

A "Good" Friday Night?

**A thought-provoking Good Friday drama sketch by
Brian T. Whitaker, Whitaker Writings**

Cast: Three men, one woman, and one boy (age 6-9).

Summary: Thomas, James, Mary Magdalene, and Matthew gather in secret on Good Friday night. They struggle together over the events of the day and how this fits with all they've believed about Jesus. A small child there with them reminds them of Jesus' words about dying and rising again. Maybe this isn't the end...maybe it's just the beginning.

Time: 6 minutes

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Written by Brian T. Whitaker,
Whitaker Writings, LLC

Premise

Some of Christ’s followers gather together in secret on the night that Jesus has died.

Characters

Thomas: Just can’t get over the fact that Jesus is dead and gone

James: Zealous; perplexed that Jesus didn’t stop it

Mary Magdalene: Full of faith that there has to be more to the story

Matthew: Convinced from prophecies that Jesus was the Messiah

Child: Quiet, but has final childlike-faith comments that floor them all

James and Mary are standing or sitting, child is further back on the stage area. They all have stunned, lost looks on their faces, not really looking at each other. Matthew and Thomas enter from stage left, looking frightened and confused.

Thomas: *(looks around furtively)* Is it safe?

James: Yes, come in Thomas.

Matthew: Mary, has anyone seen the others?

Mary: No, we haven’t seen them since... *(chokes up and can’t finish sentence)*

Thomas: *(to James)* I just can’t believe it, James. He’s... *(hesitates)* dead. He’s... *(hesitates again)* gone. They’ve buried Him. It’s all over.

James: I can’t believe it either, Thomas. I mean... we all saw His power. He raised other people from the dead. I was so sure He would save Himself! I thought he’d just come off the cross and convince them all of who we thought He really was. Why didn’t He stop it? Why didn’t He just come down off that cross?

Mary: *(shakes head)* I don’t know. After all we’ve seen Him do.... After all He’s done for us. I mean, look at me today, my sin erased, my whole life changed...all because of Jesus. *(to Matthew)* Matthew, you studied the Old Testament prophecies the more than anyone. You were so sure He was the Messiah. Wasn’t Jesus the fulfillment of everything we hoped for?

Thomas: But Jesus is dead. He's buried. Isn't that the end? (*Matthew holds up his hands and sits down.*)

James: I don't know. Maybe... just maybe... this is what was supposed to happen. You know, Mary's right. We've seen Jesus' power many times. He could have stopped all of this in an instant, but He didn't.

Thomas: But how could dying be part of God's plan?

Child: (*he's been listening attentively all of this time, but now he pipes up*) Don't you remember Him saying something about how he would be killed? You were there with Him when He said it—I saw you.

Mary: What else did Jesus say?

Child: He said that on the third day, He'd rise again.

James: (*interrupts, as all four adults gasp in shock*) What?!

Child: (*continues*) Even some of the Roman soldiers heard it! That's why they sealed the tomb tonight. They're afraid it might be true and they want to make sure it doesn't happen.

Mary: Yeah, you're right Matthew, and as I think back over the past few years, Jesus has done a lot of things I don't understand. He reached out to me when I was living such a sinful life... and to you, Matthew, when you were collecting taxes for the Romans. No other religious leader would have done that! And look at the way he has changed all our lives. Like you said, Jesus had a reason for everything He did-whether we understood it or not. Maybe this boy is right.

All 3 men: (*ad lib gasps*) What?? You believe this boy?? (*etc.*)

Mary: Maybe Jesus did plan to die... maybe there is some divine reason that he had to die...maybe this isn't the end... (*pause*)...maybe it's just the beginning.

Lights Out

Note: This drama is meant to lead into a service that will carefully explain God's glorious purposes through the crucifixion and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The drama asks: "How could this be part of God's plan?" The next part of the service should show how the crucifixion WAS and IS God's perfect plan.