

# *Sunday Players*

## *Drama Resources*

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# Palm Sunday, Take Two

By Bob Rictor

## **Synopsis:**

Luke tells us that after the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Jesus wept because the people did not recognize him for who he was and, as a result, their destruction was inevitable. In this skit, a church production for Palm Sunday turns into a revisiting of those same incorrect views of Jesus.

## **Cast:**

Director

Woman - Actress in church performance

Man - Actor in the same performance

Jesus - Here he is not to be seen as an actor in the performance, but as the actual Jesus

Extras - Men, women & children to be part of the processional

## **Costumes:**

The director needs to be in modern day clothes. Everyone else should be in first century costumes.

## **Props:**

Palm fronds

*The crowd excitedly enters through the main doors of the church and work their way up the aisle.*

## **Various Members of the Crowd:**

He's coming! He's Coming!

*As soon as they start shouting "He's coming" the band begins to play music befitting a triumphal entry. The crowd continues their way up the aisle shouting "Hosanna", and "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord". By the time the lead people get up to the first pew there should be a sense that something is amiss. People start looking at each other, then back to the front doors. Jesus isn't coming. The whole thing feels very uncomfortable.*

## **Director:**

*(standing on the chancel) Cut! Cut!*

*The band sputters to a stop.*

## **Director:**

Where's Jesus?

## **Woman:**

What does he look like?

## **Director:**

What does he look like? He looks like Jesus. You know, long hair... beard.

## **Man:**

Great. Throw in a Harley tee shirt and you've just described half the people at Bike Week.

**Woman:**

No. I mean how is he dressed?

**Director:**

Well, this time we decided to give him more of a military look.

**Woman:**

Military? Jesus?

**Director:**

Sure. That's what the people were expecting after all.

**Man:**

Whoa. I think you're way off base here.

**Director:**

Not at all.

*(Jumps off the chancel, walks up to one of the adults in the crowd and takes the palm frond from them.)*

See this. To first century Jew this was a nationalistic symbol. It was even engraved on their coins before Rome conquered them. Waving this around was like waving the Stars and Stripes. And those shouts of "Hosanna", that was the cry of the Macabees. For the Jews it was like shouting, "Remember the Alamo." They were looking for someone to kick the Romans out of town. They wanted a warrior king, and that's what we're gonna give them.

**Woman:**

Not my Jesus. He wouldn't hurt anyone. My Jesus is the one who loved the little children and fed the multitudes and healed the sick. Don't forget, he was entering Jerusalem right after raising Lazarus from the dead. My Jesus loved people. He wouldn't offend anyone. I think that's the kind of Jesus the Jews wanted.

**Man:**

I think neither one of you know what you're talking about. Think about it. What's the first thing he did when he entered Jerusalem? He cleared the temple. He took on the religious establishment. If he were here today he'd do the same thing. First he'd take on the televangelists and the institutionalized church, and then he'd give it back to the people.

*Jesus quietly walks in at this time. His demeanor is humble and loving. He pays attention to the people in the congregation. As he comes up on the crowd, he pays particular attention to the children.*

**Director:**

You're nuts. He'd be out there taking on the powers that oppress us today. We'd have prayer back in the schools and the Ten Commandments in every courtroom.

**Woman:**

Wrong. He'd be in the hospitals and orphanages.

**Director:**

MTV would be quaking in their black-polished-leather stiletto-heeled boots.

*(By now, Jesus is walking up to Man.)*

**Man:**

*(To Jesus)* Hey buddy, out of my way. *(To Director)* No way. He'd start at the Vatican, then he'd hit the Methodist, and the Southern Baptist, and the Presbyterians.

**Woman:**

He'd be working with the homeless. *(Jesus walks up to her)* Please, sir, I'm talking.

**Man:**

This is ridiculous. If he's not going to show I'm outta here.

**Director:**

Hold on. I'm sure he'll be here. *(To Jesus)* Hey you, in the beard, you're late. Take your place, will ya. We'll get going when Jesus gets here.

*Jesus, with great sadness, walks up to the chancel.*

**Man:**

Forget it. I could be playing golf now. *(Exits through front doors)*

**Woman:**

You know, he's right. *(Takes a child by the hand and begins to leave.)* Come on, honey, let's go home and finish your scout project.

*Everyone else begins to leave.*

**Director:**

Wait. You can't all leave. What if Jesus shows up? Wait... Oh, forget it. *(Exits through wing)*

*Jesus is now standing alone. He looks up toward Heaven.*

**Jesus:**

Father, forgive them. Even now, after all these years, they still don't get it.

*He shakes his head and then exits out the door opposite the one used by the director.*