

“The Not So Faithful Heroes”

by
Rob Courtney

What Here's a humorous look at what it might have been like if our heroes of the faith hadn't been so faithful.

Themes: Faith, Commitment, Trust, Called, Purpose, Mission, Chosen, God's Will

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|------------|----------|--------|
| Who | Narrator | Nathan |
| | Noah | Peter |
| | God | Jesus |
| | Abraham | Luke |
| | David | Paul |
| | Moses | |

When Bible Times

Wear (Props) Bible costumes for all characters except the Narrator
Water wings or floaties for Noah

Why Hebrews 11

How It's important here to keep the dialogue conversational, which adds to the humor. Don't be overdramatic. Practice the comic timing. You may either have two actors play each role, or have different actors play each role.

***NOTE: Feel free to edit the script for time.**

Time Approximately 15 minutes

Narrator: All right, so we are going to take you into a time machine. We want to give you a look at some familiar Bible stories, except we are going to give the characters some of the traits and characteristics of some church-goers today. We'll start with Noah, who was charged with an enormous task...

Noah enters wearing water floaties.

God: Hello again, Noah. How are things coming with the ark?

Noah: Oh, hi God. Well "hi" as in "hello," not like high as in up in the sky. Well, I guess you are that too. So hi, High God!

God: Hmm, that ark I told you to build looks about the same as it did last week.

Noah: Well, yes. I haven't exactly had time with all the...stuff and things I have to do.

God: Noah, you aren't that busy. Nine to fives don't exist yet.

Noah: What's a nine to five?

God: Never mind. Why isn't the ark more complete?

Noah: Well, I'm thinking it might be a little too big. I think it's more efficient to have all the animals first, and then I can just build around them ya know? I'd hate to build it too big or use too much wood. Someone might need it later.

God: Noah, I'm going to flood the Earth. There won't be anyone left to need it. What are those things on your arms?

Noah: Oh these! I came up with these as an alternative for the ark. They are smaller, easier to make, and fit better in the garage! I'm just going to hand these out to my family and the animals and such and we'll be fine! I call them "life-saving air deposits around your arms for floating."

God: Noah, I commanded you to build an ark and you come to me with these "floaty things"?

Noah: AH! Floaties! That's a good name. Mind if I borrow that?

God: Do those even work?

Noah: Well, I haven't exactly been able to find another test subject brave enough to try them out. Apparently, they don't help you much in the event of a shark attack...

God: Noah, you've been wasting your time and energy trying to come up with your own way out. Do you really think those things will work better than my plans?

Noah: I suppose not (*removing floaties*). Too bad too. These things could have been big...

God: So besides the fact you are wasting time and energy with your own ideas of what's best, why isn't the ark complete?

Noah: Well honestly, God, I'm embarrassed and scared.

God: Of what?

Noah: God, it's all these sinners. They think I'm crazy. And they are making fun of me, laughing at me.

God: But you are right because you are following me.

Noah: But it doesn't feel right. My wife won't even walk on the same side of the street with me, partially because I said the dress made her look fat, but also because she doesn't want them to make fun of her too! Even the village idiot makes jokes! God, it's just ridiculous to build a giant boat on your front lawn! No one does that kind of thing! Why can't you give me something normal to do? This is hard!

God: Noah, you have been set apart to accomplish my will.

Noah: Right, but no one else is doing it and I don't see why I have to.

God: Because I called you to do it.

Noah: God, I just want my life back. I want to be able to be normal and do what normal people do. I'll take my chances with these (*picks up floaties*). If obeying you was easier or more normal, I'd do it but I'm tired of being different. (*Leaves*)

Narrator: So often in the Bible we see God asking people to do abnormal things, like Abraham. Here's a guy who was so blessed for his faith and ability to listen to God...

Abraham enters, hears God.

God: Abraham, leave your family and your home and go to the land I will show you. Great things will happen. You will be a blessing and you will be blessed.

Abraham: Sure thing, God, I'll pack up right now. Um, where are we off to?

God: To a place I will show you.

Abraham: Ok where's it at?

God: I will show you.

Abraham: Okay, can you give me a hint?

God: All you need to know is I will show you and be with you every step of the way.

Abraham: Okay I get it. But God, there's a lot of things going for me now. I got a great home, my whole family is here, we are prospering...ya know makin' bank!

God: But I have even greater things in store for you. Just go.

Abraham: Okay, but like, I'm not really feelin' this whole mystery thing. I mean, what happens when I move? Will I have what I need? Will the people there like me? How do I break it to Grandma that I'm leaving? Before I go I'll need a forwarding address, a secure job. What is the crime rate there? Do I need a passport? God, the more I think about this, it seems kind of crazy. My life is here. My 401k is looking REALLY good, and I've always been here. I'm comfortable here, but you want me to just go? That's kind of out of my comfort zone. It's just not reasonable. Hey, I'm expecting the pool guy soon, but while you're here, my wife has really been wanting a child. Think you could help us out, ya know, make us like a normal family? Thanks. I'll talk to you later. *(Exit)*

Narrator: And now we turn to a critical point in Biblical history: The giving of the Law at Mt. Sinai.

God: And thou shalt not covet. There you have it. Two tablets, Ten Commandments. No excuses. Now we need to discuss getting the priests some new threads. I can't even get a whiff of the incense for all the goat smell radiating from Aaron.

Moses: *(Reading the tablets)* Hang on just a second God. I've got a problem here.

God: You smelled it too?

Moses: No. Well, yes. But that's not the problem. It's these commandments. I'm just not sure these are going to work for us.

God: Well, I already got rid of two others. The Dozen Demandments just don't sound holy enough.

Moses: Well, I appreciate that. I really do. But these commandments. Well, resting on the Sabbath I like, so if it's okay I'd like to move that to the top of the list. But these others. Number 1's too tough, number 5 is inconvenient, and numbers 6-8 I just don't think the people want to do those.

God: But these are my commands.

Moses: Right and I get that, but it is *my* life we are talking about here.

God: I gave you that life. Wanna give it back?

Moses: No! Of course not, it's just that Baal over there on that other mountain is giving out a pretty sweet deal. It's more fun. It's easier, and I think he's got dental too.

God: But I am God Almighty. The Great I Am.

Moses: And I am the great I Am Not...not gonna do these (*laughs*). But seriously God, I think you're awesome. That trick with the bush and the snake out of a staff thing was really cool. But now you're asking a lot. I mean you freed us just to give us a bunch of new rules?

God: Moses, I brought you out of slavery and gave you a new life and am about to give you more that you ever dreamed.

Moses: Right. Okay, let's compromise. Keep them in the same order and we will keep command number 8, but only obey number 1 when we can. And number 5 should only apply to people who can't keep the rest of them. But number 7 definitely needs to go okay? Just doesn't seem important. Thanks! (*Turns to leave.*)

God: No, Moses. These commandments are MY commandments.

Moses: (*Half-joking*) Well possession is 9/10ths of the law and I've kind of got the tablets right here so...

God: Moses, I created you and I know these Laws are the best thing for you, to keep you from harming yourself or others.

Moses: Well, that's your opinion. Look, I lead the people and they are happier than ever so I think I got this. Now if you'll excuse me, I've got to go tell the people what they want to hear. (*Yells*) Hey check it out guys! I've got the Seven Suggestions straight from God! (*Exit*)

Narrator: I'm sure a few of us have seen that in others. Even fewer will see themselves. Now we go on to David, who is known and admired for

being a man after God's own heart. And we also have Nathan who had great courage to deliver a message from Almighty God.

David: Okay, I hear Nathan needs to see me. Let's make this quick. The Lakers are on in 20.

Nathan enters.

David: Hello again, Nathan. Listen, you were right about that donkey. Turns out the one I bought gets better mileage than all the rest. Hey, when is your sister coming over again? I sure do miss those brownies.

Nathan: Thank you sir, but we need to talk.

David: So I hear. What's on your mind?

Nathan: *(Confidently at first but then nervous and uncomfortable)* King David! We have a problem. Well, not really a problem, more like...a situation that...well it really could be more of a...hey! How's the new donkey working out?

David : *(Perplexed)* I just said its fine. Aren't prophets supposed to know things BEFORE I say them?

Nathan: *(Chuckles nervously)* Well, I suppose so but um...

David: Just say it, Nathan.

Nathan: *(Breathes heavily)* Okay. You have...well that maybe you hooked up with Bathsheba...at least that's the word on the street. Someone said that and I dunno, I just feel...

David: Hungry? BRING SOME NACHOS FOR MY FRIEND!!

Nathan: No. I'm not hungry at all. Quite the opposite. I just don't think God would be very happy with what you did.

David: And what did I do exactly?

Nathan: With Bathsheba...you...

David: Oh you mean with a person in MY kingdom, making her MY subject, thus making her an extension of MY property?

Nathan: And her husband? What did he say?

David: AAAAH HELP ME!!! Because now he's a Kosher-kabob *(laughs heartily)*.

Nathan: So then, he's dead.

David: I think so. That's what someone said. You think I'M to blame??

Nathan: Well sir, I don't want to say that but...

David: Listen here! What was she doing on the roof anyway? Why can't she put up a curtain or something? And if her husband found out, he probably would have killed me! Do you want your king to be dead?

Nathan: Of course not, it's just that it doesn't seem right, and I don't think God would be pleased.

David: Here's the thing, Nathan. You come into my palace and start pointing fingers and throwing out accusations like a hypocrite. You're not perfect either! What about when you stepped on that little girl's toe? And I'm the king! I'm the king for a reason and I can do what I want. So stop thumpin' the Torah at me and worry about yourself. Sheesh. I got so much to worry about, and this guy wants to come and tell me I'm a horrible person for one tiny mistake. Nobody's perfect...

Nathan exits humiliated.

Narrator: There is a lot to be said for seeking and possessing the very heart of God and the courage to call it like God sees it. Now we are going to move forward all the way up to Jesus' time. Peter is a guy who has a reputation for misunderstanding things. But you have to appreciate his heart to speak up and try. Here's what could have happened...

Peter and Andrew, if possible, are cleaning and organizing their nets. Jesus approaches.

Peter: Shalom, Teacher! What brings you here? We have a great sale on scallops going on right now, the shop is just right over there if you want some.

Jesus: No Simon, I wanted to talk to you.

Peter: *(As if guilty)* Okay Rabbi, I can explain. Really it was Andrew's idea anyway, and I wasn't going to go through with it but...

Jesus: No, Simon, it's not that. I want you to follow me.

Peter: *(A little confused)* Okay. Gimme ten minutes to put up these nets.

Jesus: Simon, I want to make you a fisher of men.

Peter: Um. Is that legal? I'm not sure I have hooks big enough. And worms won't work, so maybe we can use fake money or something?

Jesus: *(A little frustrated)* No. I will call all men to myself and I want you to help me on my mission.

Peter: *(Yells)* HEY EVERYONE, THE TEACHER IS HERE! RIGHT HERE! COME AND LISTEN! HE'S PRETTY SMART!

Jesus: No Simon. I want you to drop your nets and follow me as I go all over the country. I want your help in proclaiming the kingdom to everyone.

Peter: Look Jesus. You're the man. You're my homeboy, but I can't do that. I'm just a fisherman. People smell me from a mile away. You don't want me. OH! You should get that Rabbi in that one synagogue! He's good!

Jesus: Simon, I want you. I want you to do more for me.

Peter: Okay look, I'm a good Jew. I throw out all the unclean fish. I don't do anything REALLY bad like the other sinners. I'm at the synagogue every Saturday, I read what I'm supposed to. I say a prayer every night. I give my tithe. I even give 10.5%! I do all the requirements so God won't be angry with me. What more can you ask of me?

Jesus: To drop your net and leave it there and come and follow me.

Peter: Look, I do all the duties my religion requires me to. After that, I don't see how it's feasible. I'm not a great preacher or anything so there's really no use for me. It's not easy to just pick up and go to a new career. I'm not your guy, Jesus. There's no way I can help you. I just want to know I'm going to heaven ya know? *(Hands Jesus a fish)* Here's a tuna. Hope it helps because it's all I've got. *(Exits)*

Narrator: Lucky for everyone Peter didn't do what we see people just like him do every day. Now, Jesus himself ruffled quite a few feathers with his strong convictions, giving him the confidence to do the hard things.

Jesus: Peter, who do the people say I am?

Peter: Some say you're a great teacher, some say you're a prophet. Some say you're a fake.

Jesus: Who are those people? I can raise people from the dead...I can put them there too. Where are they?

Peter: Lord, I don't think that's a good idea. Look! There's a Pharisee you can rebuke!

Jesus: Nah. They are going to hell anyway. Peter, who do you say I am?

Peter: Well, I've got to agree with some of the others. You are the Messiah. The promised one. But there's a bit of grey area there.

Jesus: *(Startled)* What do you mean grey area? What are you talking about?

Peter: Well, the Messiah has so much to do. If you are the Messiah, you are going to come and save us from the Romans and usher in a new empire of peace and prosperity under God's kingdom. Forever for all people all over the world! No pressure though.

Jesus: You think I'm going to do all that?

Peter: Well, I thought we would at least be storming the capital by now. But your captains...they need some work. Some fisherman, a tax collector, Bartholomew's overweight, Phillip can never remember where he put his stuff 'cause half the time Judas is trying to pawn it somewhere. I hope you got a heck of a plan 'cause it doesn't look like our army is near ready.

Jesus: So I need different followers? Okay watch this: I'm gonna put new meaning behind firing someone.

Peter: No! It's just that...I dunno Jesus...we've been waiting for a Messiah for a long time. I'm kind of ready to get it started. Ya know?

Jesus: Well here's the problem, I feel like my Father is calling me to do something great. It's just I'm not sure exactly where I'm going with this, so I want to play it safe, ya know? What do you think?

Peter: Um, Teacher, I normally ask you that question...then you tell me what I'm doing wrong. Remember?

Jesus: Yeah, yeah. But really, if I'm the Messiah what should I do? I don't want everyone thinking I am the Messiah if I'm not gonna go nuclear on Rome. But I don't want them to think I'm just a teacher, so they won't laugh if I do try to attack Caesar.

Peter: Well, you are a great teacher and I have never seen anyone heal people as fast as you. I think the Messiah is supposed to do those things too.

Jesus: *(Thinking)* Yeah. Good point. That'll be cool, right? I mean doing good things, healing the blind, teaching people about God, kissing babies, planting flowers. That's a good life, right?

Peter: *(Disappointed)* Yeah it is it.

Jesus: What's wrong Peter? Feeling bloated? Here I'll pull your finger again.

Peter: No Jesus. I was just hoping to go make a salad out of Caesar.

Jesus: AH! You think I should? I thought we agreed that its cool to just do nice stuff. I can still be Messiah like that right?

Peter: Yeah, I guess so. You can have your picket fence too.

Jesus: That's the idea. But wait, isn't the Messiah supposed to ride a donkey? I don't have a donkey! Am I really the Messiah?

Peter: I think so. What did the prophets say?

Jesus: That I was to be born in Bethlehem, which I was, but then I moved to Egypt, then Nazareth. I'm multicultural! Can I be the Messiah and be multicultural?

Peter: I'm not sure...I...I think you can just do what God tells you to do.

Jesus: Peter! Don't you realize what's at stake here? I have to know what's happening!!

Peter: You can consult some rabbis. They could tell you.

Jesus: Exactly! Peter, you're not as dumb as you look. I'll do that and whatever they say I should do is what I'll do. Deal? Deal! *(Runs to exit.)*

Narrator: The Jesus we know remained true to His calling. So did the apostle Paul and he was witness to some great things because of his knowledge of and faith in the power of God. So was his companion and author of Acts- Luke.

Paul enters to Luke, who is waiting with pen and paper to take notes.

Luke: Okay, Paul, tell me again what happened, I need to write this down.

Paul: Well, it was a long day, and I was teaching in the house and I heard a bear in the room with us! But then someone said it was just Eutychus sleeping. My grandmother made the exact same sound *(mimic intense snoring)*.

Luke: *(Writing)* ...patient entered into a phase 3 sleep...

Paul: Well, I guess he was sleeping by the window and the next thing I know everyone's sayin' this guy fell out of window!

Luke: *(Writing)* ...great disturbance...

Paul: Yeah, it was terrible 'cause I was in the middle of the joke about the farmer and the rabbi. You know that one, right? It's my favorite.

Luke: *(Writing)* Paul told another preacher joke...

Paul: Well, anyways I went downstairs and he was dead.

Luke: *(Stops writing)* Wait, he was dead? But now he's alive?

Paul: Yeah! Like I just felt God moving in me and him and so I took him in my arms and he was alive!

Luke: So then he wasn't dead?

Paul: Yeah, he was dead. Bought the farm, kicked the bucket, pushin' up daisies...like he was toast.

Luke: Paul, I'm a doctor. People don't die and then live. They live and then die. I'm gonna write he was in a coma.

Paul: No, he died from that fall. He was all mangled...looked like a smashed mosquito! Like, he was gone.

Luke: *(Trying to write again)* ...patient was half-dead...

Paul: No, Luke! He was dead. Like really dead. Like super dead. Deader than Elvis dead.

Luke: Not hard to do. Saw Elvis yesterday...

Paul: Okay, bad example. But Eutychus was dead.

Luke: Okay, so he was dead. What did you do? CPR? Inject him in heart? Use one of those shocky thingies? *(Imitates)* CLEAR! I've always wanted to do that.

Paul: No, I am pretty sure God healed him. *(Thinks)* Yep that's what happened.

Luke: Paul, if someone is dead, they are dead. They can't just miraculously jump up. John the Baptist isn't going to just glue his head back on.

Paul: I don't know how God did it but its true! He healed Eutychus!!

Luke: *(Looks at Paul skeptically)* Paul, the universe works according to certain laws. Laws that can't be broken...

Paul: Even by the one who made those laws?

Luke: Paul, miracles don't happen every day!

Paul: So, you've never prayed for a miracle?

Luke: Of course not. I always pray that God is with the doctors, or that the disease isn't dangerous. Most of the time I just pray they will go peacefully and clear the room for the next patient because it's ridiculous to believe that someone can be healed like that.

Paul: Luke, don't you know that God can do anything? Don't you know that He works in mysterious ways? You're a Christian! Where is your faith?

Luke: *(Stares at Paul for a minute)* If you don't mind, I'll write something a little more reasonable *(writes as he leaves)* ...and Paul puts his arms around Eutychus who turned into a zombie...

Lights out.

SCRIPT

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