Paul's Farewell to the Ephesians

CHARACTERS: PAUL, Elders and others
COSTUMES: Biblical
SETTING: a beach or none specified
RUN TIME: 4 minutes
SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Acts 20
FK reading level: 6.7

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: This can be done strictly as a monologue but I highly suggest having ELDERS and other people so that the audience can gauge the depth of Paul's farewell by the facial expressions and body language of those to whom he bids farewell. During a monologue, it is easy for audience attention to wander, but watching various reactions to the speaker keeps audience interest and aids in their emotional response, comprehension and retention.

At rise: Paul addresses a group of people.

PAUL: You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. *PEOPLE nod in agreement.* You must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus. *More nodding, perhaps a quiet "Amen" or two*

And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. *PEOPLE look perplexed, shake their heads "no" slightly to show this is not what they want to happen to PAUL*

However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace. *Vigorous nodding, a strong "Amen".*

Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. *PEOPLE are at first stunned. One grasps PAUL and embraces him, then another, both deeply disturbed by this announcement. One or two others kneel; one weeps and is embraced by another.*

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. *ELDERS embrace or physically comfort some who are hardest hit and weeping.*

Now I commit you to God. Help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' *PAUL kneels, the rest quickly follow suit as if they anticipated this and ALL bow in prayer*

LEADER: When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed.

ALL: We wept as we embraced him. *ALL stand and in turn embrace PAUL, some still weeping.*

LEADER: *(with great sadness)* What grieved us most was his statement that they would never see his face again.

ALL: Then we accompanied him to the ship.

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