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"Resurrected"

by
Tracy Wells

What In this moving skit perfect for Easter, Nicodemus, Joanna, and Cleopas/Claudia reflect on the events of Easter, and what Jesus's resurrection means for us all. This script can be used in conjunction with the scripts Beloved and Honored as a series for your Holy Week services.

Themes: Resurrection, Jesus, Nicodemus, Cleopas, Road to Emmaus, Risen, Empty Tomb Easter, Crucifixion

Who Nicodemus
Cleopas/Claudia
Joanna

When Biblical Times

Costumes and Props Biblical attire

Why John 3:1-16, John 19**:** 38-42, Luke 24**:**1-35

How Bare stage. It would be impactful for them to stand around a cross or a shadow of a cross, or perhaps the stage can be dark with light reflected on each in such a way that their shadows create a cross. If using lighting to create the cross, another option is to have the actors move around the stage throughout the scene, but then have the scene culminate with the actors' shadows creating the cross.

Time Approximately 4-5 minutes

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*Joanna is center with **Nicodemus** and **Cleopas**/Claudia to the right and left of her, with space in between them. They address the audience.*

Nicodemus: I buried Him.

Joanna: I discovered Him.

Cleopas: I spoke to Him.

Nicodemus: And on that day.

Joanna: That glorious day.

Cleopas: Three days after He died.

Joanna: We went to the tomb.

Cleopas: And it was…

All: Empty!

Nicodemus** steps forward, or a spotlight shines on him and dims on **Joanna** and **Cleopas.

Nicodemus: I was one of them, you know…a Pharisee. I was an elder…one of the Sanhedrin, appointed to sit as a tribunal and pass judgement over Jewish law. So when Jesus started coming around…preaching, performing miracles, amassing followers, it was expected that I would fall in line with my Sanhedrin brothers…that I would join them in their distrust of this mysterious man. *(thinks)* But the truth is, I was enthralled by him…a man who could heal the lame with his touch? A man who could make the blind see? I had to meet this man…talk to him…learn why God had brought him here and allowed him to perform such marvels. So in the dead of night I went to him, and do you know what he told me? *(looks around, then leans in)* For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. *(incredulous)* Eternal life! For believing in this man standing before me? A man claiming to be the Son of God? *(shakes his head in wonder)* I had to know more.

Nicodemus** steps back or a spotlight goes down on him and comes up on **Joanna.

Joanna: I guess you could say we're comfortable. *(thinks)* Well, more than comfortable, I suppose. Well-to-do…prosperous. *(sighs)* But that doesn't mean we live a charmed life. I was… *(its difficult for her to say)* not well. Afflicted. Distressed. That is, until Jesus came and took it all away. The thing I don't think people realize about Jesus is that he didn't just help the poor. He didn't care about money or

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status…he cared about people. And when he saw suffering, he did everything in his power to fix it. *(shakes her head in wonder)* And what power! He changed my life that day, not just by healing my body and mind…but by healing my soul. From that day on, everything I had…money…influence…it was His. And wherever He would go, I would follow.

***Nicodemus** steps back or a spotlight goes down on him and comes up on **Joanna**.*

Cleopas: Sure, I'd heard of Him—Jesus, that is. I'd more than heard of Him…I'd followed Him! Helped Him spread his message. Traveled all over. I might not have been one of the twelve, but I was there…a true believer. *(looks down sadly)* Which was why it was so hard for me when He died…hard for all of us. *(looks up)* We'd dedicated our lives to Him, you know? He was the one who was supposed to save us all, and yet here we were, left behind without Him, the Roman soldiers still breathing down our necks, the Roman leaders still sitting high and mighty on their thrones. We were lost…helpless. We didn't know where to turn. When Jesus died, we all had one question in our minds—

Nicodemus: How can this be?

Joanna: Where will we turn?

Cleopas: Why is this happening?

All: What do we do now?

***Nicodemus** steps forward, or a spotlight shines on him and goes down on **Joanna** and **Cleopas**.*

Nicodemus: They had their minds made up before they even laid eyes on him. Jesus's followers grew in numbers every day and stretched all over Galilee. They knew they were losing control. I reminded my brothers of the Sanhedrin that a man must be allowed to speak for himself before he is condemned, but the plan was already in place…the wheels already in motion. *(looks down, sadly, takes a beat)* When it was done…when Jesus had been crucified and died…I went to Him once more. I brought a mixture of myrrh and aloe and together with Joseph of Arimathea we prepared his body for burial. When we were done, we brought His body to a tomb in the nearby garden. *(turns to look offstage)* As Joseph and I walked away, I stopped and looked back, wondering... *(looks over his shoulder)* What was God's plan for his Son now?

***Nicodemus** turns back, looking offstage or spotlight goes down on him and up on **Joanna**.*

Joanna: *(growing in excitement as she speaks)* I don't think any of us were prepared for what we saw when we went to the tomb. There were three of us…Mary Magdalene, James's mother Mary, and myself. We had brought with us the special spices, preparing to anoint Jesus's body, when right away we noticed something was amiss. The stone…the great big heavy stone that had been placed in opening of the tomb only days before…was rolled aside! And what's more…Jesus's body was missing! *(shakes her head)* Well, we didn't know what to make of it. Had someone stolen his body? Moved it without telling anyone? But we didn't have to wonder long because suddenly, out of nowhere, a great light shone and two men appeared and said, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" *(excitedly)* Jesus had risen…just as He said He would! *(smiling)* There was nothing left to do but go and tell the others.

__Joanna__ turns to look offstage, in the opposite direction of __Nicodemus__ or spotlight goes down on her and up on __Cleopas.__

Cleopas: We were in shock. Word was beginning to spread concerning what the women had witnessed at the empty tomb and their encounter with the angels. Later that day I was walking with a friend, on the way to a small village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. Suddenly a man came up and began to walk beside us. He asked us what we were talking about. *(incredulously)* What else was there to talk about? Jesus, of course! I told him everything…who Jesus was, how he had been captured and crucified, what the women saw in the tomb, and how Jesus's body was missing. *(thinks)* As we continued along the road, the three of us discussed scripture and the prophecies until we reached the village. It was getting late, so we invited the man to stay with us. *(excitedly)* And that's when everything changed! As we sat for supper, the man stood and picked up the bread, he gave thanks and broke it and gave it to us. And in that moment our eyes were open.

Nicodemus: Our hearts were open.

Joanna: The tomb was open!

Nicodemus: It was Him!

Cleopas: Jesus!

Joanna: He was—

All: Alive!

Nicodemus: Everything He told us had been true!

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Joanna: Everything the prophets promised had been realized.

Cleopas: Everything we'd been waiting for was finally here.

Joanna: A messiah.

Cleopas: A savior.

Nicodemus: The Son of God.

Cleopas: Not here to save us from the Roman soldiers

Joanna: Or Roman leaders.

Cleopas: He had come to save us from sin and death!

Joanna: He had come to give us the greatest gift we could ever hope for.

Nicodemus: That all those who believed in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

Joanna: On the day we discovered the empty tomb

Nicodemus: The discarded burial shroud

Cleopas: Jesus standing before us, alive once more…

All: Everything changed.

Joanna: For when Jesus emerged from that tomb, having battled death and won, he breathed new life into us all.

Nicodemus: And our light,

Joanna: Our faith,

Cleopas: And our hope for a better world were all—

All: Resurrected.

Lights down on scene or may remain on the cross. End of scene.

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