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Been There, Done That, Got the T-Shirt
By Rick Artis

Scripture:

John 19:23-24

23 When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

24 "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it."

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said,
"They divided my garments among them
and cast lots for my clothing." So this is what the soldiers did.

Theme:

Crucifixion
Easy to miss the truth of the cross during everyday living

Applications:

Missing Jesus when so close to the cross

Cast:

5 men

Setting:

Golgotha
Right after Jesus' cross is raised
The suggestion of Roman armor would be nice
A large beam, placed vertically can represent only the bottom of the cross. Don't want to give too much away with the setting.

Time:

Daytime

Characters:

Four soldiers
Offstage voice of Christ

Performance time:

Approx. 4 minutes

Soldier 1- C'mon baby, daddy needs a new pair of sandals.

Soldier 2- What?

Soldier 1- I said, 'C'mon baby, daddy needs a new pair of sandals'. It's what you say when you're about to throw the dice.

Soldier 2- Why? It doesn't make any sense. We're tossing for this guy's tunic, not his sandals.

Soldier 3- Just throw already. We don't have all day.

Soldier 1- Give me a minute. Did you see that tunic? It's really nice, no seams. I wanna make sure I get a good throw. *(takes a deep breath)* Here we go. *(throws dice)* Nuts!

Soldier 2- Woo-hoo. Snake eyes. Looks like you go last in the next round. *(picks up dice)* My turn.

Soldier 4- Hey, you went second last time.

Soldier 2- And I'm going second this time.

Soldier 4- But you had 7. I had 9. It's my turn.

Soldier 2- All right you big baby. Throw. *(hands dice to 4)*

Soldier 4- Come on. Come on. *(throws the dice)* Alright, 10! I'm on fire.

Jesus- Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.

Soldier 3- My turn now. Hand 'em over. *(2 and 3 continue to roll dice)*

Soldier 1- *(looking around)* It's a bigger crowd than usual today. I wonder what the occasion is.

Soldier 4- It's Friday. Maybe everybody's knockin' off a little early. You know, getting' a jump on the weekend.

Soldier 1- Maybe. But it seems they have a greater interest in these guys today. Usually a few folks just come to mock the criminals. Only about half of these guys are scoffing. The other half are crying. What's up with that? Look. There are even some Jewish and Roman dignitaries. *(points over head of congregation)* See 'em, there in the back. I wonder why *they're* here.

Soldier 4- Who knows? Maybe one of these guys is a big-wig or something.

Jesus- Today you shall be with me in Paradise.

Soldier 3- 12, Rats! I'm out.

Soldier 2- *(to 1 & 4)* You guys gonna talk or you gonna throw? It's down to just us three. He's *(points at 3)* out.

Soldier 1- I'm gonna throw. I *want* that shirt. *(throws)* Nuts! Snake eyes, *again*.

Soldier 2- One more of those and *you're* out.

Soldier 1- Crud, I really want that shirt.

Soldier 2- Well, don't cry about it. What are you, some kinda momma's boy?

Jesus- Woman, behold your son.

(Continues...)