



The Long Silence

Content and Purpose: Not a CADS sketch, but a story/sketch that is well known, and tremendously powerful for explaining and challenging people with the Gospel. Explains how Christ has suffered all the injustice and pain and sin of the world, so that the sentence for sin could be paid.

Cast: Narrator and 4 others (male or female)

Starting positions: Up to you. It could be performed with 5 people on chairs in a semicircle, in darkness, or with the 4 characters interacting on stage with the narrator to the side.

Narrator At the end of time, billions of people were scattered on a great plain, before God's throne.

4 How can God judge us?

1 What does He know about suffering? I saw my family die in Auschwitz

2 We were slaves (*or* I was homeless)

3 My brother was taken away by the secret police (*or* killed in the twin towers attack)

4 I was raped

Narrator Far out across the plain were hundreds of groups of such people. Each had a complaint against God for all the evil and suffering in His world.

2 It's not fair! God gets a good deal. He gets to live in Heaven, where everything's glorious, where there's no violence, no fear, no mourning, no hunger, no hatred

3 What does God know about what man has endured in this world?

1 God leads a pretty sheltered life

Narrator So each group sent out a leader, chosen because they had suffered the most. There was a Jew, a rape victim, a hostage, a victim of the Mafia (*or* terrorism). Are you ready to pronounce sentence?

All YES!

4 Our decision is that God should be sentenced to live on Earth (*folds arms*) as a man without the safeguard of his divine powers to help him. Before God is qualified to judge us, He must endure what we have endured.

1 Let Him be born a Jew. Let the legitimacy of His birth be doubted (*points finger*)

All Yes

2 Let Him be rejected by the religious authorities. Let Him be rejected by His closest friends and family (*puts hands on hips*)

All Yes



3 Let Him be arrested on false charges, tried before a biased jury, and convicted by a cowardly judge (*counts on fingers*)

All Yes

4 Let Him know what it is to be totally alone, and completely abandoned (*spreads out his arms*)

All Yes

1 Let Him be tortured and then let Him die. Let Him die the most humiliating and painful death, surrounded by criminals (*smacks palms together*)

All Yes! Yes! Yes!

Narrator After each group had pronounced its sentence, there was a long silence.

(Silence)

For suddenly they all knew that God had already served His sentence