

Drama Ministry®

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A TALE OF TWO FRIENDS

by STEVEN JAMES, DAN EARL AND JOEL VAN EATON

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: Two of Jesus' closest friends talk about the night of Jesus' arrest. By the end of the night, both men will realize that their acts of betrayal are the cause of Jesus' death.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Peter and Judas have almost become fictionalized characters like Paul Bunyan and Clark Kent. The key to directing this script is remembering that Peter and Judas were real people who felt compelled to make the real choices they made. In the case of Judas, he believed he was doing what was right. For Peter, the choice was a matter of life or death. Read the script and corresponding passages of Scripture, and ask God to give you a fresh perspective on these two men.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Good Friday, Sin, Biblical Times

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Mark 14:66-72, John 11:45-53

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Easter

SUGGESTED USE: Good Friday Service, Worship Service

CHARACTERS:

PETER - A friend of Jesus

JUDAS - A friend of Jesus

PROPS: None

COSTUMES: Contemporary, casual dress

SOUND: 2 wireless mikes

LIGHTING: Two individually lit areas

SETTING: General

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ISSN 1084-5917

Drama Ministry is a division of
Belden Worship Resources
www.beldenworshipresources.com

Publisher: **Regi Stone**

Executive Editor: **Kimberlee Crisafulli** / Assistant Editor: **Scott Crain**

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PETER and JUDAS ENTER simultaneously. JUDAS stands stage right. PETER stage left. Spotlight on each of them. The rest of the stage is black.

JUDAS: He was my friend. He had been for, oh, a couple years. He chose me.

PETER: He confused me. I never really understood what he was talking about. I didn't get it. It just didn't make any sense.

JUDAS: I was really honored that morning when he announced my name along with the other eleven. Not everyone was chosen. I was. And he trusted me. That's why he let me handle the money for our group. And I was gonna make him proud. It was my chance to be part of something big!

PETER: Everything's been so different since that day I left my nets to follow him... I was a part of something big! I was in on the ground floor! And then came the night in the garden.

(SFX: Gentle sound of crickets chirping in the background)

JUDAS: Things didn't go quite as planned. Jesus wasn't taking control like he should have. He kept talking about power and kingdoms and stuff, but all the time he didn't do anything... Just talk... He wouldn't let the people crown him king. He just withdrew by himself instead... I guess I got antsy and frustrated... I don't remember when the thought first occurred to me. But after it did, I couldn't get it out of my mind. Yeah, maybe I could help move things along.

PETER: It was cold that night. And it'd already been a long day. I was tired and confused. We couldn't believe he'd been arrested. I didn't know what to do. Nothing made sense anymore.

JUDAS: So I talked to Caiaphas. And the way he explained it, well, it started to make sense to me. I mean, Caiaphas was only interested in preventing bloodshed... Finally, I knew my time had come. I knew what I had to do.

PETER: A few men had started a campfire. Everyone was talking in whispers when all of a sudden this little girl says it, loud enough for everyone to hear. "Hey! Look at him! He was with them!"

JUDAS: I led them through the garden. A trail of lights behind me. I was their guide. I was the one they were following.

PETER: Everyone looked at me. I didn't know what to say. "Me? Huh. No. I don't know him." I slipped away from the fire into the cold where I hoped no one would bother me. But I stayed close enough to hear them talk.

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JUDAS: I knew right where he'd be. I knew the plans. And there! I could see him, up ahead, in the shadows. He was with his favorites. The inner circle. I could tell. I knew them all. I pushed the branches aside and stepped toward them.

PETER: I hoped they'd forget about me, standing there in the shadows. But they didn't. They muttered under their breath and pointed their fingers at me. Finally, one of the men who'd started the fire called over to me, "Hey, you over there! You were with him. Come here." I didn't know what to do.

JUDAS: I knew exactly what to do. It'd all been arranged. I'd greet him with a kiss on the cheek, the way a friend greets a friend. "Rabbi" I smiled. I held him. I kissed him. And he whispered into my ear. "Judas, do you betray me with a kiss?" I stepped back.

PETER: I waited a moment and then stepped forward, "See. I recognize your face," he said. "You were there in the garden." But again I denied it. And as I said the words, they began to feel natural. I almost started to believe them

myself.

JUDAS: They grabbed him. And he didn't put up a fight. He just turned to us and said, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns." That's when all the other disciples turned and ran.

PETER: *(Starting slow, building in energy)* For nearly an hour I stood there. Until I thought they'd forgotten about me. Some people left the fire, others arrived with fresh news. But as the sun began to rise, they pointed at me again. This time they all did. They recognized me. "You were in the olive grove!" They knew. And that's when I lost it. I swore up and down I'd never heard of him. I cursed his name. I hadn't used words like those in years—in fact, not since that day when I first left my nets...

JUDAS: It didn't hit me right away.

PETER: And before I could close my mouth, a group of soldiers crowded into the courtyard. They were leading a prisoner.

JUDAS: I didn't realize what I'd done.

PETER: It was Jesus.

JUDAS: He was my friend.

PETER: *(Pause for a beat)* Our eyes met just as the rooster's cry cut through the dawn. And I remembered our conversation: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me..." No, Jesus, I will never disown you...

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JUDAS: He chose me!

PETER: I will never disown you!

JUDAS: He loved me!

PETER: Oh! What have I done!

JUDAS: What have I done! He was an innocent man!

PETER: I've betrayed my friend.

JUDAS: *(Overlapping lines, begin as PETER says "betrayed")*

I've betrayed my friend.

PETER: And it's my fault...

JUDAS: *(Dropping to his knees)* It's all my fault...

PETER: ...that he's dead...

JUDAS: ...he's dead...

PETER: ...he's dead.

PETER and JUDAS freeze. Lights fadeout. They EXIT in the dark. Empty stage.

..... Lights down.

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