

Beneath the Cross

By Doug Irving & Gary Randolph



Theme and Purpose

The people who spent the most time with Jesus, made him the center of their lives. They gave him their love and placed their hopes on him. Imagine their despair when they saw him dying before their eyes. This short sketch for a Maundy Thursday or Good Friday service expresses their grief while hinting that there might be yet one more miracle.

Cast list	John Peter Mary (the mother of Jesus) Mary Magdalene James
Approximate Running Time	3 minutes
Scene Description	At the foot of the cross
Prop List	None
Other Production Notes	There is no Jesus on the cross, only a crown of thorns and purple cloth.
Related Scriptures	Matthew 27:45-56; Mark 15:21-32; Luke 1:37; Luke 2:35; Luke 23:35-39; John 6:68; John 19:25-27
Song Suggestions	Were You There, We Are the Reason, Didn't He (Randy Matthews), Any Maundy Thursday/Good Friday hymn

Dramatists move in ones and twos behind the cross, facing the audience. Some stand, others kneel.

John:

How can this be happening? All you ever did was love people. You poured out your life for the sick, the sinners... for me. Now your life is being poured out here.

Peter:

Don't leave us, Master. Don't leave us. Where else can we turn? You have the words of eternal life. But what words of life can we find now? How will we face tomorrow... and the next day?

Mary:

Yeshua, my son, my son! Is this what the prophet meant that a sword would pierce my soul? You were to reign over the house of Israel forever? How will the prophecies be fulfilled? (pause) Yet nothing is impossible with God. Nothing is impossible...

John puts his arm around Mary.

Mary Magdalene:

You offered me forgiveness, and made me new. So many other people also need forgiveness. How can they find forgiveness if you die?

James:

Lord, You said that if you were lifted up you would draw all people to you. Here we are, gathered in this terrible place. We kneel at your feet, astounded by what we see happening. Our hearts are breaking. Yet we have seen you perform so many miracles. Is there yet one more?

Fade to black

Performance and photocopying rights:

Your purchase of this script grants your church unlimited use of this sketch within your programs and worship services. You may photocopy the script for each cast member, provided that the copyright notice remains on each page. Scripts and performance rights are not transferable to other organizations or persons and cannot be resold. You may not use the sketches for any commercial purpose. Usage rights do not extend to video, radio, television or film.