

youthESource Drama

Watching God's Plan Unfold

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For Lent 1, Lectionary Series B, based on Mark 1:9-15

What must the angels have thought as they watched God's plan unfold? John the Baptizer's journey and Jesus' journey weren't easy ones. Yet they obeyed the Father and invited all to "repent and believe in the gospel."

Focus: Living out God's plan for our lives.... Jesus knew that the journey marked out for His life would not be easy. Yet He gave up the glories of heaven to live as a human, to endure temptation and trials, and to invite all to "repent and believe in the gospel." Because He lives, we can live also.

Characters: Three angels and a male voice to say God the Father's line from off-stage.

Setting: The stereotypical "heaven"—clouds. Angels peer through clouds of cotton batting, cardboard clouds painted white, etc. at the side of the stage. They may wear white clothes or they may appear as many angels did in the Bible—in regular clothes. They could have halos made of gold Christmas garland to help the congregation understand that these are angels. Except for cherubim and seraphim, the Bible doesn't report angels as having wings, so those are not needed either. In every biblical account, angels are male. There could be three chairs for the angels to sit in at times. (Research: <http://cyclopedia.lcms.org/display.asp?f1=a&word=ANGELS.GOOD>)

Angels 2 & 3 stand or sit. Angel 1 stands near clouds at the side of the stage.

Angel 1: (Peering through "cloud" and motioning to other angels) Guys! Over here! You'll never believe this!

Angel 2: What's going on? (Angels 2 & 3 walk over and peer through the cloud, too) Ah. That muddy Jordan River. Why John wants to dunk people in that, I'll never know.

Angel 3: You know perfectly well why he does that! All those Gentiles... They want to be forgiven, too.

Angel 2: I know. But that water is just gross!

Angel 1: It was good enough for Naaman!

Angel 3: Not at first, it wasn't. He thought there was no way a dip in a muddy river would cure him of leprosy.

Angel 2: You're right. He resisted. But he finally went in and was cleansed.

Angel 3: And you know, right, that it wasn't the Jordan River that cured him, but God?

Angel 2: (with "Well, duh!" look) Yeah, yeah. We know that. Of course. It's always only ever God Who does anything good...

Angel 1: (peering through the clouds again) Hey, wait!

Angel 2: What now?

Angel 1: Jesus is going into that muddy water!

Angel 3: What? Jesus doesn't need forgiveness!

Angel 2: No kidding! He may be 100% man, but I've never seen a man like Him—a man that doesn't sin! Not even Job or Enoch or Elijah!

Angel 3: So what's He doing?

Angel 1: Look! A dove! And listen!!

Voice (from offstage, a deep male voice): "You are my beloved Son; with You I am well pleased!"

Angel 2: Oh, my! Did the people hear that?

Angel 1: They did! Look at their faces! (All peer through cloud) They know! Finally! I was beginning to think only the shepherds and wise men were ever going to know He's 100% God, too!

Angel 3: And Mary. Don't forget Mary.

Angel 1: And Simeon and Anna know He's God.

Angel 2: And John. John knows. (Shakes his head sadly) That cousin is going to get himself into trouble yet.

Angel 3: Probably will. But don't forget—God's got it all under control. He's got it all planned out!

Angel 1: We should know that by now. John is living out God's plan for his life, even if it isn't easy.

Angel 2: No kidding! It can't be fun dressing like Elijah in clothes made out of hair!

Angel 1: Or eating locusts, even if wild honey does sound tasty.

Angel 3: Or constantly working with these Gentile converts...

Angel 1: He's lived his whole life helping people get ready for the Son of God and reminding them that they need change their ways.

Angel 2: To repent! And do they ever!

Angel 3: Poor John. I wish we could whisk him away from all that.

Angel 1: It's all starting now, isn't it? John's been telling them the Savior is coming and now the Triune God revealed Himself there at the muddy Jordan River... Father, ...

Angel 2: (interrupting) The people are still in shock after hearing His voice!

Angel 1: (continuing in spite of interruption) ... Son...

Angel 3: Jesus Himself!

Angel 1: (continuing yet again) ... and the Holy Spirit...

Angel 2: The dove was a nice touch, wasn't it?

(Angels agree, nod, etc.)

Angel 3: And now Jesus has convinced John to baptize Someone Who didn't even have any sin.

Angel 1: Except theirs.

Angel 2: Huh?

Angel 1: Jesus is taking their place.... The humans... the sinful humans' place... bearing their sin...

(Angels are quiet and reflective.)

Angel 2: It's unbelievable. Why would He do that?

Angel 3: Love.

Angel 1: Yes, love. It's why 30 years ago, (in human time, the King of heaven left His throne to be born as a Baby.

Angel 3: To live among all those sinful people.

Angel 2: And go in that dirty river. (Peers through cloud again and shakes head.)

Angel 1: I have a feeling it's going to get worse for Jesus than a muddy river.

Angel 2: Much worse.

Angel 3: Because of Love.

Angel 1: (Slowly and thoughtfully) Because He IS Love.

(Freeze.)