

## ***Trial before Jews***

by John Walsh

*The orchestra plays the famous four notes of the “Dragnet” theme song.*

Joe: “The city is Jerusalem. The place of crime is the house of the high priest. The time is 5 a.m. – just an hour before the Day of Passover starts. My name is Friday, Joe Friday. My partner is Frank Thursday.

Captain has sent us down here to investigate the allegations that a certain man is in reality a disciple of Jesus – the one being tried here. Three people have clearly identified that the afore-mentioned man is a disciple of Jesus. We are here to get the facts – just the facts.

Here is the first witness. Maa’m, exactly what happened?”

Woman: “Well ... I work for the high priest, and I saw this man ...

Joe: “What do you do for the high priest?”

Woman: “Well, what does that matter?”

Frank: “Just answer the question, Maa’m.

Woman: “Well, ... if you must know. I clean out the bed pans each night and wash the feet of all the people who come here.

Joe: “That’s fine maa’m. Now tell me what happened.”

Woman: “As I was saying – before I was so rudely interrupted ...”

Joe: “Just the facts maa’m. Just the facts.”

Woman: “Well. I was out here serving hot tea. ... I don’t have to do that. I was just volunteering my time ... kind of curious about what all was going on. ... I thought I could get a better view if I came out and served everyone some tea.”

Frank: “Just the facts maa’m. Just the facts.”

Woman: “Well, as I was saying. I saw one of the disciples of Jesus – you know, the one that was on trial.”

Joe: “Yes maa’m. Just get on with your story.”

Woman: “You sure are an impatient one, aren’t you?”

Joe: “Yes maa’m. As you were saying.”

Woman: “Oh, ... well. I saw this disciple standing near the fire. I walked up to him and said, ‘Aren’t you one of his disciples?’ Of course, I knew he was, but I was just being nice, and trying to make conversation.”

Joe: “Yes maa’m. And then what did he say?”

Woman: “Well, he was kind of rude – something like you. He blurted out ‘No! It’s not true. I am not one of his disciples.’

Well, of course he was. That was obvious by how nervous he got. He got up and walked to another part of the court yard.”

Man: “That is when I talked to him.”

Woman: “Say, I’m telling this story.”

Man: “Yea, but I am the one who talked to him.”

Joe: “Exactly what happened sir?” (Woman is in a huff)

Frank: “We just want the facts.”

Man: “Well, that is all I am going to give you – just the facts – unlike some other people around here.”

Woman (in a greater huff): “Well!”

Man: “I pointed to him and said to the others around me, ‘Here is one of them. He was with Jesus.’ ”

Joe: “And how did you know that sir?”

Man: “He was the main guy! We all saw him with Jesus – always speaking up – a regular ‘know it all.’ He was pretty proud to be the main disciple of Jesus. Well, at least until this morning. He wasn’t ‘strutting around’ this morning. (ha) He said, ‘I don’t know what you are talking about. I don’t know him.’ (ha) We all know he was lying.”

Frank: (pulling Joe aside) “Say Joe. I am starting to have my doubts here. This man said – here, let me read my notes – ‘We . all . know . he is . lying.’ That doesn’t sound like a disciple of Jesus to me.”

Joe: “I see what you mean Frank. Let me see if we have all the facts in this case.” (back to the crowd) “Did anyone else talk to this mystery man.”

Second man: “Yea, I talked to him. But there is no mystery.”

Joe: “And who are you sir?”

Second man: “I was one of the men that picked up Jesus in the garden. I was there. This man was pretty bold in the garden. He even drew out a sword and attempted to defend Jesus. Tried to kill someone. (ha) Wasn’t much of a swordsman. He missed the man’s head and cut off his ear.”

Frank: “He cut off his ear?”

Second man: “That’s what I said. He cut off his ear.”

Frank: “Sir. We haven’t had any hospital reports of a man coming in with a missing ear.”

Second man: “Well – uh – no – uh – well Actually Jesus fixed the man’s ear.”

Joe: “He what?”

Second man: “Well, you want the facts don’t you. Those are the facts. He put the ear back on the man.”

Frank: “Joe, I am really having my doubts here.”

Second man: “Forget the ear. The point is, I saw this man in the garden. His name is Peter, and his was with Jesus. I told him so. I said, ‘I saw you in the garden. You are one of them.’ I then proved it to everyone standing around. I said, ‘listen to his speech. He is from Galilee.

Joe: “What did he say then?”

Second man: “Well ... he cursed a blue streak, and totally denied he knew anything about Jesus.”

All the others: “He is lying. He is definitely one of them.”

Joe (steps aside with Frank): Well Frank, what do you think?

Frank: “It is pretty obvious – at least to me.”

Joe: “Yea, to me too.”

Frank: “It is a simple ‘one – two – three.’ ... One, he denied Jesus three times. I don’t think a true disciple would do that. Two, they say he lied. They said that several times. Jesus has some pretty high standards, and I don’t think a disciple would lie. Third, and most important, he used foul language.”

Joe: "You're right Frank. Even if he is a disciple, there is no court of law that would declare him guilty of being a follower of Jesus. If we took him in, we would just be wasting our time."

Frank: "I know something that wouldn't be a waste of time."

Joe: "What's that Frank?"

Frank: "A trip to the donut store."

The orchestra plays the last five notes of the "Dragnet" theme song.