



*Written by
Cora Alley*

“The Monologue of the Ethiopian Eunuch”

Scripture: Acts 8:26-40; Is. 56:3-8; Is. 53:7, 8

Dramatic Category: Monologue

** NOTE: Please see “The Ten Commandments of Oral Interpretation and Monologues” that follows this monologue. In it you will find helpful hints to maximize this intimate art form that reveals so much individual emotion.*

Topic: The need to teach those who are spiritually hungry.

Performance Time: 3 minutes

Number of Players: 1 man

Sound Needs: One wireless microphone, hidden in his clothing.

Lighting Notes: A spotlight anywhere on stage

Set Suggestions: None; this is performed on a bare stage.

Props: None

Costume Needs:

Dress him in biblical attire befitting a high-ranking official in a government position.

SPOTLIGHT UP:

HE STEPS INTO THE LIGHT.

The Monologue:

I am a Eunuch from the distant land of Ethiopia. I am the royal treasurer of Queen Candace. I live and work in the presence of greatness, but I know we are all mere men and women who must bow down to the one who is truly great: to Jehovah, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

I am one of many pilgrims who have come to Jerusalem from distant countries to observe the feast of Pentecost. I am a Gentile, converted to the worship of Jehovah, and now I am a proselyte, counted among the sons of Israel. I know I am welcome as a Jew, for the words of the Prophet, Isaiah, tell me this:

“My house will be called a house of prayer for *all* the peoples,
The Lord God, who gathers the dispersed of Israel, declares:
Yet *others I will gather* to them, to those already gathered.”

My heart rejoiced when I approached the city and saw her gates swing open and heard the mighty trumpet blasts welcome the faithful from all parts of the world. I had come a long way to celebrate this feast of thanksgiving for the harvest, and to honor Jehovah, the Father of all and the giver of every good gift.

But, this Pentecost was different from any I had celebrated before in the holy city, for this time there was a new presence there that I had never felt before.

We were at worship, when suddenly there came from Heaven a noise, like a violent, rushing wind. We all ran to where we thought the sound was coming from, but then the strangest thing happened: we heard men speaking to us in our own languages; men who were clearly Jews were speaking in the tongues of other languages. We foreigners from Mesopotamia, from Asia, Libya, Egypt, Rome, and from all parts of the earth, heard a message that was strange to our ears.

The message was this: A certain man called Jesus of Nazareth had done many signs and wonders, and had been crucified, then raised up by God on the third day. He was hailed by many, on that day of Pentecost, to be the long-awaited Messiah.

Could this be? There is much confusion among the Jews about all of this. Where there was once unity, there is now division. Brothers who once worshipped at one altar, are now divided in their faith. What does Jehovah, the one true God, the great “I AM,” want from those who worship Him?

I stayed in Jerusalem well past the day of Pentecost. I am hungry to know the truth. To be in the presence men and women who follow Him with such joy and conviction....that is my dream; but now I am confused with an ache of longing in my heart and mind to know more than I know....to understand what seems so far beyond me; but I must go home, so now I travel on this road that leads south from Jerusalem to Gaza.

I take comfort in reading the word of God as He has spoken through the words of His Prophet Isaiah:

“He was oppressed and He was afflicted,
Yet He did not open His mouth;
Like a lamb that is led to slaughter,
And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers,
So he did not open His mouth.
By oppression and judgment He was taken away;
And as for His generation, who considered
That he was cut off out of the land of the living.”

I wish I knew who the Prophet was talking about. Is it himself or is he talking about some else? I am hungry to know more about the road to my God...the road to my salvation.

Option #1:

He walks out of the light pool as the LIGHT FADES OUT SLOWLY.

Option #2:

He freezes in a comfortable position. The Pastor steps into the light pool and talks about the hunger in the heart of the Ethiopian for teaching in the word of God. After this introduction to his sermon, the LIGHTS FADE as he steps out of the light pool, and the Ethiopian leaves the stage.

The Ten Commandments of Oral Interpretation and Monologues

#1: Thou shalt know the purpose of Oral Interpretation.

The “Oral Interpreter” is a human bridge between the author and the audience, conveying the author’s purpose for writing the selection. One who delivers a “monologue,” is one who actually becomes the character and represents his/her inner-most thoughts to the audience.

#2: Thou shalt know how to select an appropriate passage.

Select a passage that has impacted you profoundly and is 3-5 minutes in length. Poetry, prose, comedy, or drama is fine, but it must have had a significant impact on your life in order to be worthy of being read; scripture is, of course, the most important material to read and deserves the greatest application of all of these principles. Some other sources include: The Chicken Soup Series, the works of Max Lucado, Chuck Swindoll, C.S. Lewis, etc. Some Children’s stories and fables are also extremely effective in preparing the audience for receiving a Christian messages.

#3: Thou shalt prepare the selection properly.

Divide it into phrases for breathing & timing. Re-type it in phrases. Bind it into a small black notebook, 3-hole punch it, and highlight the words of emphasis. If this interpretation is a “monologue,” be sure to memorize it completely and internalize each phrase so that you are becoming the character speaking, not merely representing the author.

#4: Thou shalt use eye contact.

Make eye-contact with the audience. Look up from your manuscript 2/3rds of the time. Scan the audience from left to right; make everyone feel included. If this is a “monologue,” speak directly to the audience as though they were eavesdropping on an intimate time of “true confession.”

#5: Thou shalt use voice inflection.

Use all of your vocal options. Vary the pitch (high/low); vary the pace (fast/slow); vary the volume (loud/soft); vary the tone (emotion: satire, mystery, joy, etc.)

#6: Thou shalt maintain an impressive appearance.

Dress up (church clothes) for this presentation. Dress in costume if this is a “monologue.”

#7: Thou shalt use facial expression.

Your voice is your least effective tool. Your body and face are more expressive. Use your eyes, mouth, eyebrows, nose, everything to communicate.

#8: Thou shalt use gestures for emphasis.

When the body moves, people notice. Use gestures wisely, for emphasis of a word or a mood. Do not let the free hand lie limp at your side. Hold the notebook in either your right or your left hand; brace it by placing your little finger in the spine, so it does not flop around. Restrict movement. Imagine that one foot is nailed down & the other can move one step to the left or right of center. For “monologues” move freely across the stage as though you were alone in a room.

#9: Thou shalt know the selection.

Rehearse this over & over & over, until you know it so well that you don’t have to have your nose in the book, except to glance down occasionally for added confidence. Monologues require tremendous practice. (Here’s a hint: story board out your monologue in stick figures, then place the series of pictures on the floor. The audience will never see it, but you will! Glance down if your mind goes blank; the pictures will help you remember what comes next. Remember, if you make a mistake in a “monologue,” you are the only one who know it, so move on to your next confident point, and don’t get flustered. Plan your gestures & pauses. Read it before some peers for practice. Sit your audience 25 ft. away & practice projecting to them.

#10: Thou shalt craft an interesting introduction.

*Tell us why you chose this piece, then introduce it by title and author. (20 sec. into)
For “monologues,” have someone else introduce you or set the stage for your presentation.*