

CAPERNAUM P.D.

by Daniel Wray



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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Capernaum P.D. may be performed as a dinner theatre featuring a four-course meal. The dramatic action is interspersed with the dining as follows:

Beverages

Scene 1

Appetizers and/or Bread

Scene 2

Salad

Scene 3

Main Course

Scene 4

Dessert and Coffee

Scene 5

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Please feel free to think outside the box when assigning roles based on the makeup of your group. We had more females in our group than traditional female roles.

FRANK CANNON — Police officer who carries a badge. If you try to give him too many details, he'll tell you he just wants the facts. He's basically a good-hearted cop who wants to get to the bottom of things.

JOE THURSDAY — The typical comedic sidekick cop who finds humor in all things. Frank is serious about the important things in life, like eating donuts.

GALLO — Wine seller

DOCTOR PHILLIP

BARTHOLOMEW ("BART") — Ex-leper

STORMIE METZGER — Weather forecaster

BENJAMIN — Vendor

JEREMIAH — Vendor

PILATE — Roman official

PRODUCTION NOTES

Capernaum P.D. is a spoof of the old *Dragnet* TV series. The premise of this dinner theatre in five parts is the investigation of several miraculous, and by the Pharisees' perceptions, blasphemous occurrences in Galilee in the two years prior to the crucifixion of Jesus. The dynamic duo of Joe Thursday and Frank Cannon, detectives extraordinaire, has been assigned the case once again. The transgressions include all of the miracles that Jesus performed, from the wine at the wedding to the feeding of the five thousand. The investigation takes some hilarious turns as the duo tries to determine what the truth is, but it culminates in a poignant conclusion.

This play is written specifically to be a dinner theatre, but it may be staged as a five-scene play. Regardless, take advantage of the overly dramatic nature of the old *Dragnet* series to play up the atmosphere around the play itself. For example, put a metal detector at the entrance of your auditorium, or set up a fingerprinting station for the guests to pass through before being seated. The metal detector can be achieved by wrapping a door frame in aluminum foil. It works great if you have a buzzer or other beeping sound device, such as from a board game, hidden behind the back of a "guard" to target unsuspecting security breeches. To make it fun, random people may be targeted for more extensive interrogation. As people are being seated, play television themes in the background, or better yet, the old *Dragnet* theme, over and over. During the dinner portion, have the actors participate in serving the meal, all the while staying in character.

COSTUMES: Many of the characters are in typical biblical garb. Robes and headpieces are the order of the day for most. Thursday and Frank wear three-piece suits, fedora hats, and trench coats. Gallo's feet should be stained purple with grape Kool-Aid. The Doctor wears a lab coat and stethoscope over his robe. Stormie wears a biblical cloth headpiece with a businesswoman's suit. Benjamin and Jeremiah wear robes and aprons with mustard and ketchup stains. Pilate wears a toga and a crown of leaves.

PROPS: You will need badges (either toy ones or aluminum foil crafted ones inside a billfold) so Joe and Frank can flash them once in a while. You will also need a telephone, something approximating a crystal ball, a paper bag, two bagels, a hot dog in a bun, a fax sheet of paper, and small notebooks and pens for Frank and Joe to take notes.

SET: The set requirements are minimal. You will need a door. A portable door on a frame that may be moved around from scene to scene is helpful. A table and chairs are needed in several scenes. You can decorate as simply or elaborately as you wish. Just remember that the set must be easy to set up and take down during the meal courses between the scenes. All the scenes start in Frank and Joe’s office. Following are the additional locations by scene:

Scene 1 — Gallo’s home.

Scene 2 — Doctor’s office and the village square.

Scene 3 — Stormie’s office at WKLP.

Scene 4 — Benjamin and Jeremiah’s outdoor hot dog stand. Make a sign — “Benjamin and Jeremiah’s Hot Dogs.”

Scene 5 — Pilate’s palace.

MUSIC: The optional music referred to in the script is the traditional *Dragnet* “Dum-da-dum-dum” four notes, which may be played either on an Off-stage piano or from a recording over the PA system.

MEAL: You may have the dishes assigned particularly appropriate names, like Good Fried-A Fish, Flatfoot Flatcake, etc. If you’re feeling ambitious, following are some recipes our group used for an ethnic meal:

Portuguese Caldo Verde (Green Soup)

1 lb. kale or collard greens (kale preferred)
 1/3 lb. small white beans soaked overnight in water and drained
 1/2 cup olive oil
 3 medium yellow onions peeled and sliced thin
 3 quarts chicken stock
 1/2 lb. linguica (Portuguese sausage) or kielbasa (Polish sausage), sliced
 Salt and fresh ground black pepper to taste

Instructions:

Remove the large ribs of the kale and slice the leaves into very thin slices — as thin as possible. Place in a bowl of cold water for one hour. Drain well.

In an 8 quart soup pot, sauté the onions in the olive oil. Add the kale,

chicken stock, and remaining ingredients, including the drained beans. Simmer for 1-1/2 hours, covered. Taste for salt and pepper before serving.

Tzatziki

1 container (16 ounces) plain lowfat yogurt
 1/2 English (seedless) cucumber, not peeled, seeded and finely chopped plus a few thin slices
 1-1/2 teaspoons salt (divided)
 1 to 2 garlic cloves, chopped
 1 tablespoon chopped fresh mint or dill plus additional sprigs
 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
 1/2 teaspoon red wine vinegar
 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper

Instructions:

Spoon yogurt into sieve lined with cheesecloth or coffee filter set over bowl; cover and refrigerate overnight. Transfer drained yogurt to medium bowl and discard liquid.

Meanwhile, in colander set over bowl, toss chopped cucumber with 1 teaspoon salt. Let drain at least 1 hour at room temperature, or cover and refrigerate up to 8 hours. In batches, wrap chopped cucumber in kitchen towel and squeeze to remove as much liquid as possible. Pat dry with paper towels, then add to bowl with yogurt.

With flat side of chef's knife, mash garlic to a paste with remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt. Add garlic, chopped mint, oil, vinegar, and pepper to yogurt and stir to combine. Cover and refrigerate 2 to 4 hours. Serve chilled or at room temperature, topped with cucumber slices and mint sprigs.

Baba Ganoush

1 large eggplant, unpeeled (about 1 lb.)
 1 large clove garlic peeled and crushed
 2 tablespoons tahini (sesame paste)
 Juice of 1/2 lemon or to taste
 Salt to taste

Garnishes

3 tablespoons olive oil
 pita bread cut into wedges
 chopped parsley

Instructions:

Using a meat fork, puncture the skin of the eggplant all around. Place on a baking sheet and broil while turning often enough to brown evenly. Broil until browned and soft, about 45 minutes. Or grill the eggplant until soft and brown ... usually takes less time and tastes better.

Remove the eggplant from the heat and allow to cool for a few minutes. Slice in half lengthwise and scoop out the soft center, discarding the peel. In a bowl, mash the eggplant with the remaining ingredients, except for the garnishes, with a fork. The consistency shouldn't be too smooth.

Serve on a plate with olive oil and parsley drizzled over the top. Guests can scoop it up with the bread wedges.

Staten Island Pasta with Chicken

This one is a little bit of a stretch for Mediterranean but the region has been long known for incorporating new ingredients. The little bit of soy sauce in the recipe adds a dash of the orient to an otherwise northern Mediterranean dish.

1/2 cup olive oil
 3 skinless boneless chicken breasts (1-1/4 to 1-1/2 lbs.), cut into bite sized chunks
 2-4 tablespoons fresh oregano diced fine (1/2 the amount for dried)
 2 tablespoons soy sauce
 1 cup dry white wine
 1 bunch of broccoli cut into florets, stems discarded
 1-16 oz. jar marinated Italian mushrooms
 8 tablespoons butter (1 stick)
 1-1/2-2 lbs. fresh angel hair pasta
 2 cups freshly grated Romano cheese
 1/2 cup Italian style bread crumbs

Instructions:

Heat the olive oil in a non-reactive large skillet over medium heat. Add the garlic and cook to soften slightly. Add the chicken and cook until browned lightly on all sides. Add the oregano, soy sauce, and wine and simmer, uncovered, for 2 minutes. Add the broccoli, cover the pan tightly, and steam until the broccoli begins to soften, 3-5 minutes. Add the mushrooms, cover the pan, and heat the mushrooms 2 minutes. Whisk in the butter, 1 tablespoon at a time, thoroughly incorporating each before adding the next. Remove from the heat and keep covered.

Cook the pasta in plenty of salted boiling water until tender; drain.

In a warm bowl, combine half the chicken mixture, 1 cup of the cheese and half the bread crumbs. Add the pasta, toss, and season with fresh cracked black pepper. Crown with the remaining chicken, cheese, and bread crumbs and serve!

1 *(The waiters serve beverages or guests help themselves to the drinks*
 2 *prior to Scene 1.)*

3

4

Scene 1

5

6 *(Officers FRANK CANNON and JOE THURSDAY are sitting*
 7 *at a table. JOE rises and addresses the audience in his*
 8 *particular inimitable way.)*

9 **JOE:** There are a million stories in the naked city.
 10 Capernaum is no exception. The story you are about to
 11 hear is true. None of the names have been changed
 12 because the innocent don't need protecting. It's the
 13 guilty that we're into nailing, and as you will see, there
 14 is no shortage on the guilty. Me? The name's Thursday.
 15 Joe Thursday. I carry a badge. *(Shows badge as optional*
 16 *music plays.)* My partner, Frank Cannon, and I had been
 17 working some long hours on special assignment in
 18 Galilee from the big guy. The big guy? That would be
 19 Pilate. Pontius Pilate. Nice guy, I suppose, but has a
 20 very irritable streak about him. Likes things to go
 21 smoothly, and recently, that hadn't been the case.
 22 Lately he'd been more bothered than a nudist in a
 23 feather duster factory. Seems there had been a lot of ten
 24 eighty-fours coming into the office, and he hates ten
 25 eighty-fours with a passion. Ten eighty-four? That's a
 26 complaint of disorderly conduct with a blasphemous
 27 twist. Pilate hates ten eighty-fours — not so much
 28 because he's a religious guy, but because on the ten
 29 eighty-fours, he has to contend with the high priests
 30 and Pharisees. And all of the complaints seem to center
 31 around one person: Jesus Christ of Nazareth. But I'm
 32 getting a little ahead of myself.

33 It all started simply enough. We had just ordered
 34 lunch from a little Greek café up the street from the
 35 precinct. Sure it was expensive, but I figured they had

1 to have a way to recoup the cost of the dishes they
2 broke every time someone got married. Speaking of
3 marriage, that was what the first phone call was about.
4 From a wine seller named Gallo. Claimed this non-
5 union guy was moving in on her territory, and she
6 wanted us to give the grape a squeeze. Frank and I
7 grabbed a piece of baklava and hit the road. *(Pause)*
8 Then we got up off the road and headed for Cana.
9 *(Stands and says to FRANK)* You OK, Frank?
10 FRANK: Sure, Joe. The road ain't as hard as it used to be.
11 JOE: You're tellin' me, Frank. Remember the good old days,
12 when we really had some tough assignments?
13 FRANK: Sure do, Joe. Camel thief rings, tent graffiti
14 vandals, toga party riots ...
15 JOE: That's right, Frank. Those were the days. *(Pause)* Now
16 what do we end up doing? Checking out disturbances at
17 Canaanite weddings.
18 FRANK: It just doesn't seem right.
19 JOE: No it doesn't, Frank. No it doesn't. *(Knocking on the door)*
20 You got a little baklava on your shirt there, Frank.
21 *(FRANK wipes it off.)*
22 GALLO: *(Opening the door)* Hello?
23 FRANK: Capernaum P.D., ma'am. You called us on a forty-
24 four eighty-two?
25 GALLO: Forty-four eighty-two?
26 JOE: Yeah. Making wine without a license. *(Optional music)*
27 GALLO: Oh, yes. Of course. Come on in, officers. *(They walk*
28 *through the door.)*
29 FRANK: What's the story, Ms. Gallo? You say someone's wining
30 without a permit?
31 GALLO: Yeah, that's right. I got this gig at a wedding — Mr. and
32 Mrs. White's daughter was getting married to the baker's
33 boy, and there was a big-time guest list. Supposed to be
34 over three hundred people there, right? So he orders eight
35 barrels of burgundy, you know — really premium grape.

- 1 **JOE:** Uh-huh. So what happened?
- 2 **GALLO:** Well, I had a little problem. I booked the Webb
3 wedding that day also, only they wanted a nice
4 chardonnay, you know?
- 5 **JOE:** Not really. Webb, did you say?
- 6 **GALLO:** Yeah. Hey, maybe you know him. He's a detective in
7 Galilee. Name's Jack.
- 8 **JOE:** Jack Webb? (*Optional music*) Never heard of him.
- 9 **GALLO:** Anyway, my delivery guys got confused. Kinda
10 hard to get good help on the delivery wagons.
11 Especially on the weekends ...
- 12 **FRANK:** Ma'am, just the facts.
- 13 **GALLO:** Well, sure. Like I was saying, they got confused.
- 14 **FRANK:** How so?
- 15 **GALLO:** I told them to take eight barrels of red to the Whites
16 and three barrels of white to the Webbs, but somehow
17 that's not what happened.
- 18 **JOE:** Let me guess. The Whites got the whites and the Webbs
19 got the reds.
- 20 **GALLO:** No, the Whites got three reds and the Webbs got
21 eight white.
- 22 **FRANK:** Could have been worse.
- 23 **GALLO:** How?
- 24 **FRANK:** (*Pause*) Well, the Whites could have gotten eight
25 whites instead of the red, or they could have gotten two
26 whites and six reds while the Webbs could have gotten
27 none of their white ... no, wait. The Webbs could have
28 settled on the red ... no, that would have meant ...
- 29 **JOE:** Don't hurt yourself, Frank. (*Turning to GALLO*) Excuse
30 me, ma'am, but do you sell a blush?
- 31 **GALLO:** No.
- 32 **JOE:** You oughta think about it.
- 33 **GALLO:** Why?
- 34 **JOE:** Never mind. Anyway, why are we here?
- 35 **GALLO:** Well, I get a call from the Whites saying they were

1 out of red, so I caught up with the guys that delivered
2 the loads and found that they had fallen off the wagon.

3 FRANK: Ah, they drank the wine that was supposed to be
4 delivered to the weddings!

5 GALLO: No, they actually fell off the wagon. I think they
6 both hit their heads, 'cause neither of them could
7 remember who got what.

8 JOE: (*Shaking his head*) You know, Ms. Gallo, I'm still not
9 hearing a crime here ...

10 GALLO: Right. Well, by the time I figured out what
11 happened and took over the wine that the Whites were
12 short, they weren't short anymore! They had plenty!

13 FRANK: What do you mean?

14 GALLO: Well, that's what I asked Mr. White when he told me
15 they had plenty.

16 FRANK: And?

17 GALLO: He tells me that one of his guests heard that they
18 were out of wine, so he poured water into the barrels
19 and turned it *into* wine!

20 JOE: What?

21 GALLO: That's right — he turned water into wine. Dozens of
22 people there saw him do it!

23 JOE: Let me see if I got this straight. You short White five
24 reds and Webb gets five extra whites because your
25 drivers fell off the wagon, so White whines to you for
26 more red, but before you can re-wine, a guest turns
27 some H-Two-O into a five-barrel loss for your vineyard.
28 Am I close?

29 GALLO: Yeah, that's about right.

30 FRANK: What was this character's name?

31 GALLO: Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

32 JOE: Hmmm. That sounds familiar ...

33 FRANK: So why are you upset?

34 GALLO: Isn't it obvious?

35 FRANK: Not to me. What's the problem?

- 1 GALLO: Listen. I make my living stomping stuff into a pulp,
2 keeping it in the dark, and waiting for it to mature
3 enough to have dinner with.
- 4 JOE: So does my wife. What's your point?
- 5 GALLO: *(Pause)* My point is that I got a business to run. I
6 can't have somebody without a license, without any
7 overhead, and no inventory start horning in on my
8 livelihood! I lost nearly five hundred denarii on this one
9 wedding alone!
- 10 FRANK: Did the Whites show the green on the red you
11 delivered?
- 12 GALLO: Well, yeah ... the three barrels that got there. They
13 paid me for them, but ...
- 14 JOE: Ms. Gallo, there's not much to do if there isn't a crime.
- 15 GALLO: But he just made wine out of thin air ... er, water.
16 How can I compete with that?
- 17 FRANK: I don't think you'll have to. You keep your drivers
18 on the wagon, and you won't lose any more business.
- 19 GALLO: So I'm just out five hundred denarii?
- 20 JOE: No. You still have your "whine." In fact, it's getting
21 really annoying.
- 22 GALLO: But now I'm stuck with five barrels of red that I
23 thought I had sold!
- 24 FRANK: So? You think it will go bad? It's wine, for crying
25 out loud.
- 26 GALLO: Well, yeah, but ...
- 27 JOE: Look, Gallo. You want a little friendly advice?
- 28 GALLO: Yeah, OK. Shoot.
- 29 JOE: The next time you book a White wedding, don't get
30 tangled up with Webb. *(Optional music)*
- 31 GALLO: Huh?
- 32 FRANK: Stop whining, and try to keep your drivers in line.
- 33 GALLO: Fine! *(She turns and stomps off. She turns again to the*
34 *duo as she's heading Off-stage.)* Protect and Serve. Ha! *(She*
35 *marches off.)*

- 1 JOE: I'm afraid you may have that confused. That's the Boy
2 Scout motto.
- 3 FRANK: Actually, Joe, that one *is* ours.
- 4 JOE: Really? (*Pause*) I gotta start coming to more of those
5 monthly meetings ...
- 6 FRANK: You know something, Joe?
- 7 JOE: What, Frank?
- 8 FRANK: For a gal named Gallo, she sure didn't have much of
9 a sense of humor.
- 10 JOE: Excellent observation, Frank. Excellent observation.
- 11 FRANK: So, are we going to talk to this Jesus character,
12 Joe?
- 13 JOE: I don't think so, Frank. We got nothing on him at this
14 point. By the way, does that name sound familiar to
15 you?
- 16 FRANK: Not really, Joe. But we lean on a load of
17 lawbreakers. Could be he already has a record?
- 18 JOE: I don't think so. But it seems like ... well, I don't know.
19 One thing's for sure, though.
- 20 FRANK: What's that, Joe?
- 21 JOE: If this guy really *did* change water into wine, my guess
22 is we haven't heard the last of him.
- 23 FRANK: That's for sure. Might as well write the report and
24 just keep a file on him unless something else comes up.
- 25 JOE: Right.
- 26 FRANK: So where we off to now?
- 27 JOE: I say we swing by the White wedding.
- 28 FRANK: What for, Joe? You already said there was no crime
29 committed.
- 30 JOE: No, Frank. No crime. But I've been around this
31 business for a long time. And in all these years, there's
32 one thing I know for sure.
- 33 FRANK: What's that, Joe?
- 34 JOE: There's a lot of good food at weddings. We're going.
35 (*Optional music as FRANK and JOE exit to end the scene. The*

1 *waiters serve bread and/or appetizers.)*

2

3

Scene 2

4

5 *(Scene opens same as Scene 1, in the office. FRANK is on the*
6 *phone.)*

7 **JOE:** Well, we swung by the wedding without incident and
8 checked out the story. Even tried some of the “water.”
9 It was wine, all right. Pretty premium grape. In fact, it
10 was probably the best wine I’ve ever tasted. The matzo
11 balls were even better. But Jesus was nowhere to be
12 found. Seems like he left right before we arrived. No
13 matter, though. Like I said, no crime, no time. We filed
14 the report and pretty much forgot about it for a few
15 weeks. That is, until the next call came in. It was from a
16 doctor in Capernaum. He was rattling on and on about
17 suing somebody for malpractice, and we wouldn’t have
18 given it another thought until I heard him mention a
19 suspect’s name. Yep. It was Jesus. Frank and I grabbed
20 a couple of bagels for the road and headed out. *(They*
21 *both rise and don their trench coats and grab a bag of bagels.*
22 *The next part of the conversation takes place on the road,*
23 *perhaps with a bagel in hand. To FRANK)* You know, Frank,
24 I still get this feeling that this isn’t the first time we’ve
25 had dealings with this Jesus character.

26 **FRANK:** Of course not, Joe. Don’t you remember the last
27 scene?

28 **JOE:** No, Frank. I mean before that.

29 **FRANK:** Well, I don’t know, Joe. I don’t remember busting
30 him for anything.

31 **JOE:** Well, whatever the case, if we find out he’s making
32 more bootleg vino, we’re going to have to run him in.

33 **FRANK:** You bet, Joe. I’ve already got the paperwork
34 started. *(He knocks on the door.)*

35 **JOE:** You got a little piece of lox in your teeth there, Frank.

1 *(He picks it out as the door opens and the DOCTOR pokes his*
2 *head out.)*

3 **DOCTOR:** Yes?

4 **JOE:** Capernaum P.D., sir. You called us on a forty-eight
5 thirty-two?

6 **DOCTOR:** Forty-eight thirty-two?

7 **FRANK:** Practicing medicine without a license. *(Optional*
8 *music)* May we come in?

9 **DOCTOR:** Oh, yes, of course! Come in. *(They step through the*
10 *door into the DOCTOR's home.)*

11 **DOCTOR:** Please, won't you sit down?

12 **JOE:** No, sir. We never sit.

13 **DOCTOR:** Oh? Why not?

14 **JOE:** No reason, really. We just never do.

15 **FRANK:** So, what's the story? I gathered from your phone
16 call that you're a doctor, right?

17 **DOCTOR:** That's right. I've been practicing medicine here in
18 Capernaum for nearly thirty years.

19 **FRANK:** Any idea when you may start actually doing the
20 real thing?

21 **DOCTOR:** Pardon?

22 **JOE:** Never mind. What seems to be the problem?

23 **DOCTOR:** Well, I wasn't there, but I've heard from a few of
24 my patients today that there was this man, Jesus of
25 Nazareth — a teacher, for crying out loud — who came
26 through town and started teaching, right?

27 **FRANK:** If you say so.

28 **DOCTOR:** I do. Anyway, he finishes teaching over there on
29 the mountain and comes down here into town, and all
30 these people just keep following him. There were
31 hundreds!

32 **JOE:** Sir, could you get to the complaint?

33 **DOCTOR:** Sure. Well, several of them came up to him, and
34 he just started touching people and ... healing them! I
35 mean, there were men, women, children — he was just

1 throwing miracles around like there was no tomorrow!
2 FRANK: I see. Is this Jesus with the circus?
3 DOCTOR: No. I told you, he's a teacher.
4 JOE: Now when you say healed, what are we talking about?
5 Some guy has a headache, and now it's gone? Maybe the
6 sniffles, and now they're dry?
7 DOCTOR: No, no, no. I mean really sick people! Paraplegics,
8 lepers, a patient of mine who was hemorrhaging,
9 demon-possessed people — one girl was even dead!
10 FRANK: *(Pause)* Can I ask you something?
11 DOCTOR: Sure.
12 FRANK: Did this Jesus make you some wine before all this
13 started happening? Like, *a lot* of wine?
14 DOCTOR: No! I wasn't there, but I'm telling you, it's all true!
15 JOE: Uh-huh. And how do you know that it's true?
16 DOCTOR: Some of them are my patients! I've been working
17 with some of them for years and years! I've seen them
18 since, and now they're cured!
19 FRANK: You mean the paraplegic ...
20 DOCTOR: He came running in here yesterday!
21 JOE: The leper?
22 DOCTOR: He's thinking of doing skin care ads!
23 FRANK: The dead girl?
24 DOCTOR: I was there when she died! There was nothing I
25 could do ...
26 JOE: Let me get this straight. Patients of yours that have
27 been coming to you for years and not getting any better
28 suddenly brush up against this Jesus guy, and now
29 they're doing jumping jacks in the street?
30 DOCTOR: Well ... yes.
31 FRANK: A little friendly advice?
32 DOCTOR: What?
33 FRANK: Seems like you may want to stop practicing and get
34 a job you're good at.
35 DOCTOR: Hey, I resent that! I mean, these are diseases that

- 1 don't have any cures!
- 2 JOE: Apparently they have *one*.
- 3 DOCTOR: And that *one* is a teacher who's out there taking
- 4 away my caseload! He can't just go around pretending
- 5 to be a doctor when he's not one! I'll lose my practice!
- 6 FRANK: Maybe *then* you can start doing the real thing.
- 7 DOCTOR: I *am* doing the real thing!
- 8 JOE: Apparently not very well, or your patients wouldn't be
- 9 dying.
- 10 DOCTOR: She was really sick!
- 11 FRANK: Isn't that why people have doctors?
- 12 DOCTOR: Look, are you going to arrest him for illegally
- 13 practicing medicine without a license or not?
- 14 JOE: Sure we will. As soon as one of the people that he
- 15 "wronged" comes forward to lodge a complaint.
- 16 DOCTOR: Are you kidding me? Who in the world is going to
- 17 complain about getting healed?
- 18 FRANK: Well, that's a good question. You know of anyone?
- 19 DOCTOR: Well, I know some of the people he *did* heal, if
- 20 that's what you mean.
- 21 JOE: Sure. Just give us one.
- 22 DOCTOR: (*Pause, as he looks thoughtful*) Well, I guess I'd try
- 23 Bartholomew. He's a leper ... or I guess *was* a leper, who
- 24 lives in the village square near the pool. He'll verify
- 25 that what I've said is true.
- 26 FRANK: OK, then. We'll be in touch.
- 27 DOCTOR: Listen — I want that man prosecuted, and I want
- 28 it done soon! If you let people just go around healing
- 29 people at will, it will turn the whole medical field on its
- 30 head!
- 31 JOE: We'll look into it, sir. If there's anything to it, we'll
- 32 pursue it. (*Turning to FRANK*) Write that down, Frank.
- 33 That's a lot better than "Protect and Serve." Remind me
- 34 to bring it up at the next meeting.
- 35 DOCTOR: So that's it?

- 1 **FRANK:** Like I said, we'll be in touch.
- 2 **DOCTOR:** I hope so. I pay taxes, you know! (*Optional music as*
3 *DOCTOR exits.*)
- 4 **JOE:** Good day, sir. (*They exit, then continue to talk outside the*
5 *door.*) So Frank — what do you think?
- 6 **FRANK:** I'd say that for being a doctor, he sure is short on
7 patience.
- 8 **JOE:** Excellent observation once again, Frank. What say you
9 and I go get the scoop from this Bartholomew fellow?
- 10 **FRANK:** Good idea, Joe. He should be just around the
11 corner up here, according to what the Doc said.
- 12 **JOE:** Thank goodness. If my dogs were barking any louder,
13 I'd have to arrest myself for disturbing the peace.
- 14 **FRANK:** Hey Joe, can I ask you something?
- 15 **JOE:** What's that, Frank?
- 16 **FRANK:** Well, can you do most of the talking with this guy?
- 17 **JOE:** Why's that, Frank?
- 18 **FRANK:** Oh, no reason, really.
- 19 **JOE:** Frank?
- 20 **FRANK:** OK, I have a confession.
- 21 **JOE:** What is it, Frank?
- 22 **FRANK:** Lepers kind of give me the creeps.
- 23 **JOE:** Oh, brother, Frank.
- 24 **FRANK:** I can't help it. The thought just makes my skin
25 crawl ...
- 26 **JOE:** Frank, according to the Doc, he's an *ex-leper*.
- 27 **FRANK:** Still.
- 28 **JOE:** OK, Frank. Whatever you say ...
- 29 **FRANK:** Here it is. (*He knocks on the door.*) And remember,
30 Joe, this guy's not used to shaking hands. Don't scare
31 him. (*The door opens, and as it does, FRANK moves behind*
32 *JOE, afraid of the "leper."*)
- 33 **BART:** Hello?
- 34 **JOE:** You Bartholomew?
- 35 **BART:** Yeah.

- 1 **FRANK:** (*Flashes badge.*) Capernaum P.D. Mind if we ask you
2 a few questions?
- 3 **BART:** Listen, officers, I know I've been panhandling a lot,
4 but all that's going to change!
- 5 **JOE:** No sir, we aren't here about that. We just want to ask
6 you a few questions about your ... condition.
- 7 **BART:** Sure. (*He steps outside.*) But what condition are you
8 talking about?
- 9 **FRANK:** Well, we heard that until recently you were a bit of
10 a ... well, that you had ... what I mean is, there was talk
11 that you were ... uh ...
- 12 **JOE:** Mr. Bartholomew, were you a leper?
- 13 **FRANK:** Joe!
- 14 **BART:** Well, yes. That is, I had a very severe case of a skin
15 condition that caused sores all over my body.
- 16 **JOE:** Uh-huh. And when was the last time you noticed the
17 sores?
- 18 **BART:** Actually, I had some pretty terrible ones up until
19 yesterday, on my face and arms — all over, really ...
- 20 **FRANK:** I don't see any now.
- 21 **BART:** Nope. I'm completely cured!
- 22 **JOE:** Even with the best medicines, they wouldn't heal up
23 that quickly.
- 24 **BART:** I agree. My doctor has been prescribing different
25 creams and lotions for nearly twenty years. Nothing
26 helped.
- 27 **FRANK:** So what made the change?
- 28 **BART:** Well, I was over there near the fountain yesterday
29 when a teacher that I had been hearing about came by
30 with a huge following.
- 31 **FRANK:** Happen to catch his name?
- 32 **BART:** Sure. Jesus of Nazareth. Surely you've heard of him.
- 33 **JOE:** We're beginning to become familiar.
- 34 **BART:** Anyway, I had heard stories from the locals that he
35 was an amazing man who had made people well in the

1 last few days, so I figured I would ask him if he could
2 help me with my ... problem.

3 **FRANK:** Where did this happen?

4 **BART:** Right over there! He was walking by and chatting
5 with a pair of his friends. I figured someone had just
6 told a joke or something, because they were all
7 laughing. I thought it was the perfect time, and I must
8 have been right.

9 **JOE:** How exactly did it go? Was there a potion involved?
10 Some chanting perhaps?

11 **FRANK:** Did he offer to turn the fountain into wine?

12 **BART:** No, not at all. I just walked up, and he saw me coming
13 and stopped. I almost didn't approach him then,
14 because I figured he might think I was a thief or
15 something, but the way he looked at me told me it was
16 OK.

17 **FRANK:** What did you say to him?

18 **BART:** I said, "Master, if you want to, you can heal my body."

19 **JOE:** And?

20 **BART:** He said, "I want to. Be clean." And he touched me.
21 *(Pause)* He touched me right on my face, right on my
22 sores, and I remember thinking that nobody had
23 touched me in so many years. And he was so kind. For a
24 minute I remember thinking, "What have I done? He's
25 going to get my disease!" But he drew his hand away,
26 and I saw that it was clean.

27 **FRANK:** So the sore on your face was gone?

28 **BART:** No. *All* the sores were gone. I could feel it as soon as
29 he touched me. They just dried up!

30 **JOE:** Forgive my skepticism, Mr. Bartholomew, but you
31 don't have mark one on your face or your arms. Even if
32 he took your sores away, there would be some
33 remnants ... scars ...

34 **BART:** I can't tell you that. I don't know. But see for yourself
35 — **nothing.** *(Offers his arm, first to JOE, who looks, then to*

- 1 **FRANK**, *who cowers.*) Go ahead — feel how smooth they
2 are!
- 3 **FRANK**: Uh, no thank you. *(Starts to breathe heavily, then*
4 *hyperventilates as BART continues to offer his arm for*
5 *inspection.)*
- 6 **JOE**: Oh, go ahead, Frank. They look fine.
- 7 **FRANK**: Thank you. I'll pass. *(Breathes even more heavily,*
8 *putting his hands on his knees as soon as BART backs away.)*
- 9 **JOE**: You'll pass out, you mean! *(Pause)* Again! *(Reaching into*
10 *his pocket, he pulls out the paper bag that was carrying bagels*
11 *earlier in the scene.)* Here, Frank!
- 12 **FRANK**: Thanks, Joe. *(Pause, as he breathes into the paper bag*
13 *several times — the more the bag contracts and expands, the*
14 *funnier. Regaining his dignity, FRANK continues.)* Anyway, I
15 suppose he's some sort of a magician, trying to promote
16 his show.
- 17 **BART**: Well, that's the thing. He made a special point to tell
18 me not to talk about it all over town. He told me just to
19 present myself to the priest and to give thanks to God.
- 20 **JOE**: You don't say.
- 21 **BART**: Well, I'm not supposed to. How did you guys find out?
- 22 **FRANK**: Your doctor called us.
- 23 **BART**: So much for doctor-patient confidentiality ...
- 24 **JOE**: Is he the only one you told?
- 25 **BART**: No! Of course there's the priest, like I said. Plus all
26 my friends. After all, I'm not a ... well, I *was*, but even
27 lepers have friends ...
- 28 **FRANK**: Thanks for the information. We may stop back by if
29 we have any questions.
- 30 **BART**: Sure. Any time. *(Pause as he holds out his arm to FRANK*
31 *again, who draws back.)* You sure you don't want to feel it
32 for yourself?
- 33 **FRANK**: *(Starts to breathe heavily again. He reaches for the bag,*
34 *breathing a couple of times. As BART withdraws his arm, he*
35 *continues.)* I'm sure. Thanks anyway.

1 sidewalk. *(Pause)* Don't try it — I'm a trained
2 professional. Anyway, Stormie was practically
3 incoherent, so we decided to head on over to her office
4 at WKLP to find out what the story was. *(STORMIE*
5 *enters and sits at the table with her hands on the crystal ball.*
6 *JOE turns to FRANK.)* Hey, Frank. I've been feeling kinda
7 itchy. Does this look like leprosy to you? *(He puts his bare*
8 *arm up into FRANK's face.)*

9 **FRANK:** Cut it out, Joe!

10 **JOE:** *(Laughing)* What did you think of that storm we had
11 earlier?

12 **FRANK:** That was strange, all right. I've never seen it come
13 and go like that before.

14 **JOE:** Maybe that should be our first question for Stormie,
15 once she calms down.

16 **FRANK:** Maybe that's what she's upset about.

17 **JOE:** Maybe. I guess we'll know in a minute.

18 **FRANK:** *(Knocking)* You hungry?

19 **JOE:** Main course is next, Frank. *(STORMIE quickly hides her*
20 *crystal ball, then opens door.)*

21 **STORMIE:** Ah, gentlemen. Thanks for coming. Come in,
22 please.

23 **JOE:** What's up, Stormie? I haven't heard anyone that angry
24 since Frank's mom had us over for Passover and ...

25 **FRANK:** Joe! You promised!

26 **JOE:** Oh, right. So what's up?

27 **STORMIE:** You ever heard of a guy named Jesus?

28 **FRANK:** As a matter of fact, yes. What did he do now?

29 **STORMIE:** Well, a friend of mine is one of his followers. He
30 goes out with him on some of his teaching expeditions.
31 He's seen him do some pretty amazing things.
32 Personally, I don't believe half of what he tells me he's
33 seen this Jesus guy do, but he's convinced this guy is
34 the real thing ...

35 **JOE:** The real thing?

- 1 **STORMIE:** Yeah. You know, the Messiah. The one sent from
2 God to save us from our unrighteousness.
- 3 **JOE:** Hey, that sounds really familiar ... *(Pause as he wanders*
4 *around, thinking.)*
- 5 **FRANK:** So? Why are you so mad?
- 6 **STORMIE:** Well, did you notice that storm that blew in a
7 little while ago?
- 8 **FRANK:** Sure we did. We were going to ask you about it. Did
9 it stop just as quickly here as it did over at our place?
- 10 **STORMIE:** Like nothing I've ever seen! It was actually one
11 of the worst low pressure systems I've seen in my
12 career — did you hear my forecast last night?
- 13 **JOE:** *(Has wandered back over and is listening.)* I missed it. Did
14 you know this was going to happen?
- 15 **STORMIE:** Well, yes. And no. *(Shaking her head)* That's why
16 I'm so angry!
- 17 **FRANK:** How so?
- 18 **STORMIE:** Well, I accurately predicted the storm. Said so
19 last night. It was supposed to hang around for a
20 while — we should have gotten rain for three days!
- 21 **JOE:** What happened?
- 22 **STORMIE:** *He* happened!
- 23 **FRANK:** Who? *(Pause)* Jesus?
- 24 **STORMIE:** Yes! My friend Nathaniel called me right after
25 the storm stopped and told me what had happened!
- 26 **JOE:** What happened?
- 27 **STORMIE:** OK. The storm came up, just like I knew it would,
28 and just as the front was passing, Nate said they were
29 out in the middle of the Sea of Galilee.
- 30 **FRANK:** Go on.
- 31 **STORMIE:** Well, they were all afraid that the storm was
32 going to sink their boat. The waves kept getting higher
33 and higher, and the boat was pitching like it was going
34 to capsize!
- 35 **JOE:** Apparently he doesn't listen to your forecasts either.

- 1 **STORMIE:** Yes, well, be that as it may, everyone on the boat
2 was screaming for their lives! Everyone, that is, but
3 one.
- 4 **FRANK:** Let me guess.
- 5 **JOE:** Jesus?
- 6 **FRANK:** Joe! I was going to guess!
- 7 **JOE:** Sorry, Frank.
- 8 **STORMIE:** Yes, Jesus. And do you know what he was doing?
- 9 **FRANK:** Turning the Sea of Galilee into wine?
- 10 **STORMIE:** What? No. Anyway, he was down inside the boat,
11 fast asleep.
- 12 **JOE:** During the storm?
- 13 **STORMIE:** Yes, during the storm. They had to go down and
14 wake him up because they were afraid the boat would
15 go down with all of them in it.
- 16 **FRANK:** And this is why you're upset?
- 17 **STORMIE:** No, no, no. It was his response to the storm that
18 makes me mad!
- 19 **JOE:** Oh? How did he respond?
- 20 **STORMIE:** He stopped it.
- 21 **FRANK:** He stopped what?
- 22 **STORMIE:** He stopped the storm.
- 23 **JOE:** What are you talking about?
- 24 **STORMIE:** Look. Nate told me that they woke him up, right?
25 And they told him they were going to die, you know?
26 They said, "Master! Save us! We're going down!"
- 27 **FRANK:** So did he panic?
- 28 **STORMIE:** No! He laughed at them. He said, "Why are you
29 such cowards?" He walked up on deck, looked out over
30 the storm, and said, "Silence!"
- 31 **JOE:** And?
- 32 **STORMIE:** And the storm stopped. It didn't taper off, it
33 didn't calm down — it stopped. Nate said it was like
34 someone flipped a switch.
- 35 **FRANK:** What's a switch?

- 1 **STORMIE:** I have no idea. *(Pause)* But he said the sea became
2 as smooth as glass, and the clouds just vanished. It was
3 the most beautiful day he'd ever seen.
- 4 **JOE:** But how?
- 5 **STORMIE:** I don't know. There is no way that rain was going
6 to stop for days — I know it. You can't just ... do that!
- 7 **FRANK:** Well, apparently somebody can.
- 8 **JOE:** Let me get this straight. You're upset because it
9 stopped raining?
- 10 **STORMIE:** No! *(Pause)* Well ... yes! Hey, he's messing with
11 how I make my living! How would you like it if
12 somebody all of a sudden snapped his fingers and said,
13 "Lawbreakers, be gone!"
- 14 **FRANK:** I've tried that. It doesn't work.
- 15 **STORMIE:** Seriously! How can I ever predict what the
16 weather's going to be like if this guy can change it any
17 time he wants?
- 18 **JOE:** How can you predict what the weather's going to be
19 like even if Jesus wasn't around? You *never* get it right!
- 20 **STORMIE:** I did today! *(Pause)* Or at least I *would* have!
- 21 **JOE:** Listen, Stormie. If you really want to get the weather
22 right, I suggest you go talk to this Jesus.
- 23 **STORMIE:** *(Pause)* Hey, yeah! Maybe he'd be interested in
24 letting me predict the weather and then changing it to
25 match my predictions! That would be so cool!
- 26 **FRANK:** Actually, Stormie, I know this Jesus is into
27 miracles and all that, but asking for a weatherperson to
28 be accurate may be a little ambitious, even for him.
- 29 **STORMIE:** So you're not going to do anything about it?
- 30 **JOE:** Sure we are.
- 31 **FRANK:** What, Joe? We can't arrest someone for changing
32 the weather. We don't even have a code for that!
- 33 **JOE:** No, I don't suppose we do.
- 34 **STORMIE:** So what are you going to do?
- 35 **JOE:** I say we grab a bucket of chicken and a blanket. Have

1 you seen what the weather's like today? (*Optional music.*
2 *FRANK and JOE start to exit Downstage as STORMIE throws*
3 *up her hands and exits Upstage.*)

4 **FRANK:** What do you make of it, Joe? You think this Jesus
5 character could actually have the wind and the sea
6 come to heel at his command?

7 **JOE:** I don't know, Frank. But you saw how quickly the
8 storm stopped today. You have any other explanation?

9 **FRANK:** I'm not a meteorologist, Joe. But Stormie seemed
10 convinced that he had something to do with it.

11 **JOE:** Yeah, about that. Did what she said about Jesus being
12 the real deal sound familiar to you?

13 **FRANK:** Not really, Joe. You?

14 **JOE:** Yeah. What did she say ... the Messiah? The one sent
15 from God to save us from our unrighteousness. Where
16 have we heard that before?

17 **FRANK:** I don't know, Joe.

18 **JOE:** Well, I don't know either, but I know I have.

19 **FRANK:** All I know is that we've got to get something to eat,
20 "weather" Jesus is involved or not.

21 **JOE:** You're a really punny guy, you know that, Frank?
22 (*Optional music as FRANK and JOE exit. The meal continues*
23 *with the clearing of the salad plates and the serving of the main*
24 *course. After some time, when all have their entrées, begin*
25 *Scene 4.*)

26

27

28

Scene 4

29

30 (*FRANK and JOE enter their office.*)

31 **JOE:** A few months later, we were finishing up on the
32 paperwork from the previous day's calls when a fax
33 came in. It was from the local Food Workers Union five-
34 one-one. Seems like they were in the process of lodging
35 a formal complaint and wanted us to check out some

1 illegal vending that was going on in the park. My first
2 thought was that it would be a nice change of pace to
3 get away from this Jesus case for a while. That is, until
4 I took a closer look at the fax and saw who they were
5 complaining about. You guessed it. This Jesus guy was
6 making a lot of folks upset.

7 **FRANK:** *(Approaching and looking over JOE's shoulder)* What is
8 it, Joe?

9 **JOE:** *(Shows paper to FRANK.)* Just a fax, Frank. Just a fax.

10 **FRANK:** I know that, Joe. What's it say?

11 **JOE:** Apparently, our friend Jesus has made some more
12 enemies.

13 **FRANK:** More wine?

14 **JOE:** Nope. This time he's feeding multitudes. We'd better go
15 and check it out, Frank.

16 **FRANK:** Sounds like I'd better bring the paperwork for a
17 twenty-nine sixty-three.

18 **JOE:** Catering without a license? Yeah, it sounds like it.

19 **FRANK:** Should we grab a bite, or do you suppose there's
20 leftovers?

21 **JOE:** From the sound of things, I hope you're in the mood for
22 fish. *(Optional music as FRANK and JOE head to Center*
23 *Stage.)* We arrived at the scene, just off the coast of the
24 Sea of Galilee, in a little less than an hour. By that time,
25 there were a bunch of guys with baskets, gathering up
26 leftover fish and bread. It looked pretty good. I grabbed
27 some of the bread as evidence. I couldn't believe how
28 many people were gathered there — there must have
29 been five thousand folks on the hillside. I couldn't see
30 him, but I could hear Jesus teaching in the distance.
31 Before we approached him, we sought out a couple of
32 the locals who had started the whole complaint process.
33 *(BENJAMIN and JEREMIAH are standing at a hot dog stand*
34 *Stage Left.)*

35 **BENJAMIN:** Officer! Over here!

- 1 **FRANK:** You Benjamin and Jeremiah?
2 **JEREMIAH:** Yep, that's us! Benjamin and Jeremiah's — best
3 dogs in all of Galilee!
4 **BENJAMIN:** Yep! People come from miles around just for
5 one of our hot dogs! Obviously you've heard of us!
6 **JOE:** Uh, no. It's on your sign.
7 **JEREMIAH:** Oh.
8 **FRANK:** You called the local union with a complaint?
9 **BENJAMIN:** We sure did. See that man over there? You need
10 to arrest him.
11 **JOE:** On what charge?
12 **JEREMIAH:** Distributing food without a license. Did it right
13 in front of us!
14 **FRANK:** Tell us exactly what happened.
15 **BENJAMIN:** Well, he's been teaching here for the better part
16 of the day.
17 **JEREMIAH:** Yeah — the crowds have been unreal! We
18 figured we'd set up our stand and make a killing.
19 **JOE:** You got a license?
20 **BENJAMIN:** Of course! We've been selling hot dogs in this
21 region for the last eight years!
22 **FRANK:** All right. Go on.
23 **JEREMIAH:** So anyway, we could tell nobody else was
24 working this event, so we figured we'd clean up.
25 **FRANK:** How much for a dog, anyway?
26 **BENJAMIN:** Five denarii. Six with a drink and some fig
27 chips.
28 **JOE:** Six denarii! That's highway robbery!
29 **JEREMIAH:** We prefer to think of it as the Galilean way ...
30 **FRANK:** Say, what exactly is in those things, anyway?
31 **BENJAMIN:** Uh ... meat?
32 **JOE:** What kind of meat?
33 **JEREMIAH:** *(To BENJAMIN)* Ixnay on the eatmay, Enbay!
34 **FRANK:** It's times like these I wish I would have taken a
35 foreign language in school.

- 1 **JOE:** It's pig Latin, Frank. *(Pause)* Hmmm, pig Latin. I think
2 it's a hint. Are they pork?
3 **BENJAMIN:** Maybe.
4 **JOE:** Beef?
5 **JEREMIAH:** Perhaps.
6 **JOE:** Mutton?
7 **BENJAMIN:** Could be.
8 **JOE:** Veal?
9 **JEREMIAH:** Possibly.
10 **JOE:** Squirrel?
11 **BENJAMIN:** No. *(Pause)* At least I don't think so ...
12 **FRANK:** You mean you don't know what it is that you're
13 selling?
14 **JEREMIAH:** Sure we do! Hot dogs!
15 **JOE:** Comforting.
16 **BENJAMIN:** But they're delicious! Tell you what. How 'bout
17 you try one on the house? *(He hands a hot dog to JOE.)*
18 **JOE:** *(Offers it to FRANK.)* Frank, Frank?
19 **FRANK:** No thanks, Joe. I prefer to know what I'm eating.
20 **JOE:** Can we get back to why we're here?
21 **JEREMIAH:** Oh, right. Anyway, this Jesus guy has been
22 teaching here all day, and the crowds are starting to get
23 really hungry, so I figure we're about to get busy.
24 **BENJAMIN:** I overheard some of his followers go up to him
25 and tell him that the people were starting to grumble
26 about their hunger. They thought that because they
27 were way out here in the middle of nowhere, there
28 would be nothing to eat.
29 **JEREMIAH:** Yeah! Like we weren't even here!
30 **FRANK:** Maybe they don't like junk food.
31 **BENJAMIN:** Hey!
32 **JOE:** What did Jesus say?
33 **BENJAMIN:** He told the disciples to get people into groups
34 of fifty or a hundred and that he would take care of it.
35 **JOE:** Take care of it?

- 1 JEREMIAH: Yeah. You know — the food for these people.
2 FRANK: Did he bring his own wagons full of food?
3 BENJAMIN: No. He didn't bring anything. In fact, his
4 followers didn't even have any food with them.
5 FRANK: So how was he planning on feeding them?
6 JEREMIAH: I overheard him asking his followers if there
7 was any food at all. One of them told him they had five
8 loaves of bread and two fish.
9 JOE: Sounds like a kid's sack lunch. What did Jesus say to
10 that?
11 BENJAMIN: He just told them to bring him the food and to
12 get the people organized. Then he blessed the food that
13 they brought him, and his followers started distributing
14 it.
15 FRANK: That much food wouldn't go far ...
16 BENJAMIN: But it did. He fed all of them. And when they
17 finished, they had twelve baskets left over.
18 JOE: Let me get this straight. Jesus takes two sardines and
19 five biscuits and manages to feed five thousand people
20 and have twelve baskets left over?
21 JEREMIAH: Yep. That's right.
22 FRANK: That's impossible, Joe.
23 JOE: I know, Frank. But where else did this food come
24 from?
25 JEREMIAH: And that's why you need to arrest him. He's
26 distributing food without a license of any kind.
27 JOE: And why exactly are you so bent about this?
28 BENJAMIN: Look, we're law-abiding businessmen here.
29 How are we supposed to compete with someone who
30 just waves his hand over something and it becomes a
31 thousand times more than what it was?
32 FRANK: It's all about volume.
33 JEREMIAH: What?
34 FRANK: How many people you figure are here?
35 BENJAMIN: I'd say five thousand — maybe more.

- 1 **JOE:** How many hot dogs you got in that wagon?
2 **JEREMIAH:** I dunno. Maybe two hundred.
3 **FRANK:** I'm no math major, but I'm failing to see how you
4 figure this shrimpy little hot dog stand of yours could
5 meet the same needs as Jesus did.
6 **BENJAMIN:** That's hardly the point.
7 **JEREMIAH:** Yeah! We paid good money for our food license,
8 and we can't use it if someone's going to be giving out
9 free food!
10 **JOE:** Did you say free?
11 **BENJAMIN:** Yes, free! He just took it and started giving it
12 away to everyone!
13 **JEREMIAH:** And without a license. Arrest him!
14 **FRANK:** We can't arrest someone for a picnic! If he didn't
15 charge anyone anything for the food, then he hasn't
16 committed a crime.
17 **BENJAMIN:** Oh. *(Pause)* Then he ... he turned me into a
18 leper! *(JOE and FRANK look at him, then at each other as*
19 *FRANK moves behind JOE and starts to breathe heavily*
20 *again.)*
21 **FRANK:** A leper? *(Continues labored breathing.)*
22 **JOE:** Frank, calm down. He's not a leper!
23 **FRANK:** How can we be sure?
24 **JOE:** *(To BENJAMIN)* Benjamin! A leper?
25 **BENJAMIN:** *(Sheepishly)* Well ... I got better.
26 **JOE:** Look, Benjamin. You want a little advice?
27 **BENJAMIN:** Only if it will sell some of these hot dogs ...
28 **JOE:** Well, if you're looking for a miracle, you should
29 probably talk to Jesus. *(Pause)* But have you ever
30 thought of selling something that people wanted to eat
31 instead?
32 **JEREMIAH:** Hey! That's a good idea! *(Pause)* Any
33 suggestions?
34 **FRANK:** It's awfully hot out. How about something cool and
35 refreshing?



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