

“IN SEARCH OF JESUS” David Kai ©2010
a Holy Week skit

This skit might be appropriate for Palm/Passion Sunday or Good Friday. It was originally performed by members of a Youth Group and Church School for Sunday morning worship. Hymns, anthems and solos provided interludes between scenes.

In this skit, Orpah and Rachel come to Jerusalem seeking to become followers of Jesus, but always arrive just a bit too late. By meeting those who met him, they learn about Jesus and follow him, although always a step behind.

ROLES: Orpah: would-be follower of Jesus - strong, leader type

Rachel: would-be follower of Jesus – concerned for own comfort

Passerby: (Scene 1) – outgoing, helpful

Cleaner: (Scene 2) – friendly, helpful

Decimus: (Scene 3) – evil, powerful

Cletus: (Scene 3) – follower, fearful

Peter: (Scene 3) – sad, upset

Alphaeus: (Scene 4) nasty, sarcastic

Milo: (Scene 5) – devoted soldier/centurion

Mary: (Scene 6) – devoted

Woman at tomb (Scene 6) – non-speaking part

Others:

cleaning crew (Scene 2)

angry mob (Scene 3)

crowd (Scene 4)

Note: if necessary, actors from earlier scenes (other than Orpah and Rachel) can reappear as different characters in later scenes. The names and genders of characters can be changed as need be.

SCENE 1: THE STREETS OF JERUSALEM

(Orpah & Rachel enter from side)

Orpah: Late! Late again! I should have known better than to travel with you. We might have made it on time if it weren't for all your rest stops!

Rachel: Well it's hard to travel on an empty stomach, you know. And how was I to know that the donkey I borrowed would end up catching hoof in mouth disease? Look, at least we're here in Jerusalem before nightfall – the gates are still open.

Orpah: Yes, but don't forget why we came here. We travelled all this way to see Jesus – and I'll bet he's been here and gone already.

Rachel: Oh, don't be so miserable; I'm sure we'll find Jesus somehow. Here, let's just ask someone if they've seen him around. (passerby appears) Excuse me! Excuse me! We're looking for Jesus of Nazareth. We heard he was coming to town some time today. Do you know where he is?

Passerby: Jesus of Nazareth, eh? Seems like the whole world's looking for him. At least that's the way it seemed today.

Rachel: Really? What happened?

Passerby: (acting out and gesturing) When Jesus rode into town, the crowds went wild. They waved palm branches and shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" They laid their branches and coats in front of him. They treated Jesus like visiting royalty. I'll bet the authorities aren't going to like THAT!

Orpah: Yes, that's all very well and good, but do you know where Jesus is now?

Passerby: Hmmm. To be honest, I don't think I've seen him since this afternoon.

Orpah: Great – well let's find someone who CAN help us.

Passerby: Wait – wait a minute. Come to think of it, I do remember hearing something about a supper with the disciples tonight – in the Upper Room.

Rachel: Supper?

Orpah: The Upper Room – do you know where that is?

Passerby: (pointing back towards the side) Sure. Just follow this road to the end and turn right. It's the only two-storey house on the next block.

Orpah: Thanks for your help.

Rachel: And seeing that you know the city so well, could you recommend a good restaurant that would be open at this time...

Orpah: (grabbing by the arm) Come on, Rachel; let's get going. You can worry about your stomach later. (exit)
(Hymn or anthem)

SCENE 2: THE UPPER ROOM

(Cleaner and others come onto chancel, mime cleaning up the area after the last supper. Possible props – brooms, washcloths. Some bread is left on a plate on a table. Orpah and Rachel enter)

Orpah: Pardon me, is Jesus of Nazareth here?

Cleaner: No, I'm afraid not. They were here, but they've been gone for several hours. Are you followers of Jesus?

Rachel: Well, not really – although we may be – I mean, we've been following Jesus all around the town.

Orpah: What Rachel here is trying to say is that we want to become followers of Jesus – but we just haven't had the chance to meet him yet. But with all the things that Jesus has said and done, we believe that he must be the Son of God.

Cleaner: Then it's too bad that you missed the supper – it was so meaningful. Jesus took the bread, and broke it, and gave it to his disciples and said, "This is my body, broken for you." And then he took a cup of wine, gave it to the disciples and said, "This is my blood, shed for you."

Orpah: It sounds as if Jesus expects something terrible to happen to him.

Cleaner: Well, it wouldn't surprise me. I've already heard rumours that the chief priest and scribes are looking for an excuse to arrest him.

Orpah: That makes our search even more urgent. Do you know where Jesus is now?

Cleaner: I think they were headed for the Garden of Gethsemane; Jesus wanted to pray there with the disciples.

Rachel: Excuse me, but before we leave the subject of bread and wine, do you know of a restaurant nearby where...

Orpah: There's no time for that now, Rachel; Jesus may be in danger. (to cleaner) Which way is it to the Garden of Gethsemane?
(Rachel sneaks towards table/bread, starts eating)

Cleaner: (gesturing) Turn left when you leave the door, and keep going until you meet the path that follows the city wall. Go right and stay on the path until you cross a low stone wall that marks the garden's edge. You should be able to get there in 20 minutes if you hurry.

Orpah: (grabbing Rachel) Come on! Let's go!

Rachel: Okay, okay, okay...
(All exit. A hymn or anthem might be used between scenes)

SCENE 3: IN THE GARDEN

(Orpah and Rachel enter)

Rachel: Ooh, my poor feet are just aching! My legs feel like rubber! My stomach...

Orpah: Just a few more minutes, Rachel. We're almost there.
(mob carrying clubs and torches enters, led by Decimus and Cletus)

Rachel: (as crowd enters) Look out! There's a whole mob just ahead, and they don't look too friendly. Let's hide!

Orpah: It's too late – they've seen us already.
(mob surrounds them, standing behind and beside them with Decimus & Cletus in the front, all facing the congregation)

Decimus: (evil) Good evening. And what might you two be doing out at such a late hour?

Orpah: I was about to ask you the same question.

Decimus: Us? Oh, we were just out making some “deliveries”. Took that trouble-maker Jesus over to the high priest’s house. I’m sure that they’ll “entertain” him nicely there! (evil laugh)

Orpah: You found him in the garden, then?

Decimus: Yes, he was there praying with the disciples when we caught up with him. And they sure didn’t put up much of a fight. But why are you so interested? You wouldn’t happen to be followers of Jesus, would you?

Rachel: (nervously) Ac- actually, we’re ju- just tourists! We – we were just out looking for a, a good restaurant that, that....

Orpah: (boldly) Yes, we are followers of Jesus! That’s nothing to be ashamed of!

Decimus: You won’t say that once the authorities are through with you! Arrest them! (mob moves closer)

Cletus: Hey, wait a minute, Decimus. Jesus is finished now. Without him, his followers will just dry up and blow away. (looking at watch) Besides that, it’s gettin’ awfully late.

Decimus: (thinking) Yes, I suppose you’re right. We’ve done enough work for one night. All right, let’s go home (turning to Rachel) It was a pleasure making your acquaintance (shakes hand so hard that Rachel reacts in pain, falling to their knees. Then mob and leaders exit)

Rachel: (rubbing sore hand) Whew! That was a close call!

Orpah: Shh! I think someone else is coming.
(both move to side and crouch down. Peter enters)

Rachel: (in hushed voice) Say, I think I recognize him. Isn’t that Peter, one of the disciples?

Orpah: Yes, I think so. I met him once at my aunt's house. (standing) Peter, is that you?

Peter: Yes --- but who are you?

Orpah: I'm Orpah and this is Rachel. We're followers of Jesus. That is, we'd like to become followers of Jesus.

Peter: (sadly) Followers of Jesus. Yes – that's what I said I was too. Said I would follow Jesus – even to death if I had to. Some follower I turned out to be.

Rachel: Why? What happened?

Peter: I was waiting outside the High Priest's house. Three times, people asked me if I was a follower of Jesus, and three times I denied it. I lied to save my own skin. I betrayed Jesus.

Orpah: Come on, Peter; pull yourself together. There might still be time to do something to help Jesus.

Peter: No, it's hopeless now. The high priest is sending Jesus to Pontius Pilate to ask for the death penalty. And I know he'll get it. And it's all my fault.
(starts to exit)

Rachel: Peter! Where are you going?

Peter: I don't know.... somewhere... anywhere away from here. (exits)

Rachel: So, what do we do now?

Orpah: I guess all we can do is go down to Pilate's court and wait until Jesus comes out. Let's go! (exit)
(possible hymn or anthem)

SCENE 4: AT PILATE'S COURT

(during hymn, Orpah & Rachel take places at front of chancel, sleeping. Crowd also enters, take positions casually around chancel)

(Orpah wakes up, startled; shakes Rachel)

Orpah: Wake up! Wake up! We've been asleep for hours!

Rachel: (sitting up slowly, yawning) And I could use a few more hours, too.

Orpah: But we've got to find out what's happened to Jesus. (looks towards crowd) Say, does anybody know where Jesus is?

Alphaeus: Oh, so you missed the public trial? Sleeping in a bit late, were we? What a shame! It was such a spectacle.

Orpah: (irritated) Will you just tell us what happened!

Alphaeus: We'll ALL tell you what happened; we were all there. First, Pilate offered to release one of two prisoners; either Jesus, or the robber, Barabbas. (leading like a cheerleader) And what did we say?

Crowd: WE WANT BARABBAS! WE WANT BARABBAS!

Alphaeus: And when Pilate asked us what to do with Jesus, what did we say?

Crowd: CRUCIFY HIM! CRUCIFY HIM!

Rachel: You told Pilate to crucify an innocent man?

Alphaeus: A crazy prophet, a trouble-maker and a dreamer. What's the big deal?

Orpah: (shouting) You murderers! You've killed the Son of God! (moves towards Alphaeus; Rachel holds her back)

Rachel: Come on, Orpah. You can't fight them all. Let's go find where Jesus is. (start to exit)

Alphaeus: (mocking) You'll find your so-called Son of God hanging from a cross out on "Skull Hill".
(all exit as hymn/anthem begins)