

## CLEANUP CREW

by STEPHEN D. LARSON

**GENRE:** Comedy/Light Drama

**SYNOPSIS:** After Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the streets are littered with palm branches and cast-off garments. The two guys responsible for cleaning up the mess discuss what all the fuss was about.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** This piece should be played in modern dress, but can be done in traditional Bible costumes. If you go with the latter, don't use the brooms; have Zack and Joe pick up everything by hand and put them in piles. Zack and Joe should be seen as just a couple of working stiffs talking about the local gossip as they work.

**TIME:** Under 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 3

**TOPIC:** Easter, Biblical Times

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:7-10

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Easter

**SUGGESTED USE:** Sermon Introduction

**CHARACTERS:**

ZACK—a blue-collar street sweeper. He is skeptical about all the claims about Jesus.

JOE—Zack's partner. He is more open to the possibility that Jesus is really a prophet, perhaps even the long-awaited Messiah.

CENTURION—a walk-on role.

**PROPS:** Palm branches, assorted clothing (modern or period, depending on how you decide to stage this; these items may even be mimed), two push brooms

**COSTUMES:** Modern blue-collar street sweeper's garb for Zack and Joe work shirts, jeans, and boots or coveralls and modern military garb for the Centurion. If you prefer, traditional Bible costumes may be substituted.

**SOUND:** Wireless microphones

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** A street in Jerusalem

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*The stage is littered with palm branches, jackets, overcoats, etc. Two men enter, ZACK and JOE. They carry push brooms and start to sweep the area. Zack stops and shakes his head.*

**ZACK:** Will you just look at this mess! I tell you, some people! Palm leaves, cloaks...I just wish people would clean up after themselves once in a while so that we don't have to.

*JOE continues to sweep absentmindedly.*

**ZACK:** Hello, Joe? Anybody home?

**JOE:** Huh? Oh, sorry. I wasn't listening.

**ZACK:** No kidding!

**JOE:** I was just thinkin'.

**ZACK:** Bad habit. Just gets you into trouble. We're paid to keep the road clear. Leave the thinking to the Romans and Sanhedrin. Here, look at this...

*He picks up a coat and holds it up.*

**ZACK:** A perfectly good coat just thrown on the ground and trampled on.

*He pauses, eyeing it critically.*

**ZACK:** How much do you suppose I could get for this in the market?

*JOE doesn't answer, again.*

**ZACK:** All right, I give up. What're you thinking about?

**JOE:** Oh, just about...him.

**ZACK:** Him who?

**JOE:** You know, the guy who all this was about...the Nazarene.

**ZACK:** Jesus? What about him?

**JOE:** Well, he must be somebody really special the way everybody was cheering and waving these palm branches and all.

**ZACK:** Aw, that don't mean nothin'!

**JOE:** It don't?