

# ***Gethsemane***

by John Walsh

*This is 2-part drama that can be separated by music,  
or be worked into the pastor's sermon.*

— scene 1 —

Jesus and his disciples walk on stage. The disciples are all talking and in a joyous mood. Jesus is quiet.

Jesus stops as if to think. Several disciples pull off to the side and start talking.

Disciple 1: "Wow! That was a good meal."

Disciple 2: "Yea, Passover is always the highlight of the year."

Disciple 3: "Too bad Judas had to miss most of it."

Disciple 1: "You're right. That was unusual. Why would Jesus send him on an errand at such an important occasion? Surely it could have waited. Now he has missed Passover."

Disciple 2: "It was sure humbling having Jesus wash our feet. I still say it was Peter's turn to do that. Still, there we all were, stubbornly refusing to do it ...."

Disciple 3: "It was like he knew. I think all of us learned that humility is better than stubbornness."

Disciple 1: "Well, to me another 'thought provoking' time was when he said, 'This is my flesh' and 'This is my blood.'"

Disciple 3: "Yea, I was going to ask you about that. Did he mean ..."

— Jesus called them together —

Jesus: "All of you are going to abandon me tonight."

All the disciples get serious and begin to talk.

Jesus (hands up to quiet them down): "Listen. After I rise from the dead, I will be with you in Galilee."

All the disciples start talking again – about the meaning of "raised from the dead."

Peter speaks up: "Lord, I will never desert you, even if everyone else does."

Jesus pauses and just looks at him. Finally, Jesus a hand on his shoulder, "Oh Peter, this very night you will deny you even know me!" Jesus looks away and then says, "And not just once, you will deny me three times before the rooster crows in the morning."

Peter (shocked): "No Lord! Even if it means death, I will never deny you."

All the disciples say similar things

They move across stage. At the entrance of the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus stops.

Jesus: “Stay here, while I go and pray. Peter, James, John, I need you to come and pray with me.”

The four go off stage. The others look at one another, as if in shock. There is a long pause – several start to say something, but don’t. Finally, one says, “Let’s go wait over there.” (pointing to other side of stage) They exit other side.

—— scene 2 ——

Jesus: “Stay here. I am in great sorrow. Please, ... watch and pray with me.

Jesus leaves and disciples are quiet for a bit. (He slowly walks off opposite stage)

Peter says to the others: “I don’t understand. I would never deny him.”

James: “Peter, we all know that. Don’t worry about it. You know how Jesus is always talking in spiritual terms. It was probably just to get you to think. (ha) we all know that is a challenge for you.

John: “Oh, look at this night. It’s beautiful. See how the moon is dancing in and out of the clouds.

James: “Oh John, you always have your head in the clouds. Personally, that moon makes me sleepy. Ohhhh, that roast lamb was perfect!

Peter (still in his own thoughts): “I would never deny him. And I don’t like being told that I would. (yawn)

John: “I wonder why Jesus has crammed so much into one day and then wants us to pray into the night. Oh-haaa. It has been such a long day.”

James: That’s for sure. I want to pray, but I think I could do a better job if I got just a few winks in. (yawn)

John: “Yea, tomorrow is another day, and we’ll have plenty of time to pray then.”

Peter: after a pause: “Well, if his talking about my denying him was simple a spiritual lesson, what do you think it could mean?” (no answer) “I mean – that was pretty tough, being singled out like that.” (no answer) “Guys.”

Finally someone snores. Peter yawns and says. “Well, I’m sure it will all be much clearer tomorrow.”

Jesus steps out on other side of the stage. Slowly walks over to his disciples. He stands there, looking at the men. Finally, he says, “If you only knew what is about to happen, you would watch and pray with me.”

—— all leave the stage ——