

MY SAVIOR, MY GOD
(Drama)
by Sue Smith

CAST

Voice (can be male or female)

Mary, mother of Jesus

John

Peter

Mary Magdalene

Centurion

SET: Stage can be set simply with three chairs and perhaps a small table with a pitcher of water and a couple of glasses.

STAGING: Characters, except for the Voice, will be in biblical dress. They may carry a prop, if desired... something that will add to their identification or will make their appearance seem more natural. For example, Mary Magdalene could carry a basket, Peter might carry a fishing net, John a scroll or parchment, etc. As each character comes on stage, the lighting should be broadened to include all of them in the spotlight. The introductions of the songs should be timed so that dialog will finish just before the song begins.

OPENER – My Savior, My God/My Savior’s Love

As lights come up, MARY (mother of Jesus) is seated on a chair in a single spot.

VOICE: Thank you for talking with me today

MARY: Oh no... thank you. Thank you for asking. I’m happy to talk about Jesus and all that happened while He was with us. Where would you like me to begin?

VOICE: I would love to hear about it all.

MARY: Well, (laughing a little) that could take a very long time. Most people are curious about the angel... and that night in Bethlehem, of course.

VOICE: Do you get tired of repeating that story?

MARY: Never. But then what mother ever gets tired of talking about the night her first child was born. Let me just say that from the moment I heard the angel’s words telling me about Him, I knew He would be like no other child. And then that amazing night in the stable... (she shakes her head wistfully). But there is so much more I could tell that no one has ever written... his first steps, his first words, his tenderness and sweetness and holiness every single day.

VOICE: So then you weren’t surprised when He became a teacher that the crowds flocked to hear.

MARY: He knew the Scriptures. He talked about them like they were part of Him. So no, I wasn't surprised when He could speak of them with such wisdom and authority. And He was always so kind to people others ignored. I was never surprised by that. But the miracles... that was another thing. I don't know that I ever became accustomed to seeing Him touch someone and heal them completely.

VOICE: The day He rode into Jerusalem to the cheer of the crowds... what was that like?

MARY: (Choosing her words carefully) Exciting. Wonderful. I was so proud of Him. I remember thinking back to that day the angel said, "God will give him the throne of David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his kingdom will never end."

SONG: Blessed Is He Who Comes

(Person playing MARY can sing the first verse.)

(During rest of song, MARY is joined on stage by JOHN, who sits to her right.)

MARY: (She gestures as if to introduce John to the "Voice") John, my new friend would like to hear more about Jesus.

JOHN: (smiling and patting her shoulder, like a son) And I'm sure it was hard to pry anything out of you.

VOICE: She's been great... so helpful. But there are some things she said you knew better. The final Passover meal and the Garden of Gethsemane, for example. She said that perhaps you could tell me about those.

JOHN: (closing his eyes and remembering) Yes... yes, I was there. One of the things I remember most vividly was Jesus, wrapping the towel around his waist, getting down on his hands and knees, and carefully washing my feet. I remember how He broke the bread and gave thanks for it. How He passed the cup to each of us to drink.

VOICE: Did he seem sad or afraid?

JOHN: Afraid? No, I wouldn't call that. I would say determined. Believe me, I have relived every detail of that night over and over. His words to Judas when he left the meal. The song we sang together as we left the upper room. The tender, urgent things He said to us about how much He loved us. In so many ways, He was saying, "Don't be afraid. Just have faith. Everything will be all right."

VOICE: Yes, I've read all you wrote about what He said many times.

JOHN: I hope I was able to capture the love and devotion in the way He said it. The thing that is so incredible to me now is how we were able to completely ignore Him when He said He was going to leave us... He said He was going to have to die. We just didn't get it.

VOICE: (after a slight pause) Do you mind talking about the garden?

JOHN: Ah, the garden. (very sadly) In many ways, such a painful memory.

MARY: (speaks to John tenderly) It's all right, John. He forgave you.

JOHN: (Getting his emotions under control) We had all been there with Him before. He spent many hours in prayer on the Mount of Olives. I remember that Gethsemane was quiet and cool that night. I watched the others falling asleep. I was determined I would stay awake. But I failed. I failed Him. Somehow, all of us were oblivious to what He was going through. Only the trees and the stones and night air heard what He prayed while we slept.

SONG: The Garden Said Goodbye

(During the last part of the song, Peter comes on stage, greets Mary and John silently, and stands to Mary's left. The following dialog takes place during the interlude before "Crucify." The pace must be quick.)

PETER: I can tell you all about what happened when Judas arrived with the soldiers.

JOHN: Peter grabbed a sword and tried to stop them.

PETER: But Jesus wouldn't allow that. He just allowed Himself to be arrested and taken. The soldiers dragged Him from one trial to the next all night long.

VOICE: What happened in the courtyard?

PETER: (with great sorrow and regret) Yes...everyone wants to hear about that.

JOHN: (As if to comfort Peter) It's because we know you did what we all would have done if we'd been there.

PETER: (bitterly) I must have seemed like the biggest fool. All my big talk about how I would die for him. And then I claimed I didn't even know who He was.

MARY: (As if she has gone over this ground many times) Where were the people who had cheered for Him just a few days before?

SONG: Crucify

(During this song, Mary Magdalene enters and sits in front of where Peter is standing.)

MARY MAGDALENE: Part of me almost expected what happened. All my life, I had lost everything and everyone I had every truly cared about. Why would it be any different with Jesus? He made people feel guilty about their sin, and some of them hated Him for that.

VOICE: Weren't you afraid to follow Him to the cross?

MARY MAGDALENE: I just didn't care. If He was going to die, I didn't want to live. I watched as they nailed His hands and His feet to the cross. I listened to the crowd laughing and jeering.

MARY: John didn't want me to be there. But I couldn't stay away.

JOHN: Was I frightened? Yes, I know I was. But I couldn't let His mother go to the cross by herself, could I? (Again, he comforts Mary as if she is his own mother.)

VOICE: I'm sorry to ask such painful questions, but I must know...how could you bear to see him... to watch him there?

MARY MAGDALENE: There was only one way. That was to remember how kind He was... how loving and gentle and good. It made me want to be there just in case He would look out see me. In the middle of all that hatred and scorn, at least He would see someone who loved Him.

SONG: Love Grew Where The Blood Fell

(During song, the Roman CENTURION comes and stands close to JOHN.)

VOICE: Can you tell me what it was about Him that struck you as so different?

CENTURION: I had executed many men. So many that I had become hardened to their protests of innocence and their cries of pain. But Jesus? I guess what was so different about Him was that there was no hate, no curses. Only once did I sense what I thought was despair.

VOICE: When was that?

CENTURION: It was a moment toward the end when He suddenly cried out, "My God, why have you forsake me?"

JOHN: When I brought His mother before Him, He made it clear that He wanted me to take care of her.

MARY: That was so like Him. Thinking of the needs of others right up to His death.

CENTURION: And then I heard something that broke through to my hardened heart. (incredulously) He actually prayed for God to forgive... to forgive me for what I was doing to Him. When He died, I knew as surely as I know I'm standing here that He was innocent. I knew that He was the Son of God. I knew He didn't deserve the cross.

SONG: When I Survey/I Should Have Been Crucified

(CENTURION can sing the solo on I Should Have Been Crucified if desired.)

VOICE: Is there anything I should know that I haven't asked about?

JOHN: There are so many things. The way it was when we left the cross that afternoon.

MARY: That endless night. How we gathered to grieve together.

MARY MAGDALENE: The hopelessness we felt with Him gone.

PETER: The guilt and shame of knowing I had failed Him, and the devastating thought that I would never have the chance to say, "I'm sorry."

CENTURION: I suppose all of us were consumed with thinking about who He was and what it all meant. Was He just a carpenter? Just a teacher or a prophet? Or was He something much more?

SONG: They Could Not

(As the VOICE begins to talk, the other characters freeze. The VOICE... a person in modern-day dress... gets up from the front row, or enters from the back, and continues talking.)

VOICE: When the stone that had sealed His tomb rolled away, everything changed. Jesus was alive! He had risen, just as He promised He would.

Today, I've only asked what every one of us would if we had the chance. We want to know about the moment their questions were erased and their grief was turned into joy. Wouldn't it be amazing to hear Mary Magdalene describe that moment He spoke her name and she realized that Jesus was alive! Who brought the news to His mother that her son wasn't dead? Wouldn't you love to hear Peter and John talk about the days after His resurrection when they saw Him and talked with Him and ate with Him. Jesus was so much more to them than just a teacher or a healer or a prophet He was their Savior and their God.

And now, we who truly understand what His death and resurrection accomplished for us, know Him in that same way. We too follow Him as our Savior, and we worship Him as our God.

SONG: Finale