoiced in His victory over death and the grave [*they rejoice*] and in the promise that He made to make them part of His kingdom. His dissenters knew that they had been beaten, but they still did not believe in Him. [*They act as if they have lost.*]

Since that day many men, women, and children have heard the story of what Jesus has done for them and believed in Him. [*Many move from the dissenters to the supporters.*] Because of their belief, they will rejoice for all of eternity with Him in heaven. [*They rejoice.*] Those who reject Him will spend all of eternity in a place of torment. [*At this point Jesus turns His back on the dissenters and they cry out as if in torment. The cries abruptly stop as the narrator says:*] where will you be when you die?

- CURTAIN -



The Narration Without Direction

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False charges were brought against Him and He was sentenced to die on a cross on a hill called Golgatha along with two common thieves. A crowd gathered to watch Him die. Some hurled insults at Him. [*Pause as the crowd shouts insults.*] Some watched and waited to see if something special would happen.

One of the thieves cursed Jesus. He said, "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

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