

# The Story of Peter, James and John

## *A Reader's Theatre for 3 Readers*

*This reader's theatre is based on Mark 4-14*

Reader 1: Fear

**Reader 2: Fear**

Readers 1&2: Fear

Reader 1: We are afraid.

**Reader 2: Very afraid.**

Reader 1: Fear is our common companion in these days of our following Jesus.

**Reader 2: On that day, when evening had come**

Reader 1: On that day of the parables, the many parables stretching our fascinated but weary brains with images of soil and sowers and seeds and lamps and grain and mustard,

**Reader 2: On that day in the evening, Jesus finally finished telling parables and said,**

*Reader 3: "Let's go across to the other side of the lake."*

Reader 1: On the lake a great windstorm arose, a terrible gale. The waves beat right into our boat, so that we were on the verge of swamping.

**Reader 2: Meanwhile, Jesus was in the stern, fast asleep on a cushion. Sleeping! We faced death and he was sleeping.**

Reader 1: We were all terrified. Somebody woke Jesus and yelled at him,

**Reader 2: "Teacher, don't you even care that we are all going to die?"**

Reader 1: And Jesus rubbed his eyes a bit and spoke right at the storm.

*Reader 3: "Peace! "Peace! Be Still!"*

**Reader 2: And the wind stopped, and there was a dead calm, though our adrenalin-filled hearts were still pumping wildly.**

Reader 1: And he said to us,

*Reader 3: "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"*

Reader 1: And we were filled with a different kind of fear, a great awe.

**Reader 2: We just kept asking ourselves, "Who is this man, this rabbi, this teller of parables, this stiller of storms, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"**

Readers 1&2: And we were still afraid.

*Reader 3: Then he began to teach them that the son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.*

Reader 1: He said all this quite openly.

*Reader 3: And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said,*

**Reader 2: "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."**

*Reader 3: He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them,*

**Reader 2: “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”**

Reader 1: Fear

**Reader 2: Misunderstanding**

Reader 1: Terror

**Reader 2: Incomprehension**

Reader 1: This time, some strange visions,

**Reader 2: Appearances**

Reader 1: Were they dreams? Were they imaginings?

**Reader 2: Were they some kind of transfiguration?**

Reader 1: How can you not be afraid?

*Reader 3: Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves.*

**Reader 2: And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.**

*Reader 3: And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.*

**Reader 2: Then Peter said to Jesus,**

Reader 1: “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here – I think; let me make three dwellings right here, one for you, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

**Reader 2: He did not know what to say, for they were all terrified.**

Reader 1: “We need some security, some permanence.”

*Reader 3: Security and permanence in the midst of all these new things.*

**Reader 2: Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice,**

*Reader 3: “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!”*

**Reader 2: Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.**

Reader 1: Fear

**Reader 2: Misunderstanding**

*Reader 3: Security.*

**Reader 2: They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them,**

Reader 1: “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.”

*Reader 3: But they did not understand what he was saying.*

**Reader 2: And they were afraid to ask him.  
“Who is the greatest, Lord?”**

Reader 1: “Can I have the position of power in your Kingdom, Lord?”

**Reader 2:** **"Surely I deserve some recognition Lord."**

Reader 1: "Surely we are more deserving than they are, Lord."

*Reader 3: "What were you arguing about on the way?"*

**Reader 2:** **But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest.**

Reader 1: John said to him,

**Reader 2:** **"Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us."**

*Reader 3: "Do not stop him ... Whoever is not against us is for us."*

Reader 1: At another time, people were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this he was indignant.

*Reader 3: "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."*

**Reader 2:** **Yet again, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him,**

Reader 1: "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you."

*Reader 3: "What is it you want?"*

Reader 1: "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory."

**Reader 3:** *“You do not know what you are asking ... Your request is not mine to grant. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”*

Readers 1&2: “Yes, we are able”.

**Reader 2:** **After the arrest, all of them deserted Jesus and fled.**

Reader 1: After the cock crowed, Peter broke down and wept.

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