

# Three Untouchables

by John Walsh

(Three Pharisees come in from stage right.)

Pharisee #1: OK, lets compare notes. Remember what the assignment was – Get Jesus!

Pharisee #2: Well, I have already checked out his hometown, and no one can remember anything bad about him. That was a total washout.

(A 4<sup>th</sup> Pharisee walks up while all of that is being said.)

Pharisee #2 continues: But I did get something good from where he is staying now. He healed the servant of a Roman Centurion. (others react with disgust) That's right. A Gentile Roman Centurion in Capernaum! (others laugh and congratulate him on his good work.)

Pharisee #4: Say wait. I heard about him. Isn't he the one who built a synagogue for the town? Yes, I am sure of it. All of our Jewish leaders in Capernaum are very pleased with him. As a matter of fact, they are the ones that went to Jesus and recommended the healing.

Pharisee #2: That doesn't matter. He is still a Gentile!

Pharisee #1 (putting a hand on #2's shoulder) Well actually I think he's right. I have heard of that Centurion. He's really amazing. (#2 grumbles)

Pharisee #3: Don't worry. I've got one that will "do him in." Jesus was eating with some others. (ha, ha) In other words, in front of many witnesses. He has no way out of this one.

While he was eating, a sinful woman came into the dining room, stood behind where he was eating, and started crying at his feet. She then started washing his feet with her tears! And he did nothing to stop it. It was disgusting! Our brother Simon was there and saw the whole thing.

Pharisee #4: Oh yes, Simon told me about that. I guess he had concerns about this but didn't say anything. Jesus read his mind. He then told him a story. Let me see, I think I can remember how it goes. Oh yes, it goes like this ... "Two men owed money to the same banker. One owed ..."

Pharisee #3: Oh, please! I know all about that story, and I don't want to hear it again.

Pharisee #1: Well, it doesn't matter, because I've got the one to end it all for him. Jesus came into our town just as we were having a funeral. He walked up touched the dead man's coffin!

Pharisee #2 & 3: (gasp) No! Really?

Pharisee #2: Well, you're right. That does it. Everyone knows that makes a person unclean!

Pharisee #4: Well, technically, there is a little problem with that. When Jesus touched it, the man wasn't dead anymore. He really didn't touch a dead man's coffin. It was more like he touched a ... live man's coffin.

All three turn and look at the 4th Pharisees:

Pharisee #3: Nicodemus, whose side are you on? You are always defending him."

They begin to leave the stage....

Pharisee #4: Well I just think we ought to look at all the facts here.

The others continue to grumble among themselves as they exit, saying things like

"I guess we still have to watch him until we get something."

"Hey, how about healing on the Sabbath?"

"Tried that. Didn't work."

"Gotta keep looking."