

“HALLOWEEN PLAY”

Youth Sunday

Narrator 1:

Halloween is a day that is all about dressing up and putting on costumes. So we'll begin today's lesson by looking at some costumes worn in the days of Jesus.

The Pharisees rejected Jesus as the messiah. They rejected Him as God. They rejected His message. If what Jesus said was true that would mean that they needed a savior like everyone else. It would mean that all of their hard work hadn't earned them a place in Heaven. It would mean, contrary to what they liked to believe, they too were sinners. Romans 3:10 helps us see their problem. It reads...For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. They were blinded by pride. We see one Pharisee's pride expressed in a prayer where he exalts himself in God's presence.

He prayed...“God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’

*Actor 1 walks to front of church dressed in beautiful robe

The Pharisees were Israel's religious leaders of the day. They had power, they had wealth, and they had status. From the perspective of the common people they were a shining example of righteousness, and they dressed the part; Adorning themselves in expensive clothing, and putting on a self-righteous show for all to see.

But Jesus could see past their outward appearance. He could see through their costumes.

Matthew 23:27 (actor takes off robe revealing skeleton as it is read)

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.

*Actor 1 and Narrator 1 exit stage.

Praise Song: In Christ Alone

Narrator 2:

I think it's easy for modern day people to hear about the Pharisees, and see their error, without recognizing that they are wearing the same costume.

*Actor 2 walks to front of church dressed in beautiful robe

Many who reject organized religion and who would shame the Pharisees for their hypocrisy, do so while being blind to their own pride. They reject the idea that they deserve Hell, and they believe that they are loving, tolerant, and decent enough people to be rewarded with Heaven when their time here is done. They denounce the Pharisees' religious costume. Yet, they don't even realize they are wearing the same attire. It's the costume of self-righteousness.

Ironically, the modern day religious costume is the same. Many, some of whom even call themselves Christians, incorrectly believe they are working their way to Heaven by attending church more, doing more good works, or sinning less, than those they compare themselves to. Like the Pharisees, they are going about to establish their own righteousness. These people know who the door to Heaven is, but they attempt to enter based off of the self-righteous costume they are wearing rather than by faith alone in the one who can see through their disguise.

Romans 3:10- As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;

Isaiah 64:6- But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.

*Actor 2: removes dressy robe to reveal outfit of filthy rags

Narrator 2:

No matter our appearance, or our success, or our own perception about what we may be wearing...the reality is that all we have to offer is our filthy rags. The works and performance of the "best" person you know will not get them anywhere near Heaven. What do they have to offer? What are they dressed in in God's sight?.....Filthy rags.

**Narrator 2 exits stage. Actor 2 remains front and center*

Praise Song: Flawless

Narrator 3:

And so here we are. No amount of good works will earn us entry into Heaven. No amount of self-improvement or overcoming sin will get us there either. Those who put their faith in those things to save them have placed their faith in filthy rags that can NOT save. We've all already fallen short and we're utterly incapable of saving ourselves. What are we to do?

A desperate jailer once asked the Apostle Paul and his friend Silas this very question. The answer was simple...

Acts 16:31-So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved,...

The scriptures reveal something amazing that happens when someone places their faith in Jesus.

Philippians 3:9 - And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Romans 3:21-24- But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

**Actor 3 walks to front of stage and puts white robe over top of actor 2's filthy rags*

Narrator 3:

When someone believes in Jesus for salvation from Hell and eternal life...when they trust that He, God in the flesh, died for their sins, was buried, and rose again....all of their sins are taken away and Jesus clothes them in His perfect righteousness.

When you meet your creator, what will you be wearing? Will you be wearing your own self-righteousness or the perfect righteousness of Jesus, who is the Christ, the Son of God?

**Narrator 3 and actors leave stage*

Closing:

I hope this small performance has helped to give you a better understanding of salvation today. Halloween is sometimes referred to as “the day of the dead.” But if you’re here this Halloween, and if you’ve never placed your faith in Jesus as your savior, then today you are being offered life....Eternal life, and receiving it takes even less effort than trick or treating. You don’t have to walk an aisle or ring a doorbell. You don’t have to try to dress yourself up or present yourself as better than the person sitting next to you. All you have to do is believe in Jesus. So I’d invite you, in the quietness of your mind to trust that He died for your sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day; completing all the work necessary to save you from Hell...place all of your faith in Him as your savior who did that for you, and you’ll walk out of here today with the gift of eternal life. It’s not a trick, and it’s better than any treat you’ll ever get. It’s a gift of grace, received by faith, and it will be yours forever and ever.

Praise Song: Amazing Grace