

EASTER Q & A

by Michael R. Buckles



CHRISTIANPUBLISHERS

Copyright Notice

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

RIGHTS RESERVED: All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS: All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Christian Publishers. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Christian Publishers. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Christian Publishers. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Christian Publishers.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

AUTHOR CREDIT: All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this play must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this play. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the play. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this play is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice: *Produced by special arrangement with Christian Publishers.*

COPYING: Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Christian Publishers.

Easter Q & A

An interactive Easter experience

by Michael R. Buckles

CAST OF CHARACTERS

With Costume Suggestions

On-stage:

Narrator or Pastor — Present-day attire

Peter — Mid-fifties, wears a neutral-colored, plain robe, a belt, and a pair of sandals. He will bring a scroll with him.

Mary Magdalene — Mid-forties, wears a head scarf/shawl, a robe with a belt, and a pair of sandals.

Andrew — Early fifties, wears a neutral-colored, plain robe, a belt, and a pair of sandals.

In Audience:

Members who will be speaking should be dressed in present-day, age-related attire.

Middle-Aged Man — Age thirty to fifty.

Middle-Aged Woman #1 — Age thirty to fifty.

Middle-Aged Woman #2 — Age thirty to fifty.

Young Man — Age nineteen to twenty-nine.

Young Women — Age nineteen to twenty-nine.

Teenager — Age thirteen to eighteen.

Child — Age six to twelve.

All Scripture is based on or taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION ®. NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

*This perusal script is for reading purposes only.
No performance or photocopy rights are conveyed.*

PRODUCTION NOTES

This Easter play is set in the present day. Three people from Jesus' time will come before the audience. Questions are asked by several members of the audience. Peter, Mary Magdalene, and Andrew describe in their answers how Jesus changed their lives.

Staging is simple. There is a podium at Center Stage with two spotlights illuminating it. The rest of the stage will be dimly lit. Each speaker will come to the podium and start the conversation. Several members of the audience will then take part in the play.

For a small church, the people in the audience may speak without a microphone. For medium to large churches, two or more microphones are needed for the audience members to be heard. An usher or another person will be needed to move the microphone from one speaker to the next speaker.

(Lights are turned down on the audience. A spotlight is slowly turned on, revealing the podium at Downstage Center. The NARRATOR or PASTOR enters from Stage Left and stops at the podium.)

NARRATOR or PASTOR: *(Introduces the drama.)* I want to thank you for coming. Each year, Easter focuses on the cross and Jesus' resurrection. Each year, we experience the impact of Jesus upon our lives, sensing his death and witnessing his burial — and then, on the third day, his resurrection. Whether it was two thousand years ago or today, Jesus is here. He is here to change lives, and change them for the better. Back then and right now, Jesus is the key that unlocks the possibilities and provides miracles. This is what Jesus does. This is what happens every day.

You will meet three people who were with Jesus during his ministry. Each one will share how Jesus changed his or her life. The first one will be Peter, one of the twelve disciples who followed Jesus. The second person will be Mary Magdalene, a devoted follower of Jesus who saw him die on the cross. The last person will be Andrew, a disciple of Jesus and the brother of Peter. Each one has a story — just like you. You too will have your own story if you believe. Now, we begin with Peter. *(He or she leaves the podium, exiting Stage Right.)*

Scene 1

Listen to Him!

(PETER enters from Stage Left. He is carrying a scroll under his left arm. Arriving at the podium, the scroll remains under his arm. He looks at the audience.)

PETER: I am Simon Peter. Before I became a disciple, I was a professional fisherman, fishing on the Sea of Galilee. At night, I would sail out from the northern shore with

1 my father, Jonah, and my brother, Andrew. The
2 following morning, we returned to Capernaum to sell
3 the fish we caught. This was my life ... fishing and
4 selling the fish. Life was hard, but it provided what we
5 needed. (*A TEENAGER stands up.*)

6 TEENAGER: Peter! (*PETER tries to find the TEENAGER.*) I'm
7 over here.

8 PETER: Would someone turn up the lights so I can see? (*The*
9 *lights to the audience are slowly turned up. At a certain point,*
10 *PETER raises his hand, indicating the lighting is sufficient.*
11 *The lighting will remain at this setting until the end of the*
12 *play.*)

13 PETER: That's good. Thank you, I can see you now. How can
14 I help you?

15 TEENAGER: Peter, we came here to learn and understand. I
16 was wondering — can this be, like, a town hall meeting?
17 Can we ask the questions? Will you give us the answers?

18 PETER: That's fine. But I will read from my scroll until
19 someone asks a question. Then I will stop and answer
20 that question.

21 TEENAGER: Let me ask the first question. You were a
22 fisherman from the Sea of Galilee. But you were also a
23 “fisher of men.” Which one did you like better? Fishing
24 on the Sea of Galilee, or being a “fisher of men”?

25 PETER: My father, Jonah, first taught me how to fish when
26 I was just a boy. He taught me well. I enjoyed being on
27 the boat with him and my brother, Andrew. I remember
28 a few times when we caught a large amount of fish.
29 When we rowed into Capernaum, the people could see
30 how low our boat was in the water. They came in
31 droves, wanting to buy our fish. We used the extra
32 money to repair the boat and the nets we used.

33 But what I enjoyed more? Without a doubt, I enjoyed
34 being a “fisher of men.” It was Jesus who taught me
35 how to fish with a different type of net. When people

1 were drawn to us, we would feed them with hope, and
 2 then release them back into the sea of humanity. And
 3 the number of people who believed grew. They far
 4 exceeded the amount of fish I brought back to
 5 Capernaum. Yes, I enjoyed being a “fisher of men.”

6 TEENAGER: Thank you. (*The TEENAGER sits down as PETER*
 7 *looks at the audience.*)

8 PETER: Like being a “fisher of men,” there are many things
 9 I could talk about. I was there when Jesus raised the
 10 girl who had died. I could tell about the time I tried to
 11 walk on water. I could tell about the many times I was
 12 persecuted and how I was saved, or when I healed a
 13 beggar who was crippled from birth. Maybe I should
 14 talk about the preparation of the Last Supper or Jesus’
 15 agony on the Mount of Olives. Perhaps I should talk
 16 about a question Jesus asked me. Just five words:
 17 “Peter, do you love me?” All of these are important, but
 18 what I am going to talk about ranks above all of them.

19 I will tell you of two men returning from the past.
 20 About Jesus glowing beyond belief, and of God
 21 speaking to us. And their message ... it was simple.
 22 Jesus was going to die in Jerusalem during the
 23 Passover. Do you remember when this happened?
 24 (*PETER unrolls the scroll and lays it down on the podium. As*
 25 *he looks out at the audience, PETER begins reading from the*
 26 *scroll.*)

27 Near the end of Jesus’ ministry, we were close to the
 28 City of Caesarea Philippi. Out of the twelve disciples,
 29 Jesus picked three of us — James, John, and me — to
 30 walk with him to the top of a high mountain. As we
 31 started up the mountain, Jesus told us that when we
 32 arrived at the summit, we were to kneel down and pray.
 33 First, to give thanks to God, and then to ask God to
 34 reveal his will to us.

35 (*Looking at the audience*) As we started to climb, my

- 1 mind seemed to wander. Different thoughts seemed to
 2 ramble through my mind. I thought of my brother and
 3 the other disciples who were resting at the foot of the
 4 mountain. I thought of my fishing on the Sea of
 5 Galilee ... the thrill of the catch ... pulling up the net ...
 6 the weight of the fish in the net. Many thoughts came to
 7 me as we climbed the mountain. (*Looking at the scroll*)
 8 When we arrived at the top of the mountain, I was
 9 completely exhausted. I just wanted to sit down and
 10 rest before I started to pray. (*A YOUNG MAN stands up.*)
 11 YOUNG MAN: We all pray. Does it matter how one prays?
 12 PETER: (*Looking at the YOUNG MAN*) There are many ways.
 13 But Jesus told us to pray in a special way. I dropped to
 14 my knees, as he instructed. As I prayed, peace came
 15 over me! (*Looking at the scroll*) A bright light seemed to
 16 shine on me. A dazzling, wonderful light! Although my
 17 eyes were closed, I could see its brilliance. (*Looking at the*
 18 *audience*) Have you ever closed your eyes and squinted
 19 at the sun? Seeing its brilliance? Feeling its warmth?
 20 That is what I felt. I opened my eyes, trying to find its
 21 source. It was coming from Jesus! (*The YOUNG MAN sits*
 22 *down and the YOUNG WOMAN stands up.*)
 23 YOUNG WOMAN: Was Jesus kneeling and praying?
 24 PETER: (*Looking at the YOUNG WOMAN*) I heard his voice as
 25 he prayed. His voice was gentle. But as he prayed, his
 26 face was glowing. All of his garments were as bright as
 27 the sun. (*The YOUNG WOMAN sits down as PETER returns*
 28 *to the scroll.*)
 29 PETER: Then, out of the brightness, I saw two men walking
 30 toward us! They, too, had an intense light around them.
 31 (*A CHILD stands up.*)
 32 CHILD: Were they angels?
 33 PETER: (*Lowering the scroll and looking at the CHILD*) No, they
 34 were not angels. I rubbed my eyes, trying to see. Trying
 35 to understand what was happening. When I opened my

eyes again, the two men were near Jesus. When he ended his prayer, he stood up. (*Looking at the audience*) James, John, and I were still on our knees. Jesus told us to stand. As I stood, I felt different. Before, I was afraid. Now I was at peace.

Jesus spread his hands, telling us to come closer and meet Moses and Elijah. (*Looking at the CHILD*) The men of old ... the men I was told about when I was a young child like you. Most of the stories I heard in my youth had either Moses or Elijah in them. (*Looking at the audience*) I wanted to speak, but nothing came out of my mouth.

CHILD: What did they say?

PETER: I think it was Moses who spoke first. He told us of God's plan. He did not say how it would happen — only that Jesus would die in Jerusalem during the Passover. I thought to myself, "Jesus, our leader ... our Messiah? Why would God allow this to happen?" Then Elijah spoke. He told us Jesus would die, and then live again! Then Jesus spoke. He said he was going to return to his Father. This was God's will ... God's plan. But after his death, before he went to his Father, he would come and see us. (*The TEENAGER stands up as the CHILD remains standing.*)

TEENAGER: For a person to know when he's going to die, then live again ... That's crazy!

PETER: I was like you. My thoughts ran wild. The impact of all I had just heard! Jesus was going to die! (*Looking at the audience*) But that was God's will.

CHILD: I would have tried to stop him from dying.

PETER: (*Looking at the CHILD*) I wanted to. I thought of my choices. Maybe I should die instead of Jesus. I was older. I was an ordinary man. Jesus was the Messiah! Israel needed him. I thought the very least I could do was to fight. I had a sword; I might be able to save

- 1 Jesus. Maybe this was a test — a test to see who would
 2 give his own life for Jesus. (*Both the TEENAGER and the*
 3 *CHILD sit down as MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN #1 stands up.*)
- 4 MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN #1: I would protect my child.
 5 Wouldn't God protect his Son? Wouldn't he?
- 6 PETER: I asked myself the same thing. "Why shouldn't — no,
 7 why *wouldn't* — God protect his Son?" The only answer
 8 that came to me was the story of Abraham and his son,
 9 Isaac. It ran through my mind, over and over. God
 10 saved Abraham's son, Isaac, at the last possible
 11 moment. Abraham heard a ram in the bushes and
 12 sacrificed it in place of his son. Wouldn't God do the
 13 same for his own Son? I asked myself, "Can't I be the
 14 ram?" (*MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN #1 sits down as PETER*
 15 *returns to the scroll.*)
- 16 PETER: Then a brilliant light broke through the clouds.
 17 There was a voice exclaiming, "This is my beloved Son,
 18 my Chosen One. Listen to him!" (Matthew 17:5). (*The*
 19 *CHILD stands up again.*)
- 20 CHILD: Who was that?
- 21 PETER: (*Putting down the scroll*) It was God! All three of us fell
 22 to our knees. We lowered our heads. I began to cry.
- 23 CHILD: You cried?
- 24 PETER: Like a child. I had heard God's voice! Then Jesus
 25 came to us. He touched each one of us and told us to
 26 rise, and not to fear. Moses and Elijah had come, but
 27 now they were gone. I looked at Jesus. He was no longer
 28 surrounded by a brilliant light, and he was wearing his
 29 normal garments again. I can still see his smile. As we
 30 started to walk back down the mountain, he told us that
 31 it was not yet his time to die. We should keep this
 32 information locked in our hearts. (*The CHILD sits down*
 33 *as the MIDDLE-AGED MAN stands up.*)
- 34 MIDDLE-AGED MAN: And that was the extent of it? Nothing
 35 else was said?

PETER: As we walked down the mountain, Jesus spoke to us. “Do not tell anyone what you have seen or heard until I, the Son of Man, have risen from the dead” (Matthew 17:9). I knew what death was. I saw Jesus bringing the dead back to life. But who would give life back to Jesus? Would John do it? Would I? Or would God do it? I finally decided what I should do. When the people came to kill Jesus, I would become the ram. I would use my sword to sacrifice my life to protect Jesus.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN: Did Jesus try to escape?

PETER: No, he didn’t. We were in the Garden of Gethsemane when the soldiers came to arrest Jesus. Only he and I remained. The other disciples had escaped. Judas came first, then the servant to the High Priest, then the soldiers. As the servant came close to Jesus, I raised my sword and swung it. It glanced off the servant’s head, cutting off his ear. Jesus grabbed my hand. He told me there were twelve legions of angels at his command, but he chose not to call them. He then picked up the ear from the ground and placed it back on the servant’s head. Jesus actually healed a man that was there to kill him!

I had not listened. Not to Jesus. Not to God. I recalled what God had said, “This is my beloved Son, My Chosen One. Listen to him!” (Matthew 17:5). *(Looking down)* I had not listened to either one of them — only to myself ... a man, only a man, trying to help Jesus. If I had listened! If I had only listened! *(It remains quiet in the audience, as the MIDDLE-AGED MAN sits down. PETER slowly raises his head.)* After Jesus’ death, he came back to life. I understood his words. This is why I followed Jesus. This is why I served him. And as I preached at Pentecost, three thousand people were saved. I had become a “fisher of men”! No longer did I fear anything.

1 Not Rome. Not the Sanhedrin. The people were to be
 2 saved! Yes, Jesus changed my life. It was after his death
 3 on the cross, when he came back to us, that I began to
 4 truly understand what his words meant. Yes, his words.
 5 Do you remember them? I do. Remember his words. Let
 6 them change your life as they changed mine! (*PETER*
 7 *rolls up his scroll and leaves the podium, walking off at Stage*
 8 *Right.*)

9
 10 **Scene 2**
 11 **At the Cross**
 12

13 (*MARY MAGDALENE, wearing a dress of her era, enters from*
 14 *Stage Left. She stops at the podium and looks at the audience.*)

15 **MARY MAGDALENE:** My name is Mary Magdalene. I am a
 16 follower of Jesus, like many of you. Jesus' mother Mary,
 17 her sister, and I went to Golgotha, a hill outside the city
 18 wall. People called the hill "the Place of the Skull."
 19 (*MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN #2 stands up.*)

20 **MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN #2:** Excuse me, Mary. I, too, am a
 21 follower of Jesus. (*MARY looks around the audience, then*
 22 *finds her.*)

23 **MARY MAGDALENE:** Thank you for coming.

24 **MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN #2:** Did you see Jesus that day? You
 25 know, before he was nailed to the cross.

26 **MARY MAGDALENE:** You mean on the street, as he carried
 27 the cross?

28 **MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN #2:** Well, before.

29 **MARY MAGDALENE:** The first time I saw him that morning,
 30 he was surrounded by soldiers as he picked up the cross
 31 and placed it on his shoulders. I turned my head away
 32 and knelt down. Not to pray. My knees became weak. I
 33 felt sick to my stomach. As Jesus started to walk away,
 34 I heard Mary, his mother speak. She said she wanted to
 35 see her son again The streets were crowded. Many were

1 trying to leave Jerusalem. We fought the crowd, but
 2 Jesus always seemed to be ahead of us. There was only
 3 one thing to do. We had to leave the crowd, run through
 4 the back streets, and then fight our way up to the front
 5 again.

6 That's what we did. Mary was in front, then her
 7 sister, then me. We ran. We fought our way through,
 8 leaving and then returning through the crowd. That is
 9 how she was able to see her son again, the second time
 10 through the crowd.

11 But this was not the final time. His mother wanted to
 12 see her son a third time, but we couldn't. We were too
 13 close to the gate. Running through the back streets was
 14 no longer an option. We had to fight just to get through
 15 the crowd, to see him again. We struggled. (*Shaking her*
 16 *head*) So many people ... it wasn't easy. It took time.
 17 (*Looking down*) Lots of time. Jesus was nowhere to be
 18 seen. (*MARY MAGDALENE pauses, then looks back at*
 19 *MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN #2.*) When we finally arrived at
 20 the top of the hill, we saw him. He was already hanging
 21 on the cross. There was a sign above his head, "Jesus,
 22 King of the Jews!" On both sides of him were two
 23 thieves. (*MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN #2 sits down as MIDDLE-*
 24 *AGED MAN stands up.*)

25 MIDDLE-AGED MAN: What did his mother feel? How did
 26 you feel?

27 MARY MAGDALENE: How can I explain it? You are a man.
 28 She was a woman. Men and women see their children
 29 differently. You see your son or daughter. We see our
 30 child. (*Speaking with emotion*) Her child was going to die!
 31 Like his mother, I tried to hold back my tears, but that
 32 was a lost cause. I tried to speak, but I couldn't. Each
 33 time I tried, tears started to flow. Seeing him there on
 34 the cross ... dying! How could we speak? Some people
 35 say that when you die, you can see your life passing

1 before you. I was not dying, but my time with Jesus
 2 seemed to pass before me. He had changed my life. He
 3 made my life complete. Now my life was breaking apart.
 4 How can I tell you all the emotions I had? All the
 5 feelings I felt? (*MIDDLE-AGED MAN sits down as YOUNG*
 6 *WOMAN stands up.*)

7 YOUNG WOMAN: How did the people treat him?

8 MARY MAGDALENE: (*Gaining composure*) Early that week,
 9 many accepted him as their Messiah. But life can
 10 change, and so did their opinions about Jesus. Change
 11 from love to hate ... from praising to cursing. I heard
 12 some cursing as they walked by the cross. Maybe they
 13 couldn't see who was on the cross. But they were Jews
 14 cursing other Jews.

15 YOUNG WOMAN: Didn't they know Jesus was on the cross?

16 MARY MAGDALENE: It was hard to recognize Jesus. His
 17 face was swollen. His dried blood matted his hair.
 18 Maybe the people just didn't care who was on the cross.
 19 They just yelled. But some cried. Maybe they had seen
 20 Jesus carrying the cross. Maybe they saw the sign
 21 above his head. But their tears flowed as they turned
 22 their heads away. (*Speaking louder*) I heard others
 23 yelling. I remember their voices. They hurled insults.
 24 One of them was a Pharisee I had seen at the temple.
 25 His voice was so loud. He said, "You, who were going to
 26 destroy the temple and build it again in three days, save
 27 yourself!" (Matthew 27:40). (*The YOUNG WOMAN sits down*
 28 *as YOUNG MAN stands up.*)

29 YOUNG MAN: And the soldiers ... what did they do?

30 MARY MAGDALENE: The Roman soldiers enjoyed putting a
 31 Jew on the cross. I didn't understand all of their words,
 32 but I recognized their mocking laughter ... at Jesus, at
 33 the other two. A few were gambling for his clothing. I
 34 could see Jesus' robe on the ground — the same one he
 35 wore as he rode triumphantly into Jerusalem earlier in

the week. A beautiful robe woven seamlessly, now soiled with dirt and blood. It was no longer beautiful. *(Putting her head down)* It had been torn. I saw one of the soldiers stand up and throw the robe over his shoulder. *(YOUNG MAN sits down as MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN #1 stands up.)*

MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN #1: Mary, what about the disciples? Who came?

MARY MAGDALENE: *(Raising her head)* I saw John. He was coming up the hill. As he approached, he was looking only at Jesus. Mary called out to John, and only then did he take his eyes away from Jesus. Jesus must have heard his mother's voice. He lifted his head, turning his eyes toward her. He saw John with tears streaming down his cheeks, taking Mary in his arms.

MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN #1: Is this when Jesus talked to his mother?

MARY MAGDALENE: I could barely hear his voice — it was so weak. He first called out to Mary. Even John lifted his eyes, tears still streaming down his face. Jesus told his mother to let John be her son. Then he spoke to John. He said, "John, allow this woman in your arms to become your mother" (John 19:27). From that time on, John took Mary into his home.

MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN #1: What else do you remember?

MARY MAGDALENE: I heard Jesus ask for something to drink. It must have been around noon. A soldier took a sponge, poured some wine vinegar over it, and lifted it up. But Jesus never tasted it. He only turned his head away. Later, I noticed some clouds starting to form. I thought rain might fall, but it never did. After a while, the clouds blocked the sun. Then a tremendous black cloud formed directly over us. Jesus lifted his head. He cried out in a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46).

- 1 MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN #1: Is that when he died?
- 2 MARY MAGDALENE: No, he died later, about three o'clock
3 in the afternoon, after he cried out, "It is finished!"
4 (John 19:30). He lowered his head. His body drooped.
5 Even the muscles in his legs did not move. We didn't
6 hear his voice. We didn't see him breathe again. He just
7 hung there.
- 8 MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN #1: I heard that a soldier pierced
9 Jesus' body with a spear.
- 10 MARY MAGDALENE: Here is what I saw. The Sabbath day
11 was coming. The soldiers knew they had to kill all three
12 of them before sunset. The other two were still alive.
13 The soldiers went over to them and broke their legs.
14 Without support, they couldn't lift their bodies to gulp
15 air into their lungs. Without air, the two suffocated. The
16 soldiers knew Jesus had already died. But to make sure,
17 one of them went over and pierced Jesus' right side
18 with a spear. As the spear went in, Jesus' body did not
19 move. As the spear came out, I could see blood and
20 water coming out of the wound.
- 21 MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN #1: After Jesus' death, what did
22 you do?
- 23 MARY MAGDALENE: I pleaded with God for help. As I
24 looked up, I could see movement within the clouds.
25 Lightning was flashing, but no rain fell. Then the
26 ground shook. An earthquake was starting! Many of the
27 soldiers fell to the ground. One only fell to his knees.
28 Striking his chest with his fist, he looked at the body of
29 Jesus and said, "Surely this was the Son of God!"
30 (Matthew 27:54). (*MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN #1 sits down as*
31 *MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN #2 stands up.*)
- 32 MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN #2: How soon was Jesus taken off
33 the cross?
- 34 MARY MAGDALENE: We asked for his body to be lowered to
35 the ground, but the soldiers had their orders that the

1 crucified should remain on their crosses. These Jews
2 had to remain on the cross. They wanted the Jews to
3 know what Rome would do when there was resistance.
4 (*MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN #2 sits down as the YOUNG MAN*
5 *stands up.*)

6 YOUNG MAN: But I thought Jesus was taken down before
7 the Sabbath started.

8 MARY MAGDALENE: Yes. John asked the Centurion if we
9 could take Jesus' body down. Like the others, he
10 laughed. He said that in order to take Jesus' body down,
11 an order had to come from Pilate.

12 YOUNG MAN: So who went to Pilate?

13 MARY MAGDALENE: No woman could go. No, it had to be a
14 man. John could not go. They would recognize him as a
15 follower of Jesus. But John knew of an Arimathean by
16 the name of Joseph. He was near. He was rich, and a
17 follower of Jesus. John thought a man of Joseph's
18 stature could influence Pilate, so John set off to find
19 Joseph. Next thing I knew, I saw Joseph running down
20 the hill. I don't know how Joseph managed it, but Pilate
21 issued an order granting that Jesus' body would be
22 taken down. After receiving this order, Joseph went to
23 Nicodemus's house. They gathered some myrrh, aloes,
24 and clean linen, and then returned to the hill.

25 YOUNG MAN: And the soldiers accepted this order from
26 Pilate?

27 MARY MAGDALENE: Yes. After the Centurion was shown
28 the order, the soldiers lowered the body of Jesus. Dried
29 blood was all over Jesus' body. After we laid Jesus on
30 the clean linen, we tried to wipe as much of the blood
31 from his body as we could. Then we spread the myrrh
32 and aloes over his body and secured the linen. The men
33 took the body to a tomb. It was Joseph's new tomb. It
34 had a large rock that would seal its opening. For our
35 last task, we, the women, decided to return the next

1 morning after the Sabbath to clean and rewrap Jesus'
2 body.

3 YOUNG MAN: Jesus was dead. His body was in the tomb.
4 How did you feel?

5 MARY MAGDALENE: I was angry! My hopes and dreams for
6 the Messiah died with Jesus. He was dead. What else
7 could I do?

8 Early in the morning, the day after the Sabbath, we
9 went back to his tomb. As we approached, we saw the
10 stone had been rolled away. The tomb was open! I
11 looked inside. As my eyes grew accustomed to the
12 darkness, I could not see his body. His body was gone! I
13 ran to the disciples. Peter, John, and I rushed back to
14 the tomb. They saw the same thing that I had seen.
15 Jesus was not there. After they left, I started walking
16 back. Tears streamed down my face. Then I heard a
17 voice. It was asking me, "Why are you crying?"

18 I thought it was the garden keeper. I looked at him
19 and said, "Where have you taken Jesus' body?"

20 Then he spoke my name, "Mary." It was his voice! It
21 was Jesus! He was alive! I wanted to run to him! Just to
22 touch his garment. He was alive! Just as he called out
23 my name, he is calling out your name. Do you hear him?
24 Don't you feel his presence? (*MARY MAGDALENE begins*
25 *to exit, but stops and returns to the podium.*) I remember
26 something Jesus told us. Not just to my generation, but
27 for all generations. He said, "I am the Good Shepherd,
28 and I know my sheep. They hear my voice!" (John 10:14).
29 Listen. Do you hear his voice? Do you hear him calling
30 your name? All you have to do is follow him. Let him be
31 your shepherd. Let him change your life! (*MARY turns*
32 *and exits Stage Right.*)

33
34
35

Scene 3

In the Room

(ANDREW, like PETER, is wearing the robe of a fisherman. He goes to the podium, then looks at the audience.)

ANDREW: Was it worth dying for? He could have asked his Father, and twelve legions of angels would have protected him. But Jesus didn't ask. He was the Son of God. But to me, he was my teacher, the man of peace.

Why? Why did people hate Jesus? Didn't they know what love is? Didn't they know what it is like to be anointed with the love? I know how it feels. I am Andrew, the brother of Peter. *(The MIDDLE-AGED MAN stands up.)*

MIDDLE-AGED MAN: Andrew, we know that after Jesus was taken, all you disciples went to a room and bolted its door. My question is, why did you go there? Why did you lock the door? *(The MIDDLE-AGED MAN sits down.)*

ANDREW: We stayed in that locked room from early Friday morning to Sunday night. Let me tell you what happened before we went to this room and locked its door.

Jesus had been arrested early on Friday morning. You remember Judas Iscariot walking up to Jesus and kissing him on his cheek. And then the soldiers arrested Jesus. They bound him before taking him away. Down the hill from the Garden of Gethsemane, across the Kidron Valley, and then up to Jerusalem.

It was cloudy that night. The moon's light was blocked by the clouds. It was easy to see their torches as they took Jesus toward the city gate. My brother, Peter, followed them from a distance. He saw where Jesus was taken: into the house of Caiaphas, the High Priest.

No soldier came after us as we fled. Peter stood there with Jesus. They didn't even arrest Peter. Peter remained there, waiting for us to return.



CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS

Thank you for reading this free excerpt from:

EASTER Q & A

by Michael R. Buckles.

*For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the script,
please contact us at:*

CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS

P.O. Box 248 - Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

Toll Free: 1-844-841-6387 - Fax (319) 368-8011

customerservice@christianpub.com