

Drama Sketch: Easter News

by Dave Jenkins



Aim: To explore the various opinions at the time of Jesus death and resurrection.

This drama for Easter takes place in AD33 at the Jerusalem Echo newspaper offices. The set up is all modern day, but we are obviously in Biblical times.

Nathan Kelly! Kelly, get in here! Kelly!

Kelly Did you call me, Nathan?

Nathan No, Kelly, I was calling the other Kelly. **(She turns to go)** Kelly! There, isn't another Kelly. Your investigative journalism and awareness of what's going on around you astounds me. Well, I have to say that I admire your persistence with this story, but I'm not going to print it. I'm sorry, it's just not important enough.

Kelly But, Nathan, I think this story is incredibly important. I think you'll find that this is going to be of huge public interest.

Nathan A man is crucified? Big deal! Where exactly would the interest be in that? This is A.D 33, Kelly, crucifixions happen quite often around here if you hadn't noticed.

Kelly Yes, I know that, but this man was different.

Nathan Oh, was He? He was a carpenter from Nazareth, so what's the story?

Kelly Well, I have many witness reports here. Eyewitness reports that state that He was seen doing many remarkable things, while He was still alive.

Nathan Is that right? Remarkable things? Oh, don't tell me, He was able to walk on water? He was able to turn water into wine? He raised people from the dead? Is that it?

Kelly Er, well, yes, apparently, yes, He did all of those things you just mentioned, and more.

Nathan What?

Kelly All of those things you just mentioned...all of those miraculous acts. This Jesus was seen doing them around, Judea, Galilee, Capernaum, all over the place, by completely different people. I also have a report here from a young boy, David, who claims that his lunch was used by this Jesus to feed more than five thousand people. Five thousand people!

Nathan That must have been one humongous lunch. Did the lad need twenty friends to help him carry it?

Kelly No, apparently it was just five loaves and two fishes. Jesus was seen to pray over the lunch and everyone was fed. This was no ordinary man, Nathan. He had powers beyond what we can understand. Oh, and a man here, tells of how Jesus actually healed people, including a blind man called...wait a second, yes...Bartimeus...and Jesus was seen to be able to control the weather.

Nathan Is that right? Well, that would be a very useful skill, wouldn't it? I'd never get drenched during a picnic ever again! So, this Jesus was some sort of a magician, so what? He used a bit of slight of hand, got a few friends to cover for Him...it's still not enough. So, why did they execute Him?

Kelly That's the point, He was innocent of all charges put to Him by the Sanhedrin. He was just executed to appease the crowds. An innocent man was killed.

Nathan An innocent man? Highly unlikely. He must have done something. There's no smoke without fire. Did He plead His innocence?

Kelly Er, just give me a second, er, no He didn't.

Nathan Did He cry out!? Did He cry, I've done nothing wrong, I've done nothing wrong, you can't do this to me! Let me go! Please, let me go!

Kelly No, I have no record of Him saying anything like that.

Nathan Then He must have been guilty. Mustn't He? No man would ever let Himself be killed if He'd done nothing wrong. What would be the point? What could He possibly hope to achieve by dying if He was innocent?

Kelly I don't know.

Nathan Exactly. This is a non-story. I tell you what! Go and find me some dirt on the guy...a bit of juicy gossip...and then I'll give you a by-line on page 7.

Kelly But that's the point, Nathan, I've looked. There doesn't seem to be any dirt on Him. Really! Nothing at all! I wanted to find something, but I couldn't. I went after Him because He sounded too good to be true, but He wasn't. He was just good and true. He might have hung around with a few peculiar characters but everyone who was touched by Him loved Him. There doesn't seem to be any scandal and no skeletons hidden in His closet.

Nathan Nonsense! He was probably manipulating people out of money. You know what these magicians are like. Go and look into it.

Kelly But, I have, I've done my best to find some sort of weakness or irregularity. And there's nothing.

Nathan Are you trying to tell me that you think this Jesus character was actually perfect?

Kelly Yes. It seems that way. He didn't do anything wrong. Ever!

Nathan That's rubbish. No-one is perfect, Kelly, you know that! I mean you've dug up more dirt than a mole. Human beings are not perfect!

Kelly He also claimed that He was the Son Of God. He wasn't just human. He claimed to have a power that can only be accessed through His Father.

Nathan Did He now? So He was a blasphemer! I've told you, Kelly, the man is dead, dead! He can't do anything more now. And there is nothing that can bring Him back. This is yesterday's news.

Kelly It's not, I know it isn't. His followers believe that something else is going to happen. They believe that His death is only the beginning.

Nathan Of course they do, they don't want their little fantasy to be over, do they? Jesus Christ is in a tomb, and any effect He may have had on people's lives ended when they nailed Him to that cross, okay? It's time to look forward. Let's start a new story on someone who is actually alive. Alright?

Kelly Alright, but I think you're going to regret this, Nathan

Nathan I doubt it. Dead men just aren't worth following. But, do let me know if there are any interesting developments in your little story, won't you?

Kelly **(Kelly exits and then runs back in waving a fax)** He's alive!

Nathan What?

Kelly I just got this information by fax from an extremely reliable source that says that Jesus has been seen to be alive! Yes! He's alive! Jesus is alive! Look!

Nathan That's impossible! *(reads)* "The stone was rolled away, no sign of the body, witnesses claim that Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified on Friday, is alive. Dozens of people claim to have seen Him walking about this morning. Perhaps He really is the Son Of God?" What nonsense, it's a hoax.

Kelly Maybe it is, but there's only one way to find out. Can I look into it?

Nathan It can't be true, it's just another trick. Well, go on then, check it out. And don't spend too long about it.

Kelly Thanks. Will you hold the front page of tomorrow's first edition?

Nathan Don't push it, Kelly. Now go on, find this Jesus, and we'll see what develops.

Kelly Alright. This could be the biggest story of all time, though, couldn't it? It could change everything and it'll really put the *Jerusalem Echo* on the map!

Nathan Yeah, yeah, go on! Find Him! **(Kelly exits) (On Phone)** Hello, Larry, yeah, it's Nathan, stop the press will you? Yeah, we could have a new headline coming your way. What? Okay, well, for now, try something like, er, Jesus is alive! Yeah, I know what I just said, yeah, see how that looks, Jesus **(pause)** is **(pause)** alive!

Questions for your Group:

1. Who do you think Jesus was?
2. What evidence is there to prove that He did rise again?
3. Why did He die and rise again in the first place?
4. Why is the resurrection so important?