

Drama Play No. 5

(Mother and Brad are arranging the table for dinner.)

M: Brad, let's get this table set – the Pastor will be here soon.

B: He's coming for dinner?

M: Yes, he called and asked to meet with the whole family – the only time I could think of that he could find us together was for a meal.

B: I sure hope he's not coming by to ask me to do more for confirmation.

M: He didn't say what it was about – just that he really wanted to meet with us. There's the doorbell – *(shouting)* Bob, can you get the door?

(Bob (Father) and Pastor enter.)

P: Hi, Carrie – hi Brad, I'm glad you were able to meet with me – especially at mealtime! It sure smells good!

B: Hi, Pastor.

C: We're delighted to have you here. It's been quite a while since you stopped by.

F: I'll call the others for dinner if you're ready, Carrie.

M: Thanks.

P: Well. Brad, how's school going?

B: I had a test in science today – I think I got them all right.

P: Great!

(Dialog can be added here – a good place for any humor that come to mind.) (Rest of the family enters.)

Ryan and Katie *(together but not in unison)*: Hi, pastor.

P: Katie, Ryan, been busy studying?

R: The only studying Katie has been doing tonight is the J Crew catalogue.

K: Thanks.

(Everyone sits down.)

M: Pastor, would you like to lead us in prayer?

P: How do you usually pray before meals?

F: We pray, Come Lord Jesus.

P: I'd like it if we would all pray that together.

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to us be blessed. Amen.

P: I'll bet you're all wondering why I wanted to meet with you?

F: It had crossed my mind.

P: I'm writing a play for our Lenten service. I wanted to portray how Jesus' passion intersects with our day to day life. But when I sat down to write about the crucifixion I got stuck.

R: Jesus' passion? I didn't know Jesus ever had passion.

M: Ryan, not that kind of passion. Jesus' passion is his suffering and death.

R: Oh.

P: What I want you to help me with is to tell me how you think about Jesus' crucifixion.

K: That's easy – Jesus died for our sins. You say that in church all the time. Whatever I do wrong, God will forgive me.

R: And you really keep God busy forgiving!

M: Ryan, that wasn't nice.

F: Katie gave a good answer. Remember how Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they don't know what they are doing."?

P: Brad – what do you think about Jesus' crucifixion?

B: Just like confirmation. Pastor you are always asking for answers to questions that you already know the answers to.

P: Brad, to write my play I need to know what Jesus' death means to you.

B: (*after a pause to think*): I think about eternal life, especially last year when Grandpa died. Because Jesus died I will get to see Grandpa again.

M: Since Dad's death I often have thoughts of Jesus' promise to the thief: Today you will be with me in paradise. Eternal life is the most important thing Jesus' death won for us.

P: Ryan, I haven't heard from you.

R: I guess I think about Jesus' trusting his Father. He had to have a lot of faith to put up with all the people making fun of him. Even when he was dying he said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."

F: I hope that when I die I will have that kind of faith.

P: I think I'll just put you all into my play. You've said it better than I could. Though I still wish there was more to say about Jesus' crucifixion and our everyday life.

M: I know one thing – most nights at this table it seems we pray for Jesus to be present and then forget him. That bothers me a lot.

F: Yeah, I don't want to be a religious nut – no offense pastor – but sometimes it seems Jesus doesn't get down into our day to day life. I know how often I only I reserve him a moment for a prayer at the end of the day or for an hour on Sunday and forget about him so much of the rest of the week.

M: Sometimes I think Jesus came to bring God right into the middle of every part of life and we crucified him to say we don't want God to be at our table.

F: Or at work, especially when someone gets on my nerves there.

K: Or like I try to keep God out of my life at school – especially with my friends.

R: And when you're out with your boyfriend on a Saturday night!

M: And you, Ryan, when you speak to your sister or brother.

F: It is like we killed Jesus to keep this world to ourselves.

(People at the table freeze in place – narrator stands to speak.)

N: How could one moment in time mean so much? When Jesus was crucified our forgiveness was won, eternal life was

won, we were saved. Is the family right – when we push God out of our lives we crucify Jesus once more?

(Attention shifts to the crucifixion – Soldiers act out the nailing of Jesus to the cross, lifting him into his place – lifting the thieves on either side.)

J: Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.

Soldier #1: I'll take his cloak – I could use an extra.

Soldier #2: How about we toss the dice for it – high roll gets it all?

Soldier #3: I'll take his shirt.

Soldier #2: Let's toss the dice for everything – let the fates decide.

Soldier #1: This guy sure didn't amount to much if this is all he has to show for a life.

Soldier #3: Where he's going he sure won't need these!

Chief Priest (*mocking*): He saved others. If he's the Messiah that God has chosen, let him save himself!

Person #1: Hey, Jesus, come on down!

Person #2: What a fool.

Soldier #2: (*offering vinegar on stick*): If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!

Criminal #1: So you're really the Messiah, are you? Well, save yourself and us!

Criminal #2: (to Criminal #1): Don't you fear God at all? Can't you see that you're condemned in the same way that he is? We're getting what we deserve but this man hasn't done anything wrong. (*Pauses – then speaks to Jesus.*) Jesus, remember me when you enter your Kingdom.

J: Amen. Today, you will be with me in paradise.

(*Lights are dimmed – then extinguished – period of silence broken only by the moaning of the thieves.*)

Soldier #1: I've never seen it so dark – what's going on?

(*man runs up*)

Man: The curtain in the temple has torn – split from top to bottom!

J: Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit.

Soldier #3: Certainly this man was innocent.

(*All the crowd flees, crying.*)

N: Then they buried Jesus. A man named Joseph buried Jesus, Joseph of Arimathea. In his own tomb he buried Jesus. And for that night, and the next day and night the world had its way with Jesus. Rid of him. But then came the morning – I'll let our family tell you about that.

M: If Good Friday is the world pushing God outside of our lives, then Easter is God coming right back in.

F: To stay. Whether we pray the prayer or think the thought, Jesus will be at our table.

R: At school.

F: At work.

B: When I'm with my friends.

P: Even at church. Let's thank him.

M: Dear Jesus, thank you for giving your life for us. Help us to remember that you are always with us.

R: Help me to always trust in you even when it means going against the crowd.

F: Come into our lives, Lord Jesus, and stay in our lives. Wherever we are and whatever we are doing let us live for you.

K: Help me to remember you, Lord, when I am at school or with my friends. Help us all to believe and trust in you.

P: Continue to bless this family, Lord. Enable them to grow in faith and in love and in obedience to your word. Guide them through your Holy Spirit.

B: Thank you for giving Grandpa eternal life. Help me all my life so that I can be with him and with you forever.

ALL: Amen.