

A script from



“Paul”

by
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- What** Here is a look at the life and times of one of the most famous people in the Bible, Paul. This is an informative look at who Paul was and what his life meant. (Themes: Grace, Mercy, God’s Calling, Purpose, Redemption, Salvation)
- Who** 1 Actor
- When** Around A.D. 40-80
- Wear (Props)** Chair
Table
Men’s Bible costume
- Why** 1 Timothy 1:12-19
- How** This is a lot of information so it’s very important that the actor not sit through the whole thing and to make it as if he is talking to someone. It will be crucial to the actor to bring out the emotion and authenticity to this piece.
- Time** Approximately 6-8 minutes

Paul is sitting at a desk writing in his journal. He stops to tell the audience his story. It's very important to make it as if he is talking to someone.

Paul: I wonder sometimes if I had not been so wretched if God would have used me in such a powerful way. Of course I didn't know I was so pitiful. But I was not always the man you see today.

Tarsus is my birth city. It's a city known for its commerce, culture and education. I would not go to school there. My parents were wealthy much like others in Tarsus. And that wealth afforded us Romans citizenship, but my parents never would have allowed me to school in Tarsus because they were conservative Jews. I would go to Jerusalem and study under the Gamalia, the greatest Rabbi in all of Israel. When I was I guess 14 I left my parents' home and moved to Jerusalem. Once there I spent every waking moment following my Rabbi. I wanted to be just like him, to know what he knew, to do what he did. I rose to the top of my class. Eventually, I joined the Pharisees; we were the leaders, the lawyers, the keepers of Jewish laws and customs. We had the respect of our people and we had the power.

It was during my 30's that there arose this movement called The Way. Some of my blue collar brothers from up near the Sea of Galilee were spreading rumors that the Messiah, our Messiah had come. At first we ignored this band of fisherman but their followers were becoming a problem, converting all kinds of people. They were growing and speaking out against Moses and his laws and the Temple. I couldn't have it. It was blasphemy, so I went after them. We had to eradicate this rebellion against God. I was passionate. It just so happens that I was passionate about the wrong things.

I can close my eyes and see a man named Stephen. I would say that I was jealous of him but it was more than that. He was filled with a grace and peace that I could not comprehend. I know now it was Jesus living in him. Stephen was a threat and so I manipulated the situation until I brought about his death. Not by using my own hands of course, but they were stained just the same. Certainly I was a great Jew, but that had nothing to do with having a relationship with God. I was in love with a God who had me worship him from afar. To tell you the truth, I was in love with the power that that position provided me. Looking back I can see how my education and position would be useful to me as I made disciples for Jesus, but first I had to get to know him. Jesus. Thank goodness he loved me even before I was working for his purpose. You know that those he loves, he rebukes and disciplines. Ah, but I am getting ahead of myself.

Paul Cocooning

It just didn't quite happen the way you might have expected it to. Jesus has talked to me many times over the years, but never again like the first time. The light... and then the darkness. I remember the light so vividly. It was like a flash of lightning inches from my nose. It was like touching something completely unfamiliar. My senses didn't quite know what to make of it. Of course, I didn't expect to meet Jesus on the way to Damascus. It was terrifying to hear my name being spoken by a man dressed in white with eyes like blazing fire. “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” I said, “Who are you?” And I was struck by the words, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting”.

The men I was traveling with could hear what was being said and were speechless as I fell to the ground. They remained motionless as I began to cry and did not understand why. When I stood, I was blind. That day I became a son of the King. For three days I was blind. Every day I prayed and fasted, I was grieved. How could I have been so wrong, how could I have done all those terrible things! Jesus used that time to tear down who I thought I was and began to create who he wanted me to be. The intense guilt was overwhelming, but every day I felt a little more of the depth of Jesus' love for me and the forgiveness that comes with that.

When I could see again I went to Arabia. I needed to be alone to get to know Jesus. I had so much education and training but somehow I missed the most important part of the story. I spent day after day poring over the scriptures.

I reread Isaiah and Micah and wept as I realized that the truth had been there all along. I spent time wrestling with how Jewish laws and customs fit with the fulfillment of the scriptures. I wanted to know how Jesus could forgive me. How he could not only forgive me, but love me. I also learned tent making. It was good to spend time with John and learn a trade that I could use to support myself now that my family had abandoned me. I spent 14 years walking dirt paths, kicking stones and thinking about how my past training might be useful. I wanted to use my intellect again, but not for Judaism, this time for Jesus.

Paul's Ministry Life

It was painful to spend so much time wondering where I should go next. I wondered what the purpose was of all that time learning and growing. When Barnabus came to take me to Antioch I welcomed the company. It was so good to talk to him about Jesus, and everything that