
ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE
SCRIPT RELEASE



MARTYRS

Synopsis: True stories of believers that suffered and were even martyred for their faith are presented in four dramatic monologues.

Scripture Reference(s): 1 Peter 1:8-9; Philippians 1:20-21; Matthew 5:44

Topic(s): Calling, Character, Christian Life, Comfort, Commitment, Courage, Death, Faith, Kingdom of God, Martyrdom, Ministry, Missions, Obedience, Persecution, Selflessness, Service, Submission, Suffering, Surrender

Characters

- 1 (male)
- 2 (female)
- 3 (male)
- 4 (female)

Props

- Power Point slides
- gun shot sound effect

Costumes

Simple and Non-descript

Director's Note: This sketch is one of the most powerful that AT2AP has ever performed. Keep the staging simple and let the stories speak for themselves. When originally performed, this drama used power point slides and a pre-recorded voiceover as indicated in the script. However, in a less elaborate set-up, these lines could be performed by the other actors. If you have control over your lights, you may wish to set a contemplative mood with area lighting. Candles could also be used. The goal of this drama is not to cause guilt but to inspire. Consider having a debriefing discussion following the performance.

Running Time: 10-12 minutes

There is a screen (or screens) on stage. As the actors take their places, a series of statistics and facts about missions around the world appears on the screen. Then the following text appears.

TEXT: This is the Kingdom of God.

TEXT: Where are you?

1: Christianity has become dramatic with us. When Christians in free countries win a soul for Christ, the new believer may become a member of a quietly living church. But when those in captive nations win someone, we know that he may have to go to prison and that his children may become orphans. The joy of having brought someone to Christ is always mixed with this feeling that there is a price that must be paid.

When I was still living behind the Iron Curtain, I had met a Russian captain. He loved God. He longed after God, but had never seen a Bible. He had never attended a religious service. He had no religious education, but he loved God without the slightest knowledge of Him. I read to him the Sermon on the Mount and the parables of Jesus. After hearing them, the captain danced around the room in rapturous joy, proclaiming “What a wonderful beauty! How could I live without knowing this Christ?” It was the first time that I saw someone jubilating in Christ.

Then I made a mistake. I read to him the passion and crucifixion of Christ, without having prepared him for this. He had not expected it. When he heard how Christ was beaten, how He was crucified, and that in the end He died, he fell in an armchair and began to weep bitterly. He had believed in a Savior and now his Savior was dead! I looked at him and was ashamed that I had called myself a Christian and a pastor, a teacher of others. I had never shared the sufferings of Christ as this Russian officer now shared them. Looking at him was, for me, like seeing Mary Magdalene weeping at the foot of the cross or at the empty tomb.

Then I read to him the story of the resurrection. When he heard this wonderful news, that the Savior arose from the tomb, he slapped his knees, and shouted for joy: “He is alive! He is alive!” Again he danced around the room, overwhelmed with happiness!

I said to him “Let us pray.” He fell on his knees together with me. He did not know our holy phrases. His words of prayer were, “O God, what a fine chap You are! If I were You and You were me, I would never have forgiven You Your sins. But You are really a very nice chap! I love You with all my heart.”

I think all the angels in heaven stopped what they were doing to listen to this sublime prayer from this Russian officer.