

“The Maundy Thursday Story”

Script 1 of The Easter Story series

by
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What Three scripts—The Maundy Thursday Story, The Crucifixion Story, and The Resurrection Story—retell the last events of Christ’s life and His miraculous resurrection through the eyes of the biblical characters outlined in John’s gospel. These scripts can stand on their own, be performed during three separate services, or be joined together to create a 15-minute Easter production.

In this first scene, John 13 is retold through the eyes of John, Peter, and Judas. This script can stand alone as part of a Maundy Thursday service, or can be combined with the other scenes from The Easter Story series.

Themes: Easter, Passover, Passion Week

Who John
Peter
Judas

When Maundy Thursday

Wear (Props) Bag of Silver (This can simply be a small pouch)
Bench (Stage Right)
*Note: these props are optional
Actors can simply wear stage blacks rather than Biblical costumes.

Why John 13

How This script is written as three different, though coinciding, monologues. The actors should stand on three separate sections of the stage. Each should be addressing the audience as if retelling a story, and they should neither hear nor respond to the other actors. Therefore, while each character speaks, the others should remain in a soft freeze.

Time Approximately 5 minutes

The stage is bare except for one bench Stage Right.

All actors are turned upstage with their backs toward the audience. John (Stage Right), Judas (Center Stage), Peter (Stage Left). As the characters begin to speak, they should turn to face the audience.

Judas holds the bag of silver throughout the skit.

John turns to address the audience.

John: Jerusalem was full of people. The roads were dusty and coated with all kinds of filth. As we walked into the room, I sat down. I was tired.

John sits.

Peter turns to address the audience.

Peter: We were all tired—and hungry. At first, I thought a servant had come as I looked over and saw a man taking off his outer robe and wrapping a towel around his waist. Then I realized— *(as if talking to an unseen Jesus)* "Jesus? Jesus, no. No."

John: He was going to wash my feet. I believed him to be Messiah...the Son of God. And he wanted to wash my feet.

Peter: *(as if talking to an unseen Jesus)* "No. Stop. Lord—" *(He addresses audience)* I was filthy. More than just my feet were dirty. He was the pure one, I was the sinner. And he wanted to—I never would have dreamed of washing the other's feet.

John: I was unloving, unjust, blinded by my own pride. Yet here was the author of life, the very Son of God, bending down to wash away my...my filth.

Judas turns to address the audience.

Judas: This wasn't the way...the way it was supposed to happen. This wasn't the way it was meant to be. Roman rule strengthened every day while He sat there talking about peace and love and...and I was ready for a fight. We all were. We would have died with him.

Peter: I was ready to die for him. To stand with him and fight. Instead he talked about being a servant, about love. Love even for our enemies.

Judas: If he was just willing to lead us, willing to take a stand against the Romans... Wasn't he claiming to be the Messiah? Didn't he have enough followers? What was he waiting for? I started to wonder if it was all a lie. Had I given up three years of my life for a dreamer who wasn't willing to finish what he started?

John: I grew up celebrating Passover. The meal, the traditions, the stories—but this was different. The way he explained it. This Passover was different.

Judas: They didn't come to me; I approached *them*. I did. And at first it felt like the right thing to do. It—it didn't feel like a betrayal.

John: Betrayal? What was he talking about? I leaned over to ask him. Who? He handed the bread to Judas. Was he talking in parables? Betrayal. How could one of us betray him? After everything we had seen. I didn't understand. But then again there were so many things I didn't understand.

Peter: Jesus took the bread and told us it was his body broken for us.

John: Then he took the wine and said it was his blood poured out for us.

Peter: I knew he was trying to tell us something. The intensity of his voice. The strong gaze of his eyes. I knew this was important. But—

John: But—we didn't understand. I wanted to. He had called me a son of thunder. I didn't even fully understand what that meant.

Judas: They were looking for a way to stop him. I just gave them the opportunity. And I thought...you never know, maybe this is what he needs...a chance to fight...a reason to fight.

Peter: I started confessing my loyalty. I wanted Him to know that if everyone else left, I would still stand with him. He could count on me. *(Pause)* But then...He—He started talking to me about a rooster crowing.

John: He asked us to pray. Up in the garden, he wanted us to stay awake and pray. It was so late. We had time to pray tomorrow. We had just come off the Passover, the celebration. But something was troubling him, and he wanted to pray.

Peter: Deny him? I'd die for him. I would. Does he know me so little after all this time?

John: We all vowed to die for him, but we couldn't even stay awake and pray.

Peter: After all this time, he thinks I'll deny him. Desert him. Never.

Peter and John turn to face Upstage.

Judas: They deserted him.

Pause.

Judas: When we came for him—it all happened so differently than what I had pictured. It was unbelievable...this...this wasn't happening. He didn't even try to fight back. (Slight pause). I tried to give back the money.

Pause.

Judas: The others deserted him. And I was left...holding the silver. What have I done?

Judas remains standing out towards the audience.

Lights down.

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