

John and Jesus

CHARACTERS: Narrator, John, Voice 1, Tax Collector, Soldiers (one is non-speaking), Herod, Narrator, Jesus, 4 disciples (Ananias, Saul, Peter (non-speaking), Andrew (non-speaking))

PROPS: optional crown for Herod

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 3 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Matthew 10 & 11, Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 10, John 20:21

At rise: JOHN is speaking to a crowd of people. Have the actors on stage, cheat with their backs slightly to the audience so it appears the audience is part of the crowd. They should react to JOHN's message as he speaks.

JOHN: *(animated, moving around, using his hands to emphasize what he says)* You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

VOICE 1: What should we do then?

JOHN: Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.

TAX COLLECTOR: What should we tax collectors do?

JOHN: Don't collect any more than you are required to.

SOLDIER: And what should we soldiers do?

JOHN: Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.

VOICE 1: Are you the Messiah?

JOHN: No. I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

HEROD: What about Kings?

JOHN: King Herod, your marriage to Herodias, your brother's wife, and all the other evil things you have done, are an affront to God. Repent! Change your ways!

HEROD: Arrest this man! *(SOLDIERS reluctantly do, taking JOHN off stage; the rest of the characters follow. JESUS enters)*

NARRATOR: John was beheaded for speaking God's truth. *(NARRATOR exits)*

JESUS: John was a prophet and more than a prophet. Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. *(DISCIPLES enter and kneel around Jesus. He looks at them and as he places a hand on each one, they bow their heads, rise and exit to follow his orders)*

As the Father has sent me, I am sending you, like sheep among wolves. Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. *(touches Peter and he leaves)* On my

account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. (*touches SAUL and he leaves*) But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. (*touches ANANIAS and leaves*)

You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.
(*ANDREW leaves*)

(*If you are doing ANANIAS skit insert it here. NARRATOR, ANANIAS and SAUL should not exit off stage, only to one side of the stage.*)

JESUS: (*moving to center stage if he is not already there due to doing the ANANIAS portion. JESUS speaks directly to the audience*)

The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.