A script from



## "Have You Reached Your Verdict?"

by Brian Cropp, Eddie James, Johnny Baker, David Smith

**What** After three years of putting up with Jesus' public ministry, the Pharisees and

other teachers of the law have had enough. Finally, they have Jesus right where they want him: on trial for claiming to be the Son of God. And no amount of facts or evidence to Jesus' deity will stand in the way of proving him guilty.

(Themes: Integrity, Messiah, Sin)

**Who** See next page

**When** Modern-type court room

**Wear** General courtroom props

(**Props**) A bag of coins

**Why** Matthew 26:57-68

**How** Though the events that are dramatized within this script are similar to those of

the Biblical accounts of Jesus' trial, the courtroom itself has certainly been modernized. Biblical witnesses, though not present at the actual trial, do highlight events in Jesus' ministry that caused great frustration to the Jewish

religious leadership, and led them to seek his death in the first place.

**Time** Approximately 12-14 minutes

The Cast:

**Judge**: Representative of Caiaphas. He's looking for a conviction at

all costs.

Suggested costuming: Modern-day judge's robe, white shirt

and black tie underneath.

**Prosecutor**: Representative of those who accused Jesus. He twists every

bit of evidence away from Jesus as Messiah, and paints him

as either a fake or a man possessed by the devil.

Suggested costuming: Very nice suit and tie.

Witnesses/ Judas: They each have their own opinion of who Jesus is, and their

words reflect that bias.

Suggested costuming: Either traditional biblical dress (no

bath robes), or they could be dressed in a modern-day

costume representative of who they are.

**Jesus**: The Son of God. The Word that became flesh. No amount of

judicial tricks will be able to tarnish those claims. It would be good to shy away from the stoic, almost stone-like Jesus that is seen in many pieces of art. While it's true He was focused on the goal of being mankind's savior, He had compassion for

those for whom He would die.

**Suggested costuming**: Either biblical or modern dress, but try to stay away from white, as He had not yet resurrected in glory at this point. It might also be interesting to consider if

He had lived to day, how would He dress?

**Bailiff/ Guards:** These are regular officers of the court. Just guys doing their

jobs.

**Suggested costuming**: All of them should be in modern

police costumes.



The scene starts with the **Prosecutor** going over his notes at his desk. The **Bailiff** escorts the **Members of the Jury** into the jury box. NOTE: Pick 12 members of your audience before the performance to be jurors. As soon as they are settled...

Bailiff: All rise!

Everyone on stage stands, if possible everyone in the audience as well. The **Judge** enters, and sits behind the bench.

**Bailiff:** Hear ye, hear ye, court is now in session. The honorable Judge

Caiaphas presiding.

**Judge**: Please bring in the accused.

Two **Guards** bring in a handcuffed **Jesus**. They place him center of room where he will stand for the rest of this trial.

**Judge**: (Handing Bailiff a piece of paper) Bailiff, could you please read

the charges?

**Bailiff:** (Reading) The accused, Jesus of Nazareth, has been charged with

being involved in sorcery, witchcraft and other black arts, and

with blasphemy, claiming that he is the Son of God.

**Judge**: Thank you. (To **Jesus**) How do you plead? (**Jesus** does not

respond) Very well. Bring in the first witness.

Jacob, a pig farmer, enters. Prosecutor approaches Jacob.

**Prosecutor**: Please state your name and occupation.

**Jacob**: Shouldn't I swear on something?

**Prosecutor**: (Through gritted teeth) We've been over this already. Just do

what I tell you. (Normal) Your name and occupation.

**Jacob**: Jacob. I'm a pig farmer.

**Prosecutor**: You do a good business raising pigs?

Jacob: Used to.

**Prosecutor**: How do you mean?

**Jacob**: Well, we did fine until he came around.

**Prosecutor**: By "he," I'm sure you're referring to the accused?

Jacob: Yes.

**Prosecutor**: What did "he" do?

**Jacob**: There's this area near the Sea of Galilee where we liked to keep

our pigs. They have good mud there.

**Prosecutor**: Why do you keep them so far away from your house?

**Jacob**: Ever smelled a pig? Anyway, at that time there were these two

crazy guys. I mean crazy. They used to yell at people who walked by and cut themselves with rocks. The town tried chaining them down once, but they only broke the chains, so everybody just tried to leave them alone. So one day he, Jesus, he and some other guys showed up in a boat, and the moment they're on shore these two guys ran up and knelt before Jesus.

**Prosecutor**: So you're saying that they knew him. They even showed him

honor by kneeling to him.

Jacob: Yes.

**Prosecutor**: Go on.

**Jacob**: Well, next thing you know, sis-boom-bah, the two guys are right

as rain, and now my pigs're acting crazy.

**Prosecutor**: How do you mean?

**Jacob**: Well, they were biting each other and trying to trample each

other. Everything got so crazy they ran themselves off of the cliff

and drowned in the sea.

**Prosecutor**: And you witnessed this yourself?

**Jacob**: No. My servants they came and told me what... I mean yes! Yes,

sir! I saw the whole thing.

**Prosecutor**: An eyewitness! And now you have no pigs?

**Jacob**: I got nothing. And it's all his fault.

**Prosecutor**: How do you think he was able to do this?

**Jacob**: Well, the only thing I can figure is he's obviously got some kind of

connection to the spirit world, but those guys they responded to

him like he was their master or something.

**Prosecutor**: So are you saying that he is the master of demons?



**Jacob**: I don't know if I'd go that far... I mean yes. He has to be working

under the power of Beelzebub.

**Prosecutor**: Thank you. No further questions.

**Judge**: (*To Jesus*) Anything you'd like to add? (*No response*) No?

Anytime you wanna speak up just let me know. Next witness.

**Jacob** leaves and **Boaz**, a husband, enters, and sits in the witness stand.

**Prosecutor**: Please state your name and occupation.

**Boaz**: Actually, I've been meaning to talk to you about the terms of my

testimony.

**Prosecutor**: (*Playing dumb*) I'm sure I don't know what you mean.

**Boaz**: You know. You said I give my testimony and you'd pay me a

hundred...

**Prosecutor**: (Laughs it off, but through gritted teeth) I'm sure I don't know

what you mean.

Boaz: We'll talk later, after the ... (Prosecutor's look stops him from

going further) My name is Boaz and I'm a potter.

**Prosecutor**: And what is your association with the accused.

**Boaz**: A very loose one I'm sure.

**Prosecutor**: Get on with it.

**Boaz**: Let's see... It would have to be about three years ago. That's

right, I'm about to celebrate our third anniversary, and that's

when it happened. At my wedding.

**Prosecutor**: That's when what happened?

**Boaz**: Okay, the long story is this: It was my wife's and my wedding

day. Well, she wasn't my wife yet, but, never mind... Actually,

she was at this point...

**Prosecutor**: Get to the point.

**Boaz**: Sorry. It was the reception after the ceremony. Now, don't get

me wrong, most of my family is very moral, God-fearing

individuals, but everyone's got a few black sheep, if you catch my

drift



**Prosecutor**: Enlighten me.

**Boaz**: Well, we weren't more than two hours into the festivities when

we ran out of wine. Actually, come to think of it, it was my wife's

relatives that were...

**Prosecutor**: (Clearly agitated at **Boaz**) I'm not gonna say it again.

**Boaz**: There I am wondering what I'm gonna do, y'know, 'cause I don't

want to look cheap, when all the sudden, these people are coming up to me congratulating me on the great tasting wine. I'm wondering, did someone go down to the store? But then some of my servants told me what happened. That that Jesus fellow over there had them fill up jugs with water, may I

emphasize well water. He has them fill up these jugs, does a little hocus-pocus on them and somehow he'd turned the water into

wine.

**Prosecutor**: Then what happened?

**Boaz**: Well, like I said everybody's coming up to me saying what great

wine it is, saying I'm the best host ever. I didn't want to cause a scandal, what was I supposed to do, I took credit for it. But I can tell you this, I've never had him over to the house to look at our

wedding paintings.

**Prosecutor:** Would you be willing to say that he was only able to do this by

some Satanic power?

**Boaz**: I don't know any other explanation. I mean I love a good sleight-

of-hand trick as much as the next guy, but water into wine? I

think that's a little creepy.

**Prosecutor**: Thank you. (*To Jesus*) Your witness. Oh, that's right you don't

have anyone to defend you. I'm sorry.

**Judge**: (To Boaz) You may step down. (To Prosecutor) Next witness.

Enter Lazarus. He takes a seat at the witness stand.

**Prosecutor**: Please state your name and occupation.

Lazarus: Lazarus. Weaver.

**Prosecutor**: And what is your association with the accused.

**Lazarus**: Look, I don't want any trouble.