

Drama Play #4

Mom and Katie are setting the table.

M: You sure got home early today. What's the occasion?

K: No one to hang out with.

M: What about Jill and Barb?

K: They were busy.

M: With what?

K: Aw – I don't know, some political stuff.

M: Political stuff?

K: Yeah, there's a bunch of kids that think that the city should open a shelter for the homeless. They're planning on going down to city hall. I wasn't interested.

M: Kind of sounds like things that were going on when I was your age. I never got involved – too busy studying.

K: I'm glad to hear that. I was starting to feel a little guilty about not wanting to help. It's just that I'm not sure a shelter would be a good thing.

M: I imagine that if they start a shelter it will only mean more homeless people gathering there.

K: Maybe some cold and hungry nights will cause them to get a job.

(Brad enters)

B: Supper ready, Mom? I'm starved.

M: By the time you call your Father and your brother supper will be on the table.

(Brad goes off to get the others.)

K: Did you hear about the new mall that might go in next year? It'll be great!

M: I heard.... The traffic's going to be a mess!

(Brad and Father and Ryan all come in together.)

F: CAVS on TV tonight?

R: Yeah, they play Boston!

F: Should be a great game!

M: Let's pray:

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

R: I am sure the Cavs will win – LeBron has been awesome lately and Kevin Garnet is out with an injury.

M: Brad, how did things go for you today?

B: Most everyone is talking with me again.

F: Glad to hear it.

B: I sure learned my lesson – keep your mouth shut. If I had never told the teacher that Billy was cheating on that test, I would have had better week.

F: Saw in the paper today about a group organizing to oppose the new mall. There's a meeting tonight at the Community Room of the library.

M: I wonder who will be there?

F: The usual cast of characters. Whenever anything happens around here they have something to say about it. You think they would get tired of always causing trouble.

M: I thought about going myself, then I realized Marge might not be too happy to see her best friend opposing something she voted for on city council.

R: Why would you go to that meeting, Mom? A new mall would be great!

M: We don't need more stores and more parking lots and more traffic.

R: I'm sure glad your not going to that meeting – I'd hate to have my mom opposing the greatest thing that ever happened to this town.

M: Is there a good movie on TV tonight?

K: No, only a bunch of reruns.

(Narrator moves to the center as the family freezes in position.)

N: Our family is not very committed tonight. I guess they'll be leaving the decisions about malls and homeless shelters to others. There is always someone willing to fight for what they want. And a lot of people who just don't care enough to get involved. Then those who know what they want get their way. Like that time so long ago when some people wanted Jesus dead. Let's take a look.

(Jesus stands before chief priest and the Jewish council.)

Chief Priest *(mildly mockingly)*: Tell us, are you're the Messiah?

J: If I tell you, you won't believe me. And if I ask you, you won't answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of God.

CP: So you're the Son of God?

J: You say that I am.

CP: What further testimony do we need, we've heard him say it ourselves!

(Priest and council take Jesus away – a woman and a man and a young girl are along the way that they go.)

Woman #1: I wonder what will happen to Jesus. Not so long ago he stopped the crowd from stoning me when they caught me with my neighbor's husband. Will someone try to save him?

Man #1: They've got Jesus tied up almost as tight as they tied me with chains. A mad man they called me until Jesus drove the demons out of me. I wonder if someone will come take Jesus' chains away?

Young girl: I was imprisoned in death. Jesus touched me – told me to arise and suddenly I was freed of death and alive once more. Will someone touch Jesus and free him this night?

W#1: I thought Jesus might be the Messiah – how we need for God to send the Messiah – but all he did was cause a ruckus.

(The three follow and become part of the crowd – CP and council present Jesus before Pilate.)

CP: We found that he stirs up trouble among our people. He keeps people from paying taxes to the emperor and says that he is the Messiah, a king.

Pilate: Are you the King of the Jews?

J: You say so.

Pilate: (*Shaking his hand and dismissing Jesus and the whole proceeding with a wave of his hand.*): I can't find this man guilty of any crime.

CP: But he stirs up the people, first in Galilee and then here.

P: Galilee? Take him over Herod, let him figure this out.

(Scene freezes while Narrator speaks)

Narrator: Herod, Pilate, it was all the same. Herod hoped Jesus would do a little magic for him, some entertaining sign but Jesus was silent – never answered a question. So Herod sent Jesus right back to Pilate.

P: I can't find any crimes this man is committing, Herod couldn't either. He's not important enough for the death penalty. I'll have him whipped then let him go. How's that?

Whole crowd: Take him away – free Barabbas for us!

P: Enough of this nonsense – I'll just let him go.

Crowd: Crucify him, Crucify him!

P: Why, what has he done wrong? I haven't found this man deserving of the death penalty. So, I'm going to have him whipped and set free.

(Crowd shouting for crucifixion until Pilate relents and nods yes.)

(Jesus is led away followed by women.)

W#2: Jesus touched me and stopped my bleeding, and now he's going to die.

W#3: Jesus healed my daughter who was sick and now he's going to die.

W#4: Jesus gave my blind son sight, and now Jesus is going to die.

J: Don't cry for me, cry for yourselves and for your children.

(Jesus and women go off.)

Narrator: Where were the people who could have stood up for Jesus? What happened to all the people who waved palm branches to greet him as king? Let's go back to our modern family and see if they've found a movie to watch tonight.

F: *(after consulting paper)*: Hey, the Diary of Anne Frank is on TBS tonight. I wouldn't mind seeing that once again.

K: I read the book. It was so upsetting reading about how they treated the Jews and that most people just went along with it.

R: When I finished the book I could hardly believe that she was killed. I've never understood why God allowed all that to happen – all those Jews accused and killed.

M: Why does God allow things like that to happen in this world?

(Phone rings – Katie answers.)

K: Hi Barb.... No, I don't think I want to get involved in trying to start a homeless shelter Nothing important – just watching a movie – see you in school tomorrow.

K: That was Barb – she's all gung-ho about that homeless shelter.

F: Time to say a prayer of thanks. Let's pray:

B: Thank you God for helping me today and for the food you provided.

R: Thank you for my friends and for the Cavs.

M: Thank you Jesus, that you let us live in a country where we are free. Help us to always appreciate all that you do for us.

K: Thank you for all the things we can buy and all the time we can spend with our friends.

F: Thank you Lord for this family and for Jesus who died for us and for those who killed him.

ALL: Amen.