

WHAT EASTER MEANS TO ME

The Original Stageplay



CHRISTIAN PLAYWRIGHT

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SAMPLE SCRIPT



Michael

LIGHTS UP

(Michael, mid 30s, enters and sits on the stool. He looks out over the audience).

MICHAEL: What Easter Means to Me?

(Pause)

That's a difficult question to ask somebody who is not really into religion, don't you think? But, if I should attempt to answer, I would go back to when I was a kid. I think it had greater meaning back then. Charlton Heston — do you remember that name? American Actor and Political Activist. Interesting guy. He was the lead role in the 1956 rendition of *The Ten Commandments*. That was a very Loong movie that they played every Easter on local television in the Caribbean. My father would sit and watch that movie every single year of his life. He died in 2012, but that's how I remember Easter.

(Smiles at the memory)

Then, there were all these old Jesus movies they would replay every year. There was just so many, that it was hard to keep track of them, but Easter was a time to watch old religious movies. There would be laughter, a lot of bun, cheese, and fish and a visit to our local church. We only went twice a year — Easter & Christmas. Kind of a traditional family thing that we did. I never understood it, but every time my parents would make a commitment to visit church more often, but they never do. Easter Sunday, Christmas Sunday. That was it. I still maintain that tradition with my own family.

(Gets up and paces a bit)

I find though that the traditions here are a little different. In the US there seems to be all this grandeur about chocolate bunnies and colored eggs. I am not really into that kind of stuff. I rather like the Caribbean flavor, and usually around this time, I would order bun on Amazon. Cheese I can get here. My family would visit and bring fish, so I get to relive my childhood memories of Easter.

What does Easter mean to me? It's a time for family, I guess. There is not as much indulgence as the Christmas season, or Thanksgiving, but the air does still feel a little different. I know in church they celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus. My parents never really thought much of that. They believed it was a good story, but not historically accurate. I never learned what they meant by that, but apparently, Friday would be a time of mourning and Sunday a day of celebration.

(Sits on the stool)

What does Easter mean to me? It's just another day, isn't it? Just another season that has been commercialized by society for high profits. They sell a lot of stuff during these seasons, don't they?

(sighs -- a beat)

I guess Easter has its place, if you are into that sort of thing. I wasn't brought up to think of it with much significance outside of what I have just said. I guess people do what they want to do, and act out whatever it is they believe.

(pause)

Do I believe that Jesus came, lived, died, was buried, and rose on the third day during this time, many moons ago?

(thinks)

Personally, I struggle with it. Generally, I have met some Christians, and they don't live as if their God is alive. I find them to be depressed, ungrateful, and very miserable. That's it. I have nothing else to say.

(Michael shrugs and exits).

LIGHTS OUT

Janet

LIGHTS UP

(Janet, mid 50s, enters and sits on the stool).

(She looks out over the audience)

JANET: What Easter Means to Me?

(A beat)

You never quite know how to answer such questions. It may seem an easy, straightforward and direct question with a relatively easy response, but it really isn't. I assume you base the question on the fact that everyone is different, and while everyone sees and experiences the same things, our perception of it can be quite different. So different that our reaction to stuff may swing dramatically from one extreme to the next.

(laughs)

Pardon my pontificating. I was buying time, while I think.

As a child growing up, my parents set a solid foundation. Easter was a time for families to gather, reminiscing old times together, but most of all to go to church twice on one weekend. We loved it. On Good Friday, we would all go to church and it would be a time of commemorating the death of our Lord and Savior. Have you ever seen the Passion of the Christ? Of course, you have. The first time I watched that movie, I wept like a baby. I cried until I was gasping for

breath. We showed it at church on Good Friday that year when it was released.

(pause to wipe a tear)

Jesus did that for me. I never looked at sin the same way again — not that I was out there doing crazy stuff. I know who I am, and who I belong to, but the extent to what Jesus endured for me was never quite evident in all those other old movies we used to watch, and even the Passion doesn't quite capture it, if you read the Bible with imagination engaged. It was a tough call.

(Pauses to reflect)

Easter is so much more than society makes of it. You walk into Walmart and you are greeted with commercial stuff. Where is the cross? Where is the suffering, the blood and gore — the sacrifice? What do bunnies and chocolate have to do with anything?

(Catches herself — A beat)

I have heard it said that the celebration of Easter was a pagan ritual, that they did all kinds of ungodly stuff on that day, like any other major holiday. They say we as the church have adopted all the pagan practices, even to this day. I have no idea if that is true or not, I just know that Easter for me is all about Jesus.

(A beat)

I think my appreciation of Easter should be credited to my parents. I believe because of them. I see a different generation of parents these days — some who have lost sight of what is important. They have no idea how that is going to affect their children in the future,

but those who know better should do better. I suppose there would have been a degradation in our society when kids started having kids. But hey, let me not end on a sad note.

(getting happy again)

After Good Friday comes Easter Sunday and that is when Jesus walked out of the tomb. He didn't even have to roll the stone away Himself. It was as if the door was opened for Him to walk out. That is my favorite part. I do wonder why they call it Good Friday? There was nothing good about it, was there?

(Smiles)

I sure love Sunday, though.

JANET EXITS

LIGHTS OUT

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