

Drama Ministry®

POINT. CLICK. ACTION!

JOSEPH

by Brad Francis

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: Two friends confront Joseph about his decision to marry Mary, the mother of Christ.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: This is an unusual way to look at the Christmas story, but Joseph rarely gets enough credit. In his book *Wild at Heart*, John Eldredge makes the case that Joseph had a lot to lose by agreeing to go through in his marriage to Mary and raise Jesus as his own. He deserves credit for stepping up and being the man that God made him to be. Regarding his anger, let Joseph simmer. When he finally snaps into action, the stage directions are left vague so that the level of violence can be something that both the director and actors are comfortable with. But there should be a ferocity and an untamed masculinity. Joseph is not a ruffian or a barbarian, but he is a man, and the one that would raise the Man who would someday drive the money changers from the temple with a whip. Do not fear a show of strength and fierce protection.

TIME: 7 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 3M

THEME: Christmas; Following God

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Matthew 1:18-22

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Christmas; Any

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon starter

CHARACTERS:

JOSEPH – the step-father of Jesus

SIMON – a friend of Joseph

THADDEUS – a friend of Joseph

PROPS: None.

COSTUMES: Biblical clothes

SOUND: Three wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A secluded spot in Nazareth

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www.DramaMinistry.com
ISSN 1084-5917

Drama Ministry is a division of
Belden Worship Resources
www.beldenworshipresources.com

Publisher: **Regi Stone**

Executive Editor: **Kimberlee Crisafulli** / Assistant Editor: **Scott Crain**

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Offstage, commotion and indistinct arguing. After a moment, JOSEPH is half dragged/half-carried in by SIMON and THADDEUS. He struggles some but they have the upper hand.

JOSEPH: Put me down! Put me down, brothers!

In answer, SIMON and THADDEUS deposit him on the floor.

SIMON: Cover the exit.

THADDEUS: On my way.

Before JOSEPH can even recover his feet, THADDEUS rushes to the entrance/exit and stands guard. JOSEPH stands.

JOSEPH: Is that really necessary, Thaddeus?

THADDEUS: Honestly? I have no idea. Six months ago, I would have scoffed at the idea. But now—now, I'm not sure I know you at all, Joseph.

JOSEPH: That's a little melodramatic.

SIMON: Is it really? Should we look at the evidence?

JOSEPH: *(sighs)* Simon. . .

SIMON: Don't "Simon" me. It all comes down to evidence. Take a man—a good man, respectable, a carpenter, pillar of the community, a righteous man—and turn him upside down overnight. Now, what if that same man suddenly risks all he had spent his life building? Let's say he just throws all that out of the window and runs around claiming to be a poached egg? What does the evidence say there, Joseph?

JOSEPH: I don't believe I ever claimed to be a poached egg, Simon.

SIMON: You might as well have.

THADDEUS: Perhaps if you could help us understand, Joseph. I know you like Mary. She's a sweet kid. But she wronged you so, so badly.

JOSEPH: She's done nothing wrong.

SIMON: Oh give it a rest. It's us. We talked right after you found out about her—situation. You swore up and down that you had nothing to do with it, that you never laid a hand on her. Are you changing your story?

JOSEPH: No. I was telling the truth.

SIMON: So help me out here. If you didn't do it, and if she didn't do anything wrong—