

a script from  
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**“Stolen”**

by  
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**What** What steals our joy and peace? The story of the thieves on the cross reminds us to seek the Jesus who offers hope of a life unburdened of fear and doubt, even in the direst of circumstances. Can be performed on a socially distanced traditional stage, or via a video platform like Zoom.

Themes: Easter, Holy Week, Hope, Reader’s Theatre, Social-Distance Friendly

**Who** Reader 1  
Reader 2  
Reader 3  
Reader 4

**When** Present

**Wear (Props)** For traditional stage, readers are spread out from stage right to stage left. Each holding a folder with the script.

**Why** Luke 23:35-43

**How** As in all effective Reader’s Theatre, you should be familiar with the script as much as possible to allow freedom of the reader to give the piece the emotional range it needs. Watch [“How to Perform a Reader’s Theatre”](#) on SkitGuys.com for more ideas.

**Time** Approximately 4 minutes

*Readers address the audience.*

**Reader 1:** This was the end.

**Reader 2:** A ministry.

**Reader 3:** Lost.

**Reader 4:** Wrenched away.

**All:** Stolen.

**Reader 1:** The mob, below him.

**Reader 2:** Mocking his broken body. On the cross.

**Reader 3:** You saved others!

**Reader 4:** They shouted.

**Reader 1:** Save yourself!

**Reader 2:** Can't you read the sign above you?

**All:** "This is the king of the Jews!"

**Reader 3:** Vinegar for the king!

*Pause*

**Reader 4:** Some king.

**Reader 1:** They say to each other.

**Reader 2:** He's lost everything.

**Reader 3:** Good thing I'm pure.

**Reader 2:** Never wrong.

**Reader 4:** No crimes

**Reader 1:** In my heart.

**Reader 2:** I'm no thief. Under no sentence.

*Pause*

**All:** That I know of.

**Reader 3:** But a thief was there. Labeled as such.

**Reader 4:** Two, in fact.

**Reader 1:** On either side.

**All:** Crucified with Christ.

**Reader 2:** Mocking by one thief. Attacking Jesus.

**Reader 3:** Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself!

**Reader 4:** And us!

**Reader 1:** That thief wanted proof.

**Reader 2:** His rage blinded him. Robbed him. Of his ability to truly see.

**Reader 3:** The truth.

**Reader 4:** Right next to him

**All:** As do we. When we rage.

*Pause*

**Reader 1:** The second thief rebuked the first.

**Reader 2:** Don't you fear God?

**Reader 3:** We deserve the sentence we are under.

**Reader 4:** Yet this man. This Jesus. Has done

**ALL:** Nothing wrong.

**Reader 1:** Yet this second thief was still

**Reader 2:** Unsure. He wondered. To himself.

**Reader 3:** Aren't you the messiah? Or just another one of

**All:** Us?

**Reader 4:** He thought to himself. I don't know what to expect.

Reader 1: When I die.

Reader 2: I'm scared.

Reader 3: Then, turning from fear, he asks.

Reader 4: Jesus.

*Pause*

Reader 3: Remember.

*Pause*

All: Me.

*Pause*

Reader 4: In his reply to this thief, Jesus is...

*Pause*

All: Jesus.

Reader 1: Even at the end. In his agony and humiliation. Jesus shares

Reader 2: Hope.

Reader 3: Of a forever with him.

Reader 4: To the second thief, Jesus replies

Reader 1: Today, you will be with me in paradise.

Reader 2: Fear stolen. Hope purchased. His sentence

Reader 3: Our sentence

All: Commuted.

*Pause*

Reader 4: What steals your ability to see?

Reader 1: Truth?

Reader 2: We allow fear.

**Reader 3:** Anxiety.  
**Reader 4:** Anger.  
**All:** Circumstance.

**Reader 1:** To rob us of

**Reader 2:** Joy. Peace.

**All:** Hope.

**Reader 3:** The cross reminds us.

**Reader 4:** That the only thief is

**All:** Denial.

**Reader 1:** New life springs when we have faith in the One

**Reader 2:** Who offers life never ending.

**Reader 3:** The invitation remains

**Reader 4:** Open.

**Reader 1:** Waiting.

*Pause*

**All:** Paradise found.

*Lights out.*

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