

Easter Readers' Theater

Cast: 4 women (Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary – mother of James, Salome)

Mary Magdalene:

He lives! Jesus lives!
Why do you just stare at me?
Jesus lives, he's alive!
Don't you believe me?

Salome: Calm yourself child. You are acting as one possessed; And I know you were healed so calm yourself and speak rationally!

Mary Magdalene:

I am not possessed, I am not drunk and I will not be calm. There is nothing to be calm about. You, you who call yourselves disciples, listen to me. I tell you Jesus lives! You were there Salome; you heard and saw the same as I. If you are so rational you tell them.

Mary mother of James:

The men are weary, perhaps we should give them time to dry their eyes and eat a little. I don't think they are ready for what we have to tell them. My boy James, he looks so forlorn...

Mary Magdalene:

Perhaps they should just trust us or at least come and look for themselves.

Salome: Look at what? You have told them nothing.

Mary Magdalene:

I tell them that their Lord lives. What more do they need to know?

Salome: Mary Magdalene...

Mary mother of James:

Just give them time dear.

Joanna: Stop it all of you. We shouldn't be going on like this, there is another way. We had prepared the spices and perfumes for Jesus' body as we promised.

Mary mother of James:

His mother Mary had given to me the myrrh presented to him at his birth to take along.

Salome: I know, I reminded you to bring it. What an odd gift for a baby.

Mary Magdalene:

It was a gift for a king. His future was known. The Scriptures are fulfilled. A gift given at birth was held close, remembered and rediscovered at a death which has turned into life. It's all so confusing and connected.

Joanna: We went to the tomb this morning when it was still dark out.

Salome: It would be better for us not to be seen.

Mary mother of James:

We would have wakened you, but you looked so exhausted.

Mary Magdalene:

I wanted to wake you.

Mary mother of James and Salome:

We know.

Joanna: We didn't know how we would roll away the stone, but we went anyway.

Mary mother of James:

The sun was just starting to rise and it looked so beautiful and serene. It was rising just behind the tomb; it almost looked as if the light was coming out of it. And the dew on the grass was creating a mist.

Salome: I couldn't see the guards anywhere and it was making me suspicious. They might have proved themselves of some use in rolling away the stone.

Mary Magdalene:

You are missing the point about the stone; it was already moved!

Salome: I suspected a plot.

Mary mother of James:
I began to weep.

Joanna: I was afraid, but we went right up to the entrance.

Mary Magdalene:
I went in first.

Salome: There was no unpleasant smell.

Mary mother of James:
There was no chill.

Mary Magdalene:
There was no Jesus!

Joanna: The tomb was empty.

Mary Magdalene:
No it wasn't!

Salome: We suddenly saw two men; we were caught in an empty tomb.

Mary mother of James:
Their clothes gleamed like lightning.

Joanna: We were afraid and bowed down before them.

Salome: They spoke to us and said, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?"

Mary mother of James:
They said, "He is not here..."

Mary Magdalene:
"...he is risen!"

Joanna: They said, "Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee:"

Mary Magdalene:

“The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.”

Joanna: It was only then that we remembered. Do you remember?

Mary Magdalene:

Don't just stand there; don't just stare at us with those unbelieving eyes? What kind of disciples are you? Peter, you believe me don't you?

Mary mother of James:

It is true my dears, Jesus was not in his tomb, and the men,

Mary Magdalene:

angels of the Lord.

Mary mother of James:

They said that he is alive. The time for tears is over. It is your turn to awake and arise.

Salome: A risen Messiah, just think.

Mary Magdalene:

No, don't think, act! He is alive, believe me, he is alive! Do something.

Joanna:

Brothers and sisters, our Lord Jesus lives. Our days as disciples are not ending, they are only beginning. The Scripture are fulfilled, and the kingdom is coming! Can you find it in your hearts to believe the good news?

Michelle Jantzi Dueck (Canada), 2003.

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