

CROSSPOINT Youth scripts

ISSUE 20

Synopsis: Reader's Theater version of Jesus' parable of the Buried Treasure in Matthew 13:44-45. A man gladly gives up everything he owns to gain the treasure of unsurpassed value. Once we see the value of God's kingdom, things here become highly disposable.

Topics: Surrender, Heaven, Lordship, Perspective, Worship

Time Requirements: 5 minutes.

Characters:

1,2,& 4- The "normal" readers who narrate the story.

3- The "foil" who usually misses the point. Think of Patrick on Sponge Bob.

Props: Four stools, four script holders.

User's Guide



Discussion Point:
Have you ever wanted something so badly that you saved up for months and months? What was it? How did you feel when you finally got it?



Author's Note:
Scene opens on 4 readers on stools with black script holders in hand. They work together like team storytellers with almost zero time between lines. Make it crisp with as much eye contact with the audience as possible. Reader's generally don't look at each other, though the interactions with Reader 3 are an exception.



Blocking:
Readers remain on stools the entire script, but do utilize gesture and upper body movement.



BURIED TREASURE

Stage Setup:



Audience

Script

0 minutes

- 1: Once upon a time there was a great storyteller. Who used stories to explain what God's kingdom is like.
- 2: So he started with things people already understood. Things like buying and selling and wanting something really bad.
- 4: And he told them this story..
- 1: Once upon a time there was a farmer..
- 3: Plowing away in his field.
- 2: Well, actually, it wasn't his field.
- 3: Then what was he doing plowing in somebody else's field?
- 4: Well it turns out this man was poor.
- 3: Ah...
- 1: Poor enough that he didn't own his own land.
- 2: So he would plow and plant somebody else's land.
- 3: And when the harvest time came...
- 4: He would give some to the owner, and keep some for himself.



Blocking: Here #2 can mime holding the plow and the resulting collision

- 2: Everybody wins.
- 1: But some win more than others.
- 3: Whadda you mean?
- 4: Well one day this farmer was running his plow through the other guy's land.
- 2: When the plow runs into something big and hard.
- 4: Crash!
- 1: Double crash!
- 4: And everything stopped.

1 minute mark

- 3: What was it?
- 2: Well that's what the farmer wanted to know.
- 1: At first he thought it was a rock. That's what he normally hit with the plow.
- 4: But this bang was different.
- 2: It wasn't a "smash" crash, it was more of a "thud" crash.
- 3: He struck oil?



Blocking: Here #2 can mime breaking into the box as well.

- 2: No, but just as good.
- 1: He hit a box.
- 4: A sealed box.
- 2: And needed a pry bar to bust it open.
- 1: And when he did, he was blown away by what was inside.
- 3: Old comic books?
- 4: No. Better. A treasure.
- 2: Gold. Piles of it.
- 1: More money than he had ever seen in one place.
- 3: Wow. So he kept the money?
- 4: No. He didn't think that would be right.
- 2: After all, it wasn't his field.
- 3: So he gave it back to the owner.
- 1: No. He didn't do that either.
- 2: After all, finder's keepers.
- 3: So he gave the money to his sister?

2 minute mark

- 4: No. He buried the treasure again.
- 3: And forgot all about it.



Discussion Point:
Is there anything you can think of that would be worth selling everything you have to get?

4: No. He tried to forget about it. But he couldn't.

2: He lied there that night on his little cot in his rented shack and tossed and turned.

1: Couldn't sleep.

4: So he got up, and dug out a legal pad.

2: He drew a line down the middle of the pad and on one side listed everything he owned.

3: And on the other side, everything his sister owned.

4: No. And on the other side he put how much he thought he could get for the stuff on E-bay.

3: He has a computer? How about video games?

2: Well whatever he has, he puts it all down.

1: And he thinks to himself, "Maybe... maybe..."

3: Maybe it's gonna rain?

4: No. Maybe...

2: Just maybe...

4: If he sold it all, he could afford to buy the land.

3: I thought he was too poor to buy land.

1: Well he thought he was too. But that was before he saw the treasure.

2: Now he sees everything differently.

4: That old cart that he liked so much?

1: Sell it.

2: Those oxen he raised from... when they were baby oxen...

1: Sell 'em!

4: The dish on the table?

3: Wash it!

4: No, sell it. Sell it all!

1: So he loaded it all up and took it to market.

4: And he put up a big sign that said, "Liquidation Sale. Everything must go!"

2: So people came by and they wondered what was going on.

1: After all, the man appeared to be desperate. Selling everything he had.

4: Yet he had this goofy smile on his face.

Blocking: Reader 2 mimes the legal pad.



Discussion Point: If salvation is a free gift, why does Jesus sometime tell stories about people selling everything they have to get eternal life?

Scripture Link:



MARK 10:21-22

JESUS LOOKED AT HIM AND LOVED HIM. "ONE THING YOU LACK," HE SAID. "GO, SELL EVERYTHING YOU HAVE AND GIVE TO THE POOR, AND YOU WILL HAVE TREASURE IN HEAVEN. THEN COME, FOLLOW ME." AT THIS THE MAN'S FACE FELL. HE WENT AWAY SAD, BECAUSE HE HAD GREAT WEALTH.

3 minute mark

Blocking: Reader 2 displays goofy smile.



2: So they would ask him, "Why are you selling everything you own?"

1: And you know what he would say?

3: "Cause I'm gonna buy a treasure?"

4: No. No. That would give it all away. He had to keep it a secret. So he would just grin and say,

3: Merry Christmas?

4: No. He'd say, "Nevermind. I'll tell you later."

1: So at the end of the day he took all the money he had and offered it to the owner of the field.

2: Who got a fair price for the field and took his wife out to dinner.

1: And the farmer went back to the field which was now legally his.

4: And he dug up that treasure again.

2: His treasure.

1: He thought about all that stuff he used to have.

2: And he looked down at that treasure. And do you think he regretted what he had done?

3: No.

4: Yes!

3: He did regret it?

4: No.

3: You said "yes."

4: I said yes to your "No." You actually got it right.

3: I did?

4: Yes.

3: But I said "No."

2: So anyway... the man was very happy. He didn't regret losing all that stuff because he gained something much better.

1: Well... it means it's easier to leave stuff behind when you see how good the future is.

4: See once you see things from God's point of view, all the stuff that seems so important to you here is really no big deal.

Lights Out

4 minute mark

Author's Note: This is the culmination of 4's frustration. He/she can get quite upset with 3.



Discussion Point: What lasts forever? What is worth really pouring your life into?

Date Performed: _____

Actors Used: _____



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