

PETER AND JOHN BACK FROM THE TOMB

Written by Ted Swartz

Characters: Peter, John

Scripture text: John 20:1-22

Props: chair/bench

Setting: Just outside doorway; and then inside

Length: 5 minutes

(We hear the sounds of running, panicky voices. PETER and JOHN are running. Before they get to the door, PETER pulls up, winded.)

PETER: Would you wait up—I'm pretty sure I pulled something—John ... John.

JOHN: Hurry up then...

(He waits at the door, until PETER catches up.)

PETER: John, what do you...

JOHN: I don't know ... let's go in ... are you going to make it?

PETER: Not sure ... when's the last time I ran that far?

JOHN: *(Bangs on the door.)* You're not gonna be sick are you?

PETER: I'll let you know if anything comes up.

JOHN: Great.

PETER: Who's still here?

JOHN: Thomas ... Matthew ... I think ... Martha.

PETER: James?

JOHN: Haven't seen him yet.

PETER: John—can we talk?

JOHN: About what?

PETER: About these past couple of days...

JOHN: Not your best week.

PETER: Nobody had a good week ... I just need to explain what happened ... guy came out of nowhere ... I didn't have ... I didn't know...

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JOHN: You always talked a good game, Peter.

(The door is unlocked. They enter the room.)

JOHN: Go.

PETER: People ... what we... *(Runs out of air.)* ... tell 'em.

JOHN: They were right, the women were right—the tomb's empty

PETER: Empty...

JOHN: Nothing there, just the sheets...

PETER: ... the sheets...

JOHN: We're not sure what it means...

PETER: Could be anything...

(Pause.)

JOHN: Do you want to handle this?

PETER: You're doing great ... he's doing great. I gotta sit down ... I'll just be over here.

JOHN: Great—look, we aren't sure what's going on ... but it's clear we gotta lay low—

PETER: *(Comes back.)* That's right, because...

JOHN: Peter...

PETER: It's clear they're still going...

JOHN: What's clear is you need to shut your mouth for once. *(Shocks PETER for a moment.)* Pretty sure none of us want to hear from you right now.

PETER: Wait ... that's not...

JOHN: Not what? Not fair?! We know—you took care of yourself ... you said you didn't know him ... three times ... OK, you were scared—we get it...

PETER: Was that so different than what you would have done?

JOHN: You have no idea what I would have done.

PETER: We were all scared.

JOHN: There's a difference between hiding and betrayals.

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PETER: *(Pause—a new line of thought.)* He set us up, people ... he sucked us in ... made us love him ... told us there will be a new kingdom ...then he left.

JOHN: He didn't leave; they killed him.

PETER: You saw him ... saw him do things ... you think he couldn't have stopped that?

JOHN: Shut up. Peter ... I told you, we don't want to hear you right now.

PETER: Tell me you don't feel just a little stupid for wasting three years of your life right now...

JOHN: *(Suddenly sees Jesus over JOHN'S shoulder.)* Peter...

JOHN: Peter...

PETER: What?

(He gestures with his head—PETER looks over his shoulder. We see in his face he recognizes Jesus—all of the anger/pain/loss is evident.)

PETER: Jesus...

(THESE NEXT LINES OVERLAP.)

JOHN: Jesus ... we were just at the tomb ... the women had said you were gone, so we went ... you weren't there—of course you weren't there if you can be here ... I mean ... why...

PETER: So you just go?! You let them take you?! What are we supposed to do now? What does your "kingdom" mean now?... we're just a bunch of scared fools hiding from everyone! ... *(Starts to change tone a little.)* ... for what I said ... for what I didn't say ... for not knowing ... to say ... I'm sorry.

(They close their eyes and breathe out as to simulate the breath that is coming on them.)

JOHN: *(Whispers.)* Yes.

PETER: *(Also whispers.)* ...forgiven?

(JOHN has joined PETER—they turn to look at one another.)

THE END

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SCRIPT
PREVIEW

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